

The

# AMERICAN

Number : 07 | June Qtr 2019

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Free

Groupe Filatex is proud to support  
Madagascar's first participation at  
the 2019 Biennale di Venezia

————— MAY 11TH - NOVEMBER 24TH 2019

# I HAVE FORGOTTEN THE NIGHT

AT THE VENICE ARSENAL —————

MDG  
DGM  
VCE

JOËL ANDRIANOMEARISOA

Madagascar's first participation at the International Art  
Exhibition - La Biennale Di Venezia

<http://madagascarpavilionvenice.org>

I have forgotten the night Joël Andrianomearisoa. paper collage and sounds © Patrice Sour

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Building tomorrow

As a responsible company, Groupe Filatex is dedicated to promote Malagasy art and cultural heritage, pillars of sustainable development for Madagascar.

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**AMCHAM TEAM**

**The AMERICAN**

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# “Educational Exchanges: Strengthening ties between Africa and the U.S.”

I want to congratulate all students in Madagascar who have received offers of admission from one of the over 4,700 accredited institutions of higher learning in the United States. Graduates of U.S. universities have gone on to become leaders and innovators in many fields around the world, and you should be proud of the invitation to join this special and select group of young people whose lives will be changed forever by the dynamism, openness, and quality of campuses across the United States.

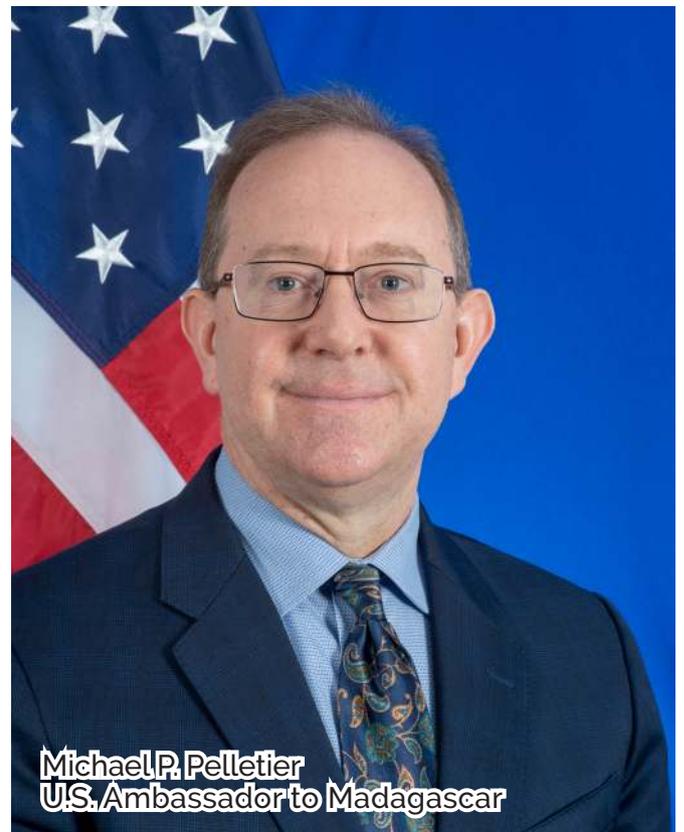
Offers of admission are the product of much careful thought and hard work, both by the students who apply and by American colleges and universities that conduct a rigorous review of these applications. We recognize the energy and creativity you poured into essays about your dreams and ideas, the hard work it took to prepare for English language and other examinations, and the commitments you fulfilled to community service and extra-curricular interests.

Over one million international students are now in U.S. higher education institutions, maintaining the United States' long-standing position as the world's top host nation for international students. This is a testament to the unmatched quality of American higher education in the eyes of international students and their families.

International students strengthen ties between the United States and countries around the world, developing the relationships between people and communities that are necessary to solve global challenges. We value inclusion, and actively support students from diverse backgrounds on our campuses. Colleges and universities across the

United States value international students for the unique and diverse perspectives you provide both in and out of the classroom. American universities and communities benefit from the knowledge and talents of international students, which helps prepare all of us for shared, successful futures in an interconnected world.

U.S. colleges and universities take pride in providing safe, welcoming environments for all their students, and I want to stress how welcome you are in the United States. Many U.S. universities



have sent messages of welcome to students around the world through the #YouAreWelcomeHere Campaign (<https://www.youarewelcomehereusa.org>). I join them in welcoming you to the United States, where our colleges and universities offer valuable educational opportunities to help you meet your life and career goals.

Consular officials at U.S. Embassy Antananarivo, Madagascar and at American embassies and consulates around the world continue to work diligently to process student visa requests, and information about the visa process is available at <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html> or at <https://mg.usembassy.gov>.

EducationUSA advisers worldwide stand ready to answer questions about studying in the United States. You can find an advising center at <https://educationusa.state.gov/find-advising-center>. For those still considering study in the United States, EducationUSA advisers can provide valuable resources to help inform your decision. With over 4,700 accredited institutions in all 50 U.S. states, there's an American college or university that's right for everyone. There are study options at many price points, including community colleges and "2 plus 2" models that combine study at a community college and a four year institution to earn a bachelor's degree.

American colleges and universities welcome you, as do the American people and communities throughout our country.

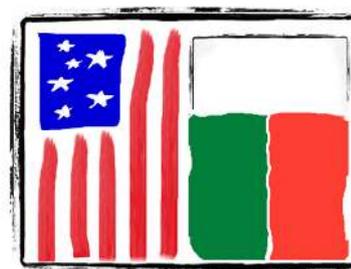
As the U.S. Ambassador to Madagascar, I personally congratulate and encourage those of you who have received offers of admission to accept this life-changing opportunity and join your peers in experiencing the unique value of an American higher education.



Michael P. Pelletier  
U.S. Ambassador to Madagascar

## BIOGRAPHY

Michael Peter Pelletier was appointed as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar and the Union of the Comoros on January 2, 2019. He is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, and has served as an American diplomat since 1987. Most recently, Ambassador Pelletier served as the Dean of the School of Professional and Area Studies at the Foreign Service Institute, United States Department of State. He has served at eight U.S. Missions overseas and in senior leadership positions at the U.S. Department of State, including as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. embassy in New Delhi, India, and Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of African Affairs. Ambassador Pelletier earned a B.S.F.S. from Georgetown University, a Certificat d'Etudes Politiques from Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Paris, France, and a M.I.A. from Columbia University. He is the recipient of thirteen senior State Department awards, including a Presidential Meritorious Service Award and the Linguist of the Year.



U.S. EMBASSY  
MADAGASCAR

# AMCHAM BOARD

## OFFICIALS

### **Russell Joseph Kelly – President**



Russell Joseph Kelly joined Madagascar Oil S.A. as its Chief Executive Officer in September 2018. Previously he held positions as an Independent Director of Resources Prima Group, listed on the Singapore stock exchange. He has been involved in the restructuring of several petrochemical companies since his arrival in Indonesia in 1997, focusing primarily on legal and financial issues with both domestic and international creditors. From 2002 to 2007, he was the technical operations director of PT Trans-Pacific Petrochemical Indotama in Indonesia. From 2007 to 2013, Russell Joseph Kelly was the technical operations director of PT Tuban Petrochemical Industries, a petrochemical holding company based in Indonesia. He was the managing director of Polytama International Finance B.V. from 2004 until 2015 and was a member of the board of commissioners of PT Tuban LPG Indonesia from 2008 until 2016 and was the President Director of PT Sulfindo Adiusaha from March 2015 until March 2016. From his graduation in 1980, until his relocation to Indonesia in 1997, Mr. Kelly held several positions within UOP LLC. Russell Joseph Kelly obtained his Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, United Kingdom in 1980.

