**-Location/site: Ambohimalaza, Andranon’omby**

**-Date: 28/08/2019**

**-Interviewer (initials): PRA 008**

**-Time: 09:56**

**-Length of interview: 00:26:15**

**-individual/multiple: group**

**-Age: 62; if no age social group:**

**-disability: yes (one invalid leg)**

**-gender: male**

**-Specific circumstance/observations:**

I lived here for 62 years.

Which part of the nature is important for you?

To me, it has something that brings good thing because there is a relationship between the nature and the people. We should not destroy the forest because it brings wellness and positive things, causes rain fall and can be ornamental for the village.

The water is very important because water is life. We use wells located in the fields to provide ourselves drinking water. For the laundry there is a different source, it is a pond that has nothing to do with the wells we are sing; it is just for women that do the laundry. Two opposite sides like north and south have their own well. For us it is located down there in the north, we do have two wells. The other people use the well in the east so we have enough water for each side; therefore we don’t find people from forty different households using a single well. So we have two wells for the village to dispatch people when they need water.

So which part is the most important to you?

About the nature, everything is connected. Let’s take the plants, we need them to cause rain fall, to get water. Because of plants, we have pure air. So they are important to me. That is why we should respect plants. Plants have value to the human life because everything is connected.

I have travelled a lot, Mahajanga, Toamasina and Fianarantsoa. What is different about the nature here is that there are very few forests here in the center compared to those places I have been to, even if the just take the national road number two to Toamasina. The vegetation is very thing here in center part of Madagascar. That is the difference. It is a bad thing because the climate also depends on it but we can do nothing so we just live with it.

So what change have you observed?

There is a difference. Let take those 62 years I have been living here, the forests are becoming degraded, even the climate is not normal anymore and affects the agriculture. When I was young, when I went to school during August like right now, people already dry up rice and in October we were already in the rainy season where people transplanted rice into the rice fields. In January and February it was almost the end of the rainy season. Because of the climate change everything is now the opposite. It is in January and February people transplant rice. So this is a bad change, it is a very bad change not a good one. That is how I can explain it.

Was there any variation on the observed change?

The truth is we thank God about the water because here we never had a major problem with water. Well it is a just a bit difficult for the women of the house to find water during dry season. However, we still have river farther in the north for people to do laundry. About the drinking water, we thank God we had no big issue till now. The cause is the destruction of the nature, forests are wiped out because fire woods, charcoal production and the is no replacement. No one plant trees around here; plus, the younger trees are cut for fire woods.

The soccer field, it was surrounded by trees during the monarchy. The queens and kings used to entertain themselves which malagasy dance and song. There were a very large eucalyptus plantation and its now like history for the younger generation because they didn’t have the opportunity to see it. It has been transformed into that soccer field. That is the biggest change I have seen around here.

Do you have any favorite place around?

I don’t go around that much but my wife and children do. I don’t really like to go around but there is a place called Ambohitsimiova where many people from Antananarivo come to visit. People go there because it a large open space, there are also restaurants, parks, pools. So people like to go there. There is sometimes Motorcycle racing.

The pine plantations are very recent but we had mimosa for long time. We have in Asaomby a small patch of dense primary forest. This place is a place for benediction rituals because there is a Rova in Ambohimalaza be. This is place is for rituals. There is a water source directly from the cemeteries in the mountains. I have been there, but it has change a lot since then. We went there just to see. It is close. The vegetation there is almost intact. People don’t dare to touch it because the place takes a very important place in the history of the village. I have never been down there, at the bottom; I just see the place from up there in the car. So I don’t really know anything about its structure.

What is so special about the biodiversity around?

About the biodiversity, the species which have always been here are eugenia and mango trees. The others were recently planted, like pines for dozens of years now. We also had ficus trees and voara in Ambohimalaza but I think they are now gone. About the animals, I don’t know really much, there were no lemurs. I heard about the fosa but I have never seen one. Creatures like “kely be tratra” are just myths. The fosa looks like dogs as I heard but it presents some differences in morphology, it is more ferocious.

In general, I have observed something positive around. It is that the village is growing, we see the new housings.

How do you feel about this change?

So if this destruction keeps going on, there will be negative impacts on health; that is the first Secondly, if the forests keep decreasing, the rain fall could decrease too, at the lowest and that will have negative impact on the agriculture. For me, if there is no more three to provide shades and fresh air, could you imagine living here during the summer with hot and dirty air. It would cause respiratory problem problems and even diseases. There are also negative impacts on your brain. First of all on your eyes, if everything you see is degraded there is now joy your brain gain from it; if you something not attractive or just bad. You see something bad and your brain judges it this way and the brain has neither pleasure nor joy.

My personal is that I am powerless; I have to live within it. People around here are all self-employees so they have no choice but using natural resources and cut trees, to sell fire wood to be able to support the family. That lead somehow to anger because the nature is destroyed and we are still powerless because our families have to survive. We can’t you even think about suing people for doing that because we have to survive. It is better to see people destroying nature than becoming thieves or outlaws. So we are powerless.

For me having nature around my house is a good thing, it brings me happiness. It provides shades and pure air. That is the most important thing. It also plays a positive role as ornament for the village.

I remember when I was kid, there were apple trees around here I am living now; there were five individuals; orange trees, pomelo trees and zahona. Now there are all gone. This place were my house stands was a field long time ago, but when I grew up I had to build my own house so we had to turn the fields into place where we built this house for my descendant. That is a change. There were very little housing here but now we have so many of them. Let’s say it remains now around fifteen percent of nature from fifty years ago. The descendants are growing up and build their own houses so the lands for agriculture decrease. I’m telling you that I have eighteen grandchildren, so if there is no change, all will be gone in the next fifteen years. Some of my grandchildren are seventeen now. In ten years I think we will see major changes here.

Are there any particular places from your childhood that have disappeared?

I didn’t go out that much when I was younger because of my disability. I went directly to home from school.

I am a carpenter, and that is why I am still here. Even if I have this disability, I never depended on someone else some; I go myself to fields with my spade and work like a normal farmer. So I enjoy the nature around. Honestly, is it annoying to see the degraded nature around, it is dry. But if you come back here in January or February, it will be very different because everything will be greener around the village, but now can’t do anything but pick up plastic trashes around and burn them. For bio waste, we turn them into fertilizer. It very beautiful here when everything is green and it gives a lot of joy; the flowers etc…it is very beautiful.