

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Birdlife International

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Wetland Conservation in the Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex, Madagascar

Implementation Partners for this Project: 24 local associations, local government, technical services, SIRAMA (sugar company)

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): April 1, 2004 – December 31, 2006

Date of Report (month/year): May 21, 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

1. The project purpose

The purpose of this project was (as stated in the application): *Conservation status of the biodiversity of the Mahavavy-Kinkony wetlands is stabilized or improved.*

In the proposal, this was accompanied by the following explanation: *Special attention will be given to taxa endemic to Malagasy wetlands, and among these in particular the most endangered species and those endemic to western Madagascar. The purpose will be achieved by launching ecotourism and natural resource or environmental management initiatives, implemented through NGO-government-private sector partnership with ecotour operators and industrial food-producers operating locally, linked to local populations through legally registered local associations.*

In reporting documents and templates, the original purpose was lost, and only the explanation was shown. For the record, the true purpose is repeated above and reported on here.

2. The Durban Vision

This project was developed in 2003, during which the President of Madagascar announced his 'Durban Vision' to *"bring the protected areas from 1.7 million hectares to 6 million hectares over the next five years to come in relation to IUCN protected areas categories. This expansion will take place through strengthening of the present national network and implementation of new mechanism for establishment of new conservation areas"*. The mode of implementation of the Durban Vision was not immediately clear, and so the project was drafted without detailed reference to it. However, implementation of the Vision began rapidly, with the previously unprotected Mahavavy-Kinkony a high-priority site. The Vision was also compatible with the planned CEPF project activities. The project purpose and outputs were therefore not altered, but creation of a new 'Durban Vision' protected area at the site became a natural additional objective, without diminishing the importance of the existing ones.

3. Important terms

Decree for Temporary Protection: Developing the system for permanent protection of a large site is complex and time-consuming, while biodiversity and habitat degradation continue. This decree is a step used in most if not all of the new Protected Areas under development, to give legal protected status while the tasks needed to gain permanent protection are carried out over the following two years. The decree is attached.

Schema Global d'Aménagement: This is the general management plan of the whole Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex under Temporary Protection (approved in January 2007). It was developed with participation of local communities, the local administration, NGOs, and representatives of the

Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest, Ministry of Energy and Mines, and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

Plateforme de Gestion: A multi-stakeholder structure, eventually to become the official management authority of the new "Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex" Protected Area. It is comprised of a General Assembly and a Council. Its General Assembly is composed of representatives of local stakeholders, the local administration, local representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forest, of the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. Members of the Council are elected from the General Assembly. Technical support comes from representatives of the BirdLife International Madagascar Programme.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Conservation status of the biodiversity of the Mahavavy-Kinkony wetlands is stabilized or improved.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>1. Conservation status of key species (endemic birds, aquatic reptiles and fish) stabilized or improved</i>	All key species present throughout the project (monitored twice yearly) with no evidence of declines; data concern waterbirds, fish, freshwater turtles and aquatic plants.
<i>2. Area of ecologically intact ecosystems maintained</i>	Wetland ecosystems including marsh, lakes and mangrove areas mapped from comparable satellite images before project (2000) and towards end (2005), truthed from field observation throughout (including 2006). No significant losses detected.
<i>3. Connectivity of ecologically intact ecosystems is not lost</i>	Linkage between wetlands ecosystem assessed during field visits; no significant losses detected. Understanding of ecosystem connectivity used to inform perimeter and proposed zonation of the new protected area. Data used on maps and GIS also including socio-economic information.
<i>4. Threats from hunting, overfishing and wetland conversion are sustainably reduced</i>	Commercial hunting banned throughout Complex (by Communes, well before Decree for Temporary Protection). Use of illegal, fine mesh fishing gear reduced. No major new wetland conversion took place. All threatening activities controlled under Decree for Temporary Protection, covering entire site.

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

Monitoring results have not indicated significant losses of biodiversity or ecosystem connectivity, indicating that the purpose has been substantially achieved: the conservation status of the biodiversity of the Mahavavy-Kinkony wetlands has been stabilized. Three further successes provide a strong legal and institutional basis for making this result sustainable:

- signature of the tri-ministerial decree for temporary protection of the whole complex in January 2007 (now quadri-ministerial following the separation of Energy and Mines into separate ministries),
- establishment of the "Plateforme de Gestion" as a coordination and management body for the Protected Area, bringing together all the relevant stakeholders,
- strengthening of the national conservation NGO, Asity, and the BirdLife International Madagascar Programme teams, and progress towards admission of Asity to the BirdLife Partnership (as a separate process, funded through other sources). When this process is completed, Asity would take over the primary BirdLife role in Madagascar, with the BirdLife secretariat continuing to support. This approach has many advantages in making BirdLife support sustainable.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The major, and very positive, unexpected impact, was the creation of the Protected Area, although as explained above this became an objective soon after the project began.

