

Ecological and molecular studies on the conservation and use of Madagascar's endangered freshwater fishes (Dr. Roger Randrianaiaina)

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As Madagascar belongs to the poorest countries in the world, the need of the local people to use natural resources as livelihoods is essential. Despite the importance of fishes both in terms of biodiversity conservation (endemic fish are the most threatened group of animals in Madagascar) and for the local economy and livelihood, there is a very limited expertise among Malagasy biologists so far. To resolve this problem, this project is aimed to provide more knowledge on Madagascan ichthyofauna and the health of the water system, to understand the interaction between different components of aquatic fauna, and to provide knowledge about the economic value of fishes as livelihood. To attend these goals, three purposes will be realized: (1) molecular assessment of diversity and habitat assessment, (2) population studies of fishes, and (3) study of the anthropogenic impact on them. The first two purposes will be used for developing a high-quality Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) for streams in several water sheds of Madagascar, which combined with the third purpose will also be useful for decisions on the elaboration of conservation areas.

Projektbeteiligte

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