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Posted Date: 18 August 2023

doi: 10.20944/preprints202308.1328.v1

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Article

Valorisation of Madagascar's Wildlife Trade and Wildlife Tourism; what Are the Conservation Benefits?

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Abstract: Wildlife tourism and wildlife trade may appear juxtaposed, but are two, potentially aligning, in-come generators that could benefit conservation in developing countries. Utilising data sets collated from Madagascar's Ministère du Tourisme and CITES respectively for the period 2007 to 2018, this study estimated levels of income from wildlife tourism and wildlife trade for Madagascar. Between 2007-2018, tourism reported yearly incomes ranging from a low of US \$1.4 million up to a high of US \$15.7 million. However, it was unclear what percentage of this figure flowed to benefit local communities. Alternatively, using reported networks for the live wildlife trade, the estimated economic value reaching collectors and/or intermediaries on Madagascar was US \$72,299.80 for the period 2007 to 2018. Both revenue generators operated within different geographical areas, with tourism opportunities presenting themselves to communities adjacent NPs, while wildlife trade networks were not restricted to National Parks and operated sporadically across Madagascar. Hence, the economic benefits reached different Malagasy participants across the country. The management of both activities needs great care to ensure that environmental impacts and sustainability are core measures on any such activities. Whilst this study shines light on economic values and novel perspectives regarding these two trade types, it also highlighted knowledge gaps. Thus, indicating where much greater research attentions was required to allow better understanding of the specific benefits and risks from engaging with both trade types for local Malagasy people and their environments.

Keywords: community-based conservation; conservation; Madagascar; resource management; wildlife eco-nomics; wildlife trade; wildlife tourism; wildlife valorisation

1. Introduction

1.1. Socioeconomic Aspects of Wildlife Valorisation in Madagascar

A long-standing ambition in many societies has been to seek the alignment of conservation requirements and poverty alleviation to engender mutual benefits [1,2,3,4]. The paucity of reported successful case studies highlights the complexities, juxtapositions and contested notions of justice that surround such projects [5], especially regarding efforts to improve distributive justice concerned with benefits and burden sharing [6]. One of the most persistent issues is that lower income groups pay disproportionately higher costs for conservation whereas the rich secure most of the benefits [7,8,9].

To varying degrees, conservation benefits have been derived globally from the sustainable exploitation of wildlife resources [3,9,10,11]. Conversely, it has also been stated that unsustainable trade in wildlife was one of the major drivers causing species decline globally [11,12]. However, on Madagascar the impacts from harvesting wild flora and fauna were relatively poorly known, with both illegal [9,13,14] and unsustainable harvesting having been reported within and outside of protected areas [15]. A situation further compounded by the fact that high numbers of new species, endemic to Madagascar, were still being reported while others were to follow [16,17,18].

Historically, National Parks (NPs) were established on Madagascar with the over-riding aim to protect its unique biodiversity [19,20]. However, often local communities had little or no involvement in the establishment of NPs and other protected areas on Madagascar [21]. Yet in many cases local communities have ostensibly received vary-ing scales of negative impact from their creation, as local communities were prevented from utilizing these areas, and the natural resources within them, for either subsist-ence or commerce [19,21,22,23]. Since 2003, during an expansion of almost 100 additional protected areas, the selection rationale also expanded to include cultural herit-age, poverty alleviation and sustainable use of natural resources [24]. However, local communities' knowledge on the legal processes and legislation governing protected areas and/or species protection was mostly very poor [25] and, therefore, unaware of the legal status and conservation protections afforded species and habitats.

1.2. Wildlife Tourism Revenue

An alternative to extractive approaches for valorising wildlife would be to view it in-situ; wildlife tourism. Tourism, across its varying formats, was often viewed as a panacea to resolving potential conflicts between local peoples' needs and NP protection, by bringing tourists to see the wildlife in-situ and having associated services develop around this premise [26,27]. Hence, wildlife tourism has been suggested as a non-extractive method for use on Madagascar [26,28,29]. However, it requires careful management to ensure long-term sustainability, from broad scale issues, such as operator responsibility (eg. deleterious impacts from water supply demands to waste product disposal) [30], to fine scale issues, such as negative impacts on species populations and animal welfare [31,32,33], to minimize potential negative impacts on Madagascar's environments.

Several studies have estimated the economic value of tourism to a few protected areas and more generally for Madagascar. For example, at Mantadia NP the economic values generated from tourism were estimated at US \$24-65 per individual visitor or US \$0.8-2.2 million per annum [26]. At Ranomafana NP, in 2002, it was estimated that a total of US \$29-31,246 was generated per annum with US \$15,836 going to the local communities, while lemurs were stated by visitors to be the wildlife attraction [34]. Similarly, over 600 tourists visiting different NPs on Madagascar also stated lemurs to be the main attraction, with chameleons ranked second [35]. Revenues estimated to be received by local communities at Masoala NP ranged from US \$700, in 1999, to US \$500, in 2001 [28]. A national scale estimate of income generation via tourism was stated to be between US \$26-29 million, with approximately 17% of tourists to Madagascar visiting national parks [35].

