

An Overview of CEPF's Consolidation Portfolio in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

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The Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot comprises the island nation of Madagascar and the neighboring island groups of the Mascarenes, Comoros and Seychelles, with a total area of 594,221 square kilometers. Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) engagement in this hotspot began in 2000 with a five year grant-making period focused on the island of Madagascar. The investment concluded in December 2005 with the final portfolio comprising 40 grants totalling \$4.25 million. This was followed by a consolidation phase implemented from 2011-2013, with an allocation of \$1.4 million.

At the start of investment, Madagascar's biodiversity faced an immense array of threats. Nearly 80 percent of the island's original forest cover had been lost. The population was estimated at 15 million, with a rate of increase of 3 percent per year. Poverty was extremely high, with the country being regarded as one of the most economically disadvantaged countries in the world. Key threats at the time included agricultural expansion (in particular for upland rice production resulting in a loss of about 2,000 square kilometers of forest per year); uncontrolled livestock grazing; unsustainable charcoal production, mining, hunting and timber exploitation; and unregulated international trade in plants and animals.

Compounding these threats was a civil society characterized by insufficient technical capacity and limited biodiversity information, alongside an inadequate government presence to manage and protect natural resources, and ambiguous policies. Additional threats present on the island included poverty, and inadequate access to education. These factors presented a complex set of challenges to address if conservation for the people of Madagascar were to be achieved.

The CEPF investment strategy for this region focused on a) filling the gaps between existing efforts and investments; b) defining the mechanisms to ensure the proper coordination among existing efforts; and c) providing civil society with the capacity to manage biodiversity conservation more effectively. CEPF's investment yielded significant results, including assisting with the gazettement of more than 1 million hectares of new protected areas, increasing the capacity and influence of local organizations, and improving the livelihoods of communities surrounding several protected areas by reinforcing the link between sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation.

CEPF Consolidation Phase

Overview

Recently, there has been a shift in the conservation paradigm in Madagascar from defining sites to be gazetted as protected areas, to finding ways to integrate civil society in natural resource and

protected area management. With the realization that engaging local communities in natural resource management is vital, it is apparent that the greatest challenge to successful conservation of priority areas is now the long-term governance of these new protected areas.

During the initial CEPF investment it was recognized that there was a paucity of national or local nongovernmental organizations in Madagascar and that civil society had limited capacity to implement CEPF funds directly. As a result, the majority of the funds were channelled through the established international nongovernmental organizations. However, funds did reach community-based organizations on a site-by-site basis through Conservation International's small grants program, the national nongovernmental organization Fanamby's pioneering efforts in Daraina and the BirdLife wetlands conservation projects in Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex. These examples demonstrated that community conservation could be achieved given the right level of support, providing justification for scale up during the consolidation phase.

Most of the newly protected areas plan to integrate local communities and allow some level of sustainable use within their limits. To accompany communities' engagement in conservation activities, with CEPF support under the first phase, Conservation International developed its small grants program. Known as "Keystones" (or Nodes in Madagascar where the approach has been piloted) these locally based units managed by partner organizations provide funding for communities to undertake activities that integrate conservation and development around new protected areas.

Building upon the recommendations emanating from CEPF's assessment of impact in this region¹, four themes were selected to consolidate CEPF's original investment. These four, cohesive themes take advantage of the opportunities that have arisen as a result of implementing the Durban Vision and complement the activities under phase 3 of the National Environmental Action Plan as well as the Madagascar Action Plan and have been undertaken in parallel with other ongoing initiatives such as the GEF-UNDP small grants program. To successfully implement these, a sum of \$1.4 million was allocated to build upon and sustain the achievements of CEPF's initial phase of investment..

This consolidation program was refined because of the political strife that beleaguered the island nation since January 2009 and resulted in President Marc Ravalomana and his government being overthrown in March 2009. The new government was designated by a "High Transitional Authority (HAT)" that stated that democratic elections would be held by September 2010. The new government in Madagascar also stated that it would honor the temporary protection orders established under the previous government, and would encourage promoters of these new protected areas to complete the necessary steps for permanent status and to start to manage them actively.

