

Funded by IFAD and Artsventure

Target Areas: Androy and Anosy regions, Tulear Province

Beneficiaries: Communities in 5 communes



**Projet Hepa** was launched in collaboration with Panos London in 2007 to increase the voice of local populations, and to improve awareness about the knowledge and experience of indigenous people in southern Madagascar. HEPA is an abbreviation of Hetahetam-Po Ambara signifying "Proclaim what is in your heart".

The project benefitted from the expertise of Panos in training villagers from communities in Androy and Anosy, as well as project staff, to collect oral testimonies using film and recordings of life stories. The testimonies have been edited into short films and published in print and online. They have been distributed widely to decision makers regionally, nationally and internationally to catalyse debate about development challenges and solutions in S Madagascar.

The testimonies have helped to draw attention to a wide variety of issues related to local development and especially with regard to the impacts of mining in the Anosy region. Additional testimonies have been collected in Bema, Androy to contribute to the IFAD Rural Poverty Report 2010.

### Summary outputs

- 8 village interviewers in oral testimony collection trained
- 8 village film makers trained
- 6 Alt staff trained in oral testimony techniques
- 54 oral testimonies collected (Anosy)
- 13 radio programmes made
- 5 films produced (Androy)
- 2 Anosy and 4 Androy testimonies published online
- Published voices for change (Anosy) book in 3 languages
- 21,000 e-recipients networked through PANOS, COMINIT and ALT
- Film showings; Ambovombe town, regional TV, indigenous people festival and
- Copenhagen Climate Change Summit 2009
- Regional meeting with decision makers about testimony content (Androy)
- Regional presentation and book launch about testimonies (Anosy)

### Additional partnerships and activity

- Launched a local cultural association for the people of Anosy
  - Seed grant enabled communities in Androy to plant trees and stabilise dunes
  - 7 ADDITIONAL testimonies collected for the IFAD Rural Poverty Review 2010
- See [www. http://www.ifad.org/rpr2011/index.htm](http://www.ifad.org/rpr2011/index.htm)