INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN MADAGASCAR NATIONAL PARKS
Located in the Indian Ocean between Africa and Asia, Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. As an emerging destination, Madagascar has seen an average annual growth rate in tourist arrivals of 11% over the past 28 years. 2008 saw the country’s highest ever visitation, with 375,000 arrivals. Madagascar’s main source market is Europe, accounting for approximately 80% of visitors in 2017. The average length of stay is 21 days, and 40% of leisure tourists are repeat visitors. Tourism is a priority sector for Madagascar’s new government and is expected to continue to grow steadily with recovered political stability and improved air access.

Madagascar’s unique cultural and natural heritage offer a wealth of tourism potential. The island is one of eight biodiversity hotspots in the world, with a 90% level of endemism for flora and 20% for fauna (58% for reptiles and mammals), with iconic lemurs, chameleons and baobab trees of particular interest among tourists. With its 5,000 km of coastline, much of which is untouched, distinctive fusion cuisine, handicrafts traditions, and diverse landscapes and populations, Madagascar offers a unique combination of wildlife, sea and sand, soft adventure and cultural tourism.

The country is also home to a network of 43 Protected Areas (including National Parks), representing a total of 2.6 million ha. Approximately 70% of leisure tourists in Madagascar visit at least one Protected Area during their stay. Madagascar National Parks recorded 140,000 foreign visitors in 2018, with Isalo, Andasibe Mantadia and Ranomafana National Parks registering the greatest visitation.

Established in 1991, Madagascar National Parks (MNP) is a non-profit organization responsible for the management of Madagascar’s national network of Protected Areas in agreement with the Ministry of Environment. It is supported by the German Government and international NGOs and donors such as the World Bank Group, WWF and CEPF. MNP aims to develop tourism services in some of its priority parks to enhance the tourism offer, improve visitor experiences, and generate increased revenue for biodiversity conservation.

This brochure serves to introduce potential tourism investors to the Protected Area network, highlighting the network’s key assets and opportunities.
The Ankarana Special Reserve, created in 1956, is located in the Diana region in the north of Madagascar. Its limestone forest and caves are one of the island’s most spectacular sights. The Special Reserve holds particular significance for the local Antakarana people: its caves have provided them with refuge and have been used for religious and other ceremonies over the centuries.

**Size** 18,225 Ha

**Landscape and habitat**
Ankarana Special Reserve consists of a network of caves, underground rivers and canyons, as well as tropical and dry forest. On the surface, erosion has left a karstic “Tsingy” formation with sharp ridges and riparian vegetation.

**Climate**
The average temperature is between 24-28°C. Although the heat in the park makes even the easiest walks quite challenging, the forest offers sufficient cooling shade. The best time of year to visit is during the dry season, from April to November.

**Access**

- **Air:**
  - Diego Aracaart airport
  - Mozy Be Fasona airport

- **Road:**
  - The park has two entrances accessible by road.
  - The east entrance is reached by driving from Diego Suarez to Mahamasina (108 km).
  - The southwest entrance is reached by driving from Diego Suarez to Isesy (130 km) and from Isesy to Ambatoharanana (27 km).

**Wildlife**
Ankarana National Park is home to half of the bat species of the Great Island, including endemic species such as the Madagascar Rousettes (Rousettus madagascariensis). The park also has 11 different types of lemurs among them the Eulemur coronatus, Enlemer and Fulvus Sanfordii. The Ankarana sportive lemur (Lepilemur ankaranensis), specific to this region and classified as endangered, and the second-smallest chameleon in the world, are also found here.

**Size**
Site 1a (30-40 ha): a hilly site with savannah-like characteristics
Site 1b (30 ha): a flat site with savannah-like characteristics and a breathtaking view
Site 2 (3 ha): a site including the bat cave of Andrafiabe

**Tourism**
Due to limited facilities and accommodation options near the Reserve, most visitors make only a one-day visit. In 2018 the park welcomed 7,017 visitors (France 32%, Spain 8%, Germany 4%, Italy 3%, UK 3%, Poland 12%). The most common circuit is a short one that combines viewing the limestone formations (Tsingy) and the second-smallest chameleon in the world, as well as some wildlife watching (e.g. lemurs and chameleons).