1.3. Flora and Fauna trade Revenues

In addition to their apparent lack of knowledge regarding NP and species conservation legislation [25], not all local communities were keen to engage in the live trade of wildlife for international markets (which typically omits bush meat, other derivatives, and domestic uses, such as medicinal plants) for several reasons. For example, individuals reported being repulsed by reptiles, while payment insecurity, fear of legal repercussions and traditional barriers to harvesting certain species were other reported concerns [36,37]. However, it has been argued that Malagasy communities have the right to trade in their local wildlife resources [38]. Certainly, the international, live wildlife trade appeared to be flourishing on Madagascar. For example, relatively high levels of trade in Malagasy flora and fauna have been reported in studies to meet international demands [37,39,40,41, 42,43, 44,45].

As to the value generated from the international wildlife trade in Malagasy flora and fauna, estimates vary greatly, between product types and years. For example, Waeber and Wilmé [39] reported that illegal Rosewood and Ebony timber stockpiles due for export were valued at a minimum of US \$600 million, while trade conducted in 2013 alone, across all CITES listed flora and fauna, was estimated at between US \$ 346,246 to US \$646,226 [37]. Alternatively, various estimated values have been provided for specific taxonomic groups; such as Chameleons generating over US \$14.5 million [44], amphibians traded between 2000-2006 generating up to US \$906,750 [43] or just Mantella traded between 2001-2003 generating up to US \$246,372 [42]. Supply chain structures on

Madagascar vary [46,47], though the three-actor level chain was most commonly used with collector and intermediary positions filled by Malagasy people [37,42]. However, the wildlife trade comes with potential hazards to an already challenging situation of protecting Madagascar’s wildlife, such as the potential of overharvesting, animal welfare issues, cartel formations, the possibility of introducing the amphibian disease chytridiomycosis into new locations, etc. [18,35,48].

This study draws together national scale data sets on these two forms of income generation to investigate both the levels and dynamics of the income generated. Furthermore, it will compare across both forms and discuss the potential benefits and costs to Madagascar for local communities. Such information will greatly enhance discussions on Madagascar and internationally, which currently lack any such comparisons, regarding advancing management options and seeking the best outcomes for conservation and poverty alleviation. This paper will present: (1) numbers of tourists and levels of income generated over the period 2007 – 2018. (2) the numbers of ecotourists and income generated each year over the same period. (3) the CITES listed species of flora and fauna exported from Madagascar and the numbers exported in the period 2007-2018. (4) the income generated from the trade in wildlife exported from Madagascar.

2. Materials and Methods

Tourism data were obtained by request (collated Oct. 2019) from the Ministère du Tourisme on Madagascar. The Ministry supplied data covering the period 2007-2018 that included the total number of overseas visitors (tourists) each year and estimated income from tourism for each year (Table 1). Wollenberg *et al.*’s [35] value of 17% (percentage of tourists who were ecotourists) was applied to the yearly tourist num-bers to provide an estimate for the number of ecotourists visiting Madagascar each year (Table 1).

To estimate the income values generated from ecotourism, the yearly number of ecotourists (Table 1b) were multiplied with published conversion values presented by both Wollenberg et al [35] and Dixon & Pagiola [26], in each case the published values were adjusted for inflation in US\$ to 2019. Estimation 1 was calculated using Wollenberg *et al.*’s [35] conversion value with yearly ecotourist numbers. Estimation 2 used Dixon & Pagiola’s [26] conversion values, who provided an upper and lower value. Hence there were two calculations performed and two sets of estimates, upper and lower values, presented.

CITES data were obtained from the CITES Trade database (<https://trade.cites.org/>). These data were collated on 23rd Dec. 2019 using the following criteria; export country = Madagascar, source = wild, purpose = commercial, terms = live. These criteria were applied while the ‘Search by taxon’ was left empty to collect trade data records across all CITES listed taxa groups, animals and plants, for the period 2007-2018. These data were downloaded in an excel format for analysis and presentation.

Flora and fauna trade prices were extracted from published literature [37,42] and adjusted for inflation, in US\$, for each year over the period. For plants, there were no trade structure price data available other than a single average export price [49]. The price structure reported for animals displayed a decrease in the order of two magnitude from export to collector, hence, it has been assumed here that a similar price structure would be observed for plants. Thus, the average plant price has been reduced by two-fold to provide a general indicator of price at the collector level.

Table 1. The yearly number of tourists visiting Madagascar between 2007-2018 and the levels of income generated from those tourists, in US\$ as reported, in 2019, by Madagascar’s Ministère du Tourisme.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
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TABLE 1a	
Number of	
tourists arriving	34434837501016268719052225055255942196375222374244321 293185 255460 291299
on Madagascar*	

Tourist income

generation (US\$ millions) 313 459,65 178,5 211,1 262,49 279,81 390,42 649,62 585,38 748,29 7668,262

TABLE 1b

Number of ecotourists (17%; Wollenberg et al, 2011)	58539	63752	27657	3239	38259	43510	33384	37804	41535	49841	43428	49521
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* denotes data source Ministère du Tourisme/PAF/ADEMA/RAVINALA AIR-PORTS/APMF (col-lated Oct 2019).

