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Boophis pyrrhus. Photo by: Jörn Köhler



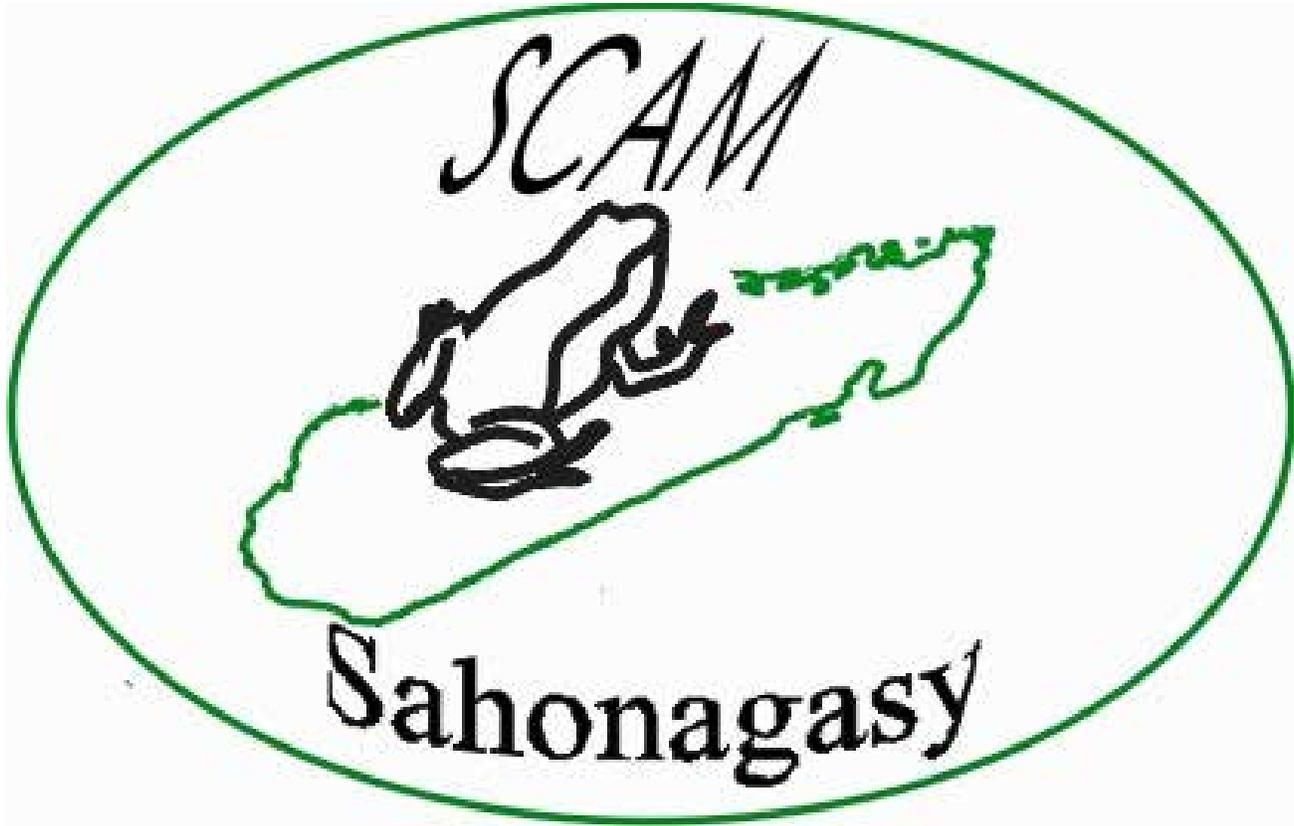
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Urban Amphibians
and the Challenges
They Face

A New Association for Amphibian Conservation to Accelerate Progress and Assist the Amphibian Specialist Group Madagascar

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The logo of the newly created association SCAM Sahonagasy.

The “*Société pour la Conservation des amphibiens de Madagascar*” [Society for the Conservation of the Amphibians of Madagascar] *SCAM-Sahonagasy* was constituted on March 28th 2013 following the receptive paper n° 312/13-MI/DIRAT/ANT/ASS issued by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Madagascar (Figure 1).

The members of this newly created association coincide with those of ASG Madagascar. In fact, the new association was explicitly conceived to implement and support the activities of ASG Madagascar, which works on the Grand’Ile for several years now. The existence of a national-based association provides a better opportunity vis-à-vis of the Malagasy legislation and also gives a legal basis, greater visibility and juridical personality for conservation strategies. In particular, economic independence was greatly needed to avoid asking assistance from other existing NGOs and to give greater assistance to conservation efforts in this area. Formerly, ASG activities were linked to other NGOs support and its work

plan was mainly oriented towards the objective of these organizations, such, for example, Conservation International, within which the former Amphibian Executive Secretary was active. Budget, materials and personnel to get the proper objectives in agreement with the vision of the Sahonagasy Action Plan (1) were quite limited.

We believe that the constitution and development of the *SCAM-Sahonagasy* are among the most relevant aspects to implement the conservation of Malagasy endemic amphibians and assuring a renewed challenge to improve the coordination activities of all stakeholders equally to the foremost benefit of Madagascar amphibians in general and can help us to solidify our relationships and increase funding for amphibian conservation efforts in Madagascar.

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