

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Organization Legal Name:	Global Wildlife Conservation
Project Title:	Building a Future for the Amphibians of Madagascar
Grant Number:	65823
CEPF Region:	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
Strategic Direction:	3 Strengthen civil society capacity at local and regional levels through training, exchanges and regional cooperation.
Grant Amount:	\$194,200.00
Project Dates:	November 01, 2015 - June 30, 2019
Date of Report:	October 01, 2019

Implementation Partners

List each partner and explain how they were involved in the project

Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA): project lead through James Lewis (but see challenges section). ASA hosted the two recruited roles, provided support on project communications grant management, advice on implementation and in identifying further funding sources.

Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC): fiscal sponsors of ASA. Overall financial management of the project.

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust: led in partnership with ASA on project development and principle partner providing in-country support to the two recruited positions (inc. office space, administration and finance support, mentoring support) and implementation of Component 5 (also see challenges section).

Franco Andreone: Co-chair of the Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) Madagascar. Organisation of Advisory Board, mentoring and management support for the two recruited positions.

Angelica Crottini: Amphibian Specialist Group Madagascar. Mentoring support for the two recruited positions.

Association Mitsinjo: provided logistical support in the organisation and running of two training events relating to survey, monitoring and conservation of amphibians at Andasibe

Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group (MFG): assisted in logistical organisation and running of amphibian awareness and education festival in Tamatave.

Conservation Impacts

Summarize the overall impact of your project, describing how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile

This project achieved its main purpose of establishing a national focus for amphibian conservation in Madagascar which has been absent until now. The recruitment of Tsanta Rakotonanahary (Amphibian Programme Lead, APL) and Serge Ndriantsoa (Amphibian Programme Officer, APO) has enabled the national amphibian action plan (New Sahonagasy Action Plan 2016-2020, NSAP) to be implemented in a more coordinated way, help facilitate amphibian research and start to build a national community for amphibian conservation.

Component 1

Establishment of a legally registered local association Miaro ny Sahona (MISA) which is linked to the Amphibian Specialist Group and Amphibian Survival Alliance. Currently comprises Tsanta Rakotonanahary, Serge Ndriantsoa and Andolalao Rakotoarison (Co-chair ASG Madagascar).

Component 2

Establishment of amphibian survey and monitoring network. Providing training in survey and monitoring methods to 23 individuals from 11 organisations and 6 members of Government. Updating *Mantella cowanii* Action Plan. Ensuring annual chytrid monitoring at 8 sites and development of 3 guidance documents in relation to chytrid

Component 3

The establishment of these two positions (APL and APO) and subsequent creation of MISA has strengthened working with Government relating to amphibian conservation issues in Madagascar. Ongoing engagement with potential funders for post CEPF funding

Component 4

A 2-day amphibian awareness and education festival was held in Tamatave in May 2019. The first day was a conference debate on amphibian conservation held at the University of Toamasina. The second day at Parc Ivoloaina was a festival for children and adults, with competitions, activities themed around amphibians and the environment. A series of further festivals at other sites around Madagascar is planned (funding dependent). Assistant APL participated in two knowledge development trips for community conservation methods to Durrell sites in Alaotra and Ankarafantsika. Engagement with local communities to develop components of *Mantella cowanii* Action Plan

Component 5

Organisational assessment using the Conservation Excellence Model (CEM) undertaken for Vondrona Ivon'ny Fampandrosoana (VIF) and training recommendations for them identified. Suite of training interventions delivered (see Final Deliverables for details)

The two recruited roles have also been coordinating the implementation of the NSAP, with the CEPF deliverables and NSAP actions not being mutually exclusive with much overlap. Some of the key impacts from this not already mentioned above are

- **With assistance from Durrell undertaken a mid-term review of progress against the NSAP (draft report provided as part of this final report).**
- **Working with Rainforest Trust to identify new amphibian KBA's outside of the existing Protected Area network. Coordinating activities with local NGO's Madagasikara Voakajy and Centre ValBio.**