### **Tom Cushman – Vice-President**



Tom Cushman is a GIA Graduate Gemologist and is the International Colored Stone Association Ambassador to Madagascar where he has been involved in gemstone trading for over 20 years. Tom founded and managed the Institute de Gemmologie de Madagascar under a grant from the World Bank. He has been active in small-scale mining policy and development in Madagascar for many years as a consultant to the Ministry of Mines and Energy and is a founding member of the Malagasy National Mines Committee. Tom now serves as a board member of the Madagascar Chamber of Mines and AmCham, the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar. Tom opened Richfield Investor Services in Antananarivo, Madagascar in 2007 to assist incoming international investors navigate the Malagasy business environment. Richfield's clients are primarily in natural resource industries. As the Country Manager of the NGO Artminers Madagascar, Tom is instrumental in building a strong domestic gem industry and is a leader in the development of Fair Trade Jewelry. In 2008 Tom was honored for his years of service to Madagascar by being awarded Chevalier de l'Ordre National.

### **Andrew B. Whang - Treasurer**



Andrew B Whang is a business consultant working in Madagascar for the last 7 years. His past and current clients in Madagascar include Benchmark Advantage Fund and Madagascar Oil. He is a United States Marine Corps veteran and has worked in a wide variety of different fields and industries including military intelligence, hotel and restaurant management, business management and social development.

### **Harimahefa Francia Ranaivoson - Secretary**



Harimahefa Francia Ranaivoson is working as the Key Account Manager at Airtel Madagascar within the Corporate Department since October 2016. She is in charge of Corporate and High Value customers. Specialized in Marketing and Trade, Francia started her journey with Airtel in November 2013. Since then, she has experienced a rapid evolution on her career path within the same company. Apart from her social commitments, she just joined the AmCham Board 2019-2021.

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# 2019-2021

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Mirela Comanicu



Mirela Comanicu works as General Manager for Symbion Power Mandroseza since 2016, but her career with Symbion started in 2005 in Basrah, Iraq. Prior to joining Symbion, she worked for Al Bahar and Bardawil and Mott MacDonalds at Basrah International Airport, Iraq, as well as in hospitals in Kuwait, Libya and Romania. Mirela has been a member of AmCham since 2009 and she has resided in several countries in Africa, Middle East, USA and Europe. Mirela holds a BS Degree in Nursing, a BS Degree in Management and Marketing and currently she is pursuing her Master of Business Administration with a specialization in finance.

### Winifred Fitzgerald



Winifred Fitzgerald is the Senior Advisor for External Relations in the Sustainability Division of Ambatovy, a nickel and cobalt mining enterprise. Her background includes work with and for non-governmental organizations, foundations, private companies in the extractive industry, a university research center, and governmental and multi-lateral development agencies. She and her husband have been living and working in Madagascar for 14 years. She is very pleased to be re-joining the AmCham Board, having previously served from 2013 to 2017.

### Andriamisa Ravelomanana



Andriamisa Ravelomanana know as "Ami", is the Country Senior Partner for PwC in Madagascar. He is also the Tax&Legal Los Leader of PwC Madagascar. Ami is a chartered accountant member of the Madagascar Council of Chartered Accountant. He has developped a strong experience and practise in business law. He assists various foreign investors from the design, due diligence, implementation and exploitation of their business in Madagascar. Throughout the running of the business, Ami and his team assist a wide range of clients in various sectors and provide financial, tax and legal services. On the social side, Ami is one of the founders of the Association Ed+ aiming to promote education and development of vulnerable populations by combating malnutrition through agricultural and environmental education.

### John James



John William James is the owner and general manager of Mioty Voajanahary SARL, producer of dried vahona (Aloe macroclada) gel for export. Following his 12 years of experience at Targacept, Inc., NC, USA, he launched his consulting business, JWJames Consulting, whose mission is to assist pharmaceutical companies in bioanalytical, analytical and metabolism areas. John James holds an Executive M.B.A., focus on entrepreneurship and a B.S. in Chemistry. This year, he joined AmCham Madagascar's Board of Directors.

### Gregoire Moser



Grégoire Moser joined SOMIA as a Financial Consultant in 2018. Previously he worked as a financial consultant for FTI Consulting in Paris, France and as an M&A advisor for Greenhill in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Grégoire holds a BS in Economics and Statistics and a Master's degree in Banking and Finance.

# Hawa Ahmed Youssouf: "The development of Africa will come only from Africans"

With the agreement of Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, President of the African Union Commission, the African Union has decided to open a liaison office in Madagascar to strengthen its support to bringing political stability to Madagascar in 2014. The AmCham had the privilege to talk to Mrs Hawa AHMED YOUSOUF, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission in Madagascar and the Comoros.

Could you please give an overview of the African Union in 2019 and its relations with Madagascar since the beginning?

"Since its creation in 1963, the African Union currently has 55 members, of which Madagascar

was a founding member. President Tsiranana was among the founding fathers of the African Union. That is why I think that our presence in this country is more than legitimate. We will remain attentive to the situation in Madagascar and as a matter of fact, we hold the leadership role before the international community and even the friendly countries of Madagascar.

The Liaison Office has always supported the institutions (justice, parliament, etc.) that remained fragile after the 2009 crisis and even after the 2013 elections. With the partners, the African Union chaired the International Support Group to Madagascar (GIS-M), which has been conducting political meetings and consultations in the country since 2015 following attempts by the Parliament to dismiss the President. The African Union has always answered present, certainly on the quiet, to intervene for the stability of the country because it is our one and only interest. We have also begun the electoral process since 2016, including the parliamentary elections. We are here to support the country to develop and the election of the new current president is a great hope for Madagascar and an example in Africa. Madagascar is on the right path."

What about economic relations at the continental level?

We have good news. 24 African countries have agreed to sign the Free Trade Zone Agreement, which has already been put into full force. In July, a summit will be held in Niger to discuss the implementation of this Free Trade Zone. The Malagasy government has promised to sign it once the parliament is in place. Madagascar can really benefit from this agreement



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because here we have huge natural resources that can be exported to African countries. Africa represents a large market – made up of 55 countries (1.2 million people) – and effective trade between these countries will enable the economic growth of Africa as a whole. However, there are obstacles that make trade difficult at the regional level, such as political issues, infrastructure, communications, security, but above all, sovereignty. Sovereignty will be a handicap for the future of Africa; and Asia will take advantage of that. Fortunately, many African countries are beginning to realize the need to overcome the challenges and to industrialize their natural products.

**This year's summit last year was raising peace issue, how is African Union helping AU members preserve peace in their countries?**

Assisting member countries in establishing political stability: this is our main mission. When there is a sign of crisis, the Chairperson of the Commission sends a special envoy to the country concerned, as in the case of Sudan just recently. We also have liaison offices in Mali, in Abidjan (where there are upcoming elections), in the Central African Republic, in Somalia, in Burundi. When the signs of crisis are there, we carry out missions of prevention. We are present to follow the situation up as well. But a point to note is, it is up to the states to listen to our recommendations or not. Moreover, as we used to say, "No security, no peace", we are even intervening in the area of Security Sector Reform (SSR) with the Malagasy government. A lot has been done so far.

**Now that the elections are done, what is the African Union's mission in Madagascar now?**

Despite the success of the elections in Madagascar, the country and its institutions still remain fragile. Now, we must work on the minds of those elected parliamentarians because it is a whole training to let them know their role as a parliamentarian. And of course, we are always here to follow the evolution of the political situation of the country and the implementation of the Free Trade Zone, which can really make things move.