As the project proceeded, it became clear that the site has considerable terrestrial biodiversity value in addition to the well known presence of the critically endangered Crowned Sifaka *Propithecus (verreauxi) coronatus*; supplemental funding from CI Madagascar was obtained to survey terrestrial biodiversity more thoroughly, resulting in several other discoveries including the recently described bat species, *Myzopoda schliemanni* and *Scotophilus marovaza*, one of the largest known roosting sites of the fruit bat *Rousettus madagascariensis* (the only one known between Parc National Tsingy de Bemaraha and Anjohibe-Mahajanga caves).

No negative impacts are known.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs:

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Communities and industrial food-producers are motivated to conserve wetlands through awareness of the value of their local heritage, and of opportunities to benefit from ecotourism and improved natural resource management.	
1.1 <i>Communities participate in project activities.</i>	24 local/village associations working with the project of which 12 are concerned with natural resource management (lakes and other habitats), 2 for ecotourism and 10 for community monitoring, environmental awareness-raising and income generating activities related to wetland biodiversity. Project area overlaps 5 communes, all of which supported its aims; elected mayors of all 5 signed a joint declaration in support of a new Protected Area.
1.2 <i>Industrial food producers participate in project activities.</i>	2 food producers operating long-term in the site: SIRAMA (sugar) in central delta, and Aquabio (aquaculture) in small mangrove area. SIRAMA participating by facilitating 6-monthly visits to sites it owns and providing logistical support to BirdLife local office. Aquabio attended project workshops (e.g. for Plateforme de Gestion) but not otherwise closely involved - a small operation outside the highest priority part of the complex.
1.3 <i>Delivery of project is not blocked by significant opposition.</i>	No strong opposition to project activities known, and support shown by wide participation and communal declaration.
Output 2: Locally-controlled ecotourism, including biodiversity conservation objectives, is established in the Mahavavy Delta wetlands and forests.	
2.1 <i>Guidebooks, tour operator</i>	Malagasy nature tour operators feature Mahavavy Kinkony wetland complex, which is promoted through Association Nationale des

websites and brochures include information on Mahavavy.	Guides de Madagascar and the <i>Cercle Malgache pour l'Ecotourisme et Tourisme Durable</i> (ECOTOD). Internationally, articles on ecotourism and the new protected area published in Africa Birds and Birding, World Birdwatch, Naturetrek Newsletter, and repeated in numerous websites including BBC. Detailed information provided to Hilary Bradt <i>Guide to Madagascar</i> and will be included in current update (now in press). Lonely Planet interested but not until next edition. National tour operators participate in several recce visits. Overall the site and its attractions are well known to tour operators and increasingly to visitors.
2.2 <i>Ecotourism associations established and rangers trained in focal areas.</i>	Guides from associations <i>Jeunes Fleurs</i> and <i>Tantely</i> trained in accommodating visitors, showing them rare birds without disturbance, and building basic facilities for visitors; those of <i>Tantely</i> (at Makary, Lac Kinkony) used by tourists coming to see Sakalava Rail, other waterbirds and giant fruitbats (<i>Pteropus rufus</i>).
2.3 <i>Legal documents or codes of conduct to guide ecotourism prepared by at least one ecotourism association.</i>	Draft Tourism Code of Conduct developed with, and discussed and accepted by, all interested associations in Nov 06 (and the Plateforme de Gestion council in Apr 07). Based on ANGAP model and Eaux et Forêts Forest Station model, adapted to the local context
2.4 <i>First ecotour group visits area (2004), and at least 10 groups by 2006, with revenue to local communities.</i>	Cumulative total of 4 groups visited. First group in 2004 (Naturetrek) and 3 in 2005. No tour groups in 2006; tours including Mahavavy were advertised nationally and internationally but did not take place: uptake lacking.
2.5 <i>Construction of new tourist infrastructure and facilities begins.</i>	Sites prepared and basic infrastructure maintained by associations <i>Jeunes Fleurs</i> and <i>Tantely</i> ; further building not appropriate until reasons for scarcity of tourists are addressed.
Output 3: Locally-controlled community management of fisheries, including biodiversity conservation objectives, is established in Lake Kinkony and satellite lakes.	
3.1 <i>Fishery management associations, structures or systems established in all focal areas.</i>	8 fishery management associations established: 3 at Lake Kinkony and 5 at satellite lakes. Management system (Schema Global d'Aménagement) with fishery zones for Lake Kinkony included as annex to Decree for Temporary Protection, based on fish survey. Fishery management also integrated into Boeny Region Action Plan for biodiversity conservation and development, with support of Mitsinjo District and Communes.
3.2 <i>Legally enforceable management plans are prepared by at least one fishery association.</i>	5 associations include fishery management in their activity plan, but Association management plans not completed in 2006 (planned for 2007 with other funding); priority was given to developing higher level management system as necessary part of Decree for Protection, supported by all fisheries associations, in coordination with the "Plateforme de Gestion".
3.3 <i>First activities in fishery management with biodiversity conservation implemented.</i>	Decreased use of small-mesh fishing gear; most now conforms to legal sizes.
Output 4: Hunting controls or bans are designed, introduced and enforced, and their impact monitored: legal protection for key species nationally, commercial ban at sub-prefecture level through agreement of commune mayors, and further control of subsistence hunting through local laws ('dina').	

