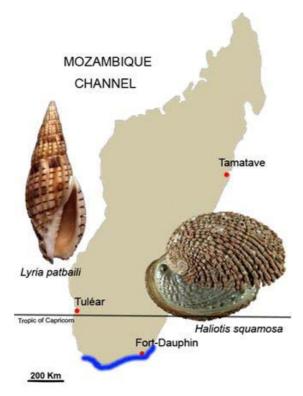
ATIMO VATAE

EXPEDITION TO MADAGASCAR "DEEP SOUTH" MARINE FAUNA & FLORA April-June 2010

Context

"Our Planet Reviewed" is the joint initiative of an academic institution - Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN) - and an NGO - Pro-Natura International (PNI) - to document, sample and describe the neglected components of biodiversity in key ecosystems of the world. The present expedition is part of a cluster of 2009-2010 expeditions in Mozambique and Madagascar. The marine expeditions are networking with the *Census of Marine Life* and the *Barcode of Life* initiatives, and the *World Union for Nature* (IUCN) has declared its support to the project. See <u>www.laplaneterevisitee.org</u>

The Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN, Paris), the Institut d'Halieutique et des Sciences Marines, University of Toliara (IH.SM), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Madagascar Programme are uniting their efforts to organize an expedition to explore the coastal marine fauna and flora in what is certainly the least known region of Madagascar: the "Deep South", a cold oceanic region of fierce promontories, open bays and extensive algal belts. The name of the expedition, *Atimo Vatae*, means "Deep South" in the regional Antandroy language.



The "Deep South" of Madagascar, a cold water region rich in endemic species.

The project has been granted a Research Permit issued by the national authorities of Madagascar. It was initially scheduled to take place in April-June 2009, but had to be shifted to 2010 when political instability erupted in Antananarivo in February of this year.

We hear that the Turkish vessel *Gulser Ana* grounded on 28 October 2009 near Faux Cap, releasing 39,000 tons of phosphates, 568 tons of fuel, 66 tons of diesel and 8,000 litres of lubricant. At the time of writing, we do not know how far away from Faux Cap this maritime disaster is impacting the marine biota.



View from Cap Sainte Marie looking west to Lavanono

Objectives

The expedition will combine:

1) *Research*: Discover unknown species; establish research and reference collections of the marine fauna and flora.

2) *Conservation*: document species composition and communities of this marine ecoregion.

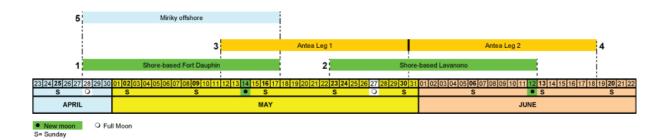
3) *Capacity building*: local scientists and technicians to be involved in faunistics and floristics of marine organisms.

4) *Outreach*: share with the general public the life of a major naturalistic expedition.

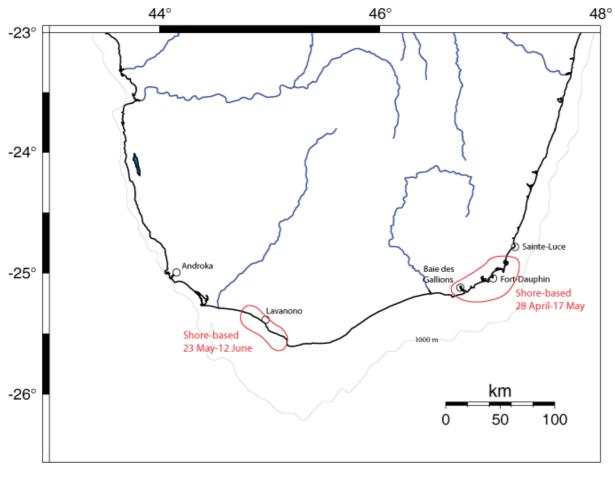
5) *Data management*: Feed databases already established or currently under development in Madagascar and worldwide.

Operations

The expedition will focus on the coastal zone and continental shelf off the regions of Anosy and Androy, roughly from Manantena (north of Ste Luce) to Androka, and will be conducted in five components running both in parallel and in succession.



(1-2) Components 1 and 2. These will be shore-based parties of 15-20 persons, collecting at low tide (what little there is of it), subtidally by diving, and with hand-operated dredge, all within 1-1.5 hr of the shore bases. Bulk samples will be processed in basic laboratory facilities, with a chain of treatment involving sorting with microscopes, photographing, and tissue clipping.

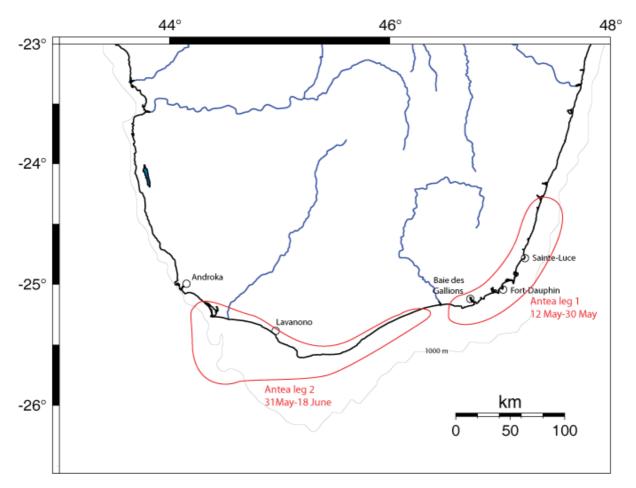




Beach-rock in Lavanono

Lanirano Backwater, Fort-Dauphin

(3-4) Components 3 and 4. These will consist of a party of 10 qualified divers based on IRD's *Antea*, a 34 m research vessel with good lab space. Most sampling will be targeted collecting, with limited bulk sampling.

