

Madagascar



The recurrent political crises that have blighted Madagascar for the last 20 years have left the economy pretty much unchanged, reported the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its *Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa*, published in October 2012. The gross domestic product (GDP) share of agriculture, mining and manufacturing have remained practically the same. They were 28.6 per cent, 0.5 per cent and 10.6 per cent, respectively, in 1990, and in 2010 28.4 per cent, 0.6 per cent and 11.1 per cent. The construction sector grew the most, from a 1.3 per cent to a 4.7 per cent share of GDP between 1990 and 2010, but it only generated 1.2 per cent of the jobs created in 2010. Mining, textiles, information and communication technology (ICT) and tourism also grew. The engines of future growth, reckoned the IMF, will be food products, mining, renewable energies, textiles, construction and tourism.

Agriculture is distinguished by low productivity. However, reports the *African Economic Outlook 2013* (AEO),

published jointly by the African Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, it remains the largest provider of jobs having generated 80 per cent of both male and female jobs, a share that has remained constant for several years according to the 2010 EPM household survey. The mining sector has recently emerged as a growth engine. In the 1990s, its exploitation was mostly informal and small scale and was dominated by small mines with little added value. The mining landscape altered in the late 2000s as a result of mining reforms and the arrival of big mining investors in two large projects, QIT Madagascar Minerals (QMM) and Ambatovy. Growth of the mining industries, which was 9 per cent in 2008, rose to 25.6 per cent in 2012 and is projected at 42.4 per cent in 2013. The sector does not, however, generate many jobs. The largest mining project, Ambatovy, provided only 18,000 jobs during its construction phase and will have 6,000 for operations.

The development of free-trade zones since 1989 was intended to strengthen the Madagascan industrial fabric, but the manufacturing sector has not evolved significantly since then. It only provided 3.4 per cent of jobs in 2010, the year Madagascar was suspended from the US African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which it had entered in 2000, because of the political crisis. Several enterprises and companies had to shut down, causing a loss of nearly 20,000 jobs. The textile industry has suffered from this situation. After a 24.6 per cent fall in 2010, its growth is nonetheless gradually picking up: it rose from -0.8 per cent in 2011 to 1.9 per cent in 2012 and could reach 2.6 per cent in 2013 thanks to a diversification of its market outlets. It is, therefore, still of major importance, even though it accounted for only 1.1 per cent of jobs in 2010.

Natural resources

Madagascar, which has very significant and diverse natural-resource deposits, has failed to take advantage of this wealth of assets to make major structural changes to the economy. The main reasons for this

KEY FACTS

Official name: Repoblikan'i Madagasikara (Republic of Madagascar)

Head of State: President Andry Rajoelina (The High Transitional Authority) (from 17 Mar 2009)

Head of government: Prime Minister Jean Omer Beriziky (from 2 Nov 2011)

Ruling party: The High Transitional Authority (provisional executive body of appointed members and dominated by Tanora malaGasy Vonona (TGV) (Young Malagasies Determined) (from Mar 2009)

Area: 592,000 square km (the world's fourth-largest island)

Population: 22.41 million (2012)*

Capital: Antananarivo

Official language: Malagasy, French, English (from 2007)

Currency: Ariary (MGA) = 5 iraimbilanja

Exchange rate: MGA2,188.34 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$451 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 1.90% (2012)*

GDP: US\$10.12 billion (2012)*

Inflation: 6.45% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$2.30 billion (2011)

* estimated figure

failure were recurrent political crises since the 1970s, the weak competitiveness of local processing industries and suppliers, insufficient transport infrastructure and the low quality of public services. The contribution of natural resources to the national budget is still low but should grow rapidly with the implementation of large mining projects.

According to the 2010 Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) data reconciliation report, earnings from the mining sector paid to the national budget were estimated at around MGA291 billion (US\$133 million). The vast majority were royalties paid by Wuhan Iron and Steel Company (Wisco) (US\$100 million). Mining resources accounted for approximately 13 per cent of total revenue and 1.6 per cent of GDP.

Traditionally, exports of mineral resources were mainly of chromium and graphite, but their share of total exports dropped from 4 per cent in 1990 to 1.2 per cent in 2011. The main reason for this has been the coming on stream of gigantic industrial mines such as QMM and Ambatovy, which have transformed the Madagascan mining landscape. The production and export of titanium and zirconium by QMM since 2010 has increased the share in exports of hard commodities, which in 2011 was 8 per cent. In terms of volume, ilmenite exports are expected rapidly to reach 750,000 tonnes per year, or 10 per cent of world production, and zirsill exports to reach 60,000 tonnes per year. This volume was also expected to increase after Ambatovy began to export nickel and cobalt in November 2012. Ambatovy intends to move quickly to

produce 5,600 tonnes per year of cobalt, or 10 per cent of world production, and 60,000 tonnes per year of nickel, or nearly 5 per cent of world production. This project is one of the largest customers for suppliers of goods and services in Madagascar. At the end of 2010, it had signed contracts with local suppliers for more than US\$1.2 billion. After training to improve the quality of their products, more than 500 micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises received orders from Ambatovy. More than 2,000 local businesses are entered into a database used by Ambatovy and its sub-contractors.

However, according to the transition authorities and a number of civil-society organisations the Madagascan mining code, in particular the law on large investments, favours mining companies over the country. The authorities therefore suspended the issuance and the renewal of permits in many areas of the sector. Moreover, they went back on certain provisions of the law on large mining investments, requesting commitments from the Ambatovy project that were not initially provided for in the legislation. Revision of the mining code could be included amongst the priorities of the next post-election government. Modifying the allocation key for distributing mining revenues between the central government and local communities will certainly be one of the elements to be considered in greater depth as part of such a review.

In 2011 petroleum-product exports were estimated at 61.5 tonnes and accounted for about 6.6 per cent of exports in terms of value. According to the French treasury

director general, a dozen companies of various nationalities are engaged in oil-exploration operations in Madagascar.

