

# CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** Arboretum d'Antsokay

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** Developing the Antsokay Arboretum as a Center for Biodiversity Study and Ecotourism in Southwest Madagascar

**Implementation Partners for this Project:**

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** March 1, 2005 – December 31, 2007

**Date of Report (month/year):** January, 2008

## II. OPENING REMARKS

*Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.*

The project is now complete, all major objectives have been met with the exception of publishing of the guide to the succulent plants of SW Madagascar. This is currently at the publisher and will be delivered once payment is made to the printer company.

## III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

**Project Purpose:** *Local and International scientists, tourists and citizens understand, appreciate and conserve the floral biodiversity of SW Madagascar.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Purpose-level:</b>	
1. Local and international scientists use the Arboretum as a research facility for the study and conservation of the flora of SW Madagascar.	Achieved. The arboretum is known and used as a research facility for study and conservation of the flora of SW Madagascar.
2. Local and international tourists visit the Arboretum and learn about the diversity of the region and understand the urgency of conservation of the ecosystem and the species it contains.	Achieved. Local and international tourists receive guided visits of the arboretum and are informed of the important diversity of the spiny forest and the importance of conservation through the interpretation panels.
3. The local population gains an improved appreciation of their unique natural resources and contribution to their conservation.	Achieved. Local visitors and school children appreciate their unique natural resources through free guided visits of the arboretum.

**Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.**

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)?*

#### IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

**Project Outputs:**

##### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1: A new and well curated regional herbarium for SW Madagascar providing a scientific documentation of the botanical diversity of the Spiny Forest.</b>	
<b>1.1</b> A new herbarium is designed and constructed at the Antsokay Arboretum including the laboratory and the library by year 1 of the project.	Achieved. A new building is erected in 2005 at Antsokay Arboretum housing the herbarium and the library providing a scientific documentation of the spiny forest. More than 500 herbarium specimens are entered to the cabinets and recorded into the database and more than 200 new library resources are catalogued.
<b>1.2</b> Herbarium equipment and supplies (pest proof cupboards, herbarium mounting sheets and tools) are acquired.	Achieved. Pest proof steel cabinets are acquired locally and herbarium equipments such as plants press, mounting papers and tools are ordered from abroad.
<b>1.3</b> Appropriate scientists and researchers are notified of the new opportunities and invited to participate and be involved by the end of the project.	Achieved. Notification of the new opportunities is sent to all partners and appropriate scientists and researchers.
<b>1.4</b> A program of work for the Arboretum is developed by April 2005 and implemented.	Achieved. A program of work is developed and implemented.
<b>1.5</b> A business plan that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the Arboretum is written by April 2005 and implemented.	Achieved. A business plan for the arboretum is written and implemented.
<b>1.6</b> Appropriate MOUs and agreements are developed with partner institutions and universities.	Achieved. MoU with the University of Toliara is established. MoU with Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden is developed for the purpose of strengthening collaboration in conservation and horticulture. Agreement with the Waters & Forest Ministry was established in order to collect legally plants specimens.
<b>Output 2: Improved scientific documentation and extended inventory of the flora of the Spiny Forest is available.</b>	
<b>2.1</b> Botanical inventories are conducted each month; approx. 10 days per month on wet season, 10 days per month on dry season;	Achieved. The four wheel drive vehicle purchased by the project is being used for fieldtrips. Botanical fieldtrips were conducted in the southwest region for collecting herbarium specimens, seeds and specimens of threatened species.
<b>2.2</b> At least 2,000 herbarium specimens are collected and entered into the herbarium database by the end of the project.	Partially achieved. More than 500 herbarium specimens are entered into the herbarium, new herbarium specimens will continue in the future to be added to the collection to complete at least the numbers of specimens expected.
<b>2.3</b> Herbarium vouchers and information from botanical inventories is available to visiting researchers by the end of the project.	Achieved. The herbarium and the library are available to visiting scientists and students.
<b>Output 3: Improved documentation of the living collection.</b>	
<b>3.1</b> A database of all living collection is developed by year 2 of the project and maintained throughout.	Achieved. A database of the living collection of the arboretum is developed with the new computer
<b>3.2</b> New acquisitions are made accurately logged	Achieved. New acquisitions are made into the