Portfolio Status

CEPF investment began in July 2009, with the award of three grants. Two more were awarded in August 2009 to bring the total consolidation portfolio to five grants. This consolidation portfolio concluded in December 2012.

¹ Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot (Madagascar)
[English](#) (PDF - 407 KB) / [Français](#) (PDF - 320 KB)

As with all consolidation programs, contracting and portfolio management has been undertaken by the CEPF Secretariat.

Table 1. CEPF Consolidation Grants in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot

Grantee	Project Title	Grant Amount
Arboretum d'Antsokay	Education for Conservation	\$109,336
Association FANAMBY	Establishing Comprehensive Baselines, Disseminating Efficient Participatory Management Tools and Stimulating Partners Commitment to the Extension of Managed Resources Protected Areas in Madagascar	\$179,391
Conservation International	Consolidating the Node Small Grants Program to Engage Local Actors in Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar	\$732,681
Field Museum of Natural History	Support to the Malagasy International Association Vahatra	\$214,391
The Peregrine Fund, Inc.	Strengthening Local Community-Based Resource Management for Tambohorano and Bealanana	\$150,000

Portfolio Investment Highlights by Investment Priority

The consolidation program sought to address three investment priorities. These are discussed in turn.

Investment priority 1: Enable scaling up of the opportunities made possible by keystones (nodes) in support of community conservation action and sustainable livelihoods in priority corridors.

A single grant to Conservation International, *Consolidating the Node Small Grants Program to Engage Local Actors in Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar*, fulfilled this investment priority. Implemented from August 2009 to December 2012, this project was the largest and most far-reaching in the consolidation portfolio. This project aimed to promote on the ground conservation action to contribute to improving communities' overall well-being and livelihoods through building local capacity in financial and project management to sustain and advance gains in five priority areas: Daraina-Loky-Manambato; Mahavavy-Kinkony; Ankeniheny-Zahamena; Nosivolo; and Menabe.

The “Node Small Grants Program” was a flexible mechanism to ensure conservation action in the face of unforeseen circumstances that might have negatively affected biodiversity. It was delivered through six Node organizations:

- Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust which implemented the Node project in Nosivolo;
- Asity Madagascar which implemented the Node project for Mahavavy-Kinkony;
- Fanamby which implemented two NODE Projects: in Daraina-Loky- Manambato and Menabe;
- MATEZA which implemented the Node project for the northern part of Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor;

- ANAE which implemented the Node project for the southern part of Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor. The initial partner (RINDRA) was replaced by ANAE because of its low capacity.; and
- ODDIT which implemented the program in the east part of Ankeniheny- Zahamena Corridor.

The Node Program supported small-scale capacity building at the level of individual Node organizations, the collective group of Node organizations, and community based organization grantees. It was conceived in part to multiply the effects of previous CEPF investment that had gone into supporting the development of new protected areas in Madagascar. CEPF investment in livelihood activities around new protected areas highlighted the need to fund such activities and led to replication by other donors as well as leveraging of additional resources for livelihood support.

By the close of the project, the Node program had funded 399 micro-projects for 236 beneficiary community associations. Over 6,120 households benefitted from the program, with the majority of households reporting that their livelihoods had been improved through the project. Of these households, the most important improvements reported were increases in food security, health and household revenues.

The project funded a range of activities via the micro-grants, from reforestation, small animal husbandry, fruit tree gardens, ecological monitoring to reduce threats to natural forests, community forest management, aquaculture, apiculture and environmental education. Many of the beneficiaries of small grants reported that the activities supported had led to improvements in incomes that allowed people to do things such as invest in a small business, repair a house, or to pay school fees for their children. In fact, the great majority of the livelihood activities that were supported through the Node program were designed to be self perpetuating, with the benefits building up over time. It is this realization of improvement in livelihoods that allows people to connect with and become involved in conservation in the areas where they live.