**Where are we now when it comes to the objectives set in Agenda 2063 and the place of women in Africa?**

I can tell you that there is a lot of progress, particularly in terms of health; and a great step forward in terms of gender issues. There is a directorate for women's advancement at the Commission level to address issues of women and children, especially in conflict areas. More and more women are currently holding positions of high responsibility, including the President of Ethiopia Her Excellency Mrs. SAHLE-WORK Zewde, who remains the only woman Head of an African country. But actually, a high number of women are still suffering too. At the economic level, open skies strategies and the free trade agreement will play a decisive role in the economic growth of the continent. Now, Nigeria, South Africa, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Rwanda are examples of economic growth in Africa.

**Will we reach those objectives?**

What Africa do we want for our future generations? The Africa we want is a better integrated Africa, healthy, educated and radiant because Africa is the continent of the future. All foreign investors want to come to Africa. And we, Africans need to be aware of the strengths we have here. We must take our place in the continent because the achievement of these objectives 2063 is the responsibility of the states, but especially of the people. Africa's development will come only from Africans. Young Africans must be given more opportunities so that they have that desire to stay in Africa. Our AU office in Washington, for example, encourages the diaspora to return to Africa. Nationalism and Pan Africanism must shine in the hearts of Africans. As for Madagascar, the big island is full of a skilled and efficient workforce that will work hard if given the opportunity. I firmly believe that if each Malagasy clings to the current President's TGV, Madagascar will experience a rapid development. We are on the right path; I have a lot of hope.



Edited by Kenny Raharison

# Ambassador **Maud Vuyelwa Dlomo** : "Malagasy people inspired me a lot!"

It is estimated that there are about 200 South Africans in Madagascar, including business people and consultants and about 300 Malagasy business people, academics and students studying in South Africa. AmCham had the pleasure to meet Her Excellency Ambassador of South Africa to Madagascar, Mrs Maud Vuyelwa Dlomo, who started working in the country in 2016.

**AmCham:** Could you share the milestones which deserve to be highlighted when it comes to the relations between Madagascar and South Africa?

**Ambassador:** "A lot has been done. It was the continuation of reconstructing the Malagasy state after 2013 elections. A delegation of about 60 Malagasy businesses participated in an investment conference we organized in South Africa in 2016. Thanks to our annual celebration of Mandela Day in 2017, we tied very good partnerships with the private sector and 6 public universities in the six provinces. And this will continue this year. We are supporting students, those future caring leaders, who are carrying out community projects. Last April, in celebrating our 25 years of Freedom, Malagasy journalists and artists reminded us of our historical and political relations. It was a way for us to celebrate the important role that the media plays in society. In fact, former President Ratsiraka was awarded the highest award of the Companions of OR Tambo in

Gold by President Ramaphosa to thank the Malagasy population for Radio Freedom's support to South Africa's struggle. Now I feel privileged that I was here when Malagasy leaders and the population fought for a democratic, fair and transparent presidential elections and achieved it in 2018. A historical example in Africa! Everyone learns that democracy is not an event but a process."



**Ambassador Maud Vuyelwa Dlomo :**  
"Malagasy people inspired me a lot!"

**AmCham:** "If you were asked to tell people more about Madagascar, what would you say?"

**Ambassador:** "It's a rich country in all aspects, not only in fauna and flora, climate, good soil and mineral resources. It's a country which is on a development path and will be envied by the whole world when it starts achieving all the goals it has set for itself. Malagasy people are patient, resilient and also very creative. They are very beautiful people, in and out. One special thing is, Malagasy people have one

single language which makes it possible for everyone to understand each other. Malagasy people inspire me a lot and I've learnt a lot in Madagascar."

**AmCham:** "What South African values would you like to share with Malagasy people?"

**Ambassador:** "Our values are enshrined in our constitution which clearly defines basic individuals rights and guides all public service institutions in a way that it needs to become part of our culture. I would

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share "Ubuntu" – caring about other people – which can be compared to the Malagasy "Fihavanana". In government we have the principle of "people first" as well. Creating new and inspiring traditions is important too. In South Africa, before 1994 we commemorated the Battle of Blood River between the British settlers and the Zulu warriors on December 16, which later became the "Day of Reconciliation". Why not change "13 Mai" into something more inspiring and empowering for future generations?"

**AmCham:** South Africa is a symbol of economic success in Africa. What do you think are the strengths of the SA system that led to that success?

**Ambassador:** "The South African economy is historically based on the mining and agricultural sectors which in turn led to the growth of the infrastructure to the development and connection of cities, industrialization, etc. Globalization challenges us to think of new strategies for developing our industries. We have very strong financial institutions, courts, justice, system and universities. A significant middle class of educated people are now important actors in our economy. However, our economic development is in progress as we seek to find a balance between economic and political empowerment for all South Africans. But we have the best constitution in the world which clearly shows what every single individual deserves."

**AmCham:** When we talk about South Africa, we cannot forget to talk about Nelson Mandela. How could we make Nelson Mandela's legacy resonate in other countries like Madagascar?

**Ambassador:** "So the question is how can we make everyday a Mandela Day? I believe that there are many Mandelas in each community and each country. During my journey here, I have been amazed at how people do a lot to assist others. Malagasy youth initiatives have really inspired me a lot. They know they have a role to play. So I would say that young people must not be discouraged when it looks like nothing changes for the better. Tata Mandela said, "it always seems impossible until it's done", and education is the best weapon against poverty and underdevelopment."

**AmCham:** How can we achieve the Africa we want?

**Ambassador:** "By committing to democracy, peace and development but more importantly, we need visionary leaders who care about their people and are committed to change the way Africa looks and feels." We have a lot of assets: land, youth and empowered women which are the resource capital we have in order to develop in the way we want to see ourselves in 2063. As Africans we need to collaborate more and break unnecessary barriers because it's essential for our own individual development."

**AmCham:** Your message to African people, especially youth who are working hard to create a brilliant Africa?

**Ambassador:** "History and literature has taught us that it is young people who have driven change towards positive outcomes in most troubled situations. June is Youth Month in SA to commemorate the youth of 1976 who helped lead to victory in 1994. I would tell young people to be "patriotic" and not allow people to tell them bad things about their country. Be measured in your participation because there is no country that does not have problems. Let's stop associating bad things like corruption, conflicts, poor leadership to Africa. When we do highlighting such issues, let's suggest solutions and help to address them. Social media is an important tool but can be toxic when it is abused by those who don't want to see progress. As a continent, let's unite and support one another as much as possible and therefore learn how to be self-sufficient. More importantly we need to fight for justice and against prejudice and violation of people's rights, if for anything, remember that it may be someone else today but tomorrow it will be you or your loved one. During the struggle in SA, we used to say "an injury to one is an injury to all" to express solidarity for those who needed it most."

It is important to point out when we say young people should take the lead, we do not mean discarding the old leaders whose wisdom and experience are still needed."



Edited by Kenny Raharison

# 10 of Africa's most iconic spots



The big continent is rich in evocative and unmissable touristic spots which should be on our must-see list depending on our personal interests and preferences, according to **Tripsavvy**:

1. **The Maasai Mara National Reserve, Kenya:** Connected to Tanzania's Serengeti National Park, it becomes a perfect safari destination.
2. **Victoria Falls, Zambia:** The world's largest sheet of falling water? Indigenous name it "The Smoke That Thunders".
3. **Pyramids of Giza, Egypt:** The only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World to have survived over time, the world's oldest tourist attractions!
4. **Djenné, Mali:** One of sub-Saharan Africa's oldest cities, founded in 800 AD. A famous center of Islamic learning.
5. **Cape Town, South Africa:** Thanks to Table Mountain, its first-class culture and its golden beaches, it is undoubtedly one of the world's most attractive cities.
6. **Marrakech, Morocco:** imperial city, festival for the senses, one of the continent's most charismatic cities.
7. **Omo River Region, Ethiopia:** Discover indigenous culture in this symbol of true African wilderness. A rafting trip on this white-water river is just perfection!
8. **Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, Uganda:** A mystical landscape of extinct volcanoes and dense rainforest which serves as habitat for the remaining 800 gorillas.
9. **Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania:** With no special equipment needed, spend 5 to 9 days to hike up the world's tallest free-standing mountain.
10. **Zanzibar, Tanzania:** Spectacular beaches surrounded by the waters of the Indian Ocean with a historical value: spice trade and slave exchanges.



