

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Wildlife Conservation Society

Project Title: Makira Forest Area Conservation Project

Implementation Partners for This Project:

Project Dates: January, 1 2003- June 30, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): July 2005

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

The success to date of the Makira Forest Area Conservation Project is the result of collaborative efforts among the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest (MINENVEF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Conservation International (CI), and numerous local and regional stakeholder groups. Formalized through several preliminary studies to assess the feasibility of carbon financing as a means to support biodiversity conservation in northeastern Madagascar, the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project addresses multiple CEPF priorities for Madagascar including (i) extending the country's protected areas system, and (ii) developing corridors of protected areas between remaining blocks of forest and existing protected areas. These CEPF priorities reflect the Madagascar Government's interest in ensuring the lasting protection of the country's globally important biological diversity; in September 2003 in Durban, South Africa, Madagascar President Marc Ravalomanana announced that within 5 years he intended to more than triple the amount of Madagascar's protected surface area from 1.7 million hectares to 6.0 million hectares. With this increase, 10% of Madagascar's surface area would be protected and conserved.

Madagascar's forests harbor the largest part of the country's unique biodiversity, and are at the heart of the country's conservation efforts. These forests are, however, under increasing threat of deforestation as a result of Madagascar's extensive poverty, particularly in rural areas. By focusing on the CEPF's strategic theme 1, identified in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile for Madagascar, "*Integrating local groups and individuals in the management of protected areas and reserves*", the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project directly addresses this principle threat. The Project has adopted a multifaceted and multidisciplinary approach to address the very real human-oriented threats acting upon the forests of Makira, while at the same time considering the needs of local human populations. The toolkit the Project staff and collaborators use to meet this goal includes socioeconomic research funded through the CEPF, and biodiversity and habitat inventories funded through the Global Conservation Fund (GCF) coupled with targeted development interventions and supported through environmental education and communication campaigns. In combination, these components provide the proper framework in which to develop effective protected area monitoring and management.

The Makira Forest Area Conservation Project is a partnership between the Wildlife Conservation Society and Madagascar's Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests with collaboration and financing from Conservation International and other partners. The project is overseen by a board of advisors, *Conseil d'Administration*, that includes representatives from each organization mentioned above, each of the three provinces in which the project is located, and ANGAP (the Madagascar national parks service).

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Creation of new protected area in Northeast Madagascar.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>Indicator 1 Proposed limits of the new protected area, the Makira Conservation Area (totaling approximately 3000 km²), are determined via biodiversity, land-use and socio-economic studies, by July 2004</i>	Biodiversity, land use and socioeconomic studies have been carried out and the limits of the Makira Conservation Area have been proposed and agreed upon at the national, regional, and local levels.
<i>Indicator 2 Boundaries of the Makira Conservation Area agreed upon by surrounding local communities and regional authorities by September 2004</i>	Boundaries of the Makira Conservation Area have been agreed upon at the national, regional, and local levels.
<i>Indicator 3 New protected area officially created by December 2004</i>	Draft arrêté for the legalization of the Makira Conservation Area will be completed by September 2005. Inauguration of the Makira Conservation Area planned for December 2005.
<i>Indicator 4 Land-use stabilized in areas surrounding the Makira Conservation Area by 2010</i>	Ten community-based resource management contracts have been completed. This amounts to 38,800 ha of land and 28,800 ha of forest under community control, and affects a population of 10,800 inhabitants.
<i>Indicator 5 Sustainable financing for the Makira Conservation Area is assured, by 2007</i>	In collaboration with CI CELB the first sale of carbon 'credits' has been completed. Marketing of carbon credits continues. Long-term collaborative agreements have been secured with the USAID supported Malagasy development organization Tany Meva.