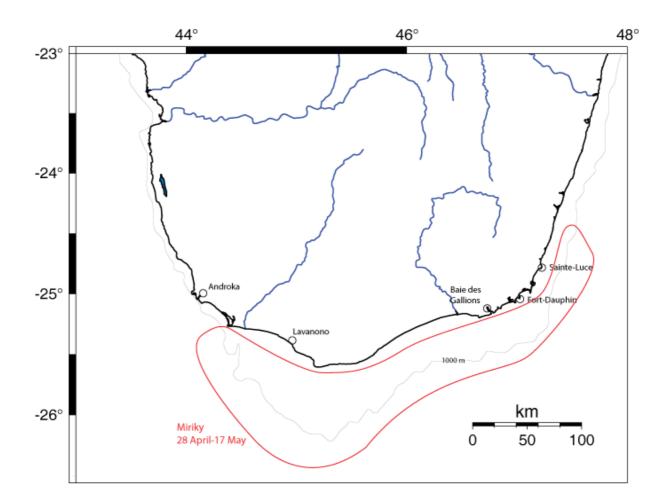




IRD's R.V. Antea

Evatra Point, Fort-Dauphin

(5) Component 5. This will consist of a party of 8 persons on board the chartered shrimp trawler *Miriky*. It will sample by dredging and trawling on the continental shelf and upper continental slope to 300-500 meters.





Shrimp trawler Miriky

Tentative lists of participants

1. Shore-based Fort-Dauphin

28 April – 17 May

Laurent Albenga Philippe Bouchet Barbara Buge Laurent Charles Paul Clark Olivier de Clerck Rudo von Cosel Jacques Dumas Leslie Harris Virginie Héros Cia-Wei Lin Pierre Lozouet Philippe Maestrati Nenito Otero Patrice Petit-Devoize Marina Poddubetskaia Nicolas Puillandre Sonia Ribes Florence Rousseau Ellen Strong **Dave Valles**

2. Shore-based Lavanono

23 May – 12 June

Laurent Albenga Philippe Bouchet Barbara Buge Magalie Castelin Tin-Yam Chan Laurent Charles Rudo von Cosel Phil Heemstra Elaine Heemstra Philippe Maestrati Nenito Otero Patrice Petit-Devoize Jacques Pelorce Marta Pola Nicolas Puillandre Bruno de Reviers Ellen Strong Dave Valles

3. Antea Leg 1 [strictly limited to 10 persons] 12 May – 30 May

Xavier Desmier (qq. jours) followed by Alain Barrère Tan Heok-Hui Pierre Laboute Line Le Gall Marco Oliverio Mike Severns John Starmer

4. Antea Leg 2 [strictly limited to 10 persons]

31 May – 18 June

Robert Anderson Eric Feunteun Terry Gosliner Pierre Laboute François Michonneau Stefano Schiaparelli Emre Turak Nicole de Voogd

5. Miriky offshore [strictly limited to 8 persons] 28 April – 17 May

Jean-François Barazer Tin-Yam Chan Laure Corbari Yuri Kantor Phil Heemstra Bertrand Richer de Forges Anders Warén

Funding

The expedition is supported by *Fondation Total* (Total Foundation), *Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco*, the *Stavros Niarchos Foundation*, and the *Richard Lounsbery Foundation*.





Richard Lounsbery Foundation

Who does what?

Project organization and in-country contacts

Philippe BOUCHET, Professor, *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*; <u>pbouchet@mnhn.fr</u> / (+33) 1 40 79 31 03.

Man Wai RABENEVANANA, Director, *Institut d'Halieutique et des Sciences Marines* (IH.SM) de l'université de Toliara, <u>manwai@moov.mg</u> / (+261) 33 12 392 20.

Herilala RANDRIAMAHAZO, Director of Marine Programme, WCS Madagascar, herilala@wcs.org / (+261) 33 11 879 93.

Expedition organization

Philippe MAESTRATI, Museum Specialist, *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*; <u>maestrat@mnhn.fr</u> / (+33) 1 40 79 57 53. *Shore-based facilities. Coordination of flights.*

Line LE GALL and Laurent ALBENGA, *Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle*; <u>legall@mnhn.fr</u> / (+33) 1 40 79 31 97; albenga@mnhn.fr / (+33) 1 40 79 35 60. *Divers needs and logistics*.

Chloë WEBSTER, <u>vahaolana@gmail.com</u> / (+261) (0)33 14 569 54. *Project representative in Fort-Dauphin*.

Administration, Project management

Claire MASOUY, *Chargée de Projet Grandes Expéditions au Muséum*. <u>claire.masouy@mnhn.fr</u> / (+33) 1 40 79 30 08.



13 November 2009