Edited by Kenny Raharison





# OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

## What's AmCham ?

The American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar is a non-profit association of American and local business people. AmCham Mada began its activities in November 2008 and was officially recognized by the government of Madagascar in February 2010.

AmCham's mission is to:

- Enhance commercial ties between the United States and Madagascar
- Uphold the highest standards of commercial practice
- Support the expansion of an English-speaking, Anglophone business community in Madagascar

Only the formal enterprises can become members of the AmCham.

AmCham has been influential in Madagascar and is committing itself to:

- Vigorously defending AGOA privileges for Madagascar-based companies
- Facilitating business deals between AmCham members
- Introducing AmCham members to international sources of technical and financial expertise
- Defending AmCham members interests with local and international authorities

With this in mind, the Chamber's regular activities are:

- **Thursday Morning Round Tables:** Monthly TMRT gathers all together top business people. The TMRT aims to discuss about a theme developed by a Guest Speaker: General Director, Minister, Chairmen...
- **Annual Cocktail Dinatoire:** Networking and Fundraising Event designed to kick-off AmCham's activities that gathers all together top business people and representatives of international and diplomatic communities. One Guest of Honor is invited to open the event.
- **English Discussion Group:** The AmCham's EDG consists of 100% english oral practice in a friendly and welcoming learning environment. Anyone with basic conversational English is eligible to attend. There are 2 categories, EDG for adults and EDG for kids.
- **Christmas Get Together:** Networking and Christmas Event for AmCham members to share and warmly enjoy Christmas with soft music.

Our Charter and Sponsoring Member :



Our Sponsoring Member



# Amcham's Latest News

## May 9th, 2019 – Special TMRT with H.E. Michael Pelletier

The AmCham members had the privilege to meet His Excellency Ambassador of the United States to Madagascar and the Comoros, Michael Pelletier, during AmCham's monthly breakfast and Thursday Morning Round Table at Infinithé Ivandry.

U.S. Ambassador Pelletier renewed the U.S.' will to reinforce partnerships with the private sector in Madagascar. Indeed, the private sector is the engine of growth especially in Madagascar where the economy is struggling. Efforts made on exports under AGOA were also considered thinking of its termination in 2025.



## May 29th, East Africa Trade and Investment official visit

On Thursday, May 29th, the AmCham in Madagascar received the representatives of the USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub. Both organizations enjoyed deep and lasting connections for two years, in the advantages of local exporter whether into textile, handicraft or specialty food sectors. The EATIH team could evaluate the results of the AGOA Resources Center project. Future collaborations are currently on the table.



"Congratulations to AmCham Madagascar for their excellent outcomes, the best all over Subsaharan Africa," - EATIH

The short stay was also dedicated to companies visit into specialty foods.

## May 29th, 2019 – AmCham's Annual General Meeting

Thursday, May 29, 2019; the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar held its annual general meeting at Colbert Hotel Antananarivna. After approving the 2018 activities and financial report, and the 2019 budget, AmCham members vote for the next board of directors of AmCham for the 2019-2021 term. The election opposed two slates, the first one led by Russell J. Kelly from Madagascar Oil and the second by Marcelle Dane from Tullow and US Company CBWTNE.

**7:30 pm:** the General Assembly elected AmCham's 2019-2021 Board of Directors presided by Russell J. Kelly. The AGM was an opportunity for the immediate past board of directors led by President John Claussen and Vice-President Sandrina Ramanantsoa to thank the AmCham members for the last two years of collaboration; and to hand over to the new elected slate, made up of nine members:

### Officials

President | Russell J. Kelly – Madagascar Oil

Vice President | Tom Cushman – Richfiled Investor Services

Secretary | Harimefa Ranaivoson – Airtel

Treasurer | Andrew Whang

### Board of directors

Winifred Fitzgerald – Fitzkara, DMSA Ambatovy

Mirela Comaniciu – Symbion Power

Andriamisa Ravelomanana – Pricewaterhouse Coopers

John James – Mioty Voajanahary

Gregoire Moser – Somia

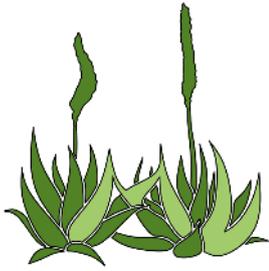


TSIMIRORO  
Bloc 3104

## A high-quality heavy fuel oil to support Madagascar sustainable development

- Quality certified by a major generators' manufacturer and world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company
- Low sulfur content - Exceeds the IMO requirements regarding HFO sulfur content from 2020
- Fit for power generation - Positive and successful test at Mandrozeza power plant in 2016
- Competitive energy for local industries
- Source of foreign exchange income for the country
- Lever for development through jobs creation, economical, social and infrastructure development





## Mioty Voajanahary :

# The pioneer of dried vahona

Mioty Voajanahary is a company owned by John William James, a current member of AmCham's Board of Directors. Located in Fitroafana Talatamaty, they produce and export medicinal plants from Madagascar, mainly dried Aloe macroclada or "Vahona" in Malagasy, the main ingredient in natural stem cell enhancement products. Mioty Voajanahary works with 8 associations around the highlands from Antsirabe to Moramanga, to the west on NR4, and north-west and north-east of Antananarivo, cultivating and harvesting for their leaf supplies. Tons of leaves are transported every week to their production facility where they are washed and the gel extracted. The gel is then dried and packaged for export. Mioty's customers produce retail products of bottles of capsules containing dried vahona.

Mioty Voajanahary is dedicated to being economically, socially and environmentally responsible

Mioty's vision is "to find and develop and effective natural medicines from Madagascar for the benefit of all Malagasy and people around the world." Providing unique and proven quality products at good prices allows Mioty Voajanahary to give back to Madagascar in a variety of ways.

The company offers its 47 employees good work in a good environment for good wages and benefits. Each association, composed of up to 20 members, is paid a generous price for harvesting leaves while requiring that 10% of the income goes toward community education efforts in the form of books, teacher salaries and school buildings. Mioty is proud to have sponsored their first University of Antananarivo graduate school student, who studied funguses in the soil which work together

with vahona. Mioty also plants trees and fights against burning practices. The company often helps the Fitroafana community with projects.

John James states, " Mioty Voajanahary finds entrepreneurial Association members and teaches them what they need to operate, including management skills, organization and leadership skills, proper harvesting, legal needs for operations, and bank accounts. We have watched each Association improve the standard of living in their villages with pride. All are doing well."

### Dried vahona: a new product to a worldwide market

Sales of dried vahona are just beginning and increasing steadily. Stem cell therapies and benefits are becoming well-known. The safe pure natural product from Madagascar will be in demand as it works better than any other natural product for stem cell enhancement.

Mioty will be growing over for the foreseeable future. "We continue to increase vahona cultivation efforts and add production capacity. This means more jobs and income both at our production facility and for each Association cultivating vahona around the highlands," added John James.

