



Scaling Astronomy Outreach

The "Madagascar Sous les étoiles" Festival Model

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The challenge

Challenges for astronomy outreach in Madagascar

- Large geographic distances
- Limited scientific infrastructure
- High cost of travel and logistics
- Unequal access to science education
- Limited access to telescopes for the public

But:

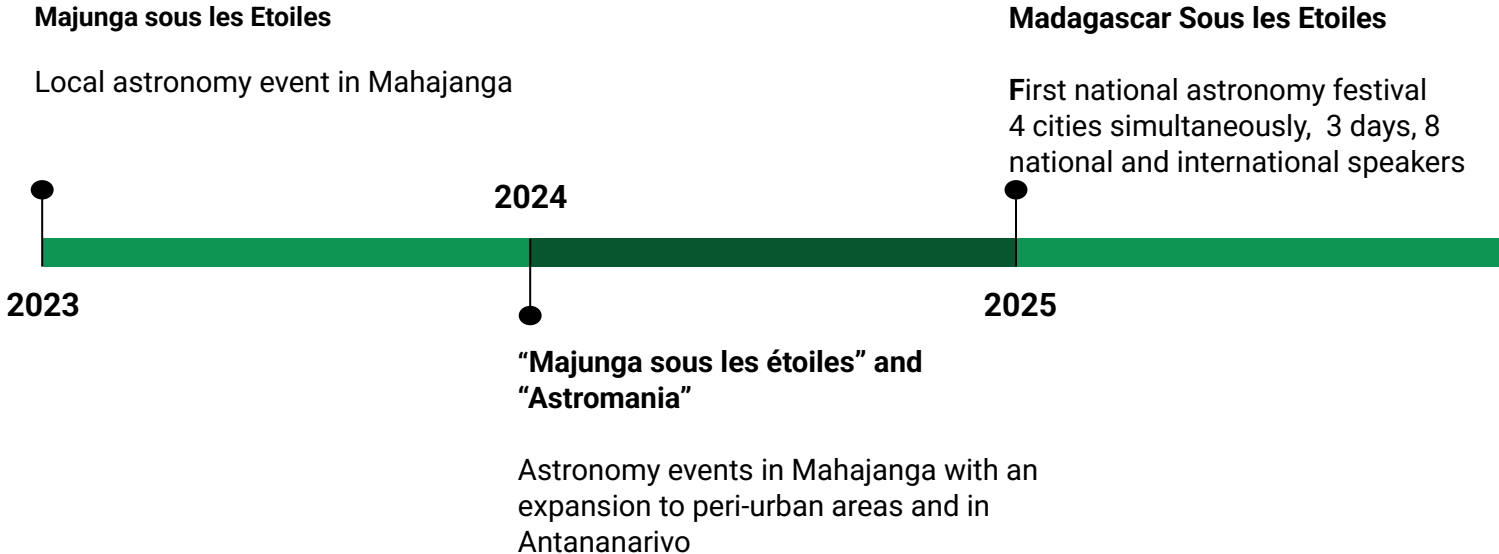
Strong curiosity about astronomy



“Rural taxi” on national roads in Madagascar. Via Tana News. Public domain



Origin and growth of the festival



The operational model

The festival Model

1. **Central coordination**
2. **Local cultural institutions** host events
3. **Shared program structure** across cities
4. **National and international astronomers** participate remotely or locally



Festival Format

3-day program structure

Public outreach:

- Telescope observations
- Solar observations

Education:

- Workshops for youth
- Astronomy discovery activities

Public dialogue:

- Science talks
- Community debates



The key: Partnerships

The festival relies on a **multi-layer partnership model**

- International partners:
 - AFIPS
 - Société Astronomique de France
- National cultural infrastructure:
 - Institut Français de Madagascar
 - Alliances Françaises network
 - NOC Madagascar
- Local actors:
 - Universities
 - Schools
 - Local astronomy enthusiasts
 - Local municipalities
 - Local NGO
 - Tourism actors
 - Local Media



A pan african astronomy school at Ecoles du Monde

- 1 week of training :
Including theoretical and practical sessions
- 11 participants from african french speaker countries
- 6 Experts from France





Haikintana's model

From Branch to Autonomous
Communities

Reinforced by unlikely
collaborations



Impact

Festival outcomes

- Thousands of participants :
1000 → 3000+ participants
- First telescope experiences
for many families
- Youth engagement
- Pan-African collaboration





Future Vision for Madagascar Sous les Etoiles

- Expansion :
 - More cities in Madagascar
 - Stronger regional participation
- Continental collaboration :
 - African astronomy outreach network
 - Exchange of festival models between countries
- New initiatives :
 - Dark sky awareness
 - Astrotourism development
 - Citizen science programs

Building a sustainable astronomy culture in Madagascar, ... in Africa

Lessons learned

- Build on existing cultural networks
- Empower local organizers
- Encourage unlikely collaborations
- Combine education, research and outreach
- Focus on free public access.



Conclusion

Madagascar Sous les étoiles is not just a festival.

It is a system for scaling science outreach.

It shows that large-scale impact is possible through collaboration, and human capacity building.