Good management of natural resources remains one of Madagascar's major challenges. According to a December 2010 World Bank study, Madagascar: *revue de la gouvernance et de l'efficacité du développement*, the country is mired in a 'natural-resource curse' with regard to its mining potential. In the forestry sector, illegal logging and export of precious woods are almost daily realities despite the legal regulations. In the mining sector, the tax revenues generated by mining will grow with the implementation of the two huge mining projects. They could 'sharply change how revenues are distributed amongst the elites by rewarding highly those who control political power', according to the World Bank study. They could also 'exacerbate social inequalities in the mining communities'. In addition, the management of mineral rights remains a potential source of pay-outs if the desired transparency is not there.

Exports of food products such as vanilla, coffee, cloves and pepper constituted 11 per cent of exports in 2011, in particular thanks to the performance of cloves (up by 342 per cent). Vanilla exports fell, however. Prawns and other fishery products accounted for 11.2 per cent of exports from the free-trade zones in 2011, and their share in total exports was 4.5 per cent in 2011.

The economy

Economic activity in 2012 was adversely affected by several factors. The first was the drawn-out political crisis, which had a negative impact on private-sector activities as well as on the volume of external financing. The recurrence of natural disasters (hurricanes and floods) also affected the primary sector, while fluctuations in the international market, especially in energy prices, worsened the economy's performance. The government increased its subsidies to oil companies to contain fuel prices at the pump. According to National Treasury data, these amounted to MGA211.83 billion (US\$97 million), or 1 per cent of GDP.

Madagascar's economic growth, which was negative (4.1 per cent) in 2009 and weak (0.5 per cent) in 2010, progressed to 1.6 per cent in 2011, still low compared to the average growth of sub-Saharan African countries, estimated at 5.3 per cent by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its October 2012 Regional Economic Outlook. The economy grew by 1.9 per cent

| KEY INDICATORS | | Madagascar | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Unit | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Population | m | *20.22 | *20.75 | *21.30 | *21.85 | *22.41 |
| Gross domestic minus gold | US\$bn | 9.40 | 8.60 | 8.70 | 10.00 | *10.12 |
| GDP per capita | US\$ | 466 | 412 | 410 | 459 | *451 |
| GDP real growth | % | 7.1 | -4.1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | *1.9 |
| Inflation | % | 9.2 | 9.0 | 9.3 | 10.6 | *6.5 |
| Exports (fob) (goods) | US\$m | 2,996.4 | 1,891.9 | 2,618.7 | 3,299.1 | - |
| Imports (fob) (goods) | US\$m | 5,838.8 | 4,313.8 | 4,649.0 | 5,998.4 | - |
| Balance of trade | US\$m | -2,842.5 | -2,421.9 | -2,030.4 | -2,699.3 | - |
| Current account | US\$m | -1,235.8 | -609.6 | -197.8 | -310.6 | *-782.0 |
| Total reserves minus gold | US\$m | 982.3 | 1,135.5 | 1,171.6 | 1,215.6 | *1,190.9 |
| Foreign exchange | US\$m | 982.0 | 982.3 | 1,022.9 | 1,063.3 | *1,052.8 |
| Exchange rate | per US\$ | 1,708.40 | 1,956.20 | 2,090.00 | 1,994.34 | 2,236.80 |
| * estimated figure | | | | | | |

in 2012, driven mainly by the mining industries, transport (helped by a revival of tourism) and exports from customs-free zones.¹ The authorities applied a restrictive fiscal policy to cope with the reduction of external aid, a consequence of the political crisis that has shaken the country since 2009. They followed a prudent monetary policy and managed to contain the budget deficit at 3.1 per cent of GDP (as against 1.7 per cent in 2011). Similarly, they managed to limit the increase of prices to an annual average of 6.4 per cent, down from 9.8 per cent in 2011. The current-account deficit widened to 8.3 per cent of GDP from 6.9 per cent of GDP in 2011. This was the result of greater deterioration in the trade balance and in the services balance, which could not be offset by improvements in the balance of current transfers and of the balance of financial transactions and in capital. Finally, if the elections intended to put an end to the crisis are organised in 2013 as planned, growth could accelerate in 2013 and 2014 to 3 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively. It would benefit from the expansion of the mining industries, the gradual resumption of external financing favourable to construction, and the buoyancy of trade and tourism.

The growth outlook should be better in 2013 and 2014, projected at 3 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, taking into account the organisation of presidential and legislative elections set for July and September 2013, and of the gradual return of foreign aid starting in 2014, once the institutional situation is stabilised. The secondary sector will remain the main engine of growth, fuelled mainly by the mining industries with an increase in ilmenite production at QIT Madagascar Minerals (QMM) and in that of nickel and cobalt at Ambatovy. The tertiary sector will benefit from the revival of tourism and construction thanks to greater recovery in foreign aid. A revival in the financing of agricultural projects by major donors should contribute to the recovery of agricultural production.

Elections, at last

After three postponements in 2013 alone, the presidential elections were finally held on 25 October. There were 33 candidates. The two front-runners (Hery Martial Rakotoarimanana Rajaonarimampianina and Richard Jean-Louis Robinson) announced similar pledges – to rebuild the country after the years of political unrest since the 2009 military-backed *coup* in which Andry Rajoelina had ousted Marc

Ravalomanana. By 5 November with 80 per cent of the votes counted it was obvious that no candidate would achieve the 50 per cent necessary to become president and the election would proceed to the second round on 20 December, along with the parliamentary election. Jean-Louis Robinson with 21.1 per cent of the votes and Hery Rajaonarimampianina with 15.9 per cent will be the two contestants.

The country nervously awaits. Tensions will rise in the run up to round two. Robinson is the proxy candidate for the Mouvement Ravalomanana, the organisation of former President Marc Ravalomanana, who hoped to run himself but who remains in exile in South Africa, while Rajaonarimampianina is the proxy for Andry Rajoelina, the former radio disc jockey who took power in the 2009 coup with the Malagasy army's help.

The stakes are high. Defeat for either candidate could mean exile or political irrelevance. And the voters are increasingly unhappy with what they see as a bunch of self-interested politicians who continue to put their own interests ahead of those of the people. Madagascar itself has become increasingly isolated from the international community, with dire consequences for economic growth, development and human security.

