International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Publications
ISSN (Online): 2581-6187

The Dynamism of Activities in Environmental Protection Associations of the "Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana" Association in Analamanga Madagascar

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Abstract— *In response to environmental degradation in Madagascar, young people are volunteering in environmental protection associations. However, volunteers' commitment to their responsibilities is inconsistent, which hinders environmental impact. To maintain the sustainability of volunteer engagement, the association must maintain programs related to the environment and community life. The case of volunteers within the "Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana" association in the Analamanga region provided an opportunity to study the parameters of dynamism in environmental community activities. Descriptive statistics were used on data obtained from the association's activity tracking sheets over a two-year period. The research analysis demonstrated the frequency of activities related to agriculture, internal training of volunteers, sharing and nature outings, internal administration and organization, and world days. The results also focus on the number of volunteers during activities and at specific times. This article demonstrates an example of the dynamism of activities to be followed for a fulfilling community life for volunteers.*

Keywords— *Activity: Association: Dynamic: Environmental protection: Volunteer.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Various human and natural activities cause environmental degradation through complex processes. The earth's ability to satisfy its social and ecological demands is diminished by this degradation (Choudhary, 2015). The deterioration of the earth's capacity has led to the spread and popularization of environmental awareness (Eecken, 2006). In Madagascar, awareness-raising in the context of non-formal education involves young volunteers in associations in order to contribute to environmental protection (Rabotovao, 2017). Active volunteers play a major role through their participation in environmental restoration, information sharing, and project implementation. Activists may be motivated by different reasons, but human beings express a need to act in relation to the environment from birth. Self-determination is the perception of the individual as the main cause of their own behavior (Deci, 2000). In France, the social purpose of an association under the 1901 law is the reason for its creation. Clarifying and communicating the project or set of activities to volunteer members is essential in an association in order to understand its vision and become familiar with it. (OHME, 2023). Appropriate skills are necessary for productive structural transformation that paves the way for a greener economy and creation (International Labor Office, 2019). In addition, the absence of nature-related activities discourages pro-environmental behavior. Contact with nature encourages volunteers to protect and preserve natural environments. (Stanley, 2020). Sharing experiences between members stimulates understanding of the reasons behind the association's various activities. (OHME, 2023). A balance between strengthening the operationalization of activities and intrinsic motivation is key to stimulating volunteers. So, the question is: what motivational factor promises the sustainability of volunteering in environmental associations? The objective of the study is to establish a specific operationalization program for volunteering within an environmental association. The hypothesis is that the factors that drive activity in associations encourage volunteers to remain engaged. Among four environmental protection associations in Madagascar, a case study of the activities carried out in the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association was conducted and presented in this research section.

II. METHODOLOGY

The case study of the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association in the Analamanga region focused on their respective activities. In order to contribute to the hypothesis: "The factors that drive activity in associations encourage volunteers to remain engaged," a follow-up study was conducted on the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association. The evaluation of the frequency of activities and the participation rate of volunteers according to the variety of activities took place between February 2022 and July 2024. A tracking sheet was used to monitor the activities. The tracking criteria listed on the sheet relate to the variety and frequency of activity categories, the number of volunteers participating in each activity, and the number of volunteers participating in each activity according to a calendar schedule. The case study was conducted with the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana

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association because it has the most volunteers out of the three other associations that responded to the questionnaires according to the sampling criteria (volunteers who have been with the association for more than two years, have participated in at least five activities, and are members who are willing to give their opinion). This will make the statistical results of the research more meaningful.

