

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	NGO Arboretum d'Antsokay
Project Title:	Education for Conservation
Date of Report:	August, 2011
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CEPF Region: Madagascar

Strategic Direction: Consolidation

Grant Amount: \$110,000

Project Dates: 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2011

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): - Association Sokapila - Local organization working on environmental education will be involved for their expertise and strategies of transfer of information to children and compositions of teaching materials. – Sokapila is our main partner in education activities and was involved in preparation and implementation and identification of educators/animators for all the education sessions organized at the Arboretum d'Antsokay.

- ONG Bel Avenir - Local organization working on education will also be involved for their expertise and strategies of transfer of information to children. Bel Avenir participated in transportation of school children to the Arboretum d'Antsokay.

- BGCI (Botanic Gardens Conservation International) - A worldwide organization that would provide experiences in developing environmental education and awareness. -

- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden - International organizations that will help the project by providing educational materials to the centre as part of the partnership with the arboretum. -

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

This project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile through awareness campaign focused on a series of education sessions that highlight the value provided and the importance of plant conservation and the sustainable natural resource management and activities that have demonstrated socioeconomic and conservation impacts for local communities within the spiny forest or the Keys Biodiversity Areas.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

A highly efficient resource for public environmental education and awareness is now available at the Arboretum d'Antsokay. Together with the arboretum and its exhibition of endangered plants of SW Madagascar, the public display area and its interpretation boards, the education centre with its education facilities provide an excellent facility for environmental education of local people,

especially local school classes but also adults as well as national and international tourists. General public have improved awareness on the value of the Madagascar's natural resources.

The smile of satisfaction could be read on the faces of students and teachers who have had the privilege of participating in environmental sessions organized at the education centre of the Antsokay Arboretum. Basically, the reactions of recipients converged towards the same point of satisfaction. *"I did not even see the time passing, I was so fascinated by the wealth of nature that gave us the arboretum"* says at the end of the visit, the teacher of the primary classes that was able to follow the tours by Sokapila team and in addition, benefited from this output type.

For the progress of the second year of the project, we noted a great motivation from students and teachers. Quality entertainment and services facilitators drew the attention of all. Now that the environmental awareness of young students was awake, we hope that students will keep in mind the preservation of the biodiversity at each of their actions on a daily basis and that parents closely monitor the school activities of their children.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

- Reduction of deforestation and other negative actions on biodiversity,
- Improved sustainable use of natural resources,
- Strengthened educational attainment of children,
- Improved local livelihoods of local communities

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

Apart from strengthening the education attainment of children and improvement of local livelihoods of local communities through jobs, such as nature guides offered by the arboretum, the reduction of deforestation and other negative actions on biodiversity and improving sustainable use of natural resources requires a huge amount of time that cannot be achieved in so little time and needs a long-term involvement.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

- Improved awareness by the general public of the value of the Madagascar's natural resources,
- The appreciation and conservation of the endemic flora of south-west Madagascar increased.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Education activities undertaken at the education centre has led to improved awareness by the general public of the value of the Madagascar's natural resources and increased appreciation and conservation of the endemic flora of south-west Madagascar.

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved:

Corridors Created:

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

We consider that the project has been very successful in achieving its major intended objective and impact performance indicators as described above.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: - Construction of a building to house the education centre.

Component 1 Actual at Completion: Achieved. A new building of 50m² housing the education centre is raised next to the main entrance of the arboretum, providing a unique resource for environmental education.

Component 2 Planned: - Preparation, edition, graphic design and translation of the texts and production of interpretation boards and posters with particular emphasis on the value of Madagascar's natural resources and on endangered plants species from the spiny forest.

Component 2 Actual at Completion: Achieved. Five interpretive posters (100X80) were designed and translated in three languages: French, Malagasy and English and are all displayed at the education centre in addition to the existing posters received from other partners. Posters are focused mainly on fauna and flora of the spiny forest of south west Madagascar. The subjects of each poster are:

- 1- The Biodiversity of Madagascar
- 2- Vegetation of south west region
- 3- Fauna of southwest of Madagascar
- 4- Main threats to the spiny forest
- 5- Solutions to threats

Other posters displayed include the vegetation type of Madagascar from Kew Gardens, the lemurs of Madagascar, faunal biodiversity of Madagascar and medicinal plants of the spiny forest from WWF-Madagascar.

A leaflet of the arboretum is printed in two languages (French and English). The leaflets are distributed to schoolchildren during educational tours. It presents the botanical trail and the newly created ethnologic trail in a plan with which visitors can also make a self guided visit

A map of the arboretum is printed. Designed with hand-made illustrations of plants and animals by a Malagasy artist.

Small attractive interpretation panels are printed and have been disseminated within the botanical trail, displaying the most remarkable species.

Component 3 Planned: - Creation of cultural trail in the arboretum that demonstrates that the respects of local culture and traditions can be used as a tool for conservation.

Component 3 Actual at Completion: Achieved. The new ethnologic trail is established within the arboretum and is open to public. This new trail comprises a cultural route with small villages reconstituted representing the three main ethnic groups of southwestern Madagascar, displaying their architecture, usual activities, different tools, funerary arts, taboos, beliefs. Tourist visitors are already aware of the new trail. A collection of ethnographic objects from the main four ethnics groups of southwest of Madagascar are being collected and displayed in complement to the cultural trail at the museum. The value of sustainable natural resources management and the socio-economic impacts in combination with local cultures is explained in the ethnologic trail.