3. Results

3.1. Ecotourism Revenue Generation

The total number of tourists arriving on Madagascar for the period 2007 to 2018 was nearly 3 million people with, on average, over 240,000 people arriving each year (Table 1a). Of this number of tourists, it was estimated that the number of ecotourists visiting each year was nearly 41,000 (Table 1b). Over the total period 2007-2018, eco-tourism generated a total income of nearly US \$189 million using Estimate 1, nearly US \$46 million using Estimate 2 upper and nearly US \$17 million with Estimate 2 lower value. On average, across the period 2007-2018, a yearly income was reported ranging from a low of US\$1.4 million up to a high of US\$15.7 million (Figure 1).

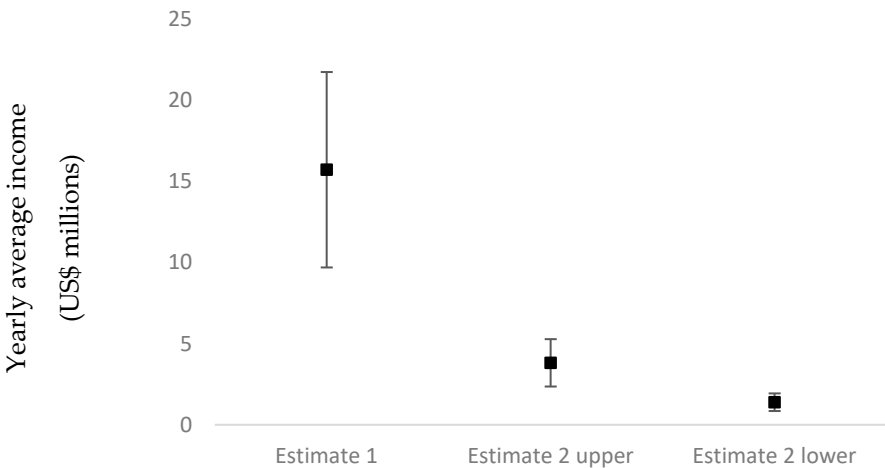


Figure 1. The average yearly level of income (+/- Std. Dev.) generated using the published conversion values of Wollenberg et al, [35] (Estimate 1) and Dixon and Pagiola, [26] (Estimate 2 upper and lower values) to estimate ecotourism income, based on the original source tourist data from the Ministère du Tourisme, Madagascar. All values in US\$ at 2019 rates.

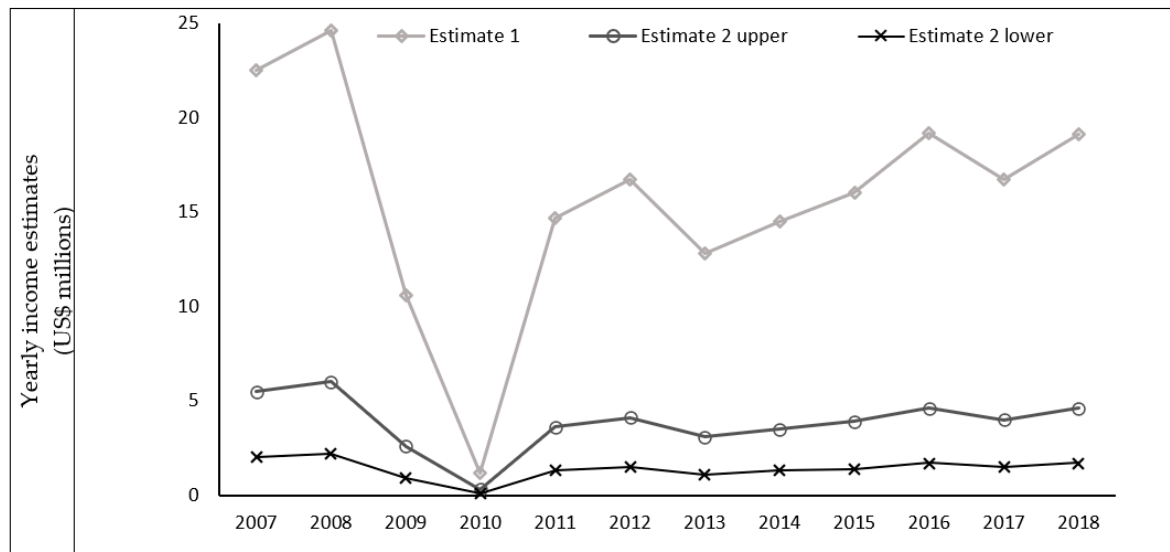


Figure 2. The trends in yearly estimated values (in US\$) from ecotourism on Madagascar using the published conversion values of Wollenberg et al, [35] (Estimate 1) and Dixon and Pagiola, [26] (Estimate 2 upper and lower values). All values in US\$ at 2019 rates.

The highest level of income in any one year from ecotourists was in 2008 when it generated US\$24.6 million, while the lowest was in 2010 when US\$0.1 million was generated (Figure 2). Over 2007-2018, a linear regression analysis found no increase in ecotourism growth over the period ($y=0.0741x+15.235$; $R^2=0.002$) for estimate 1. However, any long-term trend would be masked by the significant decrease in 2010. Applying a linear regression to a subset of the data, after the crash from 2011 to 2018, income generated from ecotourism using estimate 1 was generally increasing ($y=0.613x+13.454$; $R^2=0.4556$) back towards the high recorded in 2008 (Figure 2).