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

The Makira Forest Conservation Area Project's global objective is to contribute to the conservation of the biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources in northeastern Madagascar through the creation of the Makira Forest Conservation Site. The conservation outcomes corresponding to this impact objective concern (i) no discernible loss of plant or animal species, (ii) no net loss of forest through unsustainable practices, (iii) no loss of critical ecosystem function. To satisfy these long-term objectives, and ensure the conservation of the biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the region, the focus of the first phase of the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project has been to complete the steps necessary for the creation and the initial management of the new protected area in the forests of the Makira region, including identifying and securing sustainable financing for the Site. This phase is well on its way to completion, considerable progress has been made in detailing the conditions necessary for 'legalization' of the Site de Conservation, and a tentative inauguration date for the Makira Forest Conservation Site is set for December 2005. Specific activities completed during this first project phase that satisfy the above mentioned impact objectives are detailed in section IV.

For this first project phase three main sources of financing have been secured: WCS funding, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF approved in February 2003) and the Global Conservation Fund (GCF contracted in November 2002). Some additional funding for the first phase of the project, secured in January 2005, came through a landscape level grant from the MacArthur Foundation; this partial funding targets ecological monitoring activities and support for community-based resource management transfers, and will continue through the 2007 calendar year. Further, long-term financing continues to be developed with CELB and GCF: carbon

financing. The first step has been taken in this initiative and carbon credits have been marketed; the first sale was to the Mitsubishi Motors International.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

During its initial stage, during the first year of the project, there were some delays due to personnel changes within the government ministries. The signing of the MOU with the government became an issue since the top people in the Ministry changed early in the project. We now have strong involvement and buy-in from the Direction des Eaux et Forêts (DEF) and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest. The changing government led to a delay in moving forward in general because they wanted to be (and we wanted them to be) better integrated into the project. To solve the delay, we held a series of meetings with the Minister and with the top officials of the Water and Forest Department and eventually reworked and signed the MOU and a "Convention d'Execution". We learned that the government has poor intra-department communications and would like to see a project address these problems through direct, large-scale logistical support to the DEF.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Revised land-use, habitat and species distribution maps are created and used to identify potential zoning scenarios	
<i>Indicator 1.1 Biodiversity (flora, avifauna, primate, terrestrial mammal, bat, butterfly, herpetofauna) and habitat surveys completed by December 2003</i>	A series of biodiversity inventories were conducted in the fall of 2003. From these inventories > 200 plant species, > 140 amphibian and reptile species, > 100 bird species, 15 micro mammal species, 13 lemur species and 5 bat species were identified. These inventories were critical to the determination of proposed limits for the Makira Conservation Area.
<i>Indicator 1.2 Population and socio-economic surveys completed by December 2003</i>	Socioeconomic surveys were completed in 109 villages that border the proposed Makira conservation Area. These surveys were critical in identifying the type and extent of human land use in the Makira region.
<i>Indicator 1.3 Land-use and vegetation cover maps produced and subsequent analysis conducted by December 2003</i>	Land-use and vegetation cover maps are completed. These maps have been instrumental in the zonation, provisional boundary identification and 'sur terrain' delimitation of the Makira Conservation Area.
Output 2: New protected area limits proposed, accepted and officially adopted	
<i>Indicator 2.1 Limits (as delineated on maps and supplementary documentation) submitted with explanatory documents to all appropriate authorities following established procedures for creation of new protected area by May 2004</i>	Limits with explanatory documents have been submitted to Water and Forest authorities including local (CANT), regional (CIREEF, DIREEF) and national (DGEF) authorities.
<i>Indicator 2.2 Local, provincial and national authorities accept the new protected area limits and proposed legislation to create the area by September 2004</i>	As a result of regional zonation workshops held in Maroantsetra, Madagascar in fall 2004 provisional Makira Conservation Area zonation and limits have been accepted by local, regional and national authorities. Recent progress on the legal status of Conservation Areas has prompted the drafting of