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>Within five years coordinated amphibian conservation efforts are in place across the country with at least eight organizations contributing increased resources to regional efforts and the status of priority amphibian species in four CEPF Priority areas and at least four additional KBA sites are improving.</p>	<p>Annual amphibian conservation focused research being undertaken at Ankaratra, Andasibe, Betampona and recently Ambohitantely Protected Areas (all KBA's and 1 CEPF priority site). Planning for work in another Protected Area and CEPF priority site (Itremo) is ongoing. Improvements in coordination of activities in Madagascar have been made during this project but further work is needed. Good Government relations that were strengthened through this project and enabled a continuation of engagement following the national action planning process in 2014-2016 (NSAP 2016-2020). This will facilitate further development of amphibian focused and related conservation efforts in the forthcoming years by maintaining amphibian conservation in the consciousness of some key Government officials/departments at the national level.</p>

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

Impact Description	Impact Summary
<p>In three years Madagascar has a well-coordinated and self-sustainable amphibian conservation and research community, implementing strategic and effective conservation efforts for amphibians, with support from a range of global partners.</p>	<p>The recruitment of Tsanta Rakotonanahary (Amphibian Programme Lead, APL) and Serge Ndriantsoa (Amphibian Programme Officer, APO) has enabled the national amphibian action plan (New Sahonagasy Action Plan 2016-2020, NSAP) to be implemented in a more coordinated way, help facilitate amphibian research and start to build a national community for amphibian conservation. The establishment of a legally registered local association Miaro ny Sahona (MISA) which is linked to the Amphibian Specialist Group and Amphibian Survival Alliance, will enable support to be provided directly to Madagascar for continuation of these efforts. Ongoing support to MISA (fundraising, technical) is being provided by the project partners. Developed a good working relationship with Madagascar Government, keeping amphibian conservation in focus at the national level. Training needs for VIF identified and some implemented. Will aid VIF's development in order to carry out more effective conservation efforts for amphibians.</p>

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

Key successes

The key successes of the project have been the establishment of a new locally registered association focussed on amphibians – MISA - to continue the efforts of this CEPF project and coordinating implementation of the NSAP.

The establishment of MISA will enable funds to go directly into Madagascar rather than through an overseas organisation (e.g. GWC) for dispersal to Madagascar.

There has been, and still is to a large extent, a reluctance for groups engaged in amphibian conservation in Madagascar to collaborate or share knowledge and information (see challenges). Therefore, the development of a network of local NGO's engaged in amphibian conservation with the aim of encouraging knowledge sharing and a platform for providing assistance in identifying fundraising opportunities and communication is significant. Even though this is still in relatively early and progress is fairly slow this is an improvement on past efforts.

The amphibian festival held in Tamatave proved very popular with students, journalists and tour operators engaged and the many and varied questions asked, demonstrated their genuine interest and strengthened the importance to continue to work to preserve this unique Malagasy heritage.

The exchange hub between the Ministry of the Environment, the various organizations and the researchers coming from the university was also a success because there was a consensus among them on some points on the application for a research permit.

Working with VIF to undertake an organisational review and assessment proved successful through a wholly collaborative approach. This generated a number of training recommendations to help VIF develop as an organisation and improve their effectiveness, particularly as managers of Ankaratra Protected Area. A number of these were very successfully implemented including advanced training of 2 senior VIF staff and the

Key challenges


The principle challenges this project faced was the loss of key project personnel at the start and during the project period as well as staff role changes.

The Project Lead James Lewis was to have an integral part in the project specifically around working to ensure broad global involvement in long-term support of the regional effort. James left his position with Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA) in early 2016 shortly after the project was due to commence. Following James departure, ASA underwent a strategic and operational review which resulted in a move away from specific project implementation to a focus on facilitating networks and coordination of amphibian conservation efforts at a global level.

Throughout the project ASA continued to provide help notably on communications, advice on implementation and in identifying further funding sources. However, the loss of the dedicated project lead, meant responsibilities had to be taken on by other project staff, notably Jeff Dawson from Durrell, stretching resources and time. This resulted in slower progress than would be desired to building a wider support base and future funding for the project.