Component 4 Planned:

- Provide transportation for school children from the city of Toliara to the Arboretum d'Antsokay

Component 4 Actual at Completion: Achieved. A Toyota bus vehicle with 28 seats is purchased and school children are transported from the city of Toliara to the Arboretum d'Antsokay to attend environmental education sessions.

Component 5 Planned: - Recruited qualified local educators and animators will focus awareness on the importance of plant diversity and how it can be saved and the importance of sustainable natural resources management and the socio-economic impacts

Component 5 Actual at Completion: Achieved. Educators and animators were identified in partnership with local partners. Schools children were welcomed and received guided tours of the arboretum and environmental sessions at the new education centre. Sessions are based on subject on the importance of plant diversity of the spiny forest of south west Madagascar.

Component 6 Planned: - Organization of environmental education sessions for school children and creation of teaching aids and plays that would provide an excellent vehicle for learning and awareness. Education activities will be focused on the spiny forest and on the Keys Biodiversity Areas of Toliara.

Component 6 Actual at Completion: Achieved. Environmental sessions and educational plays for school children were prepared in collaboration with our local partners. Sessions organized at the education centre were also focused to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and the socio-economic that can be impacted to local communities. Knowledge was presented in the form of entertainment in order to truly educate. Guided tours through the facility bring the message of conservation into our schools. In this way, we seek to educate both the general public and school groups in conservation and encourage appreciation and desire to protect the unique and fragile biodiversity of Madagascar. The education/interpretation centre is now part of the guided tour of the arboretum for all visitors.

Component 7 Planned: - Reception of the classes at the education center and provide free guided tours of the arboretum on subject related to plants and their conservation for school children and Malagasy University students. The centre will regularly invite student's classes to visit the structure to attend environmental education sessions.

Component 7 Actual at Completion: Partially achieved. A target of 8000 children a year was not achieved due to new external factors that were not managed at the planning stage such as the insufficient time allocated to the preparation and organization of education activities and other administrative problems occurred during the first year of the project.

Selection of schools has been discussed with partners and 40 public schools have been identified. A total of 72 environmental sessions were organized during the first semester of 2011 to bring the 2160 school children with teachers and parents accompanying field trips, totalling 4095 the number of school children from 40 primary schools targeted from the city of Toliara for the entire project period. Guiding school children with their teachers was provided by the team from our main partner, the association Sokapila.

Add to this, the number of 1380 school children who wasn't part of our education program but have benefited from the facilities that represent the education centre and the arboretum.

School children were mainly from the city of Toliara but were also from the Keys Biodiversity Areas in the spiny forest around the Saint-Augustin forest, PK32 Ranobe and Amoron'i Onilahy. Also from the community forest Andatabo.

Component 8 Planned: - Training of the guides of the arboretum to develop plans for the exhibitions

Component 8 Actual at Completion: Achieved. Guides are trained about the new education centre but also for the new cultural trail within the arboretum and the extended ethnographic collection.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.



External view of the education centre



The education centre close to the main entrance of the arboretum



The interpretation centre with groups of students



Animator with a group of students



Malagasy school children and foreign tourist benefited from the interpretation centre.



School children learning about the spiny forest.



The extended museum with ethnographic objects



A teacher explaining at the museum



Animator showing the map of the arboretum



New interpretation panels have been added to the botanical trail.



Reconstituted traditional Antandroy house and zebu cart in the ethnologic trail.



Reconstituted Mahafaly tomb with funeral art (aloalo).



Radiated tortoises park.



Students at the entrance of the arboretum.



School children and the CEPF funded bus



Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings) No obstacle was found during the course of the project. The project took place normally but much more effort will be required for education activities to be held again after the CEPF grant period to ensure its continuity. Environmental education activities and plays would not have been successful without our main partner collaboration: The association Sokapila - Local organization working on environmental education, involved for their expertise and strategies of transfer of information to children and compositions of teaching materials.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

The significance of the Arboretum d'Antsokay as a facility for conservation and most importantly public environmental education facility has tremendously increased. This increased significance has enhanced Arboretum d'Antsokay reputation as an eco-tourism destination and result in higher visitor numbers.

Environmental sessions will continue at the arboretum over the project period, the management of the centre and the continuation of its educational activities will be self sustainable through income generated from admission fees, guided tours, offering accommodation, sale brochures, seeds and plants.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

The environmental commitment of the Arboretum prevents any actions harmful to the environment. Electrical power at Antsokay is based mainly from renewable energy (solar panels). Additional solar panels have been purchased with the CEPF project funding. At social level, with the number of visitors increased and the creation of new activities based on tourism, the arboretum has provided jobs opportunities for the local communities living around the Arboretum.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

The Arboretum d'Antsokay represents a unique centre for biodiversity study as well as provides a model for the development of sustainable eco-tourism in Madagascar. It should be used continuously as a unique tool for the scientific study, documentation and conservation of the highly endangered flora of south-west Madagascar and in raising environmental awareness.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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