**Traditions**
Ankarana served as a refuge for the Antakarana people in times of war. In the 19th century it was a burial site for royal tombs. It is also the largest underground cave network in Africa. “Mat” Ceremony or Tsangatsina, an annual event for the Antakarana tribe, takes place here every 15 years.

**Activities**
Fire ecomuseum circuits have been created in the eastern part of the park: Tsingy rary, Tsingy benavony, Tsingy meva, Tsingy round trip, Big Tsingy and the green lake. Other tourist activities in the Reserve include bird watching, botanical walks, wildlife watching.

**Selected area description**
Three sites in these villages have been identified as prime locations for tourism development.

- **Site 1a (20-30 ha):** a hilly site with savannah-like characteristics
- **Site 1b (30 ha):** a flat site with savannah-like characteristics and a breathtaking view
Nestled on the western coast of Madagascar, Bemaraha National Park is home to one of the most spectacular landscapes in the country: the Bemaraha Tsingy. The Tsingy, with its long geomorphologic history and iconic visuals, was classified as a National Cultural Heritage Site, then a National Park in 1997, and it was the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in Madagascar. Bemaraha also constitutes a water tower for the entire downstream part of the plateau. As a tourist attraction, the park is suitable for bold adventurers.

**Size** 157,710 Ha

**Landscape and habitat**

The Bemaraha Tsingy is a karst (limestone) landscape formed by the deposition of dead fossils and shells under the sea 200 million years ago, and eroded by heavy rainfall 5 million years ago, giving it its current shape. The park is also home to mangrove forest.

**Climate**

Bemaraha National Park has a low latitude (tropical) climate, with a rainy season from November to April, and a dry season between May and October. Average monthly temperatures are around 18°C. The amount of annual rainfall in the region is moderately high (1000-1500 mm).

**Wildlife**

Bemaraha National Park has a low latitude (tropical) climate, with a rainy season from November to April, and a dry season between May and October. Average monthly temperatures are around 18°C. The amount of annual rainfall in the region is moderately high (1000-1500 mm). Bemaraha is home to many diverse and endemic species, with a rate of endemism of around 85%, and local endemism of around 47%. Nearly 400 animal species can be found in the park, including many lemur species - one of which, the Avahi Cleesei, is locally endemic - as well as five bat and 103 bird species. No less than 900 native plants of Madagascar also grow there.

**Access**

**Air:**
- Regular flights from Antananarivo to Morondava, then 200km drive from Morondava to Bekopaka. There is also a landing strip at Bekopaka for small aircraft.
- From Morondava to Ambison: functional private track (Madagascar Trans Air) from May to November

**Road:**
Road access to Bemaraha is optimal during the dry season, May-November:
- 600km drive from Antananarivo to Morondava, then 200km drive along an unpaved road
- Antsahalova-Bekopaka: 100km drive along an unpaved road about 4 hours with four wheel drive car.

**Boat:** in the North of Morondava
- via Ankavandra: 3 to 4 days trip on Manambolo river or Manatrivaza 3 days trip on Tsiribihina river to Bekopaka

**Tourism**

Bemaraha is among the top 10 tourist destinations of Madagascar. In 2018 the park welcomed 16,333 visitors (France - 19%, Spain - 13%, Germany - 9%, Italy - 7%, UK - 6%). Views from the Tsingy are unmatched. The park is also located in the same region as the Baobab Avenue, one of the most iconic tourist sites in the country. The villages surrounding the park are home to approximately 8,000 people. There are six hotels around the park with a total capacity of 140 rooms.