3.2. Flora and Fauna trade Revenues

Between 2007 and 2018, a total of 286,938 individual organisms were reported being exported from Madagascar with over 83% being animals and nearly 17% plants. The exported flora and fauna were from 52 known genera; 35 (67%) plant genera and 17 (33%) animal genera.

Of the 238,961 individual animals traded, over 70% was in Reptilia, over 29% in Amphibia with minor amounts in Aves (0.3%) and Mammalia (0.002%). Reviewing trade within the animal grouping at the genus level, the top five genera, which accounted for 97% of the trade in animals, were *Mantella* (29%), *Phelsuma* (27%), *Furcifer* (25%), *Uroplatus* (13%) and *Brookesia* (3%) (Figure 3). Furthermore, within each genus just a handful of species accounted for the majority of its trade (Table 2). The top five species traded accounted for over 40.5% of the total number of animals exported; *Mantella betsileo* (Brown mantella, $n=22737$, 9.5%), *Mantella baroni* (Baron's mantella, $n=21110$, 8.8%), *Furcifer pardalis* (Panther chameleon, $n=19029$, 7.9%), *Phelsuma lineata* (Lined day gecko, $n=17939$, 7.5%) and *Furcifer lateralis* (Carpet chameleon, $n=15908$, 6.74%).

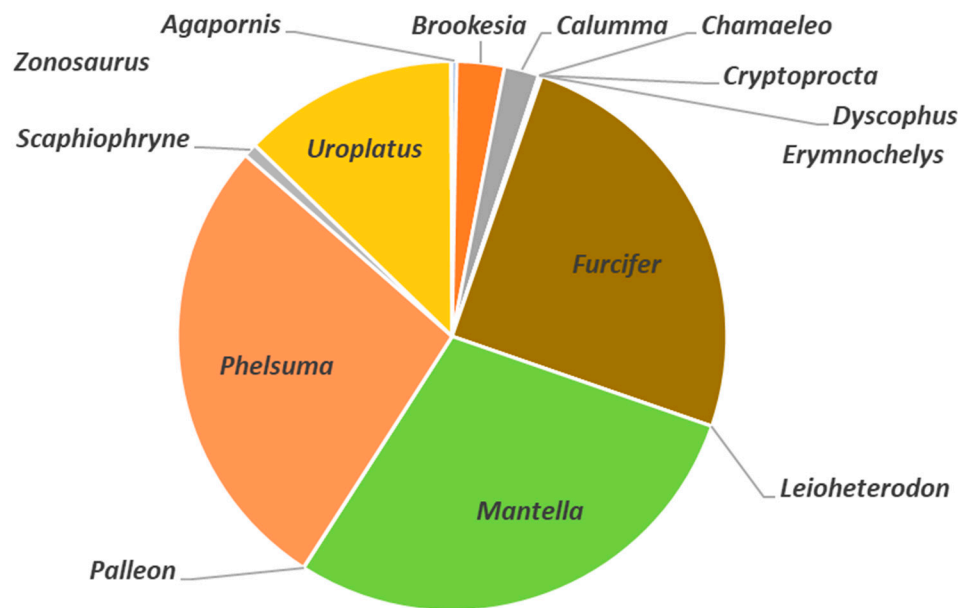


Figure 3. The trends in yearly estimated values (in US\$) from ecotourism on Madagascar using the published conversion values of Wollenberg et al, [35] (Estimate 1) and Dixon and Pagiola, [26] (Estimate 2 upper and lower values). All values in US\$ at 2019 rates.

Table 2. The top five traded genera within the animals grouping exported from Madagascar over the period 2007-2018, showing the total number traded within a genus and the four highest traded species within that genus and the percentage that species accounts for within the genus in trade. (Source: CITES).

Genus	Species	No.	%
Mantella		68798	
	Mantella betsileo	22737	33.0
	Mantella baroni	21110	30.7
	Mantella nigricans	7306	10.6
	Mantella pulchra	5969	8.7
Phelsuma		65329	
	Phelsuma lineata	17939	27.5
	Phelsuma quadriocellata	15534	23.8
	Phelsuma laticauda	14124	21.6
	Phelsuma madagascariensis	10563	16.2
Furcifer		59722	
	Furcifer pardalis	19029	31.9
	Furcifer lateralis	15908	26.6
	Furcifer oustaleti	11268	18.9
	Furcifer verrucosus	11312	18.9
Uroplatus		30335	
	Uroplatus sikorae	10059	33.2
	Uroplatus fimbriatus	6170	20.3
	Uroplatus phantasticus	5002	16.5
	Uroplatus ebonaui	4202	13.9
Brookesia		6686	

<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>	1927	28.8
<i>Brookesia stumpffi</i>	1657	24.8
<i>Brookesia thieli</i>	1326	19.8
<i>Brookesia therezieni</i>	1169	17.5

Of the 47,977 individual plants traded, four genera accounted for over 84% (n=40382) of the exported plants from Madagascar with these four genera being *Pachypodium*, nearly 48% (n=22967), *Euphorbia*, over 24% (n=11608), *Operculicarya*, nearly 9% (n=4175) and *Angraecum*, over 3% (n=1632) (Figure 4). Furthermore, within each genus just a handful of species accounted for most of the trade (Table 3). The top five plant species traded accounted for nearly 47% (n=22504) of the total number ex-ported; *Pachypodium* spp. (n=7532, 15.7%), *Pachypodium densiflorum* (n=4232, 8.8%), *Pachypodium brevicaule* (n=4219, 8.7%), *Operculicarya pachypus* (n=3337, 6.9%) and *Euphorbia primulifolia* (n=3184, 6.6%).