4.1 <i>Commercial hunting ban are designed and ordered throughout Mitsinjo Sous-Prefecture in parallel with national legislation.</i>	Commercial (non-subsistence) hunting banned in all 5 communes covering entire Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex (Communal Decrees published, supported by Mitsinjo District). This ban also included in Temporary Protection Decree.
4.2 <i>Control and monitoring of hunting parties from outside region: numbers decrease between year 1 and year 3.</i>	Hunting parties (a few persisted in coming in 2006) monitored by BirdLife team, local associations and Mitsinjo Water & Forest offices, but reliable data on total numbers not available.
4.3 <i>Mortality of ducks and large waterbirds believed to be hunting-related decreases.</i>	6-monthly waterbird census assesses hunted species and collects data on hunting parties; Flamingoes and Madagascar Teal (threatened, hunted species) populations show no decline; up to 285 teal recorded (Aug 06).
Output 5: Environmental initiatives are launched in wetlands owned or used by agribusinesses (sugar) or aquaculture companies (seafood) operating locally.	
5.1 <i>All key wetlands for conservation owned or used by industrial food-producers identified and importance made known to owners.</i>	All private sites of conservation importance mapped (on land of SIRAMA and Aquabio), and surveyed; importance communicated to companies, and companies engaged in Schema Global d'Aménagement under the Decree for Temporary Protection.
5.2 <i>Two or more companies (aquaculture and sugar) develop wetland conservation agreements with project.</i>	Conservation agreements not made, but SIRAMA and Aquabio areas covered in new Protected Area and thus by its proposed zonation scheme and Schema Global d'Aménagement.
5.3 <i>Implementation of wetland conservation agreements begins.</i>	Implementation of new Protected Area through its Schema Global d'Aménagement beginning; more detail under development related to SIRAMA and Aquabio in full management plan for permanent protection, to appear in 2007 or 2008.
Output 6: A monitoring, evaluation and overall management structure for project delivery is established and functioning.	
6.1 <i>Workplan agreed by project team and steering committee.</i>	Steering committee (high-level ANGAP and DGEF representatives) meetings in February each year approved all activities, including continuation towards permanent protection (February 2007 meeting). Strong approval and support expressed by the committee.
6.2 <i>Activities are carried out successfully and within budget.</i>	Activities completed within budget; some outputs not fully achieved but additional ones compensated, as discussed below.
6.3 <i>Support and technical assistance to in-country work are provided by BirdLife secretariat.</i>	Technical and financial reports provided to National Steering Committee, Feb each year, confirm BirdLife secretariat support; all reports checked and submitted to CEPF by secretariat.

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

Output 1 was well achieved, with strong support from all levels: village (many), commune (5 in the site), district (Mitsinjo), region (Boeny), province (Mahajanga) and national. Each of these has a specific role to play in large-scale conservation initiatives; the project developed a clear understanding of these, and developed a communication framework accordingly. Participation of leaders at all these levels was excellent, with District and Regional leaders often attending key

project events. A result of this was the strong endorsement from the Region to the proposal to make Mahavavy-Kinkony its highest priority for new Protected Area creation, and the joint declaration by numerous elected local leaders and government technical services representatives in support of it. This output was the foundation on which the success of the program was built.

Leaving aside the final project management output, the other outputs each corresponded to an approach to wetland conservation: launch of ecotourism, community-based fisheries management that conserves biodiversity, hunting control, and partnerships with large private sector food producers active at the site. Of these, fisheries management is most important in project success, while hunting bans were critical for certain species, explained below. Ecotourism and private sector collaboration proved much less valuable, yet can still make a big contribution at the appropriate time, as explained in the next section.

In the recent past, parties of Malagasy and expatriate hunters visited the complex and shot large numbers of waterbirds, especially ducks and flamingoes, and occasionally also lemurs. The hunting ban was very important to conservation of these species; in particular, populations of the threatened Madagascar Teal and the two flamingo species (Greater and Lesser) are assessed to have been stable or overall increased since BirdLife began visiting the site in 1997.

The key to wetland conservation in the Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex is natural resource management by local communities, with controls that also ensure that biodiversity is conserved; for the wetlands, fisheries are the most important, and their management therefore became the focus for this project, but other resources, especially wood (from dry land forest and mangroves) are also important. Community management is so important because the vast majority of impacts on the site's biodiversity come from the activities of local communities or of visitors from elsewhere 'mining' resources. Mismanagement of resources, through open, uncontrolled access, is wasteful and damaging to biodiversity, as well as being often unprofitable and grossly inequitable; it also damages environmental services such as clean water supply and causes social conflict, affecting all inhabitants.

