

Progress Report project 42340-1

This report outlines the progress of the project from May 2024 through June 2025, covering fieldwork, data processing, and preliminary analysis phases.

1. Fieldwork Activities

- **Morombe (9–14 May 2024):**

The first round of field visits for the rainy season was conducted in Morombe, focusing on seagrass meadow performance and local community knowledge surveys. Data collected included ecological observations, interviews, and sediment sample collection.

- **Androka (7–17 June 2024):**

The second phase of fieldwork was carried out in Androka. Activities mirrored those in Morombe, with additional emphasis on seasonal river impacts and dunes movement in the shore. Local stakeholders were interviewed to capture socio-ecological perspectives.

- **Irodo and Lokia (30 June – 16 July 2024):**

The final phase of field visits took place in the northern sites of Irodo and Lokia. This included both ecological assessments and interviews with community members.

2. Data Processing and Transcription

- **Transcription (July – 30 October 2024):**

Interview recordings were transcribed starting in July and completed by the end of October 2024. This phase required the assistance of native speakers with scientific knowledge of the ecosystems involved. It took longer than anticipated due to the need for extensive coordination, given the diversity of local dialects spoken across the different regions.

- **Translation and Laboratory Analysis (October 2024 – March 2025):**

The translation of transcripts from local languages into French was carried out in parallel with the laboratory analysis of ecological samples and datasets. To ensure accuracy and completeness, both online and onsite library resources were consulted extensively, particularly for lexical references. When no direct translation could be found for certain words or expressions, the original terms were retained with explanatory notes provided. During this period, ecological data was also structured and organized in preparation for comparative analysis.

3. Preliminary Data Analysis

- **April 2025 – Present:**

Qualitative coding and systematic analysis of the curated and translated transcripts has been underway since April 2025. This qualitative analysis aims to capture and convey the core knowledge held by local communities, serving as a critical component in informing practical applications such as conservation and ecological restoration. The findings will soon be integrated with ecological datasets and analyzed in relation to existing literature and current restoration approaches across Madagascar.

Next Steps:

- Completion of textual analysis of interview data.
- Comparative analysis across regions and data types (ecological and ethnographic).
- Drafting of the final report and synthesis for dissemination in November 2025.

Photos:



Figure 1: Estimation of seagrass coverage in Morombe. Credits: Seagrass Estuaries Team



Figure 2: View of seagrass estuaries in Lokia, Antsiranana. Credits: Seagrass Estuaries Team



Figure 3: Drifted seagrass debris after strong winds in Ambatomilopaky, Morombe.