"Madagascar has many unique plants with potential medicinal properties. Mioty Voajanahary intends to find additional products, demonstrate their efficacy, and produce them for worldwide markets. We are working on acquiring investment to allow expansion to meet future demand. The world will have access to new effective natural medicines from Madagascar and many Malagasy will benefit."

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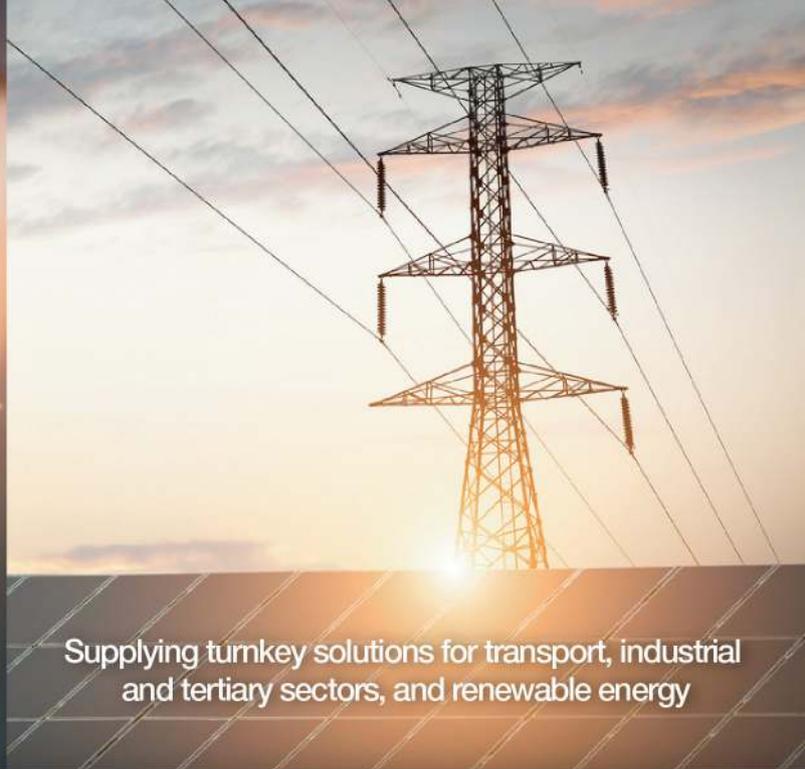
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# Madagascar in

The African Continent fully aware of its comparative resources and more conscious of the stakes than ever, starts to consider the increasing advantages of interregional cooperations. The SADC gathers countries of the Southern part of Africa while the COMESA extends it to Eastern Africa. Whilst the AGOA remains in the hands of Uncle Sam, a new brand African Continental Free Trade Agreement is entering in its operational phase opening the African Continental Free Trade Area.



## Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Intergovernmental organization which headquarters are located in Gaborone, Botswana

*Member states: 16 (June 2019)*

Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar

### Advantages

SADC dedicates to further socio-economic cooperation and integration as well as political and security cooperation among its Southern African states. The organization is a strong support especially during crises or conventional hostilities.

### Story with Madagascar

Madagascar membership effectively started in 2008 but in 2009, an imposed suspension took place and reinstated on January 30th, 2014 following elections achievements in 2013.

The island become again part of the Community since 2014 with a National Focal Point within the Directorate of Regional Integration at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In Madagascar, while political stability remained fragile, the SADC mainly focused on facilitation for a national dialogue on reconciliation



## Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

Free trade area

The COMESA replaces the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) in 1994. Its main goal is to overcome some of the barriers that are faced by individual states. The secretariate is located in Lusaka, Zambia.

*Member states: 21 (June 2019)*

Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar.

### Advantages

Globalization enables a higher and more diversified level of production. Comparative advantages are reinforced with duty free access and proximity to interregional markets.

### Story with Madagascar

Whilst Madagascar maintains a negative balance in terms of international trade, the COMESA heavily supported the island crops and above all farming products and litchis. It is important to note that the market of 400 millions of consumers was chaired by Madagascar for two years in 2017 and 2018. In 2017, the 19th Summit gathering COMESA Heads of State and Governments was held in Antananarivo Madagascar.

# interregional trade



## African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

United States Trade Act

Enacted on 18 May 2000 as Public Law 106 of the 200th Congress, the act is renewed to 2025. The goal is to enhance market access to the US for qualifying Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries which must be working to improve its rule of law, human rights, and respect for core labor standards.

*Eligible states: 39 (June 2019)*

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo (Republic), Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Madagascar.

### *Advantages*

Comparative advantages are reinforced with duty free access to the US market for eligible products (around 7000 references). The AGOA allows trade between eligible countries as well.

### *Story with Madagascar*

Madagascar and its textile and apparel industries, including fabrics, clothing or knits benefited from the AGOA advantages from 2001, date of proclamation, to January 2010 due to failure to comply with the requirements of the Act. Since reinstatement of the island in 2014, a more diversified pallet of companies now benefit the duty free advantage leading to exports reaching USD 180 millions in 2018.



## African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

Established through agreement brokered by the African Union (AU) in March 2018 and now signed by 52 member states out of 55.

*Members states: 55 (most AU members)*

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DR Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Algeria, Burundi, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sahrawi Republic, Tunisia, and Madagascar.

### *Advantages*

Since the formation of the World Trade Organization (WTO), no other free-trade area was that large in the world. The goal is to create a single market followed by free movement of African citizens and a single-currency union.

### *Story with Madagascar*

Madagascar represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs is the 33st country to sign the AfCFTA consolidated text, and the Kigali Declaration. The island did not join the free movement protocol.



Edited by Elodie Rabenivo  
Sources: SADC, COMESA, AGOA info, AU

# “Africa is the **continent of the future** and its potential is **limitless**” – U.S. Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Tibor P. Nagy

**O**n April 10, Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Tibor P. Nagy spoke at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, in Houston, Texas. He emphasized the United States’ unwavering commitment to Africa, noting that “we go beyond simply investing in Africa, to investing in Africans.” Below are excerpts from his speech:



**Tibor P. Nagy,**  
U.S. Assistant Secretary for African Affairs

Let me begin by saying things have changed dramatically in Africa from when I became a diplomat in 1978. When I first set foot on the continent, there were no cellphones, no internet, few television stations, and to call back to America required reserving one of the few international lines days ahead. Now, through modern technology, even people in remote villages know how much cassava, potatoes or goats will sell for in urban markets, thus insuring that they get better prices for their goods. And in places such as Kenya and South Africa, people do all of their banking with their mobile phones. In fact, things are moving so fast that today six of the ten fastest growing economies in the world are in Africa!

Africa is the continent of the future and its potential is limitless. By 2050, its population will more than double to 2.2 billion people, with over 60 percent under the age of 25. This will have enormous ramifications not only for Africa, but also for the world at large. It will be private investment and not foreign assistance that will create jobs and opportunities for Africa’s youth. If African countries don’t create jobs and opportunities

for their young people, the alternatives will be dangerous migration to Europe or the Gulf States, joining violent extremist groups, crime, or despair.

Young people everywhere have the same aspirations for a better life. And as always, the United States will be there with our African partners as they face this future. In fact, the Trump Administration announced in December a new Africa Strategy to re-calibrate our engagement with the continent. The core of this strategy is to promote trade and commercial ties to increase prosperity in the United

States and in African countries; strengthen efforts to advance peace and security; and support stability, democracy, good governance and self-reliance. It builds on our strong relationships with individual countries, effective regional organizations, and most importantly, the people of Africa. It also underscores our long-standing commitment to the continent and our helping countries move from reliance on foreign assistance toward sustainable financial independence. With this in mind, I will highlight four key U.S. policy priorities in Africa and how they align with the President’s strategy.

