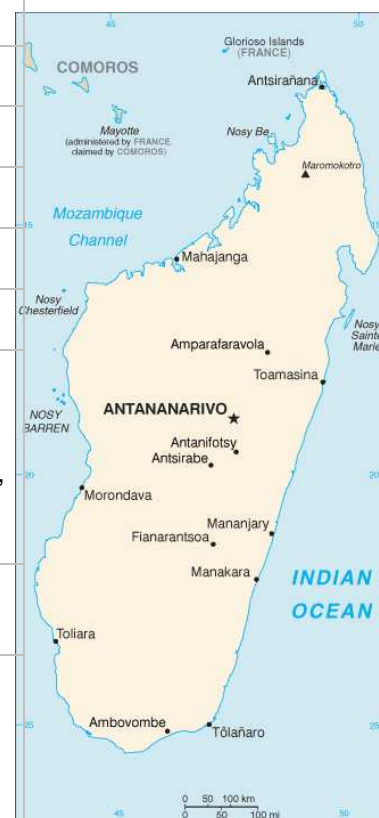




Madagascar

| Basic Data in a nutshell | |
|---|--|
| Area | 587,040 sq km world's fourth-largest island |
| Coastline | 4,828 km |
| Administrative division | 6 provinces (faritany) |
| Capital | Antananarivo |
| Population / habitat density | 19,448,815 = 33 habitants / sq km |
| Population growth rate | 3.008% |
| Languages | English (official), French (official), Malagasy (official) |
| Economy | <u>Agriculture products:</u> coffee, vanilla, sugarcane, cloves, cocoa, rice, cassava (tapioca), beans, bananas, peanuts; livestock products <u>Industries:</u> meat processing, seafood, soap, breweries, tanneries, sugar, textiles, glassware, cement, automobile assembly plant, paper, petroleum, tourism |
| Terrain | narrow coastal plain, high plateau and mountains in center |
| Climate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The east coast has a subequatorial climate (hot, humid) and, being most directly exposed to the trade winds, has the heaviest rainfall, averaging as much as 3.5 meters annually - the central highlands are appreciably drier and, owing to the altitude, also cooler - The west coast is even drier because the trade winds lose their humidity by the time they reach this region - The southwest and the extreme south are semidesert |
| Natural Resources | graphite, chromite, coal, bauxite, salt, quartz, tar sands, semiprecious stones, mica, fish, hydropower |
| Biodiversity hotspots (according to Conservation International) | Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands |
| Read more: | |
| - Human Development Reports: | www.undp.org |
| - biodiversity hotspots: | http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx |



(Source: CIA World Factbook)

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; Biodiversity Hotspots of Conservation International; Library of Congress, Washington/USA)



| Selected indicators of development status | |
|--|--|
| HDI *) | 0.533 (rank 143 of 177) |
| Life expectancy at birth | <i>male</i> : 60.23 years <i>female</i> : 64.1 years |
| GDP per capita (UNDP, 2005) | 923 US\$/year |
| GDP composition by sector | <p>56,80% 27,30% 15,80%</p> <p>■ agriculture ■ industry □ services</p> |
| Infant mortality | 57.02 deaths/1,000 live births |
| Adult literacy rate (15 years and older) | 70.7% |
| Population using an improved water source 1990/2004 | 40% / 50% |
| Children underweight for age (under age 5) | 42% |
| Population below poverty line (2 US\$/day) | 85.1% |
| Gini-Index for income distribution **) | 0.475 |
| Official Development Assistance (ODA) received | |
| Total amount / per capita (UNDP, 2005) | 929,200,000 US\$ / 49.9 US\$ |
| % of ODA in GDP 1990/2005 | 12.9% / 18.4% |
| Read more: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human Development Reports: www.undp.org - UNDP Statistics for Madagascar: http://hdrstats.undp.org/countries/data_sheets/cty_ds_MDG.html | |

(Sources: UNDP Human Development Report 2007; CIA World Factbook)

*) The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comparative index of social development status. The HDI is calculated on the basis of life expectancy, the literacy rate and real purchasing power per capita. The HDI is expressed as a value between 1 (high) and 0 (low)

***) The Gini coefficient is a measure of personal income distribution within a country or region. It is expressed as a value between 0 (distribution fully equitable) and 1 (distribution fully inequitable)



Biological Diversity in Madagascar is ...