Through the project, local associations were created and their capacity built so that they are able and legally eligible to take on management of resources. Before it was known that the Complex was proposed for protection under the Durban Vision, it was planned that transfer of management would immediately follow this capacity-building. However, two additional processes were introduced, which, while delaying a little the management transfer, will ultimately strengthen the conservation system. These are (1) temporary protection of the area, and (2) creation of the Plateforme de Gestion to coordinate the conservation and development activities of the Protected Area. The first of these provides an initial level of legal protection by defining boundaries, objectives, activities permitted or banned and entity responsible for management; it includes a preliminary zoning plan. The second of these began development of this entity, with statutes, internal rules and workplan developed with technical support from Birdlife. These were both achieved by the project, and provide a much stronger framework for the natural resource management transfers to be coordinated, and collective decisions made, to achieve conservation.

Transfer of management rights to the associations has not yet been formalized; this forms part of a phase of activity of a wider BirdLife program scheduled to last until early 2008 (with UK DFID funding). Funding is still available for this in 2007 and so this program continues, with transfers expected by the year-end.

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

Output 2 (Locally-controlled ecotourism, including biodiversity conservation objectives, is established in the Mahavavy Delta wetlands and forests) and Output 5 (Environmental initiatives are launched in wetlands owned or used by agribusinesses (sugar) or aquaculture companies (seafood) operating locally) were not completed. Output 3 concerning community-based

management proved more complex and also more important than originally expected, as explained above; satisfactory progress was made and completion is expected through cofinancing in 2007.

Ecotourism Initial indications were promising, with a highly successful first visit by Naturetrek, resulting in enthusiastic articles in magazines, newspaper websites and an international award to Naturetrek for responsible tourism. However, despite vigorous promotion of the site nationally, and much interest from national tour operators, no tour groups visited in 2006, because of lack of demand; the Naturetrek tour was cancelled as it did not attract enough applicants, and other agencies decided not to include the site in itineraries. This surprised the operators as much as it did BirdLife. Enquiries to operators and individual clients produced the following explanations, the third of which shows that the blockage is not simply poor infrastructure.

- the site currently needs too much time to visit, at the expense of time spent elsewhere in Madagascar.
- it is a new destination and more time is needed for its attractions to become better known, and to appear in new guide books (this will happen shortly with the new Bradt guide)
- the whole NW region does not yet compete effectively with the traditional itineraries in the E and S of Madagascar; no individual site can challenge these, and many visitors will not travel to the NW without a suite of attractions to visit. The NW does in fact have such a suite, which could make it a viable alternative to the E and S, but it has not been effectively marketed; promoting an individual site is not enough to divert tourists to the area.

This output is achievable in the longer term; local associations are enthusiastic (without unrealistic expectations), and Regional buy-in is strong. To this end, a regional strategy has been developed with Malagasy tour operators, Office Nationale du Tourisme, Mahajanga Province, Boeny Region and the Ministry of Tourism, all of whom received briefing documents produced by BirdLife. Taking into account BirdLife lobbying through the Office Régional du Tourisme d'Antananarivo, Analamanga Region chose the NW Antananarivo-Mahajanga axis as top priority to develop tourism projects. This is an important step for the whole Boeny region. In addition, BirdLife is using contacts through membership of ECOTOD, a working group hosted by the Office Nationale du Tourisme which lobbies on tourism policy, and coordinates and promotes sustainable tourism, for which it is developing a certification scheme.

CI Madagascar likewise remains convinced of the potential of the region for implementing sustainable tourism and rates Mahavavy-Kinkony as a top priority area for developing it. A funding application has therefore been submitted to CI for implementation of the strategy.

Private Sector Two food producers were engaged in the project, and participated as described in the table above. However, neither was in a position to be strongly involved or to deliver major conservation gains. The sugar company SIRAMA, based in Namakia in the centre of the Delta, has recently been privatized, and has struggled to recover productivity and profitability from a legacy of inefficient practices, exacerbated by the political and economic crisis of 2002. In this state, neither conservation partnership, nor expansion that may have had a negative impact on biodiversity, were possible. The wetland sites on SIRAMA land were visited by monitoring teams and did not deteriorate during the course of the project; being private, they still enjoy a reasonable level of protection. The long term outlook for SIRAMA remains unclear.

The area managed by the aquaculture company AQUABIO is a small part of the site's mangrove ecosystem; given its small area, unexceptional biodiversity, and the relatively low degree of threat to this compared to freshwater areas, it has not been considered a high priority to act there. For all private sector interests in wetlands (see also Madagascar Oil in the final section of this report), the approach followed has been to engage them among the multiple stakeholders in the new protected areas through the Plateforme de Gestion.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

No actions appropriate.