Risk assessment

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Politics | Poor |
| Economy | Fair |
| Regional stability | Fair |

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1500 The first Europeans landed in Madagascar.
 1790s King Andrianampoinimerina unified the Merina tribe which soon became the island's dominant tribe, controlling nearly half of Madagascar.
 1820 Britain signed a treaty recognising Madagascar as an independent state under Merina rule.
 1890 An Anglo-French treaty gave control of the island to France.
 1894 Queen Ranavalona III was forced to abdicate and Madagascar was declared a French colony.
 1946 Madagascar became a Territoire d'Outre-Mer (TOM, overseas territory).
 1947 After several decades of growing resentment and resistance to French rule, there was an armed rebellion. France crushed the revolt with the loss of several thousand lives.
 1960 The Republic of Madagascar (known between 1960–72 as the Malagasy Republic) gained full independence

on 26 June. Philibert Tsiranana became president.

1972 Tsiranana was forced from office; he dissolved parliament and was replaced by General Gabriel Ramanantsoa as head of a provisional government. He moved the country away from ties with France towards the Soviet Union.

1975 After a short tussle between pro- and anti-government forces a military coup replaced Ramanantsoa with Didier Ratsiraka. The country was renamed the Democratic Republic of Madagascar; Ratsiraka was elected president for a seven-year term.

1976 Large parts of the economy were nationalised. The Andry sy Riana Enti-Manavotra an'i Madagasikara (Arema) (Association for the Rebirth of Madagascar) party was formed. Ratsiraka increased state control over the economy until 1986 when a market economy was encouraged.

1992 Following three years of protests and civil disturbances after Ratsiraka's third presidential election victory, a referendum endorsed a multi-party constitution which enshrined a unitary state and reduced the powers of the president.

1993 In the presidential election Ratsiraka was defeated by Albert Zafy.

1996 Zafy was impeached.

1997 Didier Ratsiraka beat Albert Zafy in the presidential election.

2000, Local elections were boycotted by 70 per cent of the electorate and Ratsiraka and his party retained considerable political power.

2001 The Senate reopened in May after 29 years, completing the government framework provided for in the 1992 constitution, which replaced the socialist revolutionary system.

2001 Both candidates, Ratsiraka and Marc Ravalomanana, declared themselves winners in the presidential election.

2002 Civil disturbance accompanied heated debate about the prospective winner of the presidential election.

Ravalomanana was declared the winner by the Constitutional High Court, following a recount. Ravalomanana was recognised by the US as Head of State. Didier Ratsiraka fled to the Seychelles. President Marc Ravalomanana's Tiako i Madagasikara (TIM) (I Love and Care for Madagascar) won parliamentary elections.

2003 Prime Minister Jacques Sylla announced a new cabinet.

2004 The IMF agreed to write off debts of US\$2 billion. Madagascar joined the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

2006 The president's plane was shot at as he returned home from France as General Andrianafisoa (Fidy) attempted a

military coup claiming the 2001 presidential election was illegitimate. President Ravalomanana won a second term in office.

2007 The president appointed General Charles Rabemananjara as prime minister. Constitutional amendments were agreed by referendum to increase presidential powers. Parliamentary elections were won by the ruling TIM. A US\$3.3 billion nickel cobalt mine was opened in Tamatave.

2008 The UN launched an appeal to help the 332,391 people left homeless by Cyclone Ivan, one of the largest ever recorded. The first barrels of crude oil since the 1940s were produced. Madagascar issued 19 offshore exploration licences.

2009 Anti-government protests and political confrontation between the mayor of Antananarivo, Andry Rajoelina, and the president increased until the president sacked Rajoelina and appointed a city official as his replacement. Dissident soldiers joined Rajoelina and refused to take orders from the president and government. Police attempted to arrest Rajoelina, who took refuge in the French embassy. Troops stormed the presidential palace forcing Ravalomanana to resign and replacing him with Andry Rajoelina, who became president of the High Transitional Authority (HTA). The African Union (AU) suspended Madagascar, calling the regime change an 'unconstitutional coup'. The SADC said it would not recognise Rajoelina as the new president. An arrest warrant was issued by the HTA for former president Ravalomanana, who was living in exile in Swaziland. He was charged with misuse of government funds. Ravalomanana was sentenced, *in absentia*, to a four-year jail sentence and fined US\$70 million for alleged abuse of office. UN-backed mediation talks began with HTA to reintroduce democratic principles and a unity government. President Rajoelina postponed parliamentary elections and appointed Brigadier General Albert Camille Vital as prime minister.

2010 The US and AU imposed sanctions on President Rajoelina and 108 of his supporters in March, following Rajoelina's failure to meet a deadline to set up a unity government despite earlier agreements. Foreign assets were frozen and travel restrictions were imposed in the hope that further negotiations would take place. The European Union (EU) confirmed that its substantial aid programme would remain frozen until Madagascar returned to democratic rule. Following agreement at a mediated forum and despite the boycott by three major opposition parties, the date for a constitutional referendum was set for mid-2011, along with the presidential election. Although

opposition political parties called for voters to boycott the referendum, 74.19 per cent voted yes. The referendum endorsed the presidency of Andry Rajoelina and lowered the age of a presidential candidate from 40 to 36 years (thus allowing Rajoelina to stand in new presidential elections). The Constitutional High Court rejected all opposition objections to the results and validated the referendum. The fourth Malagasy Republic was declared.

2011 President Rajoelina dismissed Prime Minister Albert Camille Vital in March, but he was re-appointed and asked to form a new cabinet. Presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for May were postponed until September. In July the UN *rappporteur* called for international sanctions on Madagascar to be reconsidered, as they were threatening more of the population with food insecurity. An agreement was reached between politicians allowing elections to take place in 2012. The agreement kept President Rajoelina in post and also allow exiled former president Ravalomanana to return to Madagascar. Prime Minister Vital and his government resigned in October and President Rajoelina appointed Jean Omer Beriziky as prime minister. Beriziky took office in November. Former president, Didier Ratsiraka returned from exile (since 2002) in France in November. In 2003, a court had convicted Ratsiraka, *in absentia*, of corruption. He was sentenced to 10 year's hard labour. President Rajoelina consented to his return, without penalty. His return followed the formation of a unity government on 21 November and a possible end to the political deadlock.