**Selected area description**

Two sites have been identified as prime locations tourism development:
1. Andadoany at the entrance of the park (MNP's Office): 1 Ha
2. Ranotsara, 3km from the entrance of Grand Tsingy: 10 Ha
The Isalo National Park massif in the southwest of Madagascar is made up of Jurassic limestone and is cut through by deep canyons. The park has been referred to as the “Colorado of Madagascar.” It was declared a national park in 1962. Despite being located in an arid area, the park has considerable water resources that support a range of ecosystems and specific fauna adapted to the exceptional habitat.

Size 81,540 Ha

Landscape and habitat

Isalo National Park’s landscape is formed by a natural rock massif. The deserted viewing area and lush canyons of various colors and shapes offer some spectacular views.

Climate

Isalo National Park has a tropical wet-dry climate. The dry period lasts from April to December and the wet season from January to March. Day temperatures are around 30°C but they can be mild between June and August. November to March is the hottest time.

Wildlife

The Isalo National Park is a habitat to endemic riparian vegetation in its massive ruiniform from the Jurassic era. There are 100 medicinal species. The forest is covered by the “tapia,” food of the landibe, a very specific fauna of the region. The Isalo park has 77 species of birds, where 70 percent are endemic – such as the Benson Rockbill, which is only found in Isalo. Many other animals also can be found such as rock reptiles, giant eels, crocodiles and 3 lemur species such as Lemur catta, Propitec verreauxi and lemuro fulvus. There are more than 400 plant species, some of them endemic to Madagascar such as pachypodium rosulatum and the medicinal plant Catharanthus ovalis.

Access

Air:

• Regular flights with Madagascar’s domestic carrier, Transaero, connect Antananarivo to nearby Tulear airport. From Tulear airport, it is a 250 km drive (approximately four-hours) drive to Isalo.

• Functional private track at Isalo (Relais de la Reine)

Road

• By Private transport: Distance: 850 km from Antananarivo to Toliara Duration: 12hours

Tourism

Located in the heart of Madagascar, Isalo National Park offers sumptuous landscapes. Between luxuriant forests and arid to deserted lands, it is one of the most beautiful parks in Madagascar, with many discovery circuits in it. Isalo is the most visited park in Madagascar, with 33,000 visitors in 2018 (France 18%, Italy 9%, UK 9%, Germany 7%, Spain 6%). It has about 30 hotels (460 rooms). Ranohira, Andohanilakaka, Himby, Berenty are the closest villages. There is in total an estimated population of 16,500.

Traditions

The Bara, one of the Malagasy ethnic groups of clear Bantu descent, are the most dominant ethnic group in Isalo National Park. Their main activities are based on farming and agriculture.

Activities

Marathon, Trekking and hiking, Biking: numerous circuits are proposed in the Isalo Park from easy walking tracks to more difficult and adventurous. Botanical walk, birdwatching are also among the popular activities in the park.

Tourism opportunities

There are opportunities to develop the following activities/services in the park: ecolodge, ecoshop, food and beverage services, wellness activities, horse riding, picnic areas.

Selected area description

Various sites have been identified for possible tourism services/facilities development: Isalo park is located in a zone identified as a prime location for tourism development.

Camping sites have been identified: Piscine Naturelle, Korobe, Andremanoro, Zahavola.
ANALAMAZAOTRA & MANTADIA
NATIONAL PARKS

Andasibe Mantadia National Parks form a protected rainforest area in eastern Madagascar. Andasibe Mantadia National Park was created in 1989 and is named after the slippery stones along the riverbed of the 10km Lofa river that flows through the park. Analamazaotra National Park was formerly known as the Perinet Nature Reserve, after the construction of the nearby railway station. It became a Special Reserve in 1970 and a National Park in 2015.

Size 16,354 Ha

Landscape and habitat
Andasibe Mantadia National Park is home to humid evergreen primary forest and a rugged landscape. Trails weave through dense forest, lakes (Green Lake and Red Lake), and a sacred waterfall containing the secrets of the great cultural traditions of the island. Analamazaotra consists of a corridor forest that houses the Sifaka and Indri Indri lemur species, wetlands and orchid habitats, and a forest station.