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 temporary protection of the Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex, together with that of the Alaotra wetlands in the East, is of the most important events ever in the conservation of Malagasy wetlands, which have been very much neglected in the Protected Area network. Both are among the largest protected areas (especially Mahavavy Kinkony: 268,236 ha) created under the Durban Vision. The process involved the large Ministries of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, agreeing a tri-ministerial decree together with the usual Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests; this was not the case for most other new PAs (Energy and Mines have since been split into two Ministries, so for further developments we are now dealing with four). This achievement will serve as a model for other wetlands and large sites; indeed, it is being followed closely by BirdLife (with CI support) for the 300,000 ha Mangoky-Ihotry complex in the SW, which is due for declaration in 2007.

As the project has been completed and the protection of the Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex declared, it has become clearer that the key to its conservation is working with all stakeholders to make management of their resources sustainable; and that the main stakeholders are the local communities and their representatives, and the government (local administration and technical services). Working only with private companies could not have resulted in the success achieved. Working with the private sector can assist conservation, especially as the Malagasy economy grows; however, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that most rural areas of Madagascar have a subsistence economy and most impacts on sites stem from subsistence activity.

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

The strategy of employing resident regional teams played a big role in achieving the purpose. BirdLife established a small team (3 staff: site manager, communications office and conservation officer) resident at the site, after a period when activities were only carried out by visiting teams. This was an important step, which took some time to introduce, but activities accelerated greatly when it was achieved. In particular, the day-to-day support provided to ensure the legalization of the local associations' status as well as capacity building cemented a relationship of trust between the regional teams and the associations, as well as other local stakeholders (administration and technical services).

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

Logistics of working in a large site, with little or no road access for a significant part of the year, are challenging, and at times potentially risky. For access, the project made use of motorcycles and boats (bought by the project, as it was found that rental introduced unacceptable risks from poorly-maintained boats), and the presence of permanent teams was essential. Communication was also a problem; satellite phones were used to communicate with Antananarivo, but problems were experienced with these, and email connections were never satisfactory. It was also suggested by an evaluating team that more communication with the other BirdLife wetland

conservation program in the remoter Mangoky Delta of the SW would have been an advantage. Budgeting for HF radio or more investment in satellite technology would be beneficial in future.

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
DFID-UK	A	GBP 250,000	2003-2008, shared with Mangoky site; c. GBP 150,000 for Mahavavy/shared costs
British Bird Watching Fair	A	GBP 157,000	2004 onwards; all BirdLife Madagascar activity; c. GBP 100,000 for Mahavavy/shared costs
MacArthur Foundation	C	USD 275,000	2004-2007; mainly Mangoky site, but some capacity-building especially for Asity contribute to success at Mahavavy (c. USD 100,000)
CI Madagascar	C	USD c.78,000	Support for several complementary activities; see list below*
CEPF small grants thru' CI Madagascar	C	USD 50,500	Establishment of node in Namakia for local development micro-projects
DGIS-TMF (Netherlands)	C	Eur 40,000	Part of larger framework grant allocated to Madagascar
BirdLife International	A/C (equal)	c. GBP 40,000	support from UK and Nairobi offices, excluding CEPF funded support from Site Action Unit (UK)
UNDP-GEF	C/D	tbc (full project)	Mahavavy expected to be included as demonstration site in GEF project c.2009
Infrastructure development for NW	D	tbc	road and infrastructure improvements promised, in part based on importance of site in Durban Vision and tourism plans.

****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.)*

***CI Madagascar-funded activities**

- Initial survey of Mahavavy-Kinkony (2002-3, before current project) \$25,000
- Attendance at BirdLife International World Conference 2004, Pan-African Ornithological Congress and *Building on experience* training for institutional development (BirdLife, Asity; also ANGAP, DGEF for World Conference) c. \$16,000
- Development of a Georeferenced biodiversity database for Mahavavy-Kinkony \$7,800
- Inventory of terrestrial biodiversity of Mahavavy-Kinkony complex \$20,600
- Development of multi-stakeholder management organization ("Plateforme de Gestion") for Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex \$8,600

- Development and submission to government of protected area dossiers for Mahavavy-Kinkony (consultants directly funded by CI, not through BirdLife)

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.

The Program will continue long-term, but BirdLife role will change. It is eventually expected that BirdLife will be represented by an autonomous national Partner NGO rather than a country program managed by the Secretariat. Site conservation will be driven by the "Plateforme de Gestion", working under the Durban Vision new PA network, and supported by the Partner NGO. The transition will be careful and controlled: Secretariat support will not cease, and BirdLife will not leave; its representation will merely change, as has been achieved elsewhere (e.g. Seychelles, Indonesia). This strategy is supported by the Govt of Madagascar, and also by CI Madagascar which has done much to support its implementation to date.