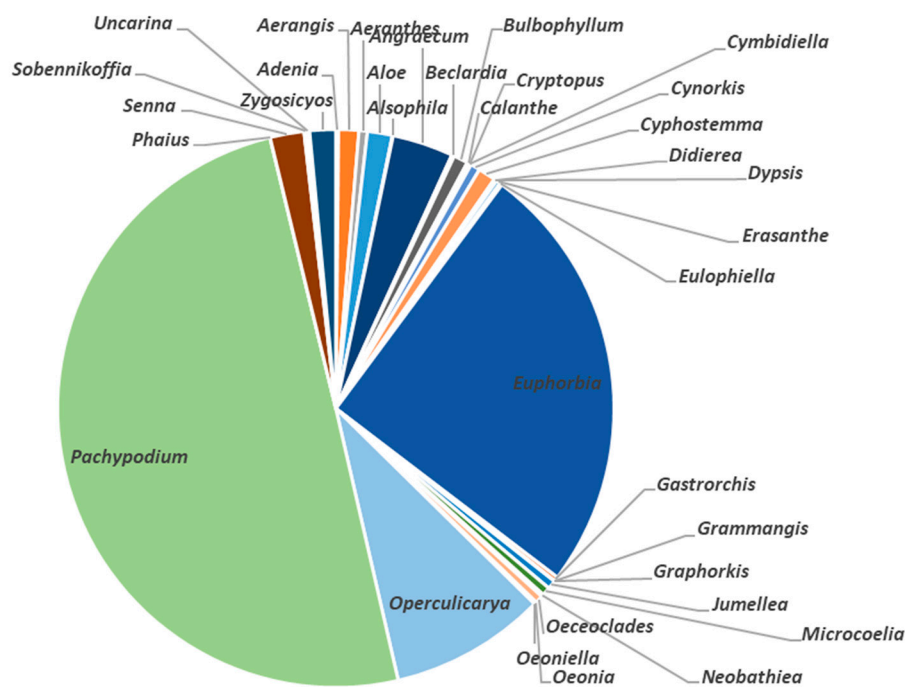


Figure 4. Each of the plant genera with species and numbers reported within the import data (one genera, *Alluaudia*, was reported in the import data set but with no data reported) exported from Madagascar between 2007 and 2018 (Source: CITES Database).

Table 3. The top four traded genera within the plants grouping exported from Madagascar over the period 2007-2018, showing the total number traded within a genus and the four highest traded species within that genus and the percentage that species accounts for trade within the genus. (Source: CITES).

Genus	Species	No.	%
<i>Pachypodium</i>		22967	
	<i>Pachypodium</i> spp	7532	32.8
	<i>Pachypodium brevicaulle</i>	4219	18.4
	<i>Pachypodium densiflorum</i>	4232	18.4
	<i>Pachypodium eburneum</i>	2352	10.2
<i>Euphorbia</i>		11608	
	<i>Euphorbia primulifolia</i>	3184	27.4
	<i>Euphorbia</i> spp	1222	10.5
	<i>Euphorbia itremensis</i>	1088	9.4
	<i>Euphorbia guillauminiana</i>	1029	8.9

<i>Operculicarya</i>		4175	
	<i>Operculicarya pachypus</i>	3337	79.9
	<i>Operculicarya decaryi</i>	430	10.3
	<i>Operculicarya hyphaenoides</i>	408	9.8
<i>Angraecum</i>		1632	
	<i>Angraecum urschianum</i>	113	6.9
	<i>Angraecum breve</i>	95	5.8
	<i>Angraecum germinyanum</i>	95	5.8
	<i>Angraecum teretifolium</i>	89	5.5

Consequently, based on dedicated species prices extracted from the published scientific literature, adjusted for varying yearly levels of inflation, an estimated total of US\$72,300 was generated from the trade between 2007-2018 and potentially made available to people within local communities (Table 4). The animal grouping contributed the majority (US\$54,728, nearly 76%) to the total value, with the plants grouping contributing US\$17,572 (over 24%). In the year 2016, both the animal and plant groupings recorded the highest levels of income (animals = US\$7,944; plants = US\$4,416), but both decreased rapidly post 2016. Trade remained static until 2013 (animals) and 2014 (plants) after which both groupings increased rapidly in the levels of trade (Figure 5).

Table 4. The value (US\$ in 2019) of the reptile and amphibian trade to the three actor levels (Coll. = collector, Inter. = intermediary, Export. = exporter) in-volved with the wildlife trade on Madagascar for the period between 2007 to 2018.