	an arrêté that will legalize the status of the Makira Conservation Area. Finalization of the arrêté is scheduled for September 2005.
<i>Indicator 2.3 Makira Conservation Area is inaugurated by December 2004</i>	Due to delays in determining the legal status of Conservation Sites the inauguration of the Makira Conservation Area has been postponed until December 2005.
Output 3: Natural resource planning and new protected area is integrated into local and regional planning documents completed in areas of highest threat to deforestation and risk to corridor integrity	
<i>Indicator 3.1 Makira protected area planning integrated into Plan Stratégique de Développement Rural PSDR) during land-use planning meetings during 2003-2004</i>	Quarterly participatory land-use planning meetings were held throughout 2003-2004.
<i>Indicator 3.2 At least 3 Community Development Plans (PDC) for critical communes around Makira benefit from using data from the MARPs and other project information by September 2004</i>	Using socioeconomic and biological data the Makira Project assisted in the creation of the regional development plan for the Mananara-Nord to Maroantsetra region, the Regional Development Plan for Ambatsoa, and the Provincial Development Plan for Tamatave region.
Output 4: Rural development activities are designed, negotiated, and initiated with targeted individuals and communities to: 1) Reduce deforestation 2) Compensate for voluntary relocation 3) Provide incentives for direct conservation activities	
<i>Indicator 4.1 Two activities to reduce deforestation designed, negotiated, and initiated through either implementation partners or directly with target communities by June 2004</i>	To date, ten community-based resource management contracts have been established - sustainable forestry a principle target - and permaculture programs initiated in all ten of these contract sites.
<i>Indicator 4.2 Individuals and communities seeking to be relocated are provided with satisfactory relocation program by June 2004</i>	By early 2004 it was decided that no relocation programs would be put in place for the Conservation Sites. A collaborative management approach with enclaves has been adopted instead.
<i>Indicator 4.3 Successful discussions are concluded with targeted communities to identify viable incentives for improved conservation activities (Conservation Performance Payments) by October 2003</i>	To date, ten community-based resource management transfer programs have been completed. Communities have agreed to reduce deforestation in their territory in exchange for control of management of the forest. Identification of additional community-based resource management transfer sites is ongoing.
Output 5: Conservation implementation capacity is improved in the area through a capacity building program that engages local stakeholders in active dialogue and provides active support for local NGOs and governmental partners	
<i>Indicator 5.1 Stakeholder communication strategy established and program functional by December 2003</i>	The Makira Forest Conservation Area Project hired a communications officer in 2003. The Project's communications program is functional and on going.
<i>Indicator 5.2 One local conservation organization supported or subcontracted and one regional development organization subcontracted by June 2003</i>	Long term subcontracts have been established with the local NGO Antongil Conservation for collaborative environmental outreach work, and with a socio-economic consulting agency from Tamatave.
<i>Indicator 5.3 Technical, administrative, and logistical</i>	Technical, administrative and logistical support has

<i>support provided to MEF, nationally and locally throughout 2003 and 2004.</i>	been provided to MEF since the beginning of the project and continues to be a principle component of the project's local and regional capacity building campaign.
Output 6:	
<i>Indicator 6.1 Potential investors in carbon benefits contacted and respond positively by December 2003</i>	A successful collaboration with the CI CELB program has been established and the first sale of carbon credits has been completed.
<i>Indicator 6.2 Project promotional materials and proposals prepared by July 2003</i>	Project promotional materials, targeting both national and international audiences, have been disseminated since the first year of the project.
<i>Indicator 6.3 Potential mechanisms for long-term financing determined and established by March 2004</i>	Potential mechanisms for long-term financing, including carbon credits, ecotourism, low interest loan programs and collaborations with interested stakeholder groups have been, and continue to be, investigated.
<i>Indicator 6.4 Negotiations or discussions concluded with foundations, trust funds, partners, or other concerned entities by August 2004</i>	Long-term collaborative agreements have been reached with several foundations and partners. This process is on going.

