

O. Sarobidy Rakotonarivo, PhD
Senior Research Fellow, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar
[Research group website](#); [Profile](#); sarobidy.rakotonarivo@gmail.com

a. Professional Preparation

University of Antananarivo, Madagascar	BSc in Agricultural Sciences	2008
University of Antananarivo, Madagascar	Diploma of Advanced Studies in Forestry, Development, and Environment	2010
Bangor University, UK and Technische Universität Dresden, Germany	Double MSc degree in Sustainable Tropical Forestry	2012
Bangor University, UK and University of Copenhagen, Denmark	Joint PhD Degree, in Environmental & Development Economics	2016

b. Appointments

2026: Visiting Research Fellow of the **Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE)** at the University of Oxford, UK engaging with a leading research community in African development economics.

2023-2026: Co-PI on the CHAIN project (€300K): **“Climate Hazards and Migration in Madagascar: Towards an Integrated Monitoring and Modeling for Mitigation and Adaptation”** funded by the Belmont Forum and studying the complex relationships between migration/mobility, climate hazards and natural resource use in Madagascar, University of Antananarivo

2024-2027: Co-PI on the Demand4Restoration project ((€200K): **“Considering local demand for more effective restoration in Madagascar”** funded by the Swiss National Foundation, aiming to integrate local demand in restoration science and practice, University of Antananarivo

2022-2027: PI on the African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence Pilot Programme (ARISE-PP, €500K) implemented by the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) in partnership with the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) - **“An experimental approach to optimizing policy for scaling-up climate-smart agriculture in Madagascar”**, University of Antananarivo

2022-2027: Monitoring-Evaluation-Learning (MEL) advisor for the UK-funded Biodiverse Landscape Fund project- **Achieving Sustainable Forest Management through Community Managed Protected Areas in Madagascar** (‘Fitantanana Mahariitra Holovainjafy’) with NIRAS, UK

2022-2025: PI on the Darwin Initiative-funded project (£100K): **“Strengthening managers’ and local communities’ capacity for more resilient conservation”** which aims to empower protected area managers in Madagascar by providing training, follow-up support, and a synthesis of the evidence on social impacts of environmental and development interventions, University of Antananarivo

2022-2024: PI on the PEER USAID programme (€70K): **“Resilient food systems and biodiversity under future crises in Madagascar”**, University of Antananarivo

May 2022: Micro-grant (£10K) on **“Upscaling the adoption of climate-smart agricultural techniques in Madagascar”** funded by the [Adaptation Research Alliance](#) programme, University of Antananarivo

2020 - 2021: Co-PI on **“Forest for climate and people”** project (£180K), University of Antananarivo, Madagascar funded by UKaid and IDRC,

2020: STAARS non-resident Fellow (**Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces**) at Cornell University, USA, targeting African researchers that advance rigorous, policy-oriented research on the causal determinants of productivity and income growth, asset accumulation, rural livelihoods and risk management in African agriculture.

2020: Consultant for the International Food Policy Research Institute Washington on **“Games for collective action and adaptation in Kenyan Pastoral Systems”**

2017-2019: Postdoctoral Researcher, **“Resolving conflicts between biodiversity conservation and food security under uncertainty”**, University of Stirling, UK

2013-2017 Postgraduate Researcher, “[Can paying for global ecosystem services reduce poverty?](#)”, Bangor University, UK, and University of Copenhagen, Denmark

2011-2012: Research Assistant, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany- MSc thesis: “Assessing the benefit sharing outcomes of a community carbon enterprise model in Tanzania”

c. Ten most significant publications

1. **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Shyamsundar P. Kramer, R. Hockley, N. (2025). Conservation practice must catch up with commitments to local people, for 30x30 success. *Nature Biodiversity Reviews*.
2. **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Andriamihaja, O.R. (2023). Global North–Global South research partnerships are still inequitable. *Nature Human Behaviour* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-023-01728-0>
3. **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Rakotoarisoa, M., Rajaonarivelo, H.M., Jones, J.P.G. and Hockley, N. (2023). Resolving land tenure security is essential to deliver forest restoration. *Nature Communication Earth & Environment* 4, 179
4. **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Bell, A., Dillon, B., Duthie, B., Kipchumba, A., Rasolofoson, R., Razafimanahaka, J., and Bunnefeld, N. (2021). Experimental evidence on the impact of payments and property rights on forest user decisions. *Frontiers in Conservation Science*. 10.3389/fcsc.2021.661987
5. **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Bell, A., Abernethy, K., Minderman, J., Duthie, A.B., Redpath, S., Keane, K., Travers, H., Bourgeois, S., Moukagni, L., Cusack, C., Jones, I., Pozo, R., and Bunnefeld, N. (2021). The role of incentive-based instruments and social equity in conservation conflict interventions. *Ecology and Society* 26(2):8.
6. **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Jones, I.L., Bell, A., Duthie, A.B., Cusack, J., Minderman, J., Hogan, J., Hodgson, I., and Bunnefeld, N. (2021). Experimental evidence for conservation conflict interventions: The importance of financial payments, community trust and equity attitudes. *People and Nature* 3, 162-175.
7. **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Bredahl Jacobsen, J., Poudyal, M., Rasoamanana, A., and Hockley, N. (2018). Estimating welfare impacts where property rights are contested: methodological and policy implications. *Land Use Policy* 70, 71-83.
8. Poudyal, M., Jones, J.P.G., **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Hockley, N., Gibbons, J.M., Mandimbiniaina, R., Rasoamanana, A., Andrianantenaina, N.S., and Ramamonjisoa, B.S. (2018). Who bears the cost of forest conservation? *PeerJ* 6, e5106.
9. **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Jacobsen, J.B., Larsen, H.O., Jones, J.P.G., Nielsen, M.R., Ramamonjisoa, B.S., Mandimbiniaina, R.H., and Hockley, N. (2017). Qualitative and Quantitative Evidence on the True Local Welfare Costs of Forest Conservation in Madagascar: Are Discrete Choice Experiments a Valid ex ante Tool? *World Development* 94, 478-491.
10. **Rakotonarivo, O.S.**, Schaafsma, M., and Hockley, N. (2016). A systematic review of the reliability and validity of discrete choice experiments in valuing non-market environmental goods. *Journal of Environmental Management* 183, Part 1, 98-109.

d. Synergistic Activities

- Handling editor of Conservation Letters and Environmental Conservation, past handling editor of Conservation Biology and Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society,
- Recipient of the 2021 Top 100 Young Conservation Leaders Award, the 2022 TWAS-Samira Omar Innovation for Sustainability Award, and the 2024 L’Oréal-UNESCO sub-Saharan For Women in Science Award,
- One of the 25 TWAS young Affiliate (The World Academy of Sciences), 2021-2026. The honor is given to developing-nation researchers who show potential for a high-impact career.
- Young Affiliate of the African Academy of Sciences (2022-2026), a recognition awarded to African scientists to support their efforts to develop into outstanding research leaders.

e. Research Impacts

- My research on the social impacts of forest carbon projects has led to the reform of the protected area safeguard policy in Madagascar. Since 2020, I have provided significant technical support to the development of such reform. I have also provided technical support to the Malagasy National Bureau for Coordination of Climate Change (BNCCC-REDD+) and have been involved in international climate negotiations as a scientist.

- My research and policy engagement activities have improved the capacity of key national stakeholders and policy makers in addressing the social issues of forest conservation and landscape restoration programs (I have delivered three week-long field-training courses to a hundred of stakeholders in [February 2020](#), [October 2021](#), and [February 2023](#), and a [national workshop in June 2023](#))