

I am the manager of a lodge and organise eco-touristic tours. I am also the co-founder of a village marine reserve in Madagascar.

## EM-MOOC: PARTICIPANTS' PERSPECTIVES



### *Why are you doing the MOOC? Why ecological monitoring?*

I monitor the marine reserve of which I am the co-founder empirically and informally. It would be best for this monitoring to evolve towards something practical, reliable, and clear. Through this MOOC, I hope to receive the tools to implement such a monitoring.

At another level, our activity within the PA and visitors coming here depend on the protection of a specific value: the lemur, a rare and endemic species.

Discussing with managers can give the impression that everything is alright, that the lemur population is in good condition, if not growing, and that there are no threats - but guides, residents, researchers and tour operators have a different opinion.

Once I obtain the knowledge to understand and/or take part in ecological monitoring, I hope to challenge managers on their work with key values of the park and the effectiveness of their actions.

Given the threats to natural resources in the region, if you don't tolerate compromise, the future of ecotourism seems grim. Indeed, traffickers of natural resources manage to get jobs in the field, to launder money and bolster their image, while continuing with their illegal activity.

Nature conservation being my primary vocation, a professional move to a reliable and powerful environmental NGO would allow me to carry out actions in line with my beliefs - I hope this training would facilitate my professional transition.

Finally, Malagasy natural heritage is particularly known for its terrestrial biodiversity, and marine protected areas are very little showcased. I have the privilege of prospecting sectors that haven't been documented by scientists, but which coral and fish diversity seem to be of major interest. Yet I see threats are growing, as does laundering, illegal fishing etc. I would like to be able to carry out realistic monitoring, adapted to the few means I have on the six sites I visit regularly.