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

During this first project phase numerous activities, centered on the integration of local groups and individuals into the management of protected areas, have been completed. Specific measures of success toward achieving the goal of the first phase of the project include:

1. Completion of initial socioeconomic surveys in 109 villages surrounding Makira, which helped facilitate initiation of transfer of management agreements with targeted communities. These socioeconomic surveys identified in detail the variation among communities in i) demographics, ii) agricultural production, iii) market orientation, iv) land use practices – including variation in relative investment in slash and burn (tavy) and irrigated rice cultivation. This information assists in identifying rate and extent of various land use practices that may or may not be sustainable. This information is then used to inform targeted community development initiatives to ensure that over the long term there is no net loss of forest due to unsustainable resource use practices.
2. Finalizing contracts for the transfer of management of local forest resources with 10 target communities. These transfer of management contracts were the result of rapid rural appraisal (MARP) research conducted within the 25 communes surrounding the Conservation Site. With the signing, an agreement is made between the participating community-based management authority (COBA) and the Madagascar Department of Water and Forest to sustainably manage the actively used forest land, and to ensure the protection of the forests within the conservation site. With the signing of these contracts the project has secured the community-based management of 29,117 ha of agricultural land and 20,905 ha of forested land. The signing of these contracts now promotes the active involvement of 10,500 inhabitants in the management on their communal land. Further, through actively mapping the 'in-use' forest and agricultural lands of these 10 communities, a common limit between the GCF and the Conservation Site is fixed. This cooperative management agreement advances the delimitation of the Conservation Site. By creating these community based resource management contracts the benefits, as well as costs, of various land use practices are internalized and sustainable land use practices more easily adopted. The establishment of these contracts, in combination with targeted development and resource use monitoring will ensure that over the long term there is no net loss of forest due to unsustainable resource use practices.

3. Introduction of sustainable agriculture (permaculture) programs in 8 villages. Villages are visited on a 3-month basis to initiate and begin monitoring of sustainable “permaculture” activities, which included i) improved intensive rice cultivation practice, ii) composting, and iii) improved crop rotation practices. The interdisciplinary team led by the Project’s Development coordinator and assistant coordinator includes 5 members of the NGO Antongil Conservation, 4 agents of the Park National Masoala and 2 Peace Corps volunteers. These programs are ongoing and work to provide agricultural alternatives that counter the destructive and unsustainable practice of slash-and-burn agriculture.
4. The rehabilitation of an irrigation canal damaged by the last cyclone in Sahatany was initiated in December 2004. The repaired canal provides improved irrigation for 265 hectares of land and benefits 620 individuals.
5. Completion of 5 regional threat assessment workshops helping identify direct threats to the Makira forests. The threat assessment workshops, employing the WCS Living Landscapes protocol, were held in 5 of the 7 sous-prefectures; 2 workshops were held in the west - Befandriana-Mandritsara and Bealanana, 2 in the north – Andapa and Antalaha, and 1 in the south - Rantabe. These workshops assisted in building awareness about the Project and Site. The workshops also provided invaluable insight into the type and extent of threats to Makira. Identified principal threats in the west were the exploitation of precious woods, subsistence-based clearing of forest, and fires of cattle grazing. In the north the principle threat is the practice of the tavy (slash and burn) for rice cultivation. In the south the principle threat is illicit mining of quartz. These workshops focused on identifying the type and extent of threats, as perceived by the local communities, which exist in and around the Makira site. The workshops served not only to qualify and quantify threats, but also to engage local communities in dialogues concerning ways in which these threats can be countered.
6. Completion of a synthesis of the ‘disiderata’ of the populations surrounding proposed Conservation Site was completed. These data will provide useful insight into the concerns and interests of the communities surrounding the Makira Site, and will be instrumental in the ‘sur terrain’ verification of the final limits of the Conservation Site.
7. Completion of contractual agreements between the communities situated in the southern region of the Makira landscape to create an inter-communal dialogue platform (OPCI) in the south of Makira. This structure, with support from the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project development staff, will work toward the resolution of the problem of mining exploitation within the Makira site. The OPCI will function out of the village of Rantabe.
8. The Project provided technical and financial assistance in shaping the Regional Plan of Development (PRD) for the region of Ambatosoa and the Provincial Plan of Development (PPD) of Toamasina. To promote integration of the Makira project into the process of regional development the development staff participated actively in financing and shaping the Regional Plan of Development (PRD) for the sub-region of Analajirofo, which contains the sous-prefectures of Maroantsetra and Mananara-Nord. We also participated actively in financing and shaping the the Provincial Plan of Development (PPD) of Toamasina.
9. Capacity building of all radio stations surrounding the Makira site to promote information dissemination. The stations include 2 in Maroantsetra, 1 in Andapa, 2 in Antalaha, 2 in Mananara, 2 in Mandritsara, and 1 in Befandriana.