...the diversity of ecosystems:

Ecoregions of Madagascar:

- The northern mountain region: mixed forest
- The central region: shift of humid and dry formations
- The eastern region: tropical lowland rainforest
- The western region: dry period of 7 months, dry deciduous forest
- The southern region: dry forest

- forest area (2005): 128,400 sq km (21.87% of the national area)
- 93% of the total land area was naturally forested

...the diversity between and within species:

- 109 species of mammals, including 71 species of lemurs and 16 species of Mausmaki
- 250 bird species
- 3,000 species of butterflies
- 12,000 species of plants, including 1,000 species of trees

- 85% of all plant and animal species are endemic (80% of the mammals, 53% of the birds, 98% of all reptiles and amphibians)

Efforts to protect Malagasy biodiversity:

- 79 protected areas (2006) which cover 6.55% of the total land area
- 1.88% of total land area (11,060 sq km) are strictly protected (2003, according to IUCN categories I and II)
- 6 Ramsar Sites (i.a. Lac Tsimanampetsotsa, Parc de Tsarasaotra), 3 biosphere reserves (i.a. Mananara-Nord, Littoral de Toliara) and 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (i.a. Rainforests of the Atsinanana)
- Creation of the „Système d'Aires Protégées de Madagascar“ (SAPM) in 2006
- Until 2008 an area of 6 million ha ought to be protected (“Durban Vision”)
- new concept for the management of protected areas: to the protection of the biological diversity is attached the protection of the cultural heritage and the local people can participate in the administration and planning of the majority of the protected areas

Read more:

- biodiversity hotspots: <http://www.biodiversityhotspots.org/xp/hotspots/Pages/default.aspx>
- Global Environmental Outlook of the UNEP (GEO-4): http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/report/GEO-4_Report_Full_en.pdf
- Ministère de l'Environnement et des Eaux et Forêts: <http://www.minenvef.gov.mg/>
- National Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) of Madagascar: <http://mg.chm-cbd.net>
- Biodiversity in German Development Cooperation: www.gtz.de/biodiversity
- WWF in Madagascar: http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/africa/where/madagascar/index.cfm
- Earthtrends Country Profiles: http://earthtrends.wri.org/country_profiles/
- UNESCO World Heritage List: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>
- UNESCO Man and Biosphere: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/>
- Ramsar Sites: <http://www.ramsar.org/sitelist.pdf>
- Fleischhauer, Andrea, Thora Amend & Stefanie Eißing (2008): Zwischen Kochherden und Waldgeistern.

(Sources: Biodiversity Hotspots of Conservation International; CBD Country Profiles; World Resources Institute – Earthtrends; UNDP 2005; Fleischhauer, Amend & Eißing: Zwischen Kochherden und Waldgeistern)



Madagascars' current environmental challenges are:

Desertification

The remaining forest is threatened by population growth, extreme poverty and by the impacts of climate change

Slow improvement in national forest administration

Illegal logging caused by the demand for cropland and firewood (81.9% of the energy demand is covered by traditional use of firewood)

Soil erosion results from deforestation and overgrazing

Contamination of surface water by raw sewage and other organic wastes

several endangered species of flora and fauna unique to the island

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; CBD Country Profiles)

Cultural diversity in Madagascar is based on...

...different ethnic groups:

- Malayo-Indonesian (Merina and related Betsileo)
- Cotiers (mixed African, Malayo-Indonesian, and Arab ancestry - Betsimisaraka, Tsimihety, Antaisaka, Sakalava)
- French
- Indian
- Creole
- Comoran

...different religions:

- indigenous beliefs 52%
- Christian 41%
- Muslim 7%

Read more:

- Fleischhauer, Andrea, Thora Amend & Stefanie Eißing (2008): Zwischen Kochherden und Waldgeistern.

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Ecological Footprint | 0.7 global ha/person |
| Biocapacity | 2.9 global ha/person |

Within the global comparison, Madagascar ranges on place no. 50 - see bar chart:

http://globalis.gvu.unu.edu/indicator_detail.cfm?country=MG&indicatorid=13

(Source: www.footprintnetwork.org)