2.1 Choice of variables

Variables relating to specific environmental protection activities in the associations were established in order to assess the dynamism of the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association. The types of activities carried out over two years by the association were grouped by common sector. The groupings of activities were used to estimate the association's priority activities and themes. The thirty-three (33) activities are grouped into seven (7) main activities according to their sector:

TABLE I. List of activity groupings within the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association

Activity groups	List of activities
Agriculture	Vintsy enhancement garden
	Reforestation
	Vintsy window enhancement
	Gardening University of Ecole Normale Supérieure
	Anjomakely reforestation field preparation
	Follow up of plantations
	Ecole Normale Supérieure garden and wall enhancement
World Day Celebration	Word Environnement Day and Biodiversity International Day
	One hour for Earth
	NANISANA sports eventn: inter-Vintsy match
Training	Drawing workshops
	Climate mural
	One hour for Earth : 5 R of recycling
	Workshop based on 5 R of recycling
	Training of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development
	Capacity building for board members
Share	International Forest Day
	Awareness-raising Middle School 67Ha
	Environmentalist and tree
	Mangrove
	Teambuilding and visit to Rova d'Ambohimanga
	video screening : Madagascar's biodiversity
	Science day: sharing ecogestures
	Word Water Day
Regular Meeting and Internal Organization	Debriefing Word Environnement Day and Biodiversity International Day
	Meeting Vintsy
	Vintsy T-shirt
Nature Outing	Visit to Parc Anjozorobe Angavo
	Ecological outing to Mandraka
Structural And Administrative	Transfer of power
	Organization Transfer of power
	Presidential votes
	Transfer of power "Unis Vers Vintsy Tana'

In data processing, a cumulative total of the number of times each type of activity was carried out was calculated. The result is presented in a table to provide an overview of the frequency with which activities were carried out. In addition, a comparison of the number of volunteers participating in each group of activities is presented in a histogram graph to study the level of volunteer participation. This is followed by a scatter plot that takes into account the chronology of volunteers' one-off participation in specific activities for environmental protection. The objectives of testing the hypothesis through the case study are as follows:

- Table showing the achievements and grouping of the types of activities carried out by the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association over two years
- Figure showing the number of volunteers for each activity group
- Scatter plot curve showing the number of volunteers on specific dates and for specific activities.

III. RESULT

3.1 Distribution of cumulative activities within the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana

At the Analamanga site, the Club vintsy ravintsara fanabeazana association showed (7) cumulative activity groups from (33) types of activities over two years. The results of the case study show that there are seven major groups of activities carried out. The activity groups are represented by 33 subgroups, which are unevenly distributed across each group. Of the (45) environmental protection activities carried out by the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association over two years, the activity group "agriculture" was carried out (13) times over the two years and is the most common among all activities, with "reforestation" being the most common subgroup. Secondly, the "training" activity group, carried out (9) times, with the "drawing workshop" sub-group being the most practiced. And thirdly, the "sharing" activity group, carried out (8) times, with each activity sub-group being carried out once. Thus, it is practical activities aimed at developing expertise in land cultivation, followed by the promotion of knowledge, that are emphasized within the association.

TABLE II. Implementation of specific activities of the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association (Analamanga)

Activity groups	List of activities	Number of activities implemented
AGRICULTURE	Vintsy enhancement garden	1
	Reforestation	5
Carried out 13 times	Vintsy window enhancement	2
	Gardening University of Ecole Normale Supérieure	2
	Anjomakely reforestation field preparation	1
	Follow up of plantations	1
	Ecole Normale Supérieure garden and wall enhancement	1
TRAINING	Drawing workshops	3
	Climate mural	1
Carried out 09 times	One hour for Earth : 5 R of recycling	1
	Workshop based on 5 R of recycling	1