2012 On 22 January, former president Marc Ravalomanana's aircraft had to return to South Africa when the airport in Antananariva was closed against him when he attempted to land. Cyclone Giovanna struck the island near Madagascar's principal sea port and the eastern city of Toamasina (200km north-east of the capital) on 14 February. The cyclone killed 35 people and caused damage to 60 per cent of the homes in the area as well as uprooting vegetation and damaging infrastructure. Another cyclone (Irena) hit on 6 March. It struck in the south eastern Ifanadiana district, killing over 65 people and making homeless 70,000. Over 300,000 people were made homeless from both cyclones. On 1 August, the National Election Commission of the Transition (NECT) announced that the first round of presidential elections would take place on 8 May 2013, with a runoff to be held on 3 July. The NECT also said that mayoral and urban and rural municipality elections would be held simultaneously, with municipal councillor elections to be held on 23 October 2013.

In November the government declared a state of emergency across the country after locust numbers increased to a crisis level. There were fears of a return to the locust infestations of 1997, which cost the government and international community US\$60 million for the treatment of four million hectares over four years. Another such plague began in the 1950s and lasted 17 years because there was no co-ordinated action plan.

2013 On 3 May the Special Elections Court approved 41 candidates for the presidential election, including Andry Rajoelina; the wife of former president, Marc Ravalomanana, Lalao Ravalomanana; former president Didier Ratsiraka and two former prime ministers. On 4 May the Court announced the date for the election as 24 July 2013, which was later postponed until 25 October, with the second round, if no candidate wins 50 per cent of the vote, on 20 December, the same day as parliamentary elections.

Political structure Constitution

The Fourth Malagasy Republic was declared in December 2010, following a constitutional referendum on 17 November, which reduced the age restriction of presidential candidates.

Constitutional reforms in 1995 and 1998 gave the president the power to appoint or dismiss the prime minister and presidential terms in office were limited to three.

Independence date

26 June 1960

Form of state

Republic

National legislature

The bicameral parliament consists of the Antenimieram-Pirenena (Assemblée Nationale) (National Assembly) (lower chamber) with 127 members elected in single and multi-seat constituencies, and the Antenimieran-Doholona (Sénat) with 33 members of which 22 are elected (one from each district) and 11 appointed.

Legal system

The constitution guarantees judicial independence. The single judicial system is tiered, including in the first instance civil, criminal and military courts. Above these are the Court of Appeal, High Court of Justice, which tries high officials, and a High Constitutional Court. Finally overseeing all is the Supreme Court. *Dian* (traditional courts) handle some civil disputes, among rural peoples only, and decisions are not subject to formal procedural protection of the formal court system. Both parties must agree to abide by the *dian's* authority and ruling.

Last elections

23 September 2007 (parliamentary); 20 October 2013 (presidential, first round)
Results: Parliamentary: the Tiako i Madagasikara (TIM) (I Love and Care for Madagascar) won 106 seats out of 127, Fanjava Velogno won 2, independents 11; nine other minor parties won one seat each.

Presidential (first round 25 Oct 2013): Since none of the 33 candidates achieved 50 per cent, the two leaders, Richard Jean-Louis Robinson (21.1 per cent) and Hery Martial Rakotoarimanana Rajaonarimampianina (15.9 per cent), will stand in the second round on 20 December.

Next elections

29 December 2013 (parliamentary) ; 2 October 2013 (presidential 2nd round)

Political parties

Ruling party

The High Transitional Authority (provisional executive body of appointed members and dominated by Tanora malaGasy Vonona (TGV) (Young Malagasies Determined) (from Mar 2009)

Population

22.41 million (2012)*

Approximately 45 per cent of the total population are under 15 years.

Last census: August 1993: 12,238,914

Population density: 24 inhabitants per square km. Urban population 30 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 3.0 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

The population comprises 18 separate ethnic groups, all deriving in varying degrees from Malayo-Indonesian origin, with African and Arab influences a particular feature in coastal areas. The Merinas (central highlands) represent about 26 per cent of the total, while the Betsimisaraka on the east coast account for 15 per cent and the Betsileo (southern highlands) 12 per cent. The other main groups are the Antankarana (north), Sakalava (west) and Mahafaly and Antandroy (far south).

There is long-standing rivalry between the highland groups (particularly the Merina) and those of the coastal regions.

Religions

Traditional beliefs (45 per cent), Christianity (about 45 per cent), Islam (7 per cent).

Education

Primary education lasts for five years. Secondary schooling is divided into two, beginning with a four-year programme. When completed students may continue in either an academic or technical programme, for a further three years.

Education may be given in either French or Madagasy.

The majority of those who do not attend school or who withdraw early come from the poorest sections of the population and those living in rural areas; illiteracy rates in women are a higher among the youngest; and nearly half of school age children are not enrolled in schools.

Public expenditure is around 3 per cent of GDP, of which around 40 per cent is spent on primary and 35 per cent on secondary education. Higher education expenses amount to only 0.5 per cent of GDP.

Literacy rate: 68.1 per cent total, 61.6 per cent female; adult rates (World Bank).

Compulsory years: Six to 11.

Enrolment rate: 120 per cent gross primary enrolment of relevant age group (including repeaters), World Bank.

Pupils per teacher: 47 in primary schools.

Health

About 60 per cent of the population live within 5km of, or about one hour's walk from, a public health centre.

Vaccination facilities remain poor with only 61 per cent of children immunised against measles, before aged one year. More than three-quarters of the people have no ready access to drinking water.

HIV/Aids

The government has a national Aids policy that covers all economic sectors.

HIV prevalence: 1.7 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 57 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:

4.7 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 488 per 100,000 live births (World Bank).

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 58 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician: 0.29 physicians per 1,000 people, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

In 2004, three separate cyclones, including Cyclone Gafilo, estimated to have been the worst cyclone in 20 years, killed over 100 people and damaged more than 117,000 hectares of farmland as well as many schools and healthcare centres. Total damage from Cyclone Gafilo was estimated, by Government, at US\$250 million.

Main cities

Antananarivo (capital, and principal business centre, estimated population 1.8 million in 2012), Toamasina (Tamatave), (236,748), Antsirabé (205,811), Fianarantsoa (194,287), Mahajanga

(Majunga) (174,023), Toliara (formerly Tuléar) (128,629), Antsiranana (formerly Diégo-Suarez) (91,671).