Additional activities completed during the first project phase that focus on ensuring the long-term protection of species, forest and ecosystem services within the Makira forest landscape include:

1. Completion of a series of 9 biodiversity inventories during 2003, which led to the cataloging of 222 plant species, 141 amphibian and reptile species, 101 bird species, 15 micro-mammal species, 13 lemur species, and 5 bat species. These biodiversity inventories provide information for (i) identifying the priority conservation zones with the Protected Area, (ii) determination of the limits of the Protected Area, (iii) monitoring activities to ensure that there is no discernible loss of animal or plant species with the Protected Area, (iv) identifying targeted research on critical species, such as the Fossa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*).
2. Aerial surveys of the Makira Forest Conservation Area were conducted in October 2004 in order to test and calibrate equipment that will allow for improved ecological monitoring of the site. The overflight allowed for a testing of this innovative technology, which will allow us to capture a detailed baseline of the starting situation, to assist with final limit preparations and marking, and initiate a systematic ecological monitoring program.
3. Initiation of conjoint patrols between WCS, Project Makira and the Department of Water and Forest. The patrols reinforce the collaborative efforts of WCS and E&F to insure the protection of the Makira forests. The patrols have begun in January of 2005, and are scheduled to be conducted on a quarterly basis.
4. Completion of forest zonation and delimitation workshops, and the resultant final report on the forest zonation in the 25 communes within which the Makira Conservation Site sits. This final report was a collaboration between the Water & Forest Department and Project Makira. Its completion provides the necessary approval to initiate (i) the arrêté that will formalize the status of the Makira Forest Conservation Area, and (ii) the on-the-ground verification of the Site's limits.
5. Initiation of 'sur terrain' verification of the provisional limits of the Makira Forest Conservation Area. This is a major undertaking that involves three 8-member teams comprised of two Project Makira staff and representatives from the government offices of Topography, Agriculture, Domain, Water & Forest, Region, and Commune. The protocol for the sur terrain verification involves (i) identifying the extent of village territories relative to the proposed limits of the Makira Forest Conservation Area, (ii) verifying in the presence of the government fonctionnaires that the village territory limits and the Makira site limits are not in conflict, and (iii) identifying the natural features of the landscape that best match the proposed Site limits to ensure the long-term monitoring and reduce potential future conflict.
6. Approval by the Ministry of Environment of the first sale of carbon credits, which amounted to greater than \$100,000 in funds becoming available for the management of the Makira Forest Conservation Area.
7. In further support for the establishment of the conservation site, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest imposed a suspension of all permits for mining and logging activities in proposed conservation areas.
8. Studies concerning (i) mineral exploitation, (ii) nontimber forest product extraction and use, and (iii) bushmeat hunting and market demand have been implemented.

Additional ongoing activities initiated during this first project phase that address the identified impact objective include:

Socioeconomic and Biological Research

- I. The initiation of an inventory of the fossa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*) within the Conservation Site. This initial inventory will provide the baseline data required to establish a long-term monitoring program of this species. As the largest endemic predator in Madagascar, and a threatened species, the fossa requires large areas of contiguous forest for its long-term survival; the forests of Makira represent one of the few remaining intact habitats large enough to support a viable population of fossa. Also planned conjointly with the fossa inventory is a study on the rate and extent of bushmeat hunting in the forests of Makira. As one of the principle threat to the forests of Makira, identified during the threat assessment workshops held in 2004-05, an understanding of the true nature of the threat on the fauna of Makira is critical to the Site's long-term management and protection.
- II. In collaboration with the Yale School of Forestry, a study of the status of the principle watersheds of the Antongil Bay has been initiated. The main objectives of the study are to (i) evaluate whether linkages exist between different land use categories (intensities) and water quality and flow regimes in watersheds of the Makira Conservation Site; (ii) provide baseline data on rate and extent of siltation into the Antongil Bay, which will inform a multi-year, interdisciplinary, grant proposal to study siltation in the Bay. The grant proposal is currently in review at NASA.
- III. In collaboration with the Antananarivo-based NGO Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Primates de Madagascar (GERP) a 3-year study of the ecology and conservation of the lemur populations existing within the Makira ecosystem was initiated in March 2005. The study will consider distribution and abundance of the numerous lemur species, variation in habitat requirements across species, variation in threats acting upon these populations, and serve to inform a long-term management plan for the protection of lemur populations.
- IV. A series of socioeconomic assessments (MARPs) in 6 locations in and around the Makira Forest Conservation Area are being initiated. The field activities will be a collaboration between the Makira Project, the University of Tamatave, and the consultancy organization of Ignace Ramandriana. These MARPs, which will be carried out in the Sikory valley, Vohimaro, Soamiangona and Maintimbato will be the first step toward putting in place a new series of 6 community-based resource management transfers.

