

**Community based assessment related to deforestation issue in the district of
Moramanga Madagascar from satoyama initiative perspectives**
(マダガスカル・ムラマンガ地区において森林衰退に直面するコミュニティの
サトヤマ指標による評価)

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Introduction: Deforestation is a serious threat to Madagascar's tropical rainforests. Having recorded a loss of around 40% in 50 years, the continuous deforestation is a real threat to the local biodiversity. The district of Moramanga, approximately 110 km far east from the capital Antananarivo, is among the key areas for conservation strategy due to the presence of the Andasibe national park, habitat for endemic lemurs such as the *Indri*. The local community is highly dependent on the forests for two main reasons: agriculture and fuel wood. The community forest based management is the main conservation approach adopted by the government to tackle the forests related problems. However, despite of the effort to engage the local community, the deforestation is still ongoing. Hence this study aims to evaluate the community in the district of Moramanga to enhance the people-forest relationship in a more sustainable way.

Method: This study used the Satoyama Agricultural Development Tool (SADT), which refers to the 5 specific perspectives of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, i.e. 1) the cyclic use of natural resources, 2) the resources use within the capacity and resilience of the environment, 3) the recognition of the value and the importance of local traditions and culture, 4) the collaborative management of the natural resources, and 5) the contributions to socio-economies. Data for each perspective were collected by questionnaire survey and interview to local farmers within the community. We compiled the data using SADT to calculate the Satoyama points which allowed us to classify the community as; *Non-compliant* (0-59%), *In transition* (60-79%) and *Satoyama like* (80-100%). The classification provides guidance and orientation to determine the shortcomings of the community. We also calculated independently the Satoyama points for the communities in close and inside the national park and outside the national park.

Results and discussions: The overall Satoyama point was 63 % corresponding to the category of "*In transition*" according to the SADT standards. From each perspective viewpoint, all the perspectives were evaluated as "*In transition*" apart from the perspective number 4 (56 %), the collaborative management of the natural resources. Land tenure and law enforcement have been detected as potential issues which could hinder the establishment of a more sustainable environment within the community. The community is more organized in close and inside the national park but impacts in a negative way the surrounding people as less land is available for agriculture, the main income source of the locals.