First, our interest lies in promoting stronger trade and business ties between Africa and the United States. American companies are eager to invest in Africa. To attract more U.S. business, however, African governments need to increase transparency and fairness and create a level playing field in their commercial environments. Second, we must harness

---

the potential of Africa's tremendous youth population to drive Africa's economic growth and create real prosperity. I tell everyone I talk to that engaging Africa's youth is the key to unlocking sustained prosperity on the continent. Third, it is critical that we continue to advance peace and security across the continent. We do this by strengthening our defense and development partnerships with African governments as well as through regional mechanisms. Africa cannot grow and prosper if it lives in fear of instability and terrorism.

Fourth, we must set the record straight and continually reinforce America's longstanding, steadfast commitment to Africa. Our relationship has evolved over decades to one of cooperation, mutual respect, and transparency. We have invested heavily in health, education, civil society and providing job skills, especially for women. And we are actively promoting this commitment on the ground.

One of the sectors where we have seen the most success in Africa is with energy. The U.S. government recognizes the importance of energy to international economic development, peace, and security. In fact, the President's National Security Strategy focuses on three global areas: export promotion, energy security, and energy access. Across Africa, the United States seeks to broaden the economic and social benefits of free, fair, and transparent energy markets. Free markets drive economic growth, and diversity in energy sources and routes often protects countries from unexpected changes, be they market-driven or politically motivated. African countries compete in a global market. This requires undertaking market-driven reforms, and eliminating obstacles that limit trade in electricity, oil, gas and other resources.

(...) Furthermore, 600 million people in Africa lack electricity. Expanding access is both a challenge and an opportunity, as electricity access is foundational for economic growth. We are committed to helping increase access through Power Africa, a whole-of-U.S.-government initiative that is one of the largest public-private partnerships for development in history. The "Power Africa 2.0" strategy increases the program's focus on creating a strong enabling environment and the U.S. private sector's competitiveness. With liberalized markets and open competition, African

countries can develop energy resources in a way that maximizes their long-term value for their people. This is good for African countries and good for U.S. energy companies looking for investment opportunities. Power Africa ensures that the most cost-effective and efficient projects go through, regardless of resource.

(...) Last October, the President signed the BUILD Act to create the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation and unleash the full potential of private sector-led growth in Africa. This initiative doubles the cap on our current development finance portfolio from 29 to 60 billion dollars. U.S. companies remain the largest private foreign investor in Africa. U.S. investment increased from 9 to 50 billion dollars a year from 2001 to 2017. And we are only scratching the surface in terms of tapping the available pool of capital from the United States that can flow to Africa.

The bottom line is this: the United States has an unwavering commitment to Africa.

Our support will continue across the spectrum, but the ultimate goal of foreign assistance is to see countries reach levels of economic prosperity, democratic governance, and rule of law where assistance is no longer needed. We see the development of robust energy markets and access to as important mechanisms to advance economic prosperity, peace and security, and the goal of reaching self-reliance in Africa. And the United States will continue to support free, fair, and transparent energy markets and will partner with African countries that seek the same.

No other nation matches the breadth and depth of the United States' engagement on the continent. We go beyond simply investing in Africa, to investing in Africans. As I said earlier, Africa is the dynamic continent of the future, and the direction it takes will have a major impact – for good or ill – not only in Africa but the rest of the world...As an old African proverb says: "There are no shortcuts to the top of the palm tree." Let us take this proverb to heart and work together to create an Africa of opportunity and prosperity; of hope and commitment; and of peace and stability, with a bright future for all of its people.

For the complete remarks go to:  
<https://www.state.gov/p/af/rls/rm/2019/291172.html>

# Messages from young African entrepreneurs



**Teboho Seboka, Lesotho**

Africa youth is the vibrant mind that Africa needs for its problem. Therefore African youth have to engage in discussions that are in line with African development and come up with solutions that mitigate the high poverty and close the widening gap that exists between the poor and rich countries or communities.

Again we are in fourth industrial revolution that requires one to be very familiar with technology, African youth should not be left behind but take advantage of the technology that is accessible to them and find innovative solutions to their problems. Youth can engage in projects or businesses or entrepreneurship as a way of eradicating unemployment however for this to happen there is need for strong political will. Government must level grounds by making institutions and policies that will enable youth businesses and ideas to thrive.

Being mindful of our African problems need collaborative mindset thus. African youth should attractively engage in strategic planning and implementation of youth developments. We need to be eager to be change agents through ICT, Entrepreneurship and other business platforms and make it our priority that we involve other youths in either the business itself or enrich them in their skillset.



**Aziim Imrit, Mauritius**

Our Youth needs to be empowered with proper skills and expertise to compete with the economic challenges that the country is facing worldwide. Unfortunately, our African youth has to struggle to access quality education that provides them with the right set of skills and expertise. As an outcome, the changeover from school to work becomes a big challenge such that our young generation end up either being unemployed or underemployed in an unofficial company or sector with less protection and career prospects.

I am a young African entrepreneur in the field of Virtual reality and an IT trainer, I use my expertise in the education sector to encourage the students to learn in a better way using virtual reality applications where they are attracted to the new learning process. Also, I provide free IT education to the youth so that they can increase their chance of getting a job. I believe that our people is our main assets, and empowering our assets will lead to a better economic system for Africa. As Nelson Mandela said "No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated".



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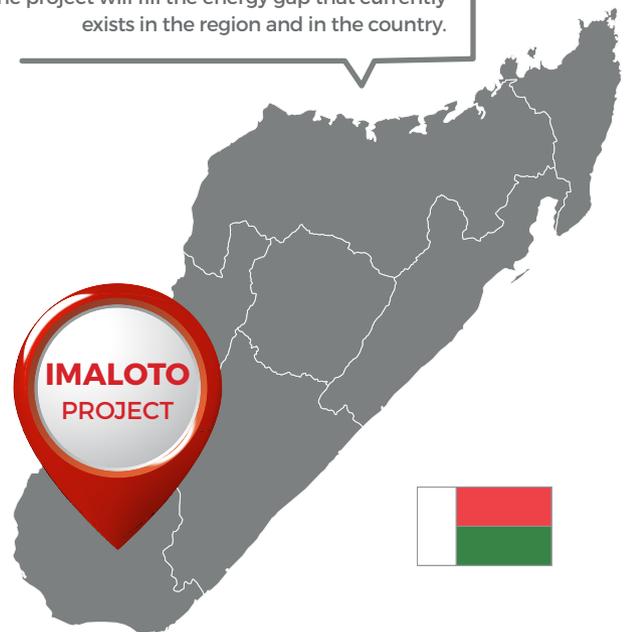
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# Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's vision of Africa through her famous "E-mail from the future"

What Africa do we want to see in 2063? Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, African Union Commission's Chairperson writes an email to a hypothetical Kwame in the year 2063, in which she shares how she sees our beautiful continent in 50 year's time. Here are some extracts of that email.

"I write to you from the beautiful Ethiopian city of Bahir Dar, located on Lake Tana, as we finalize preparations for the Centenary celebrations of the Organisation of African Unity, which became the African Union in 2002 and laid the foundations for what is now our Confederation of African States (CAS). (...)

"In fact, if Africa was one country in 2006, we would have been the 10th largest economy in the world! (...)

As you can see, my friend, those debates are over and the Confederation of African States is now twelve years old, launched in 2051. What was interesting was the role played by successive generations of African youth. (...)

Of course this was but one of the drivers towards unity. The accelerated implementation of the Abuja Treaty and the creation of the African Economic Community by 2034 saw economic integration moved to unexpected levels. Economic integration, coupled with infrastructure development, saw intra-Africa trade mushrooming, from less than 12% in 2013 to approaching 50% by 2045. (...) Pan African companies now not only dominate our domestic market of over two billion people, but they have overtaken multi-nationals from the rest of the world in their own markets.