Site Classification

In the past months there has been increasing clarity on the legal aspects of conservation sites in Madagascar; this is to the benefit of the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project. During March 2005 both the National Director and Principle Technical Advisor for the Makira Project participated in a week-long workshop, held in Antananarivo, to finalize the procedures for classification and legalization of conservation sites in Madagascar. From this workshop, and a follow up series of meetings held during May 2005, a step-wise process for the categorization and legalization of Madagascar's conservation sites was approved. The Makira Forest Conservation Area Project has completed all necessary steps, and is currently in the process of producing the decree for the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests that will grant legal status to the Makira Forest Conservation Area. Further, despite pressures from mining interests, a decree by the Minister of Environment, Water and Forest suspending all mining activities in proposed Conservation Sites continues to remain in effect, and is a significant step toward putting in place the Makira Forest Conservation Area.

Capacity Building

The Project continues to provide support to our local NGO partners. Our ongoing support of and collaboration with these local NGO partners has been further enhanced through a burgeoning collaboration with the Parc Zoologique de Doué-la-Fontaine, Paris France. The Project also continues to develop training programs to reinforce the capacity of our partner organizations, principally the regional Water and Forest authorities. Additionally, we have begun working with Aga Kahn - a development foundation that seeks to provide training to local communities and regional hubs in order to promote sustainable agriculture practices. Our work with Aga Kahn, while still young, focuses on sustainable agriculture in the western region of Makira.

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

With the exception of the planned inauguration of the Makira Forest Conservation Area in December of 2004, all planned outputs were realized within the proposed timeframe. The issues that delayed the 2004 inauguration, national level discussions about legalized status of conservation sites, have been addressed and the inauguration is planned for December 2005.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

As indicated in the original application documents the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project anticipated no adverse impacts on environment, social aspects, human health and safety. As of the completion of this first project phase no safeguard issues have arisen.

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 goals and objectives identified for the first phase of the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project were ambitious, and reflect the determination of the Madagascar government, WCS, CI and CEPF in seeing the largest remaining intact humid rainforest in Madagascar protected. The first project phase is now nearing completion and while there have been some political delays, this first phase has been a categorical success. Lessons have been learned, however; lessons that not only informed the first project phase, but will inform the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project as it moves into the next phase.

At the national level, as introduced in section III of this document, there were some project delays due to changes in ministry positions. These delays were dealt with, and as a result there now is a complete and well defined collaboration between the Madagascar government and WCS. This collaboration has led recently to the creation of a series of necessary steps, including identifying the type of governance and management, for legalizing the status of a conservation area. This documentation clarifies national and international interests in protecting Madagascar's unique biodiversity and facilitates an understanding on the part of all stakeholders as to the long-term goals of Madagascar's expanding protected area network.

Concerning on-the-ground project management, the lessons learned center on logistical and communication challenges; the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project study zone exceeds 4,611 square kilometers, sits in 3 regions - Tamatave, Diego, Majanga, and touches 25 communes and 120+ villages. At both the regional and local levels there are the interests of

numerous stakeholders to consider, yet it is only possible to travel the northern and western regions of the site via airplane, and a majority of the villages that touch the limits of the Makira Area require at least one day to reach by foot. As a result of these constraints, communication and structured planning of project activities are issues that the project administration continues to work on and refine. The communications campaign established during this first project phase has proven invaluable in reaching the large rural communities with information about the Makira Conservation Area Project. Further, the hiring of two representatives, one each for the northern and western regions, has greatly improved the Project's ability to maintain communications with regional authorities and facilitate field activities.