No dates have yet been fixed for these changes; they are dependent on progress and its evaluation by the BirdLife Partnership and Secretariat. Funding is currently available until 2008. Fundraising is underway for continuation, with first priority to the end of 2009 when protected areas at Mahavavy and also Mangoky are due to become permanent.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The program has, together with the work of partners such as Asity, the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and The Peregrine Fund, and the effective catalytic, advocacy and funding support of CI, helped to build up considerable momentum in the study and conservation of wetlands in Madagascar, with the Mahavavy recognized as a prime site. Biological monitoring has been carried out in collaboration with Asity members, and more detailed study of Sakalava Rail, for which the site is of particular importance, has also begun. Aquatic plants as indicators and keystone species are also getting attention through the work of Dr Harison Rabarison and colleagues. These studies are being used to inform elaboration of the management plan to support permanent protection and also to evaluate threatened species status globally.

Madagascar Oil became active in the site in 2006, carrying out oil exploration in a concession largely overlapping it. Engagement with BirdLife ensured that the EIA and environmental permit for seismic survey made frequent reference to the conservation importance of the area, and that the information included was technically sound; and also that continuing consultation with BirdLife and others is crucial for avoiding adverse impacts. Many further discussions took place thereafter with the company, the National Environment Office and other stakeholders (CI, ANGAP, DGEF and others). The seismic surveys have been completed without apparent ill effect, but the long-term outcome, and the plans of Madagascar Oil, are not currently known. BirdLife is proceeding in its relations with great caution and frequent consultation with other stakeholders including CI Madagascar; it has not been deemed appropriate to sign any MoU or other agreement, as has been done with the mining company QMM.

Attached documents

1. Declaration of support for Protected Area (before the Decree for Temporary Protection was presented or signed)
2. Decree for Temporary Protection, with boundary (with 2000 land cover) and zonation maps (Annexes 1 and 2 of Decree)
3. Land cover map for 2005, for comparison with 2000 land cover attached to Decree.

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, 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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DECLARATION COMMUNE POUR LA MISE EN PLACE DU SYSTEME D'AIRES PROTEGEES DU COMPLEXE DES ZONES HUMIDES MAHAVAVY-KINKONY

Suivant la déclaration présidentielle (Durban 2003) portant sur la nécessité d'augmenter la superficie des aires protégées à Madagascar.

Tenant compte de l'importance des ressources naturelles et la biodiversité présentant une richesse exceptionnelle à Madagascar et au niveau de la province autonome de Mahajanga, Région Boeny, plus particulièrement dans le Complexe des zones humides de Mahavavy-Kinkony (District de Mitsinjo), non seulement importants du point de vue bio-écologique mais également riches en ressources comme les produits de pêche et halieutique dont les bénéficiaires directes sont les communes rurales de Katsepy, Antongomena Bevary, Matsakabanja, Mitsinjo, Antseza, Bekipay et Ambarimanga.

Vu les rôles économiques joués par les zones humides et les forêts environnantes ;

Mais en constatant que des menaces, des pressions, des destructions et des exploitations irrationnelles s'exercent encore sur les dites ressources naturelles mettant en cause leur pérennité et hypothéquant l'avenir socio-économique de la région.

Après l'Atelier qui s'est tenu à Namakia le 20 et 21 Avril 2006 «Consultation sur l'intégration du Complexe Mahavavy-Kinkony dans le Système d'Aires Protégées à Madagascar (SAPM)»

Les soussignés de la présente déclaration commune, la Province sous l'égide du Président de la Délégation Spéciale, le Chef de Région du Boeny, le Chef du District, les Maires des communes rurales concernées, les autorités traditionnelles s'engagent à prendre leurs responsabilités respectives – chacun dans son domaine et d'une manière concertée, **POUR ASSURER LE MAINTIEN ET LA GESTION DURABLE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES** suivant les textes en vigueur, tout en oeuvrant pour le développement socio-économique de la Province autonome de Mahajanga.

Les collectivités territoriales décentralisées, les services techniques déconcentrés de l'état et les autres intervenants au niveau de la Province autonome de Mahajanga sont tenus à participer effectivement à la mise en œuvre de la présente déclaration.

De ce fait, les soussignés considèrent la présente déclaration commune comme un complément pour les documents de création de la Nouvelle Aire Protégée au niveau du Complexe Mahavavy-Kinkony.