Durrell, one of the implementing partners, also experienced some significant staff changes during the project period. Within the Madagascar team the Head of Species Conservation and Research was to be a key link to the two recruited roles providing on-the ground mentoring and advice. This position changed twice during the project period – May 2016 and September 2018. Both times recruitment took approximately 5 months to fill the post. This in combination with them then having to get familiar with all of Durrell's activities in Madagascar meant it was a challenge to ensure this support for the roles. However, during these periods of change support was provided and available through other senior Madagascar Durrell staff and considerable remote management by Jeff Dawson.

The assessment of VIF using the CEM framework was led by Durrell's Head of Learning and Development Jamie Copsey, who helped devise it. Jamie left Durrell in June 2017. Jamie's departure had some impact on identifying subsequent training (primarily due to his replacement again having to become familiar with a large portfolio of work) though this was largely compensated for.



As mentioned, significant management and mentoring of the two recruited roles was undertaken by Durrell's Jeff Dawson. Jeff's role within Durrell changed in April 2018 (Field Programmes Coordinator) and again in April 2019 (Acting Head of Field Programmes). These role changes meant a wider work responsibility, with less time able to be dedicated to the project than would ideally be liked but with the increasing experience of the two recruited roles less hands on management was likely required. Tsanta Rakotonanahay, the recruited Amphibian Programme Lead, unfortunately experienced a number of health issues, particularly during 2017 resulting some extended periods of medical leave from the project. The Programme Officer Serge Ndriantsoa oversaw implementation of the project during Tsanta's absence but inevitably progress on activities was slowed. Tsanta was also on maternity leave for 4 months in early 2018. This was in part mitigated by recruiting the Amphibian Specialist Group Madagascar co-chair Andolalao Rakatoarison as maternity cover.

One of the main challenges to developing collaborative networks for amphibian conservation in Madagascar is the reluctance of groups / individuals to engage and collaborate with one another for various reasons. Whilst this has been overcome with various groups and resulted in the beginnings of an amphibian network, some prominent members of the amphibian community within Madagascar have not engaged with the project as would have been hoped, despite ongoing efforts and alternative approaches to engagement.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The loss of key personnel as mentioned previously was unexpected as was the delay in recruiting. For component 5, the pre-assessment took longer than expected due to further meetings with VIF being required and was completed June 2017. However, it was still expected that training activities and the post-training assessment could be completed within the time period. Implementation of training around data management (a key recommendation) however was delayed unexpectedly for two main reasons: illness of the training provider preventing travel to Madagascar in October 2018 and availability of the key VIF staff at the same time which limited dates. This resulted in the training being undertaken in April 2019. A post training assessment ideally should be carried a minimum of 6 months post training so that an accurate assessment of how it is being embedded and utilised within the organisation can be carried out. The decision was made to plan for the September / October 2019, partly to ensure the assessment was worthwhile but also to fit with VIF staff availability. As a grant extension was not approved this has been delayed until further funding is secured as VIF and project partners are still keen for it to happen.

Initial funding from CEPF was not received until June 2016, 6-months after the project start date. Activities were on hold until the funding was confirmed (although recruitment process for the 2 roles had begun) with the project running approximately 6-months behind the proposal schedule (as stated in all reports to date).

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Describe the results from each product/deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1	Develop a key conservation actor with the skills and expertise to sufficiently and effectively coordinate the implementation of the New Sahonagasy Action Plan.	1.1	APL employed Individual identified and employed to take on the coordination and oversight of the New Sahonagasy Action Plan and coordinate the development of amphibian conservation efforts in Madagascar.	Tsanta Rakotonanahary employed since July 2016
1	Develop a key conservation actor with the skills and expertise to sufficiently and effectively coordinate the implementation of the New Sahonagasy Action Plan.	1.5	APL established in a position of responsibility APL established as a key player in the future of Malagasy amphibian conservation community as demonstrated by ongoing support from the national and international community.	APL and Assistant APL co-authors on two articles for FrogLog the Amphibian Specialist Group newsletter. Both attended and presented at the Association of Tropical Biology Conference in Antananarivo in July 2019.
4	Increased understanding, engagement and	4.3	Dissemination of key information to	5-times weekly updates on Malagasy frog species and sites on project Facebook (3,111 followers) and Twitter (451 followers) during project period