Climate
The parks have a tropical humid climate which is characterized by hot and humid during summers (November to March), and mild winters (April to October). At an altitude of 900-1250m, Andasibe-Mantadia is part of the central highlands. The climate is humid, with average annual rainfall of 1,700mm spread over 210 days. The average temperature is 23°C. Altitude Analamazaotra: 800m

Wildlife
Analamazaotra National Park is one of the most visited parks in Madagascar partly because it is one of the largest natural habitats of the Indri Indri and other lemur species (e.g. Propithecus diadema and Varecia variegata). As well as 22 lemur species, Analamazaotra is home to carnivores, small mammal species, 109 species of orchids and three species of land rollers. Andasibe Mantadia boasts one of the only wild colonies of Madagascan, the fossa. It has 220 species of orchid, with a 100% rate of endemism, and more than 1,200 plant species with a 77% rate of endemism.

Access
The parks is situated near one of the main highways (National Road 2) between Antananarivo and the country’s main port, Tamatave, on the east coast. From Tamatave, it is a 200 km drive, and from Antananarivo it is a 140 km drive, taking approximately 3 hours. Analamazaotra National Park is about 31 km east from the NR2 and Andasibe Mantadia National Park 43 km in the northeast.

Tourism
Given their relative proximity to the capital, Andasibe Mantadia National Park and the nearby Analamazaotra National Park are some of the most visited parks in the country. In 2018 the parks welcomed 22,437 visitors (France - 11%, Spain - 8%, Germany - 12%, USA - 18%, UK - 18%). Analamazaotra National Park holds great tourism potential, particularly given the various lemur species.

Traditions
The Betsimisaraka, Bezanozano and Merina people are the main ethnic groups in the region. They live mainly on slash and burn agriculture and logging. The Andasibe village counts around 13,500 inhabitants and Ambatovola around 11,000.

Activities
Tourist activities in the park include bird watching; trekking; botanical walks; wildlife viewing; community-based experiences (e.g. learning culinary traditions with local people).

Tourism opportunities
There are opportunities to develop the following activities/services in the park: ecodome, ecoshop, food and beverage services, wellness activities, cycling trails, horse riding, kayaking, picnic areas.
NOSY HARA NATIONAL PARK

The Nosy Hara archipelago consists of around 12 small islands surrounded by coral reef. It was one of the first large-scale marine protected areas in Madagascar, and it became a National Park in 2012. Above the water, the islands combine limestone karstic formations, white sandy beaches and endemic vegetation. But the real beauty of the area lies underwater.

Size 312 Ha

Landscape and habitat
Nosy Hara, the largest island in the area, together with Nosy Faty and Nosy Agno and other islets, form an archipelago of coral reefs, volcanic rock, limestone, mangroves and submarine canyons.

Climate
The area around Diego Suarez has a tropical climate with rain mainly from December to March. Temperatures vary between 27-30°C from December to March and 18-25°C from May to November.

Wildlife
The coral reef surrounding the Nosy Hara island is still largely intact and is home to almost 80 different species of fish and more than 50 species of molluscs. Dolphins and five species of sea turtle are also found throughout the archipelago, together with more than 30 bird species and 18 reptile species, including Brookesia micro, the smallest chameleon in the world, and Acroteris madagascariensis.

Nosy Hara National Park is home to endangered species such as Dugongs, sea turtles, fishing eagles and Brookesia Micro, the world’s smallest reptile.

Access
Air:
• There are regular direct (two-hour) flights from Antananarivo to Diego Suarez, the closest airport to the park (approximately 30 km away).

Road/Boat:
• 30 km drive from Diego Suarez airport via a track,
then a 30 minute boat journey from Ampasindava village.

Tourism
The attraction of Nosy Hara is the combination of marine and land biodiversity, its unique deep blue sea color and the Robinson Crusoe feeling that one can experience on the archipelago. The small fishing village of Ampasindava is the entry point to Nosy Hara National Park. More then 20 villages are located near the park. There are three hotels next to the park with 35 rooms. In 2018, Nosy Hara Visitors reached 824 (France-73%, UK-19% , USA 8%, Italy 4%, Slovakia 3%).

