

Tagging Conservation of biodiversity with
Sustainable Livelihood:

The Mahabo Blessing Basket Story

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Brief Backgrounds on MBG Madagascar Program

- MBG has been working in Madagascar for more than 4 decades
- Program started with general plant collecting by St Louis based staff between 1972-1976 to document the flora of the Island
- A staff member was stationed in country from 1984-1986
- 1987 to Today we have two departments involved with a local staff of 60 and multifaceted program

Madagascar MBG Program focuses on three main areas:

- Research
- Training/Education – Capacity Building
- Conservation

CONSERVATION

Goals:

To protect natural ecosystem and to maintain biodiversity

To preserve plant traditional knowledge

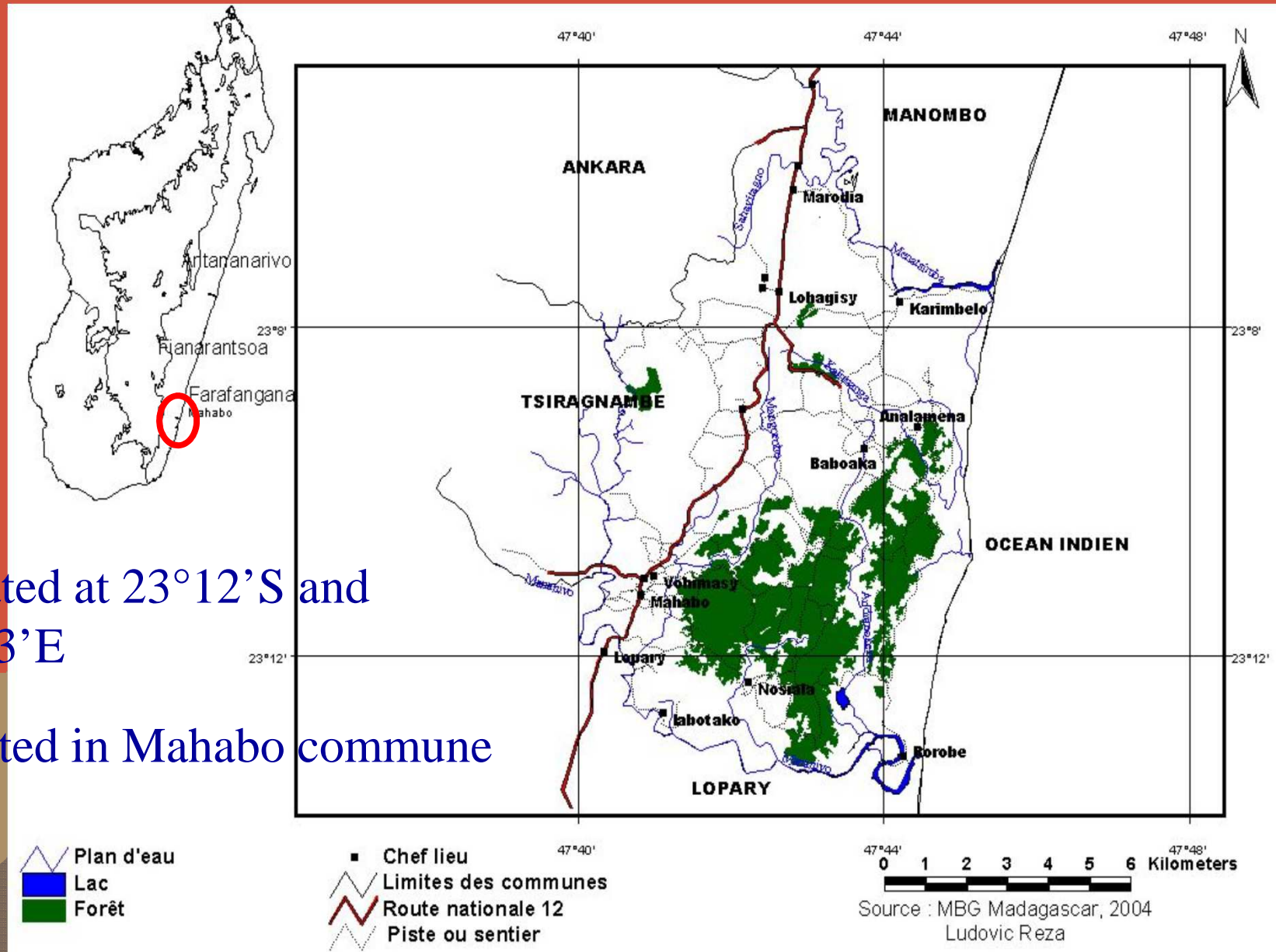
To improve quality of life

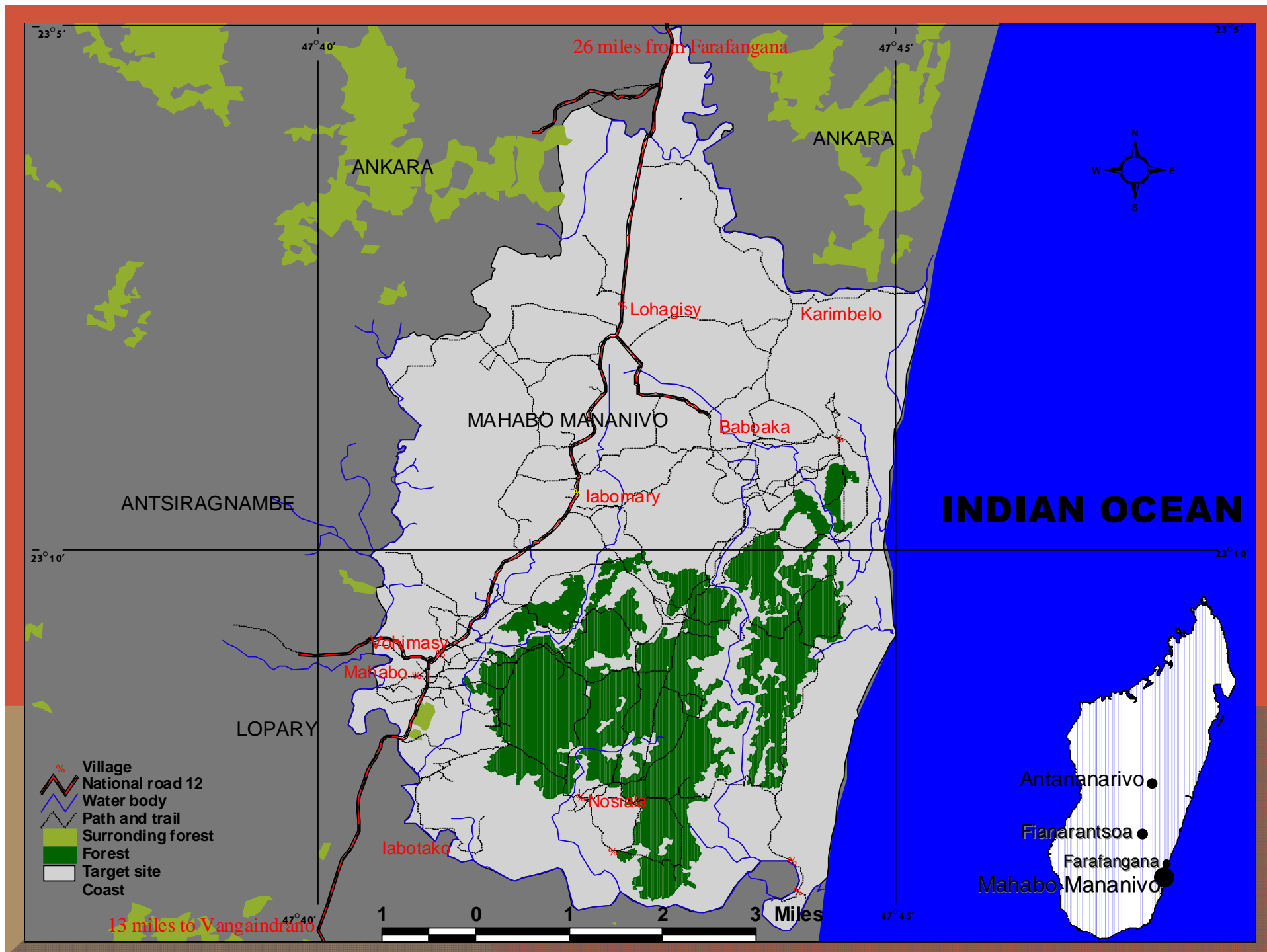
Approach: Community-based conservation

LOCATIONS OF MBG'S CONSERVATION PROJECTS



MAHABO FOREST SITE







Littoral forest on sand



Improve Quality of Life
by:

Building trust

Promoting education

Increasing nutrition

Empowering the community

Diminishing poverty



Building trust





Mahabo women preparing the material for weaving in their home



Mahabo basket market place







Styles of basket of the Blessing Basket Project







Lepironia mucronata, plant species used for making basket sold in the local village market



Harvesting *Lepironia mucronata*



Sustainable harvesting method lead to regrowth of the species in its natural habitat



Direct Impact of the Blessing Basket project on Biodiversity

- Women association's rule for maintaining membership: no husband or male relative allow to destroy the forest
- Decrease in number of people trying to cut plant species to make quick cash
- Sustainable harvesting leading to the conservation of plant species (*Lepironia mucronata*) used for basketry
- Empowering women in the community, leading to more awareness about the importance of biodiversity and its conservation





Empower the community and diminish poverty





Promote environmental education through the school system



The Madagascar MBG Team