Even more significant than this, was the growth of regional manufacturing hubs, around the

beneficiation of our minerals and natural resources, such as in the Eastern Congo, north-eastern Angola and Zambia's copper belt and at major Silicon valleys in Kigali, Alexandria, Brazzaville, Maseru, Lagos and Mombasa, to mention but a few such hubs.

My friend, Africa has indeed transformed herself from an exporter of raw materials with a declining manufacturing sector in 2013, to become a major food exporter, a global manufacturing hub, a knowledge centre,... (...) We are now the third largest economy in the world. (...)

Let me recall what our mutual friend recently wrote:

"The (African) agrarian revolution had small beginnings. Successful business persons (and local governments) with roots in the rural areas started massive irrigation schemes to harness the waters of the continent's huge river systems. (...)

The social impact of the agrarian revolution was perhaps the most enduring change it brought about. The status of women, the tillers of the soil by tradition, rose exponentially. The girl child, condemned to a future in the kitchen or the fields in our not too distant past, now has an equal chance of acquiring a modern education (and owning a farm or an agribusiness). African mothers today have access to tractors and irrigation systems that can be easily assembled. The producers' cooperatives, (agribusinesses) and marketing boards these women established help move their produce and became the giant food companies we see today."

We refused to bear the brunt of climate change and aggressively moved to promote the Green economy and to claim the Blue economy as ours. We lit up Africa, the formerly dark continent, using

hydro, solar, wind, geo-thermal energy, in addition to fossil fuels. (...)

Let me quote from our mutual friend again:

'Africa's river system, lakes and coast lines abound with tons of fish. With funding from the different states and the Diaspora, young entrepreneurs discovered that the mouths of virtually all the rivers along the east coast are rich in a species of eel considered a delicacy across the continent and the world.

(...) Today Namibia and Angola exploit the Benguela current, teaming with marine life, through the joint ventures funded by sovereign funds and the African Development Bank."

On the east coast, former island states of Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius are leading lights of the Blue economy and their universities and research institutes attract marine scientists and students from all over the world.

Dear friend, you reminded me in your last e-mail how some magazine once called us 'The hopeless continent', citing conflicts, hunger and malnutrition, disease and poverty as if it was a permanent African condition. Few believed that our pledge in the 50th Anniversary Declaration to silence the guns by 2020 was possible.

(...)

From early childhood education, to primary, secondary, technical, vocational and higher education – we experienced a true renaissance (...)

Can you believe it my friend, even the dreaded malaria is a thing of the past.(...)

As our societies developed, as our working and middle classes grew, as women took their rightful place in our societies, our recreational, heritage and leisure industries grew: arts and culture, literature, media, languages, music and film.

WEB du Bois grand project of Encyclopedia Africana finally saw the light and Kinshasha is now the fashion capital of the world

Let me conclude this e-mail, with some family news. The twins, after completing their space

studies at Bahir Dar university, decided to take the month before they start work at the African Space Agency to travel the continent. (...)

But, the African Express Rail now connects all the capitals of our former states (...) The marvel of the African Express Rail is that it is not only a high speed-train, with adjacent highways, but also contains pipelines for gas, oil and water, as well as ICT broadband cables: African ownership, integrated planning and execution at its best!

The continental rail and road network that now crisscross Africa, along with our vibrant airlines, our spectacular landscapes and seductive sunsets, the cultural vibes of our cities, make tourism one of our largest economic sectors.

Our eldest daughter, the linguist, still lectures in KiSwahili in Cabo Verde, at the headquarters of the Pan African Virtual University. (...) Now we have a lingua franca, and multi-lingualism is the order of the day.

How things have changed. The Confederation last year celebrated twenty years since we took our seat as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and we are a major force for global stability, peace, human rights, progress, tolerance and justice.

My dear friend, I hope to see you next month in Haiti, for the second round of unity talks between the Confederation of African States and the Caribbean states. This is a logical step, since Pan Africanism had its roots amongst those early generations, as a movement of Africans from the mother continent and the Diaspora for liberation, self-determination and our common progress.

I end this e-mail, and look forward to seeing you in February. I will bring along some of the chocolates from Accra that you so love, which our children can now afford.

Till we meet again, Nkosazana."



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# Tech giants are rushing to invest in Africa

According to a recent report by the GSM Association, the number of smartphone connections across Africa has doubled over the last two years and is now approaching 226 million. Africa is a big market but a big talent as well for tech giants like Microsoft, Google and even Huawei. Then Africa is not only a destination for CSR-related activities anymore. Tech investors are coming to Africa, and that is just barely beginning!

## Google is betting big on Africa's young talent when it comes to AI and machine learning

In 2018, Google announced its first artificial intelligence research centre in Accra, Ghana, focusing initially on fairness in machine learning (ML), interpretability of ML models and the use of AI for medical diagnosis and treatment. Google has realised that Africa is blessed with a pool of tech talent who is passionate about AI. That love of maths and AI can be fostered in the whole continent.

Have you heard about TensorFlow? Earlier this year, the Accra centre, comprised of researchers, is working hard to find solutions to the common problems in Africa through AI. TensorFlow, one of Google's products, allows rural farmers to diagnose diseased plants just by taking a photo of it.



## Later, giant Microsoft opens first Africa Developing Centres in Kenya and Nigeria

Microsoft was present on the continent almost three decades ago. Earlier this year, Microsoft opened Africa's first hyper-scale datacentres in South Africa, promoting business innovation in the cloud. Last May, the company launched its first Africa Developing Centre (ADC) in two big cities, Nairobi and Lagos to give African engineering talent the opportunity to create solutions for local and global impact. The two sites are planning to recruit 100 full-time engineers by the end of this year. Partnering with African universities will help Microsoft build that "talent pipeline". "A long-term investment," they said.

## Tech companies Andela and Huawei are joining the league, too.

Made famous for creating tech talent factories on the continent, Andela, an African company, now has three technology campuses in Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda. Its co-founder, Iyin Aboyeji told CNN, "Prior to now African developers had to leave their countries to get global opportunities. Now those opportunities are meeting them on the continent." As for Huawei, the Chinese giant announced the launch of two data centers in South Africa.

These are big investors. But technology startups in Africa proved to be promising as well, and investors are coming to them. Can we expect huge avenues of collaboration between tech and humans in Africa? Definitely yes!



Edited by Kenny Raharison

Source: CNN / Silicon Republic / Microsoft / The Next Web

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# FOCUS ON

Used for years in kitchens, the cinnamon comes from tropical regions of the Asian continent. Besides Sri Lanka where it is native, Zeylanicum cinnamon or also called True cinnamon grows in abundance in Madagascar.

## Zeylanicum cinnamon in the East Coast

The Madagascar variety is called Zeylanicum. As opposed to the Cassia Cinnamon produced mainly in Indonesia and commonly known by the general public, the "gourmet" cinnamon or "true" cinnamon of Madagascar is enriched with the island soil and presents a much more subtle, fine and gustative flavor.