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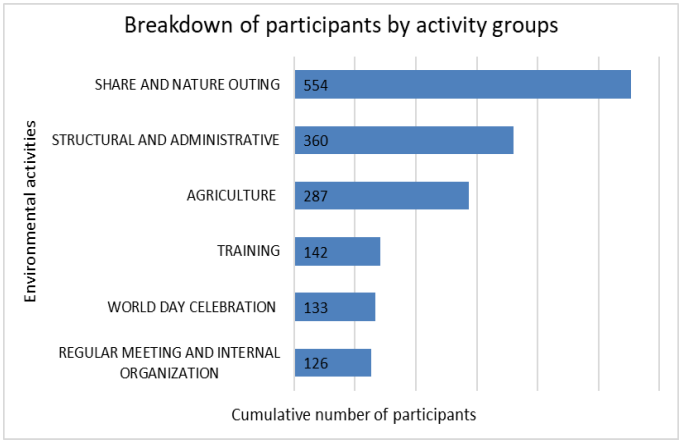
Activity groups	List of activities	Number of activities implemented
	Training of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development	2
	Capacity building for board members	1
SHARE **Carried out 08 times**	International Forest Day	1
	Awareness-raising Middle School 67Ha	1
	Environmentalist and tree	1
	Mangrove	1
	Teambuilding and visit to Rova d'Ambohimanga	1
	video screening: Madagascar's biodiversity	1
	Science day: sharing ecogestures	1
	Word Water Day	1
REGULAR MEETING AND INTERNAL ORGANIZATION	Debriefing Word Environnement Day and Biodiversity International Day	1
	Meeting Vintsy	3
Carried out 05 times	Vintsy T-shirt	1
STRUCTURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	Transfer of power	1
	Organization Transfer of power	1
	Presidential votes	2
Carried out 05 times	Transfer of power "Unis Vers Vintsy Tana'	1
WORLD DAY CELEBRATION	Word Environnement Day and Biodiversity International Day	1
Carried out 03 times	One hour for Earth	1
	NANISANA sports eventn: inter-Vintsy match	1
NATURE OUTING	Visit to Parc Anjozorobe Angavo	1
Carried out 02 times	Ecological outing to Mandraka	1
TOTAL	45	

Source: Authors (2024)

3.2. Number of volunteers according to the grouping of activities within the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana Analamanga

The results show the number of volunteers present by grouping of activities in the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association over a two-year period. The activity groups were classified into six variables. Fig 1 shows the cumulative number of participants by activity grouping over two years within the association. The first line refers to the "share and nature outing" class, with 554 participating members. The second relates to the "structural and administrative" activity category, with 360 members. The third is the "agriculture" activity category, with 287 members. It shows that volunteers are very active in activities relating to skills transfer, but also in applying environmental expertise, highlighting the green fingers of the members. They also participate in meetings on the constitution, highlighting the structural elements of the association's very existence.

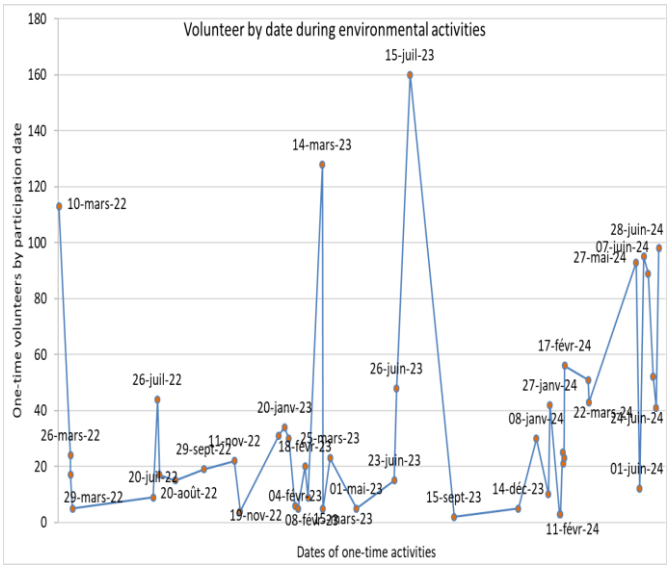


Source: Authors (2024)

Fig. 1. Cumulative number of participants according to activity grouping

3.3 The number of Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana volunteers for each sub-activity

The result shows the number of occasional participants by date during each sub-activity carried out in the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association. There was some variation in the number of volunteers for each one-off activity. The activities mainly took place between March, June and July. There were more participants in the March and July activities. The eco-friendly outing on 15 July 2023, in Mandraka attracted a maximum of 160 participants. This was followed by the eco-friendly sharing sub-activity on 14 March 2023, which attracted 128 participants. The two one-off sub-activities with the highest number of participants belong to the "sharing and outing" activity group. Finally, 113 participants took part in the sub-activity for the 2022 presidential election on 10 March 2022, which belongs to the structural and administrative activity group. Activities that promote knowledge and skills related to the environment and the structure of the association attract the participation of members within the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana



Source: Authors (2024)

Fig. 2. Number of participants in the sub-activity within the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana Analamanga at a given point in time

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IV. Discussion

The variety of activities in an association demonstrates their focus. Our Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana case study successively promotes agriculture, training, and sharing during the two-year follow-up period. The environmental sector considers many activities with associations whose sole purpose is the environment (nature and environmental protection, environmental education, naturalist and environmental expertise, etc.), and in combination with other sectors of activity (agriculture, transport, eco-construction, recycling, etc.). This sector is characterized by its cross-cutting nature (Serin, 2014). Furthermore, in the Centre-Val de Loire region, associations in the environmental sector take a fairly comprehensive approach to environmental education, including biodiversity conservation, water, climate, energy, sustainable development, and energy transition. This typology is not fixed, and associations are both promoters of knowledge, trainers of eco-citizens, and privileged partners of local authorities and government departments on public policies relating to sustainable development and land use planning (Dumon, 2023). In our case study, it is during sharing and exchange activities during nature outings that the number of volunteers is highest (554). The high participation rate in these activities can be explained by the members' interest in engaging in green activities, accompanied by personal fulfillment. During their environmental volunteer work, volunteers benefit from knowledge and experience in the field through inventories, maintenance of green spaces, trail development, sharing naturalist observations, investing themselves as resource persons, and participating in nature activities (Garnier, 2024). These activities also enhance volunteers' knowledge and skills, as they receive capacity building while carrying out their volunteer work. Furthermore, the high number of members involved in structuring and administrative activities can be explained by the mandatory presence of members around the parameters governing the role of the members and the association itself (ELSA Platform, 2022). Added to this is the need for tax law or cost parameters that ensure that volunteering is based on sustainable foundations. Volunteers get reimbursement for costs or subsistence allowances that are essential for carrying out their duties (Parliamentary Union, 2004).

In addition, the time required to complete activities is a determining factor in the rate of volunteer participation in activities. The high rate of volunteer participation in activities in January, February, and March is related to general organizations at the beginning of the year that engage all members, but also to the end of the reforestation and rainy season in Madagascar (WWF, 2020). The participation of association members during this period is crucial as an environmental association, requiring the most volunteers in cultivation activities. The high participation of young people in activities in June and July aligns with the vacation period when members are free from their study obligations and have more time for activities that promote indirect or direct interaction with nature through various sharing and nature outings. (Stanley, 2020) Mobilizing the association's volunteers requires consideration of the variability of the period, geographical location, planned availability of volunteers, and the election period during general meetings and monthly meetings. Honesty about the precision of the duration of the activity with hourly intervals also gives volunteers confidence. (Garnier, 2024). Considering the time required to carry out activities creates a positive desire among individuals and local communities to engage without hindrance in improving environmental issues. (Miyoshi, 2011).

V. Conclusion and Recommandation

Non-formal education is carried out through volunteers as human resources in environmental associations. The case study of Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana showed that the frequency of implementation according to activity groups reflects actions that are beneficial to environmental protection. By offering a stimulating environment with a variety of themes related to nature and the environment, participatory governance, and opportunities for personal development, associations can not only attract new volunteers but also retain those already involved, all while contributing to the sustainability of their actions. An organization that focuses on the duration and timing of activities, environmental themes related to the association's purpose, and consideration of volunteer feedback is guaranteed to succeed in operationalizing environmental impacts. Nevertheless, the development and testing of a reference document specific to associations working in environmental protection in Madagascar could strengthen this program to boost volunteerism. It would be relevant to further this research by conducting a comparative study between the environmental sector and other sectors such as health, sports, or culture, in order to better specify the environmental field. In addition, a more in-depth investigation of governance practices within associations would make it possible to further explore the role of associative dynamism in volunteer evaluation tools, training mechanisms, and forms of recognition such as certificates.

Acknowledgment

We would like to express our gratitude to the following people from the Doctoral School of Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Development, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar : RASAMIMANANA Hantanirina Rosiane, RABOTOVAO Andrisoa Sylvain, and the volunteers of the Club Vintsy Ravintsara Fanabeazana association.

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