Asteroids	Name	2002				2003				2004				2005				2006				2007				2008				2009				2010				2011				2012				2013				2014				2015				2016				2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032				2033				2034				2035				2036				2037				2038				2039				2040				2041				2042				2043				2044				2045				2046				2047				2048				2049				2050				2051				2052				2053				2054				2055				2056				2057				2058				2059				2060				2061				2062				2063				2064				2065				2066				2067				2068				2069				2070				2071				2072				2073				2074				2075				2076				2077				2078				2079				2080				2081				2082				2083				2084				2085				2086				2087				2088				2089				2090				2091				2092				2093				2094				2095				2096				2097				2098				2099				2100				2101				2102				2103				2104				2105				2106				2107				2108				2109				2110				2111				2112				2113				2114				2115				2116				2117				2118				2119				2120				2121				2122				2123				2124				2125				2126				2127				2128				2129				2130				2131				2132				2133				2134				2135				2136				2137				2138				2139				2140				2141				2142				2143				2144				2145				2146				2147				2148				2149				2150				2151				2152				2153				2154				2155				2156				2157				2158				2159				2160				2161				2162				2163				2164				2165				2166				2167				2168				2169				2170				2171				2172				2173				2174				2175				2176				2177				2178				2179				2180				2181				2182				2183				2184				2185				2186				2187				2188				2189				2190				2191				2192				2193				2194				2195				2196				2197				2198				2199				2200				2201				2202				2203				2204				2205				2206				2207				2208				2209				2210				2211				2212				2213				2214				2215				2216				2217				2218				2219				2220				2221				2222				2223				2224				2225				2226				2227				2228				2229				2230				2231				2232				2233				2234				2235				2236				2237				2238				2239				2240				2241				2242				2243				2244				2245				2246				2247				2248				2249				2250				2251				2252				2253				2254				2255				2256				2257				2258				2259				2260				2261				2262				2263				2264				2265				2266				2267				2268				2269				2270				2271				2272				2273				2274				2275				2276				2277				2278				2279				2280				2281				2282				2283				2284				2285				2286				2287				2288				2289				2290				2291				2292				2293				2294				2295				2296				2297				2298				2299				2300				2301				2302				2303				2304				2305				2306				2307				2308				2309				2310				2311				2312				2313				2314				2315				2316				2317				2318				2319				2320				2321				2322				2323				2324				2325				2326				2327				2328				2329				2330				2331				2332				2333				2334				2335				2336				2337				2338				2339				2340				2341				2342				2343				2344				2345				2346				2347				2348				2349				2350				2351				2352				2353				2354				2355				2356				2357				2358				2359				2360				2361				2362				2363				2364				2365				2366				2367				2368				2369				2370				2371				2372				2373				2374				2375				2376				2377				2378				2379				2380				2381				2382				2383				2384				2385				2386				2387				2388				2389				2390				2391				2392				2393				2394				2395				2396				2397				2398				2399				2400				2401				2402				2403				2404				2405				2406				2407				2408				2409				2410				2411				2412				2413				2414				2415				2416				2417				2418				2419				2420				2421				2422				2423				2424				2425				2426				2427				2428				2429				2430				2431				2432				2433				2434				2435				2436				2437				2438				2439				2440				2441				2442				2443				2444				2445				2446				2447				2448				2449				2450				2451				2452				2453				2454				2455				2456				2457				2458				2459				2460				2461				2462				2463				2464				2465				2466				2467				2468				2469				2470				2471				2472				2473				2474				2475				2476				2477				2478				2479				2480				2481				2482				2483				2484				2485				2486				2487				2488				2489				2490				2491				2492				2493				2494				2495				2496				2497				2498				2499				2500			
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									

† denotes dedicated chameleon prices extracted from Carpenter *et al.* (47) adjusted for inflation in US\$; * denotes dedicated Mantella prices extracted from Rabemananjara *et al.* (42) adjusted for inflation in Malagasy Ariary before conversion to US\$.

All remaining prices were extracted from Robinson *et al.* [37] adjusted for yearly inflation levels in US\$

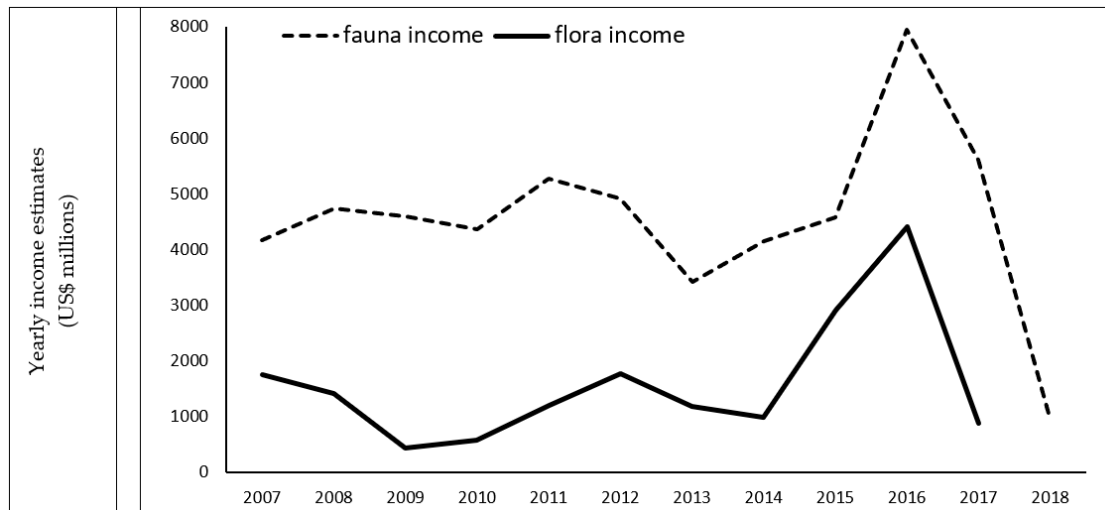


Figure 5. Yearly income estimates from the live trade in CITES listed animals and plants exported from Madagascar between 2007 and 2018 (Source: CITES Database).