Activities
The main tourism activities in the archipelago include snorkelling and diving, as well as excursions between the islands.

Tourism opportunities
There are opportunities to develop the following activities/services in the park, ecolodge (20 to 30 rooms), food and beverage services, wellness activities, picnic areas, water sport activities, walking trails.

Selected area description
Lakandava islet, well-known for its beaches and biodiversity, has been identified as a prime tourism development site. The site is 1 ha in size.
Tsimanampesotse National Park, named after its spectacular salt lake, is located in the southwest of Madagascar, not far from the coast and approximately 90km south of Tulear. The park comprises 4300 Ha of spiny forest and wetlands. It is bounded by the Onilahy River to the north and the Linta River to the south. The area was initially protected in 1927 due to its value as a habitat for water birds, and became a National Park in 1966. In 1998, Tsimanampesotse Lake became the first RAMSAR site and in 2018, it became a biosphere reserve for Madagascar (MAB).

Size
202,525 Ha

Landscape and habitat
As the only salt lake in Madagascar, and the first RAMSAR site in the country, Tsimanampesotse is home to wetlands of international importance that provide some of the most important resources for migratory birds. The park is also home to a labyrinth-like network of 25 recorded caves, most of which are sacred, where the invisible people, the spirits of the Antambahoake, dwell according to local beliefs. The caves are marked by the presence of underground water that hosts the largest deposit of animal fossils ever found in Madagascar.

Climate
The climate is hot and dry all year round, and the rainy season lasts only a few days. The park lies in the most arid zone of the island, which receives only around 300 mm of rain each year. Daytime temperatures hold steady around 40°C, and nights cool to around 20°C.

Wildlife
The park offers an exceptional variety of endemic flora and fauna, with around 10% of the park's biodiversity endemic. More than 100 bird species are found here, including pink, greater and dwarf flamingos that form large colonies on the lake. There are also 12 species of mammals, among them the extremely rare and locally endemic Grandisier’s mongoose, as well as four lemur species such as ring-tailed lemur and Verreaux's sifaka. One of the park's 20 reptile species is the radiated tortoise, which in endemic to this region and highly endangered. The vegetation in the park has adapted to very dry temperatures and to the limestone relief, and includes thorny plants, traditional medicinal shrubs, and baobab forests that are 10 to 12 meters high.

Access
Air:
• The main airport is in Tuléar - There are domestic flights and 2 flights per week from Reunion Island. From Tulear, the park can be reached by car or by boat (see below)
Road:
• 300 km from Tulear on National Road 10 via Betioka and Befaha (10h drive)
Boat:
• Via St Augustin
• From Tuléar to Anakao with 1h with speedboat and from Anakao 50km on a coastline sand road to Efoetse village and the Park entrance.

Tourism
Tsimanampesotse is a national park way off the beaten track, and is considered to be one of, if not the best park to visit in Madagascar. Three hotels are located outside the park and counts around 30 rooms. The closest villages Efoetse of Ambola counts around 2,000 inhabitants.

Activities
Tourist activities in the park include bird watching, caving tours, botanical walks, community-based experiences and wildlife viewing. Visitors can also surf given that the beach is located just 2.5km from the park. From July to September, tourists can watch whales from the park.

Tourism opportunities
There are opportunities to develop the following activities/services in the park: ecolodge, ecoshop, food and beverage services, wellness activities, horse riding, cave diving, picnic areas.

Selected area description
Three sites located in the buffer zone of the park have been identified as prime locations for tourism development.