The Cinnamomum zeylanicum tree is cultivated in the East Coast of Madagascar where seed dispersal favoured the species. The major production areas are Toamasina, Mahanoro,

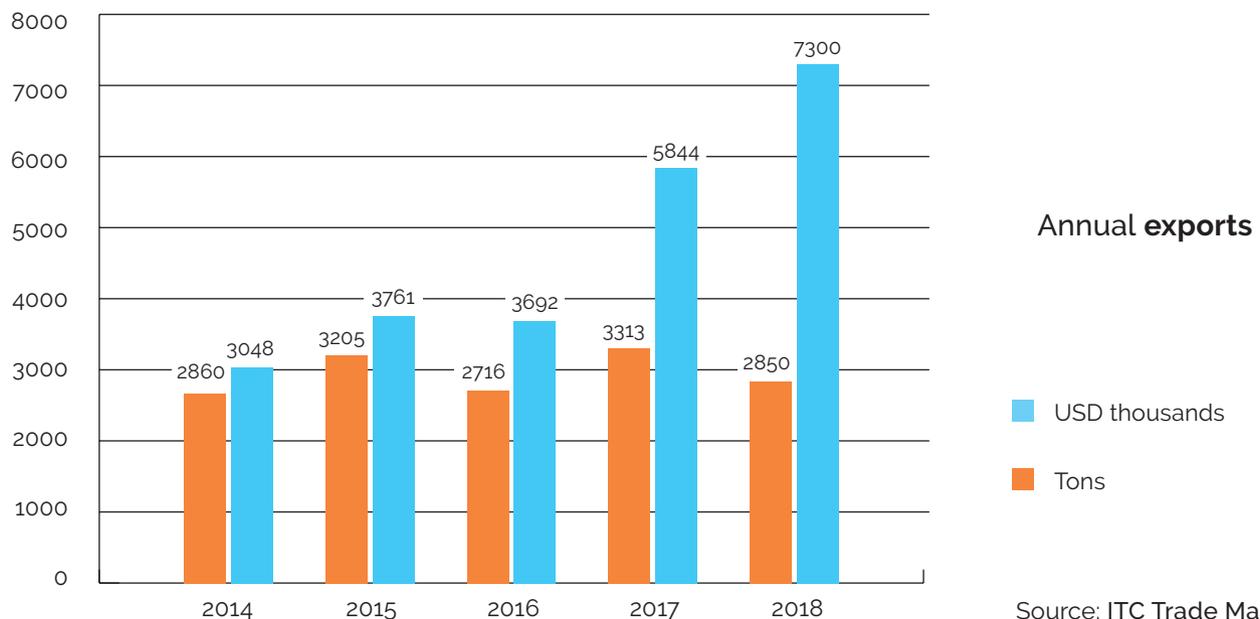
Mananjary and Maroantsetra, in which nearly 100% of the national collection is exported.

## Exports

Currently exported products are mainly unscratched bark and scraped bark. Products are composed of:

- Sticks: with a maximum length of 18 centimeters and diameter of between 8 to 12 mm.
- Scraped or non-brushed barks
- Powder
- Essential oil

While quantities exported decreased in 2018 (2 850 tons), prices reached nearly USD 3 per kg with an increase of income for the island.



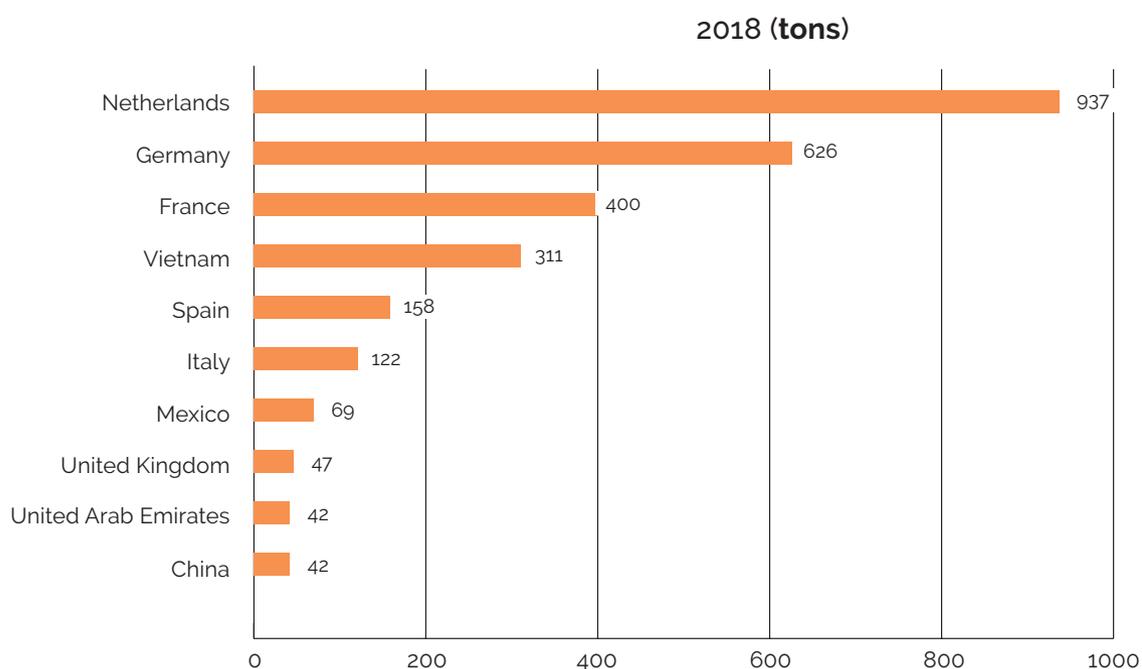
# Cinnamon

In 2018, Netherland is the first country to import cinnamon from Madagascar (all forms included). As shown, Germany is in second position and followed by France. Included in the

top 10 importing countries are Vietnam, Spain, Italy, Mexico, U.K., United Arab Emirates and China.



Edited by Elodie Rabenivo  
Sources: ITC Trade Map, CTHT



2018 Export destinations from Madagascar

Source: ITC Trade Map



# Fragment of History

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF U.S. PRESIDENTS

## PART 7: ANDREW JACKSON

Andrew Jackson served as 7th President of the United States from 1829 to 1837, representing the Democrat party. Born on March 15, 1767 in Waxhaw, South Carolina, he was inaugurated President at the age of 61.

Andrew Jackson is most famous for being considered the first "common man" to become president. Andrew's life started out difficult. His parents were poor immigrants from Ireland and his father died just a few weeks before Andrew was born. Despite not having much of a formal education, Andrew was smart and learned to read at a young age. His two older brothers both joined the army during the Revolutionary War and Andrew became a messenger for the local militia when he turned 13. Both of his older brothers died in the war.

After the Revolutionary War, Jackson became a lawyer and moved to Tennessee to practice law. He started up a cotton plantation called the Hermitage which would eventually grow to over 1000 acres. In 1796 Jackson became Tennessee's first member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He would also serve as Senator for Tennessee.

It was during the War of 1812 that Jackson gained national fame which would later help him to become president. Jackson was appointed leader and General of the Tennessee militia. He led them to several victories. When the British were expected to attack New Orleans, Jackson was put in charge. At the Battle of New Orleans Jackson claimed the one major victory over the British in the war. With 5,000 men he soundly defeated 7,500 British soldiers. The British had over 2,000 casualties while Jackson's army only suffered around 70.

### His Presidency

Jackson first ran for president in 1824. He lost the election to John Quincy Adams despite receiving more votes in the election.

In 1828 Jackson ran again. This time he won the election, despite his opponents attacking him in many personal ways including attacks on his wife, Rachel. Rachel died a few weeks before Jackson's inauguration and he blamed her death partially on his opponent's accusations.

After becoming president Jackson assumed more power than any president before him. Some people even gave him the nickname "King Andrew". Some of these changes, like hiring and firing cabinet members, are still used by presidents today.

Jackson wanted a small, but strong federal government. He fought against the national bank saying that it helped the rich and hurt the poor. He also insisted that states were required to follow federal laws.

Jackson died at his plantation, The Hermitage near Nashville, at the age of 78 on June 8, 1845.





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