Comparing the estimated levels of income generated from both ecotourism and wildlife trade on Madagascar, a much greater level of income generation was garnered from wildlife tourism (Figure 6). Wildlife tourism reported yearly income estimated in the millions of US dollars, while estimates of income generation from the wildlife trade was recorded in thousands of US dollars (Figure 6). However, the wildlife trade displayed a positive increase in trade ($y=305.23x + 4657.4$, $R^2=0.224$) (excluding 2018; as it has been reported that observed drops in trade in the latest year of reporting were more likely due to an artifact of countries failure to meet CITES reporting timelines than a true drop in any trade – see [46]).

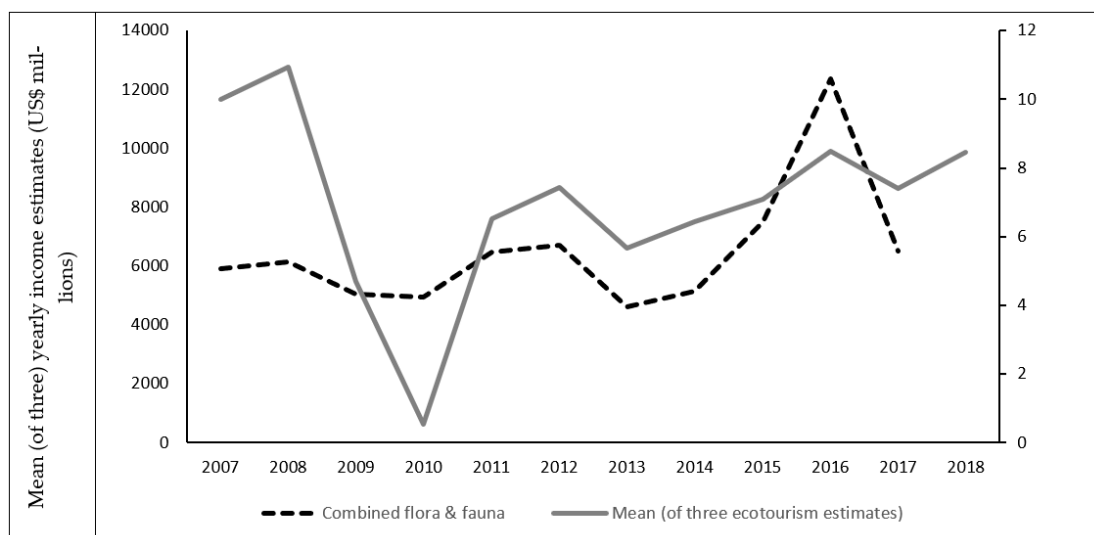


Figure 6. Yearly income estimates from both the combined live trade in CITES listed animals and plants exported from Madagascar and the mean estimated income from ecotourism to Madagascar between 2007 and 2018.

4. Discussion

Over the whole time period for which data exists (2007–2018), the international live trade in Malagasy herpetofauna generated revenues estimated at a total of US\$401,470 reaching local Malagasy people. Taking just the upper estimate, for the reptile and amphibian focused wildlife tourism, it was valued at over US\$51 million while the general figure was estimated at US\$17–46 million. However, both these revenue estimates were greater than the estimated revenue generated

from the wildlife trade, though actually how much flows to reach the local people is unknown. For comparison however, in just 2018, Madagascar's top revenue generators ranged from; firstly, coffee, tea and spices (valued at US\$1 billion; on its own vanilla was worth US\$855.4 million and cloves US\$149 million) to tenth place, mineral fuels, including oil (valued at US\$51.5 million) [50]. The vast differences highlighted here between top in-come generators and the trade in wildlife, potentially, offers some justification for the government of Madagascar's apparent lack of attention and focus to issues raised by this trade type. It can sometimes be forgotten by conservationists that Madagascar's government are often dealing with perceived greater priorities and with minimal resources.

However, it should also be remembered that this study is presenting wildlife trade data only for CITES listed species. There would also be much trade in non-CITES listed species happening in parallel to these data presented here. Therefore, the monetary values presented should be viewed as minimum values. Furthermore, whilst CITES listed species do have non-detrimental findings (NDFs – albeit NDFs remain highly questionable in terms of population data used and robustness of outputs) that allow quotas to be assigned to a species limiting the number of individuals they are traded in, this is not the case for non-CITES listed species. Thus, questions over the sustainability of trade in all species of flora and fauna remain. However, by presenting both flora and fauna data together within this study does allow for a more complete 'picture' of the wildlife trade on Madagascar, whilst highlighting that many questions remain unanswered over the sustainability and management of its wildlife.