Size
Site 1 (20 Ha): Andaka
Site 2 (5-10 Ha): Emande
Site 3 (5 Ha): Mitoho

Traditions
The Tahala and Vezo people make up most of the population in the area. The Vezo people are seafarers of the sea, well-known for their marine activities: they live on the coast, draw their subsistence from the sea and turn to it for their safety, which distinguishes them from any other populations of Madagascar.
Lokobe National Park

Lokobe National Park is located approximately 7 km southeast of the capital of Nosy Be island, Hell Ville, in the northern Diana region. The park became a nature reserve in 1966, and in 2011 it was declared a National Park. The name Lokobe comes from the forest that used to serve as a habitat for the production of honey and beeswax.

Size: 862 ha

Landscape and habitat

Lokobe National Park is home to primary forest that reaches as far as the coastline, rock formations, panoramic views, and around a dozen permanent streams running through low-altitude hills (max. 432 m). Along the coastline to the south and west of the park are rocky beaches and coral reefs.

Climate

The climate in the park is tropical, hot and humid. A clear dry season extends from June to August. Temperatures range from 21°C to 32°C. On average, January is the wettest month and August is the driest month. The average amount of annual precipitation is 1,000 mm.

Wildlife

Lokobe is home to a range of wildlife, including many endemic species. It is most well known for its black lemurs, but it also home to 42 bird species (including Indri indica Madagascariensis and the Madagascar cockatoo), 30 reptile species (including the spectacular panther-chameleon, the Acrantophis Madagascariensis boa), three types of primates and 14 amphibian species.

Access

Air:
• The International Nosy Be Fascène has been renovated.
  There are 6 companies flying into Nosy Be with 15 international flights per week, from Antananarivo, Addis Ababa, Milan, La Réunion, Varsovie, Johannesburg, then it is a 1 hr drive to the park

Road/boat:
• Drive on the National Road 4 from Antananarivo to Ambondromamory, then on the National Road 6 to Ambanja. From Ambanja, drive to Ankify and take a boat transfer to Nosy Be Hell Ville port (15-20 min), from which it is a short drive to the park gate

Tourism

Nosy Be recorded around 11,000 tourists with 130 hotels and 2,417 rooms. Around Lokobe National Park, there are 3 hotels with 75 rooms. The park is located in the prime tourist destination of Nosy Be, it offers relaxing walks through dense vegetation with opportunities to view unique wildlife and stunning sunsets. It is one of very few places in Madagascar where the original forest of Sambirano still exists, which contrasts beautifully with the park marine areas. The park itself has recorded 618 visitors in 2018.

Traditions

The Sakalava and Antakarana tribes of the area continue to respect their traditional cultural values, particularly relating to food and clothes.

Activities

Tourist activities in Lokobe National Park include hiking, bike riding, camping, bird watching, botanical walks, and sunset views. The park is divided into three circuits:

Mitsinjo:
• This tour takes about 2 hours and includes ascending a 1 km long staircase from the entrance of the park to the summit of Mitsinjo (432 m above sea level), which provides perfect sunset views.

Kindro:
• This circuit is for all ages and abilities, and offers two options: the short circuit (Kindro) and the longer circuit (Kindro Ampasindava). The flora along these circuits is very dense and allows for encountering lemurs, birds and reptiles.

Ramy:
• This circuit is just over 2 km long and takes around 2 hours to cover. It offers a phenomenal view of the sea, the Nosy Be Port, Nosy Komba island and the Nosy Tanikely marine park.

Tourism opportunities

There are opportunities to develop the following activities/services in the park: ecolodge, ecoshop, food and beverage services, wellness activities, cycling trails, kayaking, diving, snorkeling, picnic areas.

Selected area description

Three sites located in the buffer zone of the park have been identified as prime locations for tourism development:

A- ANTSAHARAVY 2.8 ha
B- ANDRAHOMAMY with 2.93 ha
C- AMPASINDA VA with 1.19 ha

3D Tour

Lokobe National Park is located approximately 7 km southeast of the capital of Nosy Be island, Hell Ville, in the northern Diana region. The park became a nature reserve in 1966, and in 2011 it was declared a National Park. The name Lokobe comes from the forest that used to serve as a habitat for the production of honey and beeswax.
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