Languages spoken

French is the usual business language and the medium for all documentation. Very little English is spoken.

Official language/s

Malagasy, French, English (from 2007)

Media

National state radio and television is controlled by the office of the president. National broadcasting is a state monopoly.

Press

Most newspapers are privately owned and are published in French, with a minority number published in Malagasy.

Dailies: In French, *Midi-Madagasikara* (www.midi-madagasikara.mg), *Madagascar Tribune* (www.madagascar-tribune.com), *Les Nouvelles*

(www.les-nouvelles.com), *L'Express* (www.lexpressmada.com) and *La Gazette de la Grande Ile* (www.lagazette-dgi.com) and in Malagasy *Gazetiko*; all are published and circulated in Antananarivo.

Weeklies: In French, *Dans les Media Demain* (www.dmd.mg) is a privately owned news digest, with a large circulation in the Madagascar Diaspora. In Malagasy, *Lakroa* (Cross) is a Roman Catholic publication reaching rural and remote areas, *Feon'ny Merina* (Voice of the Merina) promotes the interests of Merina people of Malay origin.

Periodicals: In French, the monthly *Jureco* has articles on legal and economic issues while *Madagascar Magazine* (www.madagascarmagazine.com) is a quarterly publication that covers politics and economic issues as well as tourist features. The news magazine *Revue de l'Océan Indien* (www.madatours.com/roi) covering issues of Indian Ocean islands.

Broadcasting

Radio: Radio-Télévision Malagasy (RTM) operates the only national radio service. Private, local, commercial stations include Radio MBS (www.mbs.mg) owned by President Ravalomanana, Radio Don Bosco (www.radiodonbosco.mg) owned by the Catholic Church, Radio Feon'ny Merina, which promotes the interests of the Merina people and Radio Fahazavana.

Television: Radio-Télévision Malagasy (RTM) operates the only national TV station. Other, private local TV stations include Radio-Television Analamanga (RTA) (www.rta.mg), MBS TV (www.mbs.mg) and Madagascar TV (MATV).

Other news agencies: APA:

www.apanews.net

Panapress: www.panapress.com

Reuters Africa: <http://africa.reuters.com>

Economy

Oil was discovered offshore in 2006, and with projected production of 60,000 barrels per day by 2010, energy analysts were predicting annual revenue of US\$1 billion. However as none was forthcoming, in March 2011, the minister for mines and hydrocarbons announced that all planned licensing for oil exploration had been suspended indefinitely for around 225 blocks across three basins. These sites had attracted major international exploration companies, some of which had discovered oil and were awaiting an improvement in the political situation before increasing their investment. On 28 June it was announced that the French oil company Total had been given a one-year extension on its exploration licence. In June 2011, the UK-based production company (Madagascar Oil) resolved its dispute with the government concerning validity of the production sharing contract, with oil expected to begin extraction in 2012.

GDP growth was 6.2 per cent in 2007 and 7.1 per cent in 2008, which suddenly plummeted to -4.1 in 2009 as political turmoil undermined the economy at a time of global economic crisis. In 2010, as a fragile stability was re-established, GDP growth picked up and reached 0.5 per cent, which remained static at an estimated 0.5 per cent in 2011. Inflation which had been in double digits for most of the 2000s, dipped to 9.2 per cent in 2008 and remained fairly constant until 2010, before showing signs of rising to double digits again in 2011.

Madagascar is a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a 'forum of oil producers and consumers seeking to promote accountability in oil revenue', which should supply the necessary support in Madagascar's efforts to strengthen public financial management. The service sector is the major generator of the economy at 54.9 per cent in 2009, with industry accounting for 16 per cent, of which manufacturing was 14.1 per cent; agriculture contributed 29.1 per cent. Madagascar overtook Nigeria as Africa's largest rice producer in 2009, but still needs to import a further 10 per cent to meet domestic demand. Other agricultural produce includes livestock, coffee, cotton, tobacco and sugar. It also produces around 1,800–2,000 tonnes of vanilla a year as an important cash crop, although overseas competition comes from new plantations and synthetic vanilla. Its industries consist of food processing, textiles and clothing, refined petroleum products, mining and manufactured goods.

Madagascar was ranked 151 (out of 187) in the UN Human Development Index

(HDI) in 2011. Madagascar has 67.8 per cent of its population living on the equivalent of US\$1.25 per day, and 53.3 per cent who experience multiple deprivations in the same household. Madagascar has reached the conditions for aid under the IMF Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, which allows it to borrow funds backed by the Initiative's guarantee.

External trade

Madagascar was one of the founding members of the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) and since June 2009 operates a customs union whereby the goods and services of non-members attract a common external tariff (CET).

Madagascar is one of the World's largest exporters of vanilla (it lost its pre-eminence in 2000 when a cyclone destroyed much of its production). It has significant reserves of minerals and ores; investment in mineral extraction was bolstered in May 2007 when the African Development Bank agreed to a US\$150 million loan to develop the Ambatovy nickel plant.

Imports

Principal imports are petroleum, capital goods, consumer goods and foodstuffs and vehicles.

Main sources: UAE (16.8 per cent of total in 2011), China (13.8 per cent), France (6.8 per cent).

Exports

Principal exports are coffee, vanilla, textiles, sugar, metals and minerals and petroleum products.

Main destinations: France (36 per cent of total in 2011), Singapore (6.9 per cent), Germany (6.3 per cent).

Agriculture

The agricultural sector dominates the economy.

Madagascar has a wide range of soil types and its main cash/export crops are prawns, coffee, cotton, cloves and vanilla, production of which has fluctuated due to recurrent droughts and cyclones. Vanilla used to be the country's main export crop but increased competition worldwide has reduced exports. Around 1,800–2,000 tonnes of vanilla a year is produced, but its cultivation has suffered a drop in value due to overseas competition from new plantations and synthetic vanilla. Main food crops are rice, maize, bananas and sweet potatoes. Groundnuts, pineapples, coconuts and sugar are also grown, mostly for internal use. The decline in coffee prices led to many growers switching production to rice, increasing production by 5 per cent, and making Madagascar self-sufficient in rice (the staple diet of the country) for the first time since the

mid-1970s, with annual production at around 3.0 million tonnes per year.