into the collection and database on a continual basis.	collection and the database.
<b>3.3</b> The database is made available to interested scientists by year 3 of the project.	Achieved. The database is available at the arboretum to interested scientists and students.
<b>Output 4: The Arboretum library is improved and maintained.</b>	
<b>4.1</b> Existing library resources are accurately catalogued by June 2005.	Achieved. New 200 additional library resources are added to the library and accurately catalogued.
<b>4.2</b> New resources are acquired and are available to scientists visiting the Arboretum.	Achieved. The library is available to scientists and students visiting the arboretum and the herbarium.
<b>Output 5:</b>	
<b>5.1</b> Ex-situ collections of (80%) threatened species of SW Madagascar are established at the Arboretum by the end of the project.	Achieved. New threatened species are added to the ex-situ collection of the arboretum, collected from fieldtrips. 80% of threatened species of southwest Madagascar are established at the arboretum according to the IUCN red list.
<b>5.2</b> Appropriate interpretative displays about endangered species are developed and constructed by September 2007.	Achieved. Appropriate interpretative displays about the biodiversity of the spiny forest are constructed in the display area of the arboretum.
<b>5.3</b> Available propagated plants for sale to visitors which will help to reduce pressure on the wild population from illegal collecting.	Achieved. Seeds and propagated popular plants are available for sale to visitors. Benefits from these will help to contribute to the sustainability of the project.
<b>5.4</b> Available collected seeds for seed banking in collaboration with the Millennium Seed Bank Project of RBG Kew.	Achieved. Seeds for seed banking are available.
<b>Output 6: Public awareness materials and support for conservation is increased, especially among local people.</b>	
<b>6.1</b> The Arboretum attracts at least 5,000 visitors per year.	Achieved. The number of visitors has reached 5.901 in 2007 including school children visitors. This result is mainly due to the establishment of the website of the arboretum which plays an important role in the publicity and marketing of the arboretum.
<b>6.2</b> Visitors receive guided tours of the Arboretum.	Achieved.
<b>6.3</b> Appropriate interpretive displays are developed and constructed in public display area.	Achieved. Appropriate interpretative displays about the biodiversity of the spiny forest are constructed in the display area of the arboretum.
<b>Output 7: A brochure on the succulent plant species of SW Madagascar is produced.</b>	
<b>7.1</b> Preparation for production of a guide meeting the needs of Action 52 in the IUCN/SSC Cactus and Succulent Action Plan (Oldfield 1997) is undertaken by year 3 of the project.	Achieved. The preparation for production in English and French of the guide to succulent plants of SW Madagascar is finished and ready for printing.
<b>7.2</b> The guide brochure is published and printed in 3,000 copies by year 3 of the project.	Not yet achieved. As we do not have sufficient fund for the payment of the advance requested by the printer company, the impression is currently suspended. It will be delivered one month after the remaining funds for the project is sent.
<b>7.3</b> The guide brochure is used for environmental education in schools by the end of the project.	Not yet achieved. This is will be done as soon the as the guide book is published.
<b>Output 8: A website profiling the Arboretum and its projects is established.</b>	
<b>8.1</b> Website is developed and put onto the web.	Achieved. The website is developed and available through: <a href="http://www.antsokayarboretum.org">http://www.antsokayarboretum.org</a>
<b>8.2</b> The website is monitored to gauge viewer interest	Achieved.
<b>8.3</b> The website is maintained and updated twice a year.	Achieved. The website is maintained and updated regularly.

**Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.**

Nearly all of the planned outputs of this project have been delivered. Those that remain, such as the guide to the succulent plants, will be delivered one month after the remaining fund of the project is sent.



The building housing the herbarium and the library



Mounted herbarium specimens



Improved library resources



Small interpretative panel



Propagated plants for sale

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

The guide to the succulent plants of southwest Madagascar has not yet been delivered, but is in process of being published. This should not have a negative impact because this should be done once the payment of advance is made to the printing industry.

**V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS**

**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 the Arboretum is based mainly on renewable energy (solar panels). However, a water pump running on fossil fuels (gasoline) is used for water supply because Antsokay is outside the area covered by the company supplying water and electricity. The Arboretum Antsokay intends to find a way to invest in the installation of a wind driven, although it is costly to investment, quickly profitable if one takes into account the incessant increase of fossil resources until now used to. The wind will also enhance the environmental image of the Arboretum.

At social level, with the number of visitors increased and the creation of new activities based on tourism at the arboretum has provided jobs opportunities for the local communities living around the Arboretum.

## VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

***Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.***

The application process for CEPF funding was initially very heavy, with some difficulties experienced with the online application; however the reporting framework was very user friendly.

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

***Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)***

There were no significant problems encountered in the project execution. The collection of at least 2000 herbarium specimens have taken more time than anticipated. As this project is a long term process, new herbarium specimens will be added to the herbarium collection.

## VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

***Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.***

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

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

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

***Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.***

After the project period, the significance of the Arboretum d'Antsokay as a source and facility for researcher, conservation and most importantly public education have tremendously increased. This increased significance has enhanced Arboretum d'Antsokay reputation as an eco-tourism destination and result in higher visitors numbers. The management of the place is self-

sustainable through income generated from admission fees, guided tours, offering accommodation, sale brochures, seeds and plants.

## VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND 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.

## VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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