Whilst tourism with a herpetological focus was over two magnitudes of difference higher than that generated from the international live trade, the revenue was focused towards local communities located adjacent to NPs benefiting. Conversely, those involved with the live trade were more geographically dispersed and, likely, with no association to a national park. Hence, the two sources of revenue generation were possibly complementary to each other in that they could potentially engage with different sets of local people. Therefore, they should not be seen as alternatives, but rather can operate side by side, as long as it is sustainably conducted. Thus, both avenues to valorisation of wildlife raise not only the levels of revenue generated but also the opportunities to engage in revenue generation for a wide spectrum of local communities. However, one has to be careful of the wider dynamics involved. For example, one hotel Northeast of Mahajunga, Anjajavy, attempted to train individuals from the adjacent, remote, village to work in the hotel (author, pers obs.). However, due to the multiple juxtapositions between the individuals and the western facing hotel, the training of local people to work within the hotel and, thus, provide local benefits had very mixed results. This resulted in the hotel ceased trying to utilize staff from the local village due to several reasons, but instead recruited individuals with more western 'standards' exposure from major towns and importing them to work at the hotel but living in the local village. These new recruits were from different tribes with very different social / behavioural mannerisms, outlooks and more western experiences. Yet they were expected to be both located within the local village and welcomed by those living there. The impacts were extremely wide ranging and both negative and positive.

Despite the short-term economic benefits, the long-term conservation impacts re-sulting from the current scope and scale of the consumptive use of wildlife was being increasingly brought into question [1,11]. However, the potential negative impacts of unsustainable exploitation are not limited to extractive use of Madagascar's flora and fauna alone. For example, broad scale issues can arise from ecotourism operators' environmental responsibility, such as deleterious impacts from the demand for water supplies or waste product disposal [30]. Alternatively, at a finer scale, irresponsible ecotourism can also bring net negative impacts on both the conservation and welfare of wild animals, including reptiles [32,33]. For example, regular, close proximity of tourists with free-ranging wildlife can negatively impact an array of animal behaviors, such as breeding [51] or foraging [52]. Direct physical contact with wild caught wildlife can also lead to the unintentional transfer of zoonotic diseases [35], the death of individual animals or to species, potentially threatened species, being brought into captivity to show-off to tourists. Often these types of negative impacts are difficult to detect, especially by tourists themselves [32], while different attitudes and societal expectations further complicate such decision-making [33].

Both trade types reported here, whilst generating income, raise questions over their sustainability, both from direct and indirect effects. However, it is imperative that Madagascar's authorities seek to implement much more robust and greater detailed reporting of the structures operating within both trade types. For example, taxes are collected from both trade types and there are potential benefits to government, local communities and conservation from implementing better monitoring. However, presently, there is a lack of knowledge and openness as to both the supply chain networks and financial flows operating within the country. Hence, to allow both fuller evaluation and greater management of these income generation types, much greater effort needs to be focused at reporting on and managing both supply chain networks and financial flows. This would permit adjustment of higher financial flows away from wildlife exporters / foreign businesses and more towards government and local communities; importantly raising the benefits gained by local communities from maintaining local wildlife and habitats. Considering local communities are a conservation concern in places, this could be managed to benefit both local people and conservation.

No previous study has sought to estimate and compare such complex scenarios, especially for a country that has such a high conservation profile and in need of such evidence upon which to make more robust and sustainable management decisions for the national good. Ultimately, there are positives and negatives associated with both the live trade in wildlife and ecotourism. However, it will be the long-term sustainability with minimum environmental impacts that follow both activities that managers will need to ensure going forward. These will be multi-dimensional, ranging across species and ecosystems to human dimensions, and spanning both temporal and spatial scales. Hence, balancing social demands with environmental capacity to minimise impacts and maintain sustainability should be the goal of government and managers alike.

5. Conclusions

There have been no comprehensive reviews undertaken previously on the value of these two sectors for the potential conservation benefits they offer. This study was the first that sought to contrast and compare the extent of each trade type on Madagascar. It provides a comprehensive baseline from which to further investigate these areas, but also highlights the vast differences in income generated from both. However, it also highlights the need to better understand the flow of these revenue streams to better improve their benefits to both poverty alleviation and conservation. Certainly, without a much improved understanding of the flow and divisions of income, from country level down to the local family, study's such as this one, lack the detail and nuances to best advise on the changes required. This study has highlighted the levels of incomes involved, detailed the trade networks involved, highlighted the wild flora and fauna being traded and highlighted broadscale issues. It is now incumbent on others to take the fundamentals reported in this study and add to the detail to allow sensitive, adaptive management proposals that benefit both poverty alleviation and conservation equally.

Author Contributions: The individual contributions were as follow: "Conceptualization, AIC; methodology, AIC; formal analysis, AIC; investigation, AIC; data curation, AIC; writing—original draft preparation, AIC; writing—review and editing, AIC and FA; visualization, AIC and FA; project administration, AIC and FA.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Data Availability Statement: CITES species trade data was openly and freely available from CITES Trade Database.

Acknowledgments: AIC thanks the University of Cumbria for administrative, technical support and the donations in kind towards producing this study.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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