

BIRD: BIODIVERSITY INTEGRATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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According to the goals of ACP-EU « Science and Technology Programme » the 3 years project “Biodiversity Integration and Rural Development (Contract N.: FED/2009/217077) will develop new capacities of high level management and biodiversity conservation in the Maromizaha Forest (Madagascar) and the Karthala Forest (Comoros). BIRD network is formed by Torino University, Faculté des Sciences et Techniques Université des Comores, University of Antananarivo and Tamatave in Madagascar, and the association Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche (GERP). To reach the establishment of a biodiversity conservation policy BIRD will promote local poverty reduction by integrating biodiversity valorisation and rural development. BIRD will encourage researchers attendance and educational ecotourism together with disseminating innovative policies in sustainable agriculture, post-harvest management with the direct involvement of Anevoka community in Madagascar and the community of Ngnoumbadjou in Grande Comore. Within the first year of the project one multipurpose centre will be equipped in the 2 forest areas under the direct management of the 2 communities. The centre will serve the capacity building and training activities, both those directed to form new professionals and those aimed to improve livelihood activities of the local people. BIRD will strengthen the research and monitoring capabilities by running a 2 years training programme for 2 local research guides per Forest in order to teach them how to collect data on geography, climate, vegetation and fauna, how to implement the data in the more widespread software. BIRD will strengthen the management capabilities by organizing a 3 years training programme for managers.

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