**-Location/site: Ambohimalaza, Ambohiboangy**

**-Date: 27/08/2019**

**-Interviewer (initials): PRA 002**

**-Time: 14:08**

**-Length of interview: 00:21:10**

**-individual/multiple: individual**

**-Age: 45**

**-disability: no**

**-gender: female**

**-Specific circumstance/observations:**

I lived here for 23 years now.

What part of the nature is the most important to you?

There not a lot of forests here. But we can feel the air is still pure because the village is spacious, there are not so many people, car or factories around. So the most important part is the air… and water. For drinking water we have the source from Ambohimalazabe, we also have FDC’s pumps but we don’t use it because the access is very restricted. The source water is enough here and drinking water is still clear and safe. It is the water for the crops that is not enough. Rainfall comes a bit later here, we experience water shortage. When I moved here 23 years ago, we had plenty of water, we never experience any drought of the water source, and it started maybe 15 years ago. When September starts; there are some field that can’t be drained in water because the rainfall is very light. We don’t have specific source of water to drain the fields. We use different sources depending on their availability. We don’t have any pipes or irrigation canal.

Most of people in the village are carpenters and farmers. Personally I do a bit of everything, I grow vegetables not as a professional, I used to sell taro. I grow taro and some other beans. My husband is a carpenter and he helps me. We also have cattle.

Nature is helping us. We are aware that is degrading because cars are getting numerous around here. Farmers use more and more chemicals. We have more advantage on the city, when you grow some it looks more alive greener here. There is not really something to complain about water; we still can live with it.

About the climate, I struggle when I take a walk in Antananarivo, even a short one. In contrary, walking all day long in the village is a real pleasure; I don’t feel tired at all. Walking in the morning is even better? Sometimes I have to sell products outside the village so I have to walk half a day, 15 or 20 kilometres but I don’t feel tiredness, that because the air is pure.

We don’t have real forest here; I mean those large ones. We only have different patch of tree plantations. The unique real forest we have is located in Asaomby. It is degraded now because of human activities. Forest is here represented by eucalyptus and pine plantations. Native forests are located in Manjakandriana. Even eucalyptus trees are threatened because more people from the city move here and cut trees down to build houses.

What change have you observed? And when did it start?

The rainy season is getting late. It usually started in the middle of October but now it is in December and it is not continuous and it is not enough. In a nutshell, rainfall is insufficient, it stats late and stops earlier than usual. I remember, before the 4th of April, during Easer we had rain but not rain stops in the middle of March.

Nothing about the nature is going better. Nothing! It is getting worse. The reason as I said is the increase of the number of the inhabitants, precisely of their activities. For example, people now have car repair service around here. We are aware that the vegetation is very thin but we still exploiting what are left. Rich people from the city buy land here and clean it from all vegetation. We have to live with it. The next point is that we are farmer and we use more and more chemicals into our fertilizer, we use pesticides on green leaves and lettuce and we have to increase the concentration of the chemicals. We also see people from the city throwing their garbage around here. I once saw a car that came here just to throw garbage made of plastic bags, diapers. There is a specific spot down the road they like to throw garbage. Do the carry it from home or what? Other people are coming here to have good time in Ambohitsimiova next to the karting circuit. People who are coming here don’t take any responsibility on their garbage. When all of that is gathered it leads to the destruction of the nature.

Are there any traditional practices connected to nature here?

There is not much of that here. There are some practices in Asaomby. When my child was younger, there was a tree on the side of the Road to Asaomby; people used to throw money in it and my child used to try picking some from inside. There was a hole on the trunk. That tree was neither a eucalyptus nor a pine. I don’t even know if it is still there or if it has been cut already. It was located on the west side of the road. That was long time ago. I am a Christian so I don’t participate in any rituals or practices that imply make offerings. Some people are still doing that in Asaomby but he doesn’t use any particular species for that.

Have you noticed any change on the nature itself?

I used to go down there to do my laundry, in the north next to a big stone. It was not a real water stream but it was located in high spot so it was very nice. The stone was spacious, there was plenty of water. Now it is dry. Now I have to wash my clothes down there in a small water stream. That became when this company “gasy plast” was installed here. They use big engines to pump all water for the needs of the factory and we are struggling to drain water for our fields. Strangely, people are still quiet about it. The point is all water streams are connected to each other and now we are facing this problem. About the biodiversity I don’t know anything about that. I know that native trees are decreasing in numbers, not extinct but tending this way.

So what impact has that changed on your well-being?

I have this need to express myself and sometimes I do it at home. This is all about mentality, people’s mentality, throwing garbage, destroying without replacing. For example those people who hand manufacture chewing tobacco agave leaves, they use it, the burn it without any other plantation, they don’t take care of it, they are not conscious. The mentality should be: I use it to survive so I have to take care of it, or prevent it from going extinct. People are overexploiting agave leaves. There are also people who cut trees for fire wood, sometimes the last tree on the area; they use it to make furniture. There is no plantation because trees regenerate from seedling.

In 23 years we never had such issue with water, we always had enough water in October and September and now we are face drought at the beginning of September. The ponds are dry. If it keeps going this was, I am afraid that 20 years from now and it will big very though to live here. The change on the vegetation itself never bothered me because we never had large forests anyway. It is usual. When people cut trees it means houses are going to be build. It is like this, trees down, houses and factories up. Trees are at least replaced by something else and it is still beautiful for the view.