	support for amphibian conservation throughout Malagasy society.		wider audience Key documentation and information relating to amphibian conservation, research and protocols made easily available for the local scientific community, policy makers and society at large.	4 blogs posted on Durrell website Guidance documents and protocols developed and shared with local NGO's
5	Develop the institutional capacity of Vondrona Ivon'ny Fampanandroana (VIF).	5.4	VIF strategic / operational plan produced The final workshop will result in the development of a short term (3-5 year) operational plan for VIF to guide their work and further organisational development	This was to be done following the post-training assessment. Although the development of a strategic plan was identified as a training need (Recommendation 6) this is perceived by VIF as being a lower priority than others.
1	Develop a key conservation actor with the skills and expertise to sufficiently and effectively coordinate the implementation of the New Sahonagasy Action Plan.	1.2	APL assistant identified and employed to help the APL in all the key aspects of the NSAP implementation.	Serge Ndriantsoa employed since October 2016

1	Develop a key conservation actor with the skills and expertise to sufficiently and effectively coordinate the implementation of the New Sahonagasy Action Plan.	1.3	Personal development plan for the APL and Assistant APL produced and tracked during the course of the project, and training organized to reinforce capacities accordingly.	<p>Personal Development Plans produced for both APL and Assistant APL led by Durrell. Reviewed annually. Training implemented:</p> <p>GIS course to improve technical abilities English classes to improve communication Mentoring in developing workplans, blog writing provided by Durrell staff</p>
1	Develop a key conservation actor with the skills and expertise to sufficiently and effectively coordinate the implementation of the New Sahonagasy Action Plan.	1.4	Advisory board established, in coordination with the networks of the Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA), the IUCN SSC Amphibian Specialist Group, Madagascar (ASG) and Durrell	<p>Advisory board established involving project partners, and members from ASA, ASG, Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group, Duke University, Government of Madagascar, Madagasikara Voakajy.</p> <p>Meetings moved from quarterly to bi-annually split between overseas advisory group and Madagascar based group. This was done to overcome issues of time and date arrangement and primarily language. General difficulties in arranging advisory board meetings due members availability. Unfortunately there was a lack of engagement and response from Malagasy board members in this process.</p>
1	Develop a key conservation actor with the skills and expertise to sufficiently and effectively coordinate the implementation of the New Sahonagasy Action Plan.	1.6	A mentorship network established in partnership with the ASG, providing technical and operational support to the APL (incl. Franco Andreone support in Mada)	<p>Ongoing mentoring from Durrell staff to APL and Assistant APL particularly from Jeff Dawson (based in UK) e.g. undertook monthly arrangement calls, aided in development of work plans and undertook reviews, financial reporting and budgeting, communication writing. In-country technical support provided from various Durrell staff. Jeff undertook 3 management trips during project period.</p> <p>Franco Andreone and Angelica Crotinni provided additional mentoring over the course of the project.</p> <p>Support on writing and delivering communications offered and provided by ASA.</p>
2	Develop and	2.1	Identification	Survey and Monitoring network established. 22 people

	strengthen collaborative networks to help deliver the NSAP objectives.		of Key networks that could benefit amphibian conservation in Madagascar, and establishment of partnership/common actions based on opportunities.	<p>from 11 organisations (including Government) undertook a 4-day training course in Amphibian survey and monitoring techniques and planning at Andasibe in 2018. Identified further training needs for groups.</p> <p>Established a database of local organisations in Madagascar engaged in amphibian conservation and overseas researchers to act as a resource base for linking groups together with common aims. Developed a funding