Les Maires des Communes rurales concernées

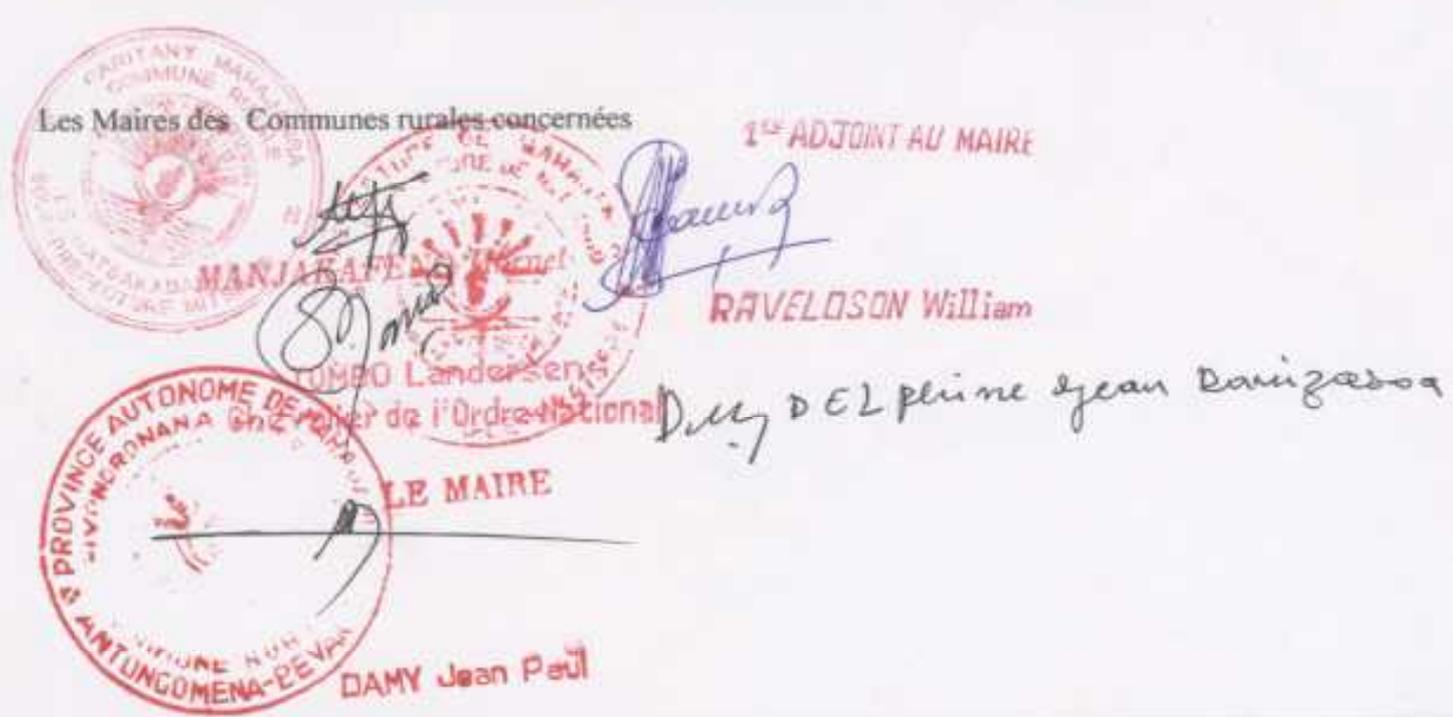
1^{er} ADJOINT AU MAIRE

RAVELISON William

LE MAIRE

DAMY Jean Paul

Dely DEL plume Jean Ranizabo



Les Autorités Traditionnelles

Sai d'gencia

Le Chef du District de Mitsinjo

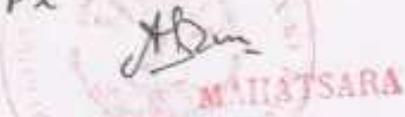


Le Directeur Régional du Développement Rural



Le Directeur Inter-Régional de
L'Environnement et des Eaux et Forêts

Px



RAZAFINDRANALY
BERANTO PATRICE
Ingénieur Hydraulicien

Le Chef de Région Boeny



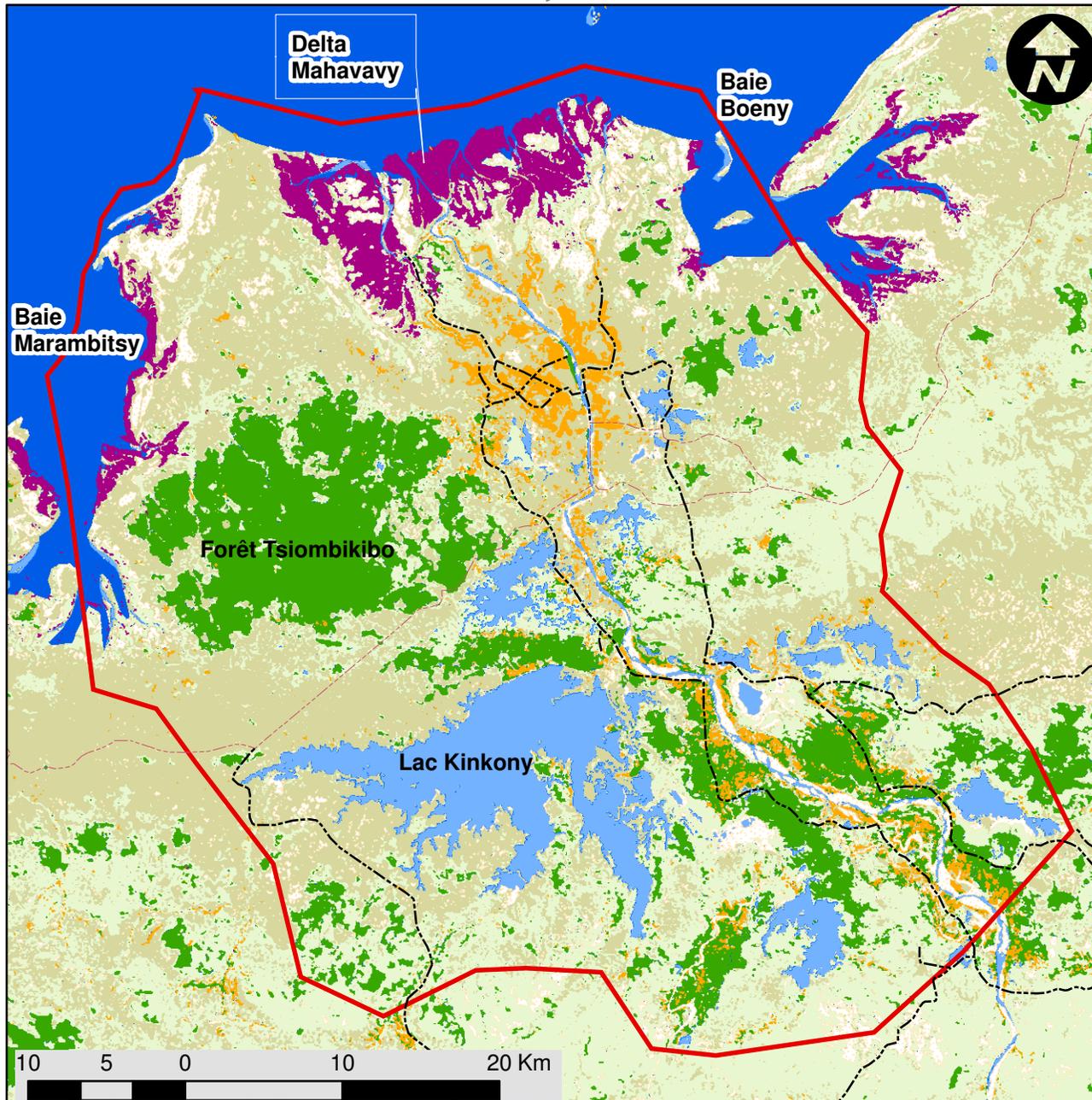
RAKOTOMALALA
Andriananja Max Olivier