Divestiture of vanilla, cotton and sugar parastatals was expected to encourage greater foreign investment. However, as vanilla prices fell from US\$450–500 per kilo in 2003, to US\$30 in 2007, financial co-operatives kept several thousand vanilla farmers afloat.

The livestock sector is dominant in the west and south of the country.

In 2013 local conservation groups reported that overfishing was since the mid-1990s was threatening the livelihoods of local fishermen. The groups blamed the government for a lack of regulation. In a meeting of African ministers in Namibia, held in 2009, members discussed illegal and unregulated fishing, which is estimated to cost Africa US\$1 billion per annum in lost revenue and the threat to stocks and local artisan fishing. Only 15 per cent of Madagascar's ancient forest remains. Deforestation has left the hills exposed to the wind and rain which strips away the soil. Forest preservation and the creation of national parks are receiving large-scale international support.

Industry and manufacturing

The industrial sector contributes around 16 per cent of GDP and employs around 9 per cent of the workforce.

Industry is dominated by food processing and the manufacture of textiles for international markets. Other major sectors include rice milling, sugar refining, distilling, oil-seed crushing, meat, fruit and vegetable canning, processing of cashew nuts, fruit juices, milk products and jams, cigarettes, soap and rope manufacturing, cotton spinning and brewing. Major capital-intensive industries are oil refining, fertiliser and cement production. There are 150 firms based in industrial free zones, representing mainly textile, food processing and information technology, and creating 6,000 jobs in the Antananarivo area alone. Many textile companies in Mauritius are relocating to Madagascar due to the cheaper labour rates.

Tourism

Political instability in Madagascar has dampened the tourist industry and visitors who would have considered visiting the largest island in Africa to see its exceptional flora and fauna have been deterred. Madagascar has three sites on Unesco's World Heritage List including the rainforests of the Atsinanana national parks with their unique biodiversity and the culturally vital Royal Hill of Ambohimanga.

Travel and tourism is an important component of the economy, contributing 11.8

per cent per annum of GDP (2008–10), rising to 12.5 per cent in 2011. Employment in the industry remained at 11.8 per cent (522,500 jobs) from 2008–10, but rose to 12.5 per cent (577,000 jobs) in 2011. Foreign direct investment has grown since oil exploration began. Investment in hotels and other visitor infrastructure accounts for some of the increase in capital investment in travel and tourism, which jumped from 8.8 per cent of total investment in 2009 to 15.8 per cent in 2010 (a figure sustained in 2011). The political situation has improved, but while Madagascar is still suspended from a number of regional development bodies, its underdevelopment remains an inhibitor to tourism growth.

Environment

Madagascar has plants and wildlife found nowhere else on earth, and growth of both tourism and mining needs to be controlled to protect the fragile ecosystems. Evidence from satellites, in March 2009, showed sediment flowing into the Mozambique Channel from the west coast of Madagascar. Deforestation for cultivation and pastureland since the 1960s has resulted in massive annual soil loss, estimated at 250 tonnes per hectare in some regions and the largest amount recorded anywhere in the world.

Mining

Excluding gold and gem production by artisanal miners, mining contributes less than 1 per cent of GDP and employs 1 per cent of the workforce. If the informal sector is included, the contribution to GDP is around 3 per cent. Madagascar is rich in mineral resources, although it is still only a minor mineral producer by regional standards. There are sizeable deposits of a number of minerals, industrial ores and precious and semi-precious gemstones including chrome ore, mica, graphite, gold, bauxite, uranium, iron ore, ilmenite/titanium, quartz, nickel, copper, lead, platinum, labradorite, rock-crystal, rhodolite, marble, garnets, emeralds, rubies and sapphires. There are known deposits containing 100 million tonnes of bauxite and 400 million tonnes of iron ore, although these have not been developed due to the country's poor infrastructure. Only chrome, mica and graphite have been exploited to any great extent, and export earnings from these are limited due to lack of demand. The world's largest known emerald cluster was discovered in Madagascar in 1996. The region of Ilakaka in the southern interior has around 50 per cent of the world's sapphire reserves, while there are small quantities of semi-precious stones (garnets and amethysts) mined for export.

The state-owned Société Kraomita Malagasy (Kraoma) is Madagascar's main chromite producer. It extracts around 40,000 tonnes of concentrates and 80,000 tonnes of lumpy ore per year from the Andriamana complex and a further 20,000 tonnes from the Behandrinana mine.

There are some 100,000 individual gold miners and small syndicates. Although the government tolerates this form of mining, it is worried about its ecological effects which include a high level of mercury leaking into streams and rivers.

The country also produces graphite, 66 per cent of which comes from the Gallois mine. It exports up to 15,000tpy, mostly to UK, US and Germany.

Hydrocarbons

Oil exploration by international oil companies has been underway since the mid-2000s. Finds are expected to yield 9.8 billion barrels of recoverable reserves from the Bermolanga, and another 1.3 billion barrels from the Tsimiroro, oil fields.

On 4 March 2011, the minister for Office des Mines Nationales et des Industries Strategiques (Omnis) announced that all planned licensing for oil exploration had been suspended indefinitely for around 225 blocks across three basins. These sites had attracted major international exploration companies, some of which had discovered oil and were awaiting an improvement in the political situation before increasing their investment. On 29 March 2011, the US-based Madagascar Oil declared *force majeure* under its contractual agreements for four production-sharing blocks that it believes would be slated for expropriation by the government. Conditions deteriorated as Omnis failed to instruct the state regulatory authority to proceed with the 2011 Madagascar works programme and discussions with the government had not improved the situation.

Consumption in 2008 was 20,000 barrels per day, all of which was imported. Since the only oil refinery, in Toamasina, was privatised in 2000, it was upgraded and processes 540,000 tonnes of crude per year and provides 85 per cent of the country's refined oil needs.

Omnis is a government organisation responsible for policy, implementation and managing the country's hydrocarbons and mining assets.

Proven coal reserves were 137 million tonnes in 2008, but commercial production was limited as old facilities became uncompetitive. However renewed interest by foreign energy companies ready to invest in coal mining for power generation

may invigorate the industry over the next decade.

