

Later, as we prepared to fly home, we reminisced about our magnificent new climb. Andy and Ed proclaimed our 14-pitch route one of the finest and most difficult quartzite climbs in the world. We had been lucky to visit the African Sahel (the drought-beset region below the Sahara that includes Mali, Chad, Niger, Senegal, et al.; the exact line of Sahel/Sahara is constantly moving south) and to live for a time among the unique cultures of the region. We were going home safely and as stronger friends. We vowed always to climb with the serene spirit of birds.

PAUL PIANA, *unaffiliated*

## KENYA

*Point Peter, Northwest Face.* It was reported that on March 15, Ulf Carlsson, Nicolas Ganzin and Ian Howell made the first ascent of the Northwest Face of Point Peter (4757m), a sharp granite spire below the north face of Mt. Kenya. The team took a direct line to the summit via a series of cracks and corners roughly in the center of the face. Most of the climbing was moderate. The crux was the penultimate pitch, a strenuous and awkward corner that went at HVS 5a/b. This trio and others active in the area reported an alarming disappearance of ice in the north-facing couloirs and on the Diamond Glacier, which was reduced to almost half its size. (*High Mountain Sports* 197)

## MADAGASCAR

### Andringitra National Park

*Tsaranoro Atsimo, Never the Same, and Various Ascents.* In September, Italians Rolando Larcher, Marco Sterni, and Erik Svab established the 670-meter route *Never the Same* (V 5.13c/d A0) on the east face of Tsaranoro Atsimo. The 13 pitches of the route range from 35 to 60 meters each; 122 bolts were placed on the route, including 26 for the anchors. The team established the route and then worked it, freeing all the moves on the most difficult pitch (Pitch 8, 5.13c/d), which they climbed with one rest (but did not redpoint). On September 24, they made a one-day, eight-hour ascent of the route. Descent was made with double ropes. The route has obligatory moves of F7b (5.12b). Two other members of the team, Ermanno Francinelli and Mario Cavagnini, repeated five established routes on Tsaranoro, including *Gondwanaland* on Tsaranoro Be. A full report on *Never the Same* appears earlier in this journal.

*Tsaranoro Massif, Various Activity.* Last summer three different teams visited the Tsaranoro Massif in the Andringitra National Park. All the visiting teams, except Kurt Albert and Bernd Arnold, who had first visited the area some years before, used electric power drills to place bolts. All lines are bolted. Bolts are well-spaced and falls up to 20 meters are possible on most of the lines. All routes were opened ground up without previous rehearsal, except for *Tsac Tsac* (Gilles Gouthier and Alain Thiberghien), which was opened via rappel bolting. It's not described in this account.

In early April, Arnaud Petit and Stephanie Baudet (F) visited the area and made a repetition in two days (not one as claimed, since the second day was used to rappel 800 meters) of the longest route of the area, *Gondwanaland*. The route was climbed on-sight except the crux