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

The project was well designed from the beginning, which has led to the measurable success seen now. Detailed preliminary assessments into the feasibility of putting in place a conservation area in the Makira plateau greatly informed the involved WCS staff and partner groups. These feasibility studies included initial collaborative efforts among the International Resources Group (IRG) through a USAID-funded project (PAGE), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Madagascar's Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests to develop carbon financing options to aide the conservation of forests in northeastern Madagascar. Field-based evaluation by WinRock International assessed the potential carbon storage capacity of the Makira Forests.

Communication with local authorities - the proposed Makira Forest Conservation Area touches 25 communes - also served to clarify the interest of and effect on communities with regard to putting in place a new protected area in the region. The *Site de Conservation* is in its essence a community-based form of biodiversity conservation, and without a proper understanding of local attitudes, interests and intentions long-term sustainability of such a conservation site would be a great challenge.

Transparency between WCS and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest aided greatly in the success of the project. Local, regional and national Eau et Foret authorities are well integrated into the project, collaboration occurs at all levels, and capacity building continues to be a major focus of project activities.

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

The selection and formation of the project staff, along with the insights provided by the Project's Conseil d'Administration and the logistical support provided by the WCS staff in Antananarivo have led directly to the successful execution of the project. The project staff was formed in September of 2003. The original staff included a national director, technical advisor, 4 chef de volet - research & conservation, development support, transfer of resource management, communication, and an administrative staff of 2. In November of 2005 the project staff expanded to include a coordinator of geographic information systems and 2 regional representatives. Considering the great expanse of area which the Makira Project covers, the addition of regional representatives has greatly improved the project's ability to disseminate information, address local concerns as they arise, and initiate project activities throughout the Makira system.

The Conseil d'Administration has been a valuable voice in helping direct the project. Including representatives from the three involved regions, ANGAP, Conservation International, Eau et Foret, and WCS the Conseil d'Administration meets semi-annually with the project's National Director and Technical Advisor to discuss project progress, limitations and planned future activities. The Conseil d'Administration embodies the collaborative transparent approach that WCS has taken with the Makira Forest Conservation Area project.

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
Wildlife Conservation Society	A	~ 70,000 USD per year (ongoing)	Funds target the overall management of the project, and augment specific activities as needed.
Tany Meva Foundation	A	~ 80,000 USD for 1 year, beginning in 2006	Funds target community development.
Imperial Tobacco	A	~ 120,000 GBP for 3 years, beginning in 2006	Funds target community development, environmental education, and targeted biodiversity research.
Conservation International CELB	A	~ 110,000 USD (ongoing)	Funds target project overhead, community development, PA management, and targeted biodiversity research
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation	B	~ 90,000 USD for 3 years, beginning in 2005	Funds target landscape level community development, environmental services protection, and targeted biodiversity research.

***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.)*

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The funding support of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, in combination with the funding support from the Global Conservation Fund has been instrumental in the successes achieved during this first phase of the Makira Forest Conservation Area Project. Through this support WCS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest, has succeeded in initiating the process of protecting almost 380,000 hectares of intact pristine low and mid altitude rainforest in northeastern Madagascar. While some issues relating to legalization of the *Site de Conservation* status remain, most of the major delays have been resolved. The formalizing and establishment of this new form of protected area is of national importance, as well as global conservation importance. The Makira Forest Conservation Area Project has been at the forefront of this effort, and will continue to be as the second phase of the project begins. This second phase will focus on continuing efforts to secure sustainable financing, shaping the governance of the new protected area, establishing long-term management plans for the protected area, and

initiating appropriate monitoring programs, both social and biological, to ensure the integrity of the protected area.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes

No

If yes, please also complete the following:

For more information about this project, please contact:

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