Madagascar does not produce or import natural gas.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 227MW in 2007, producing 980 million kilowatt hours. Around 60 per cent of all energy is generated by hydropower, however only 15 per cent of the population have access to electricity; the majority rely on biomass, including fuel wood, for cooking and lighting. With demand rising by 7 per cent per annum, government policy is to encourage growth in hydroelectric power, and it intends to increase hydropower to 70 per cent of the energy mix. Recent thermal power plants have been built by foreign companies using local coal, with all output used in the nickel mining industry.

There is no integrated power grid and each centre of population is served by its own power station, which either provides enough energy as needed or fails, resulting in outages. The state-owned national power and water utility Jiro sy Rano Malagasy (Jirama) is responsible for the provision of electricity and drinking water for the population of Madagascar. It is overseeing the installation of a mid-voltage transmission line between power plants. Solar-photovoltaic panels have been installed in rural communities to provide for localised energy needs.

Banking and insurance

Moves to strengthen banking supervision have been enhanced through the IMF backed Financial Sector Assessment Program.

Central bank

Banque Centrale de la République Malgache

Time

GMT plus three hours

Geography

Madagascar is situated in the western Indian Ocean, about 500km east of Mozambique in southern Africa. It comprises the island of Madagascar itself and several much smaller offshore islands. Madagascar is the fourth-largest island in the world. The terrain is dominated by a chain of mountains running the length of the island, with broad lowlands to the west and a narrow strip of lowlands to the east. The highlands, which occupy around half of the total area, rise to 1,800m. A rift valley runs from north to south and includes lake Alaotra, which, at 40km in length, is the largest body of water in the country. The capital, Antananarivo, is located on the plateau. The highest elevations face east, forming an escarpment above the eastern lowlands. The east

coast is narrow, averaging about 50km in width, and is heavily forested. The mountains slope gradually down towards the broad west coast, which is given over to savannah; unlike that of the east coast, the coastline is indented and provides harbourage.

The highest point of the island (2,880m) is in the Tsaratanana Massif at the northern end of the island. The coastline is contoured and is home to the natural harbour of Antsiranana. The southern end of the island is semi-desert with cactus-like plant species, which are unique to Madagascar.

Rivers flowing east from the highlands are short and fast with waterfalls. Those flowing down the gentler western terrain are longer and slower-moving.

Hemisphere

Southern

Climate

Tropical, cooler in highlands. The summer period spans the months of November to April. Numerous areas have their own micro-climates – the highlands are subject to mild freshness in the winter, while the eastern parts of the island experience high temperatures and humidity, with barren and arid conditions dominating the western sector.

In Antananarivo, the hottest month is December (15–28 Celsius (C)), coldest July (9–19 C). The wettest month is January. Winter in the capital lasts from April to October, when it is cold and dry.

Madagascar falls within the cyclone belt and cyclones tend to occur during the rainy season December–March, which is hotter than the rest of the year. It is rainy until June or July on the east coast and is very hot throughout the year. It is drier on the west coast.

Dress codes

In Antananarivo, in the winter months, normal weight clothing is suitable, with a woollen sweater/cardigan recommended. In the summer men should wear tropical suits and women, cotton dresses. On the coast, tropical clothing is recommended all year round.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all, valid for six months after date of entry.

Visa

Required by all, along with proof of return/onward passage. A proposed tourist *univisa* (a single visa to visit all 15-member states of SADC: Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) is expected to be in use by 2013. Visitors should check with

the appropriate consulates to confirm start of *univisas* and their scope before beginning a tour of southern Africa.

A business visas requires a letter of recommendation from the employer, confirming the traveller's business activity and financial responsibility, to be submitted with the application.

Currency advice/regulations

Import of local currency is limited to MGA1,000; visitors are not allowed to export local currency. There is no limit on import of foreign currency, subject to declaration on arrival, and export is allowed up to the declared amount.

Health (for visitors)

Mandatory precautions

Yellow fever vaccination certificate required if arriving from an infected area.

Advisable precautions

Typhoid, polio, tetanus and hepatitis A vaccinations recommended. Malaria risk exists throughout the country and prophylaxis is necessary. There is a rabies risk. Water precautions should be taken.

Hotels

Good hotels are available in Antananarivo, Toamasina, Nosy Be, Ste Marie and Taolanaro. A service charge is added to bills at some hotels. Discretionary tipping is usual.

Credit cards

Credit cards are of limited use in Madagascar and few establishments accept them.

Public holidays (national)

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 29 Mar (Commemoration Day – 1947), 1 May (Labour Day), 26 Jun (Independence Day), 15 Aug (Assumption Day), 1 Nov (All Saints' Day), 25 Dec (Christmas Day), 30 Dec (Republic Day).

Variable dates

Easter Monday, Ascension Day, Whit Monday.

Working hours

Banking

Mon–Fri: 0800–1100, 1400–1600.

Business

Mon–Fri: 0830–1200, 1400–1800.

Government

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200, 1400–1800.

Shops

Mon–Fri: 0800–1200, 1400–1800.

Telecommunications

Postal services

Air mail is advised. Surface mail can take between three and four months.

Electricity supply

110 or 220V AC, 50 cycles; also 380V AC, 50 cycles

Getting there

Air

National airline: Air Madagascar

International airport/s:

Antananarivo-Ivato (TNR), 14km from the city; restaurant, currency exchange.

Airport tax: None.

Surface

Water: There are few scheduled sea passages.

Main port/s: Toamasina (Tamatave), on the east coast, is the island's main port. It is used by numerous foreign shipping lines. Mahajanga (Majunga) is the west coast's main port. Antseranana (Diégo-Suarez) is in the extreme north of the island, and Toliara (Tuléar) is on the south-west coast.

Getting about

National transport

Air: Air Madagascar and TAM airlines fly more than 60 domestic routes. There are connections between all major towns, apart from Antsirabe. Air travel is the most used and generally recommended form of transport. There are over 100 airfields on the island, although many are just airstrips.

Road: Generally poor and in need of repair, and only passable in good weather (the dry season).

Fairly well-maintained main roads leave Antananarivo – the N4 to Mahajanga (Majunga), the RN2 to Toamasina (Tamatave), and the RN7 plateau route south to Fianarantsoa.

