



## UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF MADAGASCAR

48th session (January 2025)

Franciscans International and the Secular Franciscan Order of Madagascar have submitted a joint report in view of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Madagascar on 27 January 2025 on the following themes:

EXTREME POVERTY

INTERNAL MIGRATION  
AMPLIFIED BY CLIMATE  
CHANGE

RIGHT TO A HEALTHY  
ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

### EXTREME POVERTY, RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Madagascar is facing extreme climate hazards, in particular a multiplication of cyclones and irregular rainfall resulting in prolonged periods of drought, particularly in the Grand Sud. This region experienced an acute drought in 2021, impacting living conditions for the local population in a region already affected by economic and social disparities and a lack of state investment.

#### Context:

- Multidimensional poverty and vulnerability of the population of the Grand Sud who rely on subsistence farming.
- Generalized famine in the absence of continuous rains between 2019 and 2021
- Continued lack of infrastructure and government presence in the Deep South

#### Consequences

- Aggravation of poor living conditions in the Grand Sud exacerbated by climate change
- 1.47 million people suffering from food insecurity and extreme poverty
- Adoption and implementation of partial and fragmented public policies with an absence of a holistic social protection component and consideration of vulnerability factors pre-existing this migration
- Lack of adaptation strategies to handle impacts of droughts on agricultural production
- Migration of people from the South to the North, 93% of whom have settled permanently in the destination regions

#### Recommendations from UPR 2019

- No recommendation on internal migration
- 14 recommendations received and supported on extreme poverty, including 5 on the right to an adequate standard of living, 3 on access to water and 6 on the right to health.

### Recommendations

- ❖ Adopt an internal migration policy that addresses the adverse effects of climate change on vulnerable populations
- ❖ Adopt specific multi-sectoral public policies that include the obligations contained in the right to a healthy environment and address the root causes of extreme poverty, particularly in the Grand Sud.
- ❖ Implement a specific social protection policy for people who are vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.
- ❖ Amend the updated Malagasy Environment Charter Act n° 2015-003 to include a component on the adaptability of people who are already vulnerable to the consequences of climate change

## **INTERNAL MIGRATION, THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Internal migration and the sustainable settlement of populations from the Grand Sud present socio-economic and environmental challenges in the regions of destination.

### **Context**

- Lack of investment, infrastructure and state funding in the North to meet the scale and impacts of migration
- Migrants settle near national parks or unsupervised areas, causing land disputes
- Use of short-term land cultivation practices, in particular slash-and-burn farming

### **Consequences**

- Migrant populations caught in a spiral of vulnerability in the absence of support for long-term agriculture. This leads to a lack of access to food, water and health.
- Children are particularly vulnerable with a lack of access to education and engage in work to support their families.
- Lack of human and financial resources to ensure decent reception and registration of migrants
- Conflicts over access to land and occupation of space
- Community and ethnic tensions due to the persistence of cultural practices that conflict with those of the local population
- Complacency on the part of the authorities about land clearance and land grabbing, uncovering a problem of corruption in the country on climate funds

### **Recommendations from UPR 2019**

- 3 recommendations received and supported on human rights and the environment
- 4 recommendations received and supported relating to good governance and corruption

## **Recommendations**

- ❖ Introduce an interministerial system for identifying and registering displaced persons in their place of destination to improve monitoring since their departure.
- ❖ Adopt comprehensive measures to address basic needs and provide for the decent and sustainable integration of internally displaced persons in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement within their own country
- ❖ Provide local authorities with adequate resources and training to manage migration, in compliance with international human rights and constitutional standards.
- ❖ Set up sustainable agricultural production systems that reconcile the basic needs of communities and respect the environment, and the right to a healthy environment.
- ❖ Adapt environmental policies to reconcile environmental protection with access to fundamental human rights, including the right to a healthy environment, by including people, particularly displaced people, in the decision-making process and considering the customs and traditions of communities.
- ❖ Increase the transparency of public funding for environmental policies.

### **Contact person**

Ms. Panuga PULENTHIRAN  
Africa Program Coordinator  
[p.pulenthiran@fiop.org](mailto:p.pulenthiran@fiop.org)