Le Président de la délégation spéciale
de la Province autonome de Mahajanga



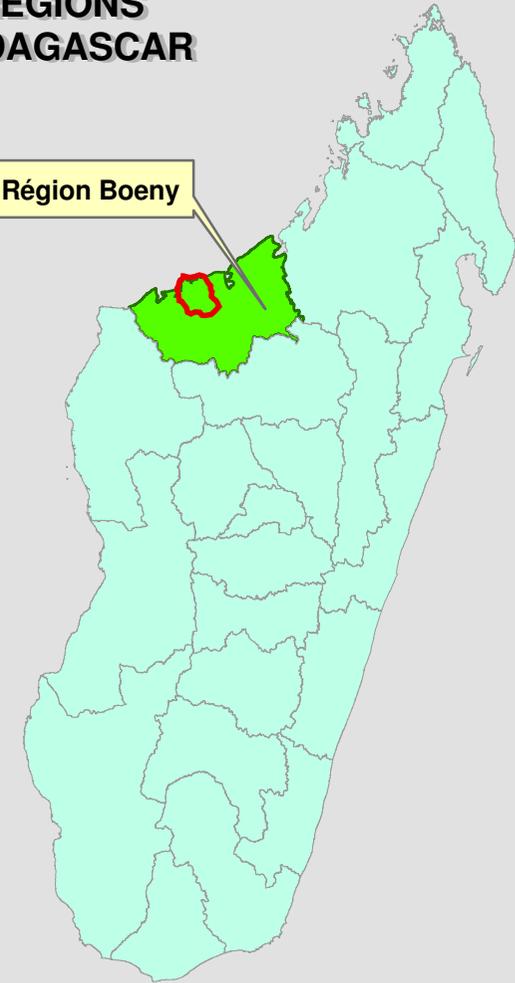
Colonel TOTO Vincent

OCCUPATION DU SOL COMPLEXE ZONES HUMIDES MAHAVAVY-KINKONY REGION BOENY, MADAGASCAR



22 REGIONS
MADAGASCAR

Région Boeny



Légende

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Route Nationale | Savane Type2 |
| Route Nationale carrossable | Zone de Culture |
| Piste | Forêt Dense Sèche |
| autre | Mangrove |
| Limite Complexe | Zones Humides Continentales |
| Sable | Mer |
| Savane Type1 | |

Source de donnée: Landsat 2005 (Mars)