Rail: Two classes; light refreshments may be available; air-conditioning available on first-class trains.

Routes are: between Toamasina and Antsirabe, via Antananarivo, incorporating a connection between Moramanga and Lake Alaotra; and between Fianarantsoa and Manakara on the east coast. Daily services operate on most routes.

City transport

Taxis: Flat fare system for short journeys in most towns, otherwise by negotiation; tipping is not usual.

Car hire

Available in main centres. International driving licence required.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international dialling code (IDD) for Madagascar is +261 20 followed by operator and area codes and subscriber's number:

| | | | |
|--------------|----|-----------|----|
| Antananarivo | 22 | Nosy-Be | 86 |
| Antsiranana | 82 | Toamasina | 53 |
| Fianarantsoa | 75 | Toliara | 18 |
| Mahajanga | 62 | | |

Useful telephone numbers

Police: 17
 Fire: 18
 Ambulance: 357-53

Chambers of Commerce

Antananarivo Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, 20 Rue Paul Dussac, PO Box 166, 101 Antananarivo 101 (tel: 202-11; fax: 20213).

Antsiranana Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, 3 Rue Colbert, PO Box 76, Antsiranana 201 (tel: 223-72; fax: 294-03).

Madagascar Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, 20 Rue Paul Dussac, PO Box 166, Antananarivo 101 (tel: 20-211; fax: 20-213).

Mahajanga Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Boulevard Poincaré, PO Box 52, Mahajanga 401 (tel: 226-21).

Nosy-Be Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Cours de Hell, PO Box 11, Nosy-Be 207 (tel: 610-26; fax: 610-56).

Toamasina Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Handicrafts and Agriculture, 4 Rue de Commerce, PO Box 108, Toamasina 501 (tel: 323-45; fax: 320-25).

Banking

BMOI, Place de l'Indépendance, BP 25 bis, Antananarivo 101 (tel: 346-09; fax: 346-10; e-mail: bmoi.sm@simicro.mg).

Bank of Africa-Madagascar, 2 Place de l'Indépendance, BP 183, Antananarivo 101 (tel: 391-00; fax: 294-08).

Banque SBM Madagascar, 1 Rue Andrianary Ratianarivo Antsahavola, Antananarivo 101 (tel: 666-07; fax: 666-08).

BFV-Société Générale, 14 Lalana Jeneral Rabehevitra, BP 196, Antananarivo 101 (tel: 206-91; fax: 345-54).

BNI-Crédit Lyonnais Madagascar, 74 Rue du 26 Juin 1960, BP 174, Antananarivo 101 (tel: 228-00; fax: 337-49).

Investco Southern Investment Bancorp, Immeuble NIAG, 8 Lalana Rainizanabololona, BP 8510, Antanimena, Antananarivo 101 (tel: 648-20; fax: 613-29).

Union Commercial Bank SA, 77 Rue Solombavambahoaka Frantsay, Antsahavola, BP 197, Antananarivo 101 (tel: 272-62; fax: 287-40).

Central bank

Banque Centrale de Madagascar, Avenue de la Révolution Socialiste, PO Box 550, Antananarivo (tel: 234-65; fax: 345-32; e-mail: b.c.m@simicro.mg).

Travel information

Air Madagascar, 31 Avenue de l'Indépendance, Analakely, Antananarivo 101 (tel: 222-22; fax: 337-60; e-mail: commercial@airmadagascar.com)

Association des Agences de Voyages de Madagascar, 5 Rue Ravveloary, Antananarivo (tel: 656-31; e-mail: aavm@wanadoo.mg).

Air Mauritius, 77 Lalana Solombavambahoaka, Frantsay, Antsahavola, Antananarivo (tel: 359-00; fax: 357-73).

Réseau National des Chemins de Fer, BP 259, Soarano, Antananarivo (tel: 205-21).

Ministry of tourism

Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Rue Fernand Kasanga, BP 610, Tsimbazaza, Antananarivo (tel: 668-05; fax: 789-53; e-mail: mct@tourisme.gov.mg).

National tourist organisation offices

Maison du Tourisme de Madagascar (Madagascar Tourist Office), Place de l'Indépendance, Antaninarenina, PO Box 3224, Antananarivo (tel: 351-78; fax: 695-22; e-mail: mtm@simicro.gov.mg).

Ministries

Ministry of Private Sector Development and Privatisation, Comité de Privatisation, Zone III 1er étage, Ampefiloha,

Antananarivo (tel: 666-67; fax: 601-38; e-mail: magpriv@dts.mg).

Other useful addresses

Agence Nationale d'Information 'Taratra' (ANTA), 3 rue du R P Callet, BP 386, Antananarivo (tel: 211-71).

Association of the Hotel Industry of Madagascar (SIHM), c/o Sofitrans – Soarano, Antananarivo (tel: 223-30).

Comité de Privatisation, Secrétariat Technique à la Privatisation Immeuble FIARO, Zone III 1er étage, Ampefiloha, 101 Antananarivo (fax: 2260-138).

Customs Services, Ivato Airport, Antananarivo (tel: 440-32).

Institut National de la Statistique et de la Recherche Economique (DGBDE), Direction Générale, BP 485, Antananarivo (tel: 216-52).

Madagascar Embassy (US), 2374 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20008 (tel: (+1-202)-265-5525; fax: (+1-202)-265-3034; e-mail: malagasy@embassy.org).

Office Militaire National pour les Industries Stratégiques (monitors major industrial projects), 21 Lalana Razanakombana, Antananarivo.

Société d'Etude et de Réalisation pour le Développement Industriel, BP 3180, Antananarivo (tel: 213-35).

Syndicat de l'Industrie Hôtelière de Madagascar, BP 341, Antananarivo (tel: 202-02).

Other news agencies: APA: www.apanews.net

Panapress: www.panapress.com

Reuters Africa: http://africa.reuters.com

Internet sites

Africa Business Network: www.ifc.org/abn

African Development Bank: www.afdb.org

Africa News Online: www.allafrica.com

Africa Online: www.africaonline.com

Mbendi AfroPaedia (information on companies, countries, industries and stock exchanges in Africa): http://mbendi.co.za