Investment priority 2: Improve the capacity of community-based natural resource management and local governance structures by sharing lessons learned both between sites in Madagascar, as well as examples of participatory forest management from elsewhere.

Two grants were approved under this investment priority. A grant to Association Fanamby, *Establishing Comprehensive Baselines, Disseminating Efficient Participatory Management Tools and Stimulating Partners Commitment to the Extension of Managed Resources Protected Areas in Madagascar* (August 2009 to March 2011), sought to undertake an in-depth assessment of the most effective approaches adopted by stakeholders to establish community-managed protected areas, including definition of the core roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders as well as the most effective tools to protect natural resources and generate benefits from ecosystem services to communities engaged in sustainable natural resource management. The ultimate aim of the project was to alleviate the main barriers to the development of a network of Managed Resources Protected Areas by identifying existing experiences, sharing one amongst other approaches and contributing to reviewing legal texts regarding protected area management.

By project close, the grantee was able to report that an agreement was signed with stakeholders including the communities within MRPA's, NGO promoters, private sectors for a business partnership for sustainable financing and sustainable use management. Further, the project was able to produce a consolidated database which includes baseline data such as threats, mitigation action, and management effectiveness (via the METT). Participatory mapping sessions/

workshops were undertaken to define the protected areas boundaries, zoning, uses, biodiversity and habitats. Co-financing and engagement letters were obtained from institutions-partners that have the capacities to support MRPA management. Capacity building workshops took place in the MRPA to strengthen the decision making capabilities of the local associations / producers /communities. These efforts resulted in the creation of 1,527,151 hectares of new protected areas and the strengthened management of these hectares – a significant achievement in light of the political and economic challenges facing the conservation community.

The second grant, *Strengthening Local Community-Based Resource Management for Tambohorano and Bealanana*, was awarded to the Peregrine Fund and was implemented from July 2009 to December 2011. This project focused on two sites, firstly to secure their status as protected areas, and secondly to involve local communities in management of the sites. Success was achieved at both sites by securing a decree for temporary protection status (Ref.: Arrêté interministériel n°52005/2010 portant protection temporaire globale des sites SAPM, December 2010). The sites are:

- Mandrozo NPA at Tambohorano: 15,145 hectares including Mandrozo Lake, other wetlands, and surrounding habitats (forest and savanna), and,
- Bemanevika NPA at Bealanana: 32,130 hectares of a mosaic ecosystem including four lakes, marshes, grasslands and rainforest.

Most important however, was that the local associations in these sites received formal transfer of management responsibility from the Madagascar government. Formal contracts authorizing community-based management were issued. The Peregrine Fund provided financial, advisory and technical support. Management plans for both sites are being implemented, species monitoring is underway, and community development initiatives have been started. For example, beekeeping is being promoted to local communities through a series of three field courses on beekeeping training and practices. Two phases of training were provided during November and December 2010 to the local communities on the transformation of the traditional way to the modern apiculture system at Bemanevika village. 15 beehives and 15 sets of beekeeping equipment (such as bee smoker, hive tool, manipulate frame, cappings scratcher, bottom board beetle trap, veil and clothing) were purchased and provided to the local trained beekeepers. Twenty people attended the training sessions. Out of 15 beehive boxes provided to the novice beekeepers, 9 were successfully in establishing bee colonies.

Investment priority 3: Launch a social marketing and awareness campaign at local and national scales focused on a series of audiences and highlight the value provided and the importance of sustainable natural resource management and activities that have demonstrated socioeconomic and conservation impacts.

