**Location/site: Andovoranto**

**-Date: 02/09/2019**

**-Interviewer (initials): PRA 017**

**-Time: 16:30**

**-Length of interview: 00:36:44**

**-individual/multiple: group**

**-Age: 64 and 56**

**-disability: no**

**-gender: male and female**

**-Specific circumstance/observations:**

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

It depends on the situation. We are farmer now but we used to be fishermen. So what are important to me: the sea, freshwater and the fields. I have no education. This is the place given to me so I have to enjoy it. Forests are not that important to me, than the sea. Some people have their activities depending on the forest like charcoal. Mine is fishing and agriculture, the only way to have incomes in the village. I find important the way how the nature participates in the cultural aspect of the population.

How is that connected?

They are all connected, the culture, the mind and the body. Let us take the forest, it provides joy. Unfortunately people destroy it and my satisfaction feels incomplete. As a nature lover, the situation is awkward we cut trees for housing and we have no choice, we have always been living this way. Compared to 10 years ago, the damage is much bigger. We had no one practicing slash and burn in the village and they faced no issue with agriculture. The soil was in very good conditions and fertile. Now, even if you work very hard, the yield will still very low. Three of four rice fields were enough to provide food and now we are struggling draining water to the field. It would be very different if the forest was still intact.

How about the Pangalane and the sea?

Well it is tough; we are worried about the land mass which is constantly decreasing. The sea swallows more areas. The sea is getting closer, maybe 100 meters from the road. When I was 10 the sea didn’t cross this path. We don’t know which action to undertake. Even if we plant trees it will be useless because it is natural phenomenon. There is no change in the Pangalane level. It only happens to the sea. The Pangalane has gained only 1 to 3 meters of the land.

How do you feel about that?

It represents a threat to us. Land area is already small and the sea decreases it more. We use palm for roofing because sheet metals get easily damaged by the coastal wind. The problem is that the sea reaches the fields and when it dries the salt decreases the fertility of the soil; hence, the production. There is no chance for the rice to grow.

What is this pole with zebu skull on top of it?

It is a straight pole but you could see some with ramifications, it depends on the origin of the person. Our ancestors were from Mahanoro that is why you see a ramification on our pole. My mom is from Mahanoro. It is called “Fisokona”, we use hasin’ala and hasimanajara. Those trees are still there deep in the forest. Some people would recognize them. Hasin’ala can also be used for construction. We use the centre of the wood to make the Fisokona. This one was built in 1961. It is still intact. It is a very solid wood and it lasts very long and it is a very solid wood.

Do you have any hobbies?

I am old now but I used to play soccer when I was younger. Know I like watching people play on Sundays or whenever there is a tournament. I like also watching the vakodrazana. There was grappling here but I didn’t like it. I prefer soccer. There is stone with a hole on it, people have to throw little rock inside and the number of rocks they successfully put inside the hole would determine the number of their children.

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

The changes are negative. Things are disappearing; like field. Eleven fields were enough to provide food for the whole year and now it not enough. The yield is not even the half of what we got years ago; and it is why we experience famine now. We collect rice twice a year, in December and June depending on the variety. The biodiversity around has decrease by 50% in 50 years; it remains now 50% or even 40%. Animals disappear, trees are going extinct because if charcoal production. Firewood is not a real issue because people take it from fallen trees. There were many species of lemurs and reptiles, their population decreases because they don’t survive to fire. Wild boars disappeared. You can only see some individuals farther in the north. It means the changes are bad for animals. Reptiles like snakes can’t survive fire. Those animals are useful to the nature. Lemurs spread seeds and participate in the regeneration of the forest.

How about the weather?

Rain depends on trees. The rainy season used to start in October. We had more time for agriculture. Nowadays, we have to wait in January to get some rain. And when it rains, there is flood.

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

I have to deal with it. I can’t fight nature forces. We have to enjoy our life whatever happens because of our health. We have more arterial hypertension issues in the village because we don’t have any mean to relieve our pain from the changes. School fees are increasing. Money is life. If don’t have enough, you die. The government used to distribute free medication like nivaquine for the students. We had very peaceful mind, we had not such worries. We were healthier; the government used to spread DDT. We had no issues with parasites like fleas or mosquitoes.