Two projects were approved under this investment priority. These include a grant to Arboretum d'Antsokay, *Education for Conservation*, to undertake a campaign to raise awareness of the threats to the spiny forest and engage local communities in the conservation and management of this habitat. A two year project conducted from July 2009 to June 2011, this project located in SW Madagascar involved construction of an education center, preparation of interpretation boards and posters, and creation of a nature trail around the arboretum. With an overall objective to raise awareness to enable sustainable use of natural resources and appreciation and conservation of endemic flora important for communities, the project engaged local educators, selected schools, and arranged transport to bring students to the education center/arboretum. By the end of the project, despite insufficient time allocated to the preparation and organization of education activities as well as some administrative problems, a total of 40 schools were selected, 72 environmental sessions were organized, and 4,095 schoolchildren from the city of Toliara visited the center. Further, an additional 1,380 school children who were not part of the

education program benefited from the facilities that represent the education center and the arboretum, bringing the overall total to 5,475 children who benefited, with accompanying parents and guardians. This is an excellent achievement as it raises the profile of the spiny forest and increases awareness amongst the youngest generation of resource users.



Above: Education center at entrance of the arboretum.



Right: School children learning about the spiny forest.

A second grant to the Field Museum of Natural History, *Support to the Malagasy International Association Vahatra*, was implemented from July 2009 to December 2011 and aimed to reinforce the infrastructure, management and profile of the fledgling organization Vahatra, through increased technical and financial capacity. The grant further sought to make publicly available research and conservation science findings in the Journal *Malagasy Nature*, as well as raise awareness among the general public of the importance of the unique fauna and the threats faced. By the close of the grant, the organization had increased the capacity of their accountant, and had made significant inroads into producing and disseminating information and awareness materials. In particular, a considerable number of manuscripts were published by the scientific members of Vahatra, as well as associated students. Further, four issues of *Malagasy Nature*, the scientific journal published by Vahatra, were published that contained numerous papers written by Malagasy students and higher level national scientists. For many of the papers published in *Malagasy Nature* and to a lesser extent in other scientific reviews are the first publications of the respective author(s) and represent a major hurdle in their professional development. *Malagasy Nature* has been widely disseminated and hence this information is available to numerous researchers.

Additionally, three books were complete during the course of this grant in a new series published by Vahatra entitled "Guide sur la diversité biologique de Madagascar". These include volumes on bats, small mammals, and endemic birds. For each volume, well over two hundred copies were dispersed to Malagasy students, researchers, institutes, libraries, and universities.

Collaboration with CEPF Donor Partners

Several of these consolidation grants build on or link to investments by CEPF Global Donors, in particular the World Bank, GEF and MacArthur Foundation. Despite the continuing challenge of Madagascar's changing political situation, CEPF is seen as a solid vehicle to support and promote civil society engagement in conservation.

Conclusion

Although there was a two year gap between CEPF's initial investment and this consolidation phase, CEPF grantees were nevertheless able to maintain continuity and were well-placed to implement their consolidation grants once they were awarded. This seamless transition is in part due to CEPF's emphasis in phase 1 on building the capacity of its grantees. This consolidation phase, while keeping biodiversity objectives front and center, has continued to emphasize capacity building and with the results of this current investment, can demonstrate that this emphasis has been able to result in significant benefits for people, as well as nature.

Charts – CEPF Investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Hotspot as of January 2013

Chart 1. Approved Grants by Investment Priority

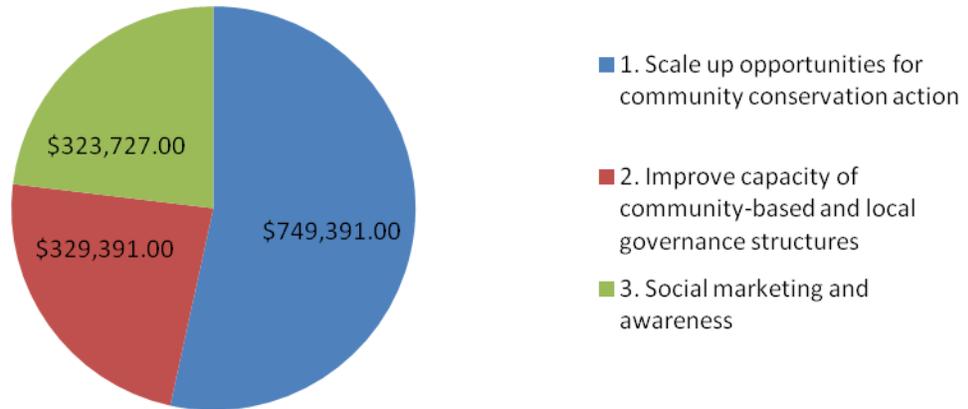


Chart 2. Portfolio Status by Strategic Direction

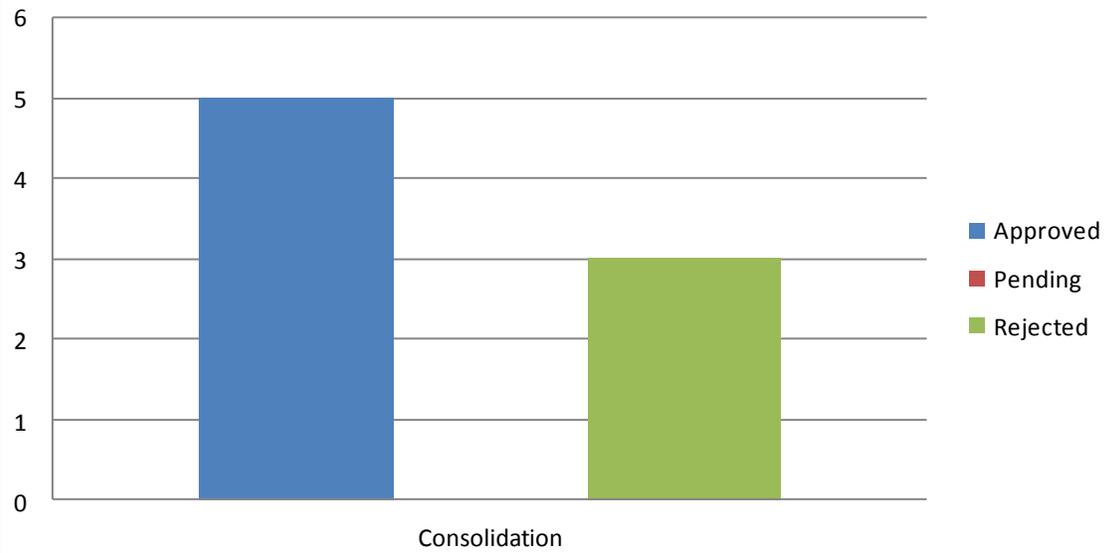


Table 2: Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Logical Framework for Consolidation – January 2013

Objective	Targets	Progress
<p>Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of previous CEPF investment in Madagascar</p>	<p>25 civil society actors, including NGOs and the private sector, actively participating in conservation programs</p>	<p>The consolidation portfolio is made up of five lead grantees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation International Madagascar 2. Association Fanamby 3. Field Museum of Natural History 4. Peregrine Fund Ltd 5. NGO Arboretum d'Antsokay <p>These in turn work with local civil society organizations, especially CI's Madagascar Nodes programme that has supported six Node organizations in specific geographies as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FANAMBY in Menabe, 2. Organe de développement du Diocèse de Toamasina (ODDIT), Association Nationale d'Actions Environnementales (ANAE) and MATEZA in Corridor Ankeniheny Zahamena (CAZ) 3. ASITY in Mahavavy-Kinkony, 4. DURRELL in Nosivolo and 5. FANAMBY in Daraina-Loky-Manambato <p>The Nodes program has provided 339 micro-grants to 236 community association.</p> <p>CEPF has supported at least 240 civil society actors during this consolidation phase.</p>
	<p>5 key biodiversity areas totaling 10,000 hectares with strengthened management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daraina-Loky- 	<p>The KBAs that have been impacted by the grantees receiving CEPF support are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ankeniheny-Lakato Betampona Strict Nature Reserve

	<p>Manambato</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahavavy-Kinkony • Ankeniheny-Zahamena • Nosivolo • Menabe 	<p>Mangerivola Special Reserve Mantadia National Park and Analamazaotra Special Reserve Zahamena National Park Torotorofotsy Wetlands Fiherenana Mangoro-Rianila Rivers Lake Alaotra Zahamena-Mantadia SAPM Ivoloina River Mahavavy-Kinkony Nosivolo Daraina-Loky-Manambato Menabe.</p> <p>A total of 1,574,435 hectares of KBAs have strengthened management as a result of this consolidation phase.</p>
	<p>10,000 hectares of production landscapes with improved management through community conservation agreements</p>	<p>A total of 919,666 of production landscapes have improved management. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex : 276,836 ha • Nosivolo : 5,993 ha • Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor : 371,000 ha • Daraina-Loky-Manambato : 70,837 ha • Menabe : 195,000 ha
<p>Outcome 1: Improved community stewardship of natural resources and livelihoods of local communities in the keystone areas.</p>	<p>Five nodes awarding sub-grants to civil society organizations in priority key biodiversity areas.</p>	<p>Six Node programs have awarded 339 micro-grants to 236 community associations.</p>
	<p>25 civil society groups receiving grants effectively plan and manage conservation projects</p>	<p>Over 100 projects engage the communities in activities that promote the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecotourism revenues • Park management activities
	15 communities involved in sustainable use projects show socioeconomic benefits	<p>A total of 790 communities have been documented as showing socioeconomic benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 in Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex • 219 in Nosivolo • 102 in Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor • 243 in Daraina-Loky-Manambato • 10 in Menabe • 5 in Ampasindava peninsula & Galoko Kalabenono • 8 in Bealanana/Bemanevika PA • 7 in Tambohoran/Mandrozo PA <p>Benefits include increased income due to adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices and ecotourism revenues, increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices, and improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management, as well as many other benefits.</p>
Outcome 2: Improved understanding by civil society, national nongovernmental organizations and government of community based natural resource management and governance issues.	Effective community management of 10 key biodiversity areas	Local communities have been involved in management of Bealanana/Bemanevika PA and Tambohoran/Mandrozo PA. Numerous additional KBAs have benefited from community management via the Nodes Small Grants Program and grant to Fanamby.
	Three policies permitting community based natural resource management put in place	No new policies have been put in place. However, authority for community-based natural resource management has been transferred from government to local associations in two KBAs: Bemanevika (37,041 ha) and Mandrozo (15,145 ha).

<p>Outcome 3: Increased access to information of the value of Madagascar’s natural resources, threats to these and ways to mitigate these threats.</p>	<p>Scientific data analyzed and made available to a wider audience through the publication of the Journal <i>Malagasy Nature</i></p>	<p>Four issues of the Journal <i>Malagasy Nature</i> have been printed and distributed internationally. In addition to raise awareness amongst the general public Vahatra has produced a new series entitled “Guide sur la diversité biologique de Madagascar”. These include volumes on bats, small mammals, and endemic birds. For each volume, well over two hundred copies were dispersed to Malagasy students, researchers, institutes, libraries, and universities.</p>
	<p>Focused local environmental education activities undertaken focusing on the importance of the key biodiversity areas of the Spiny Forest including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angavo • Cap Ste. Marie Special Reserve • Mahafaly Plateau Forest complex • Mahafaly Plateau North • Menarandra Forest • Mikea Forest • Amoron'I Onilahy • PK32-Ranobe • Saint Augustin Forest • Southwestern Coastal Wetlands and Nosy Manitse Future SAPM Marine • Tsimanampetsotse National Park 	<p>The education centre located in SW Madagascar in the Spiny Forest, at the Arboretum d’Antsokay, has been completed.</p> <p>A total of 4,095 school children have attended specific environmental education activities at the Arboretum in addition a further 1,380 school children were brought to the centre. These children came from villages that neighbored the following KBAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint-Augustin Forest, • PK32 Ranobe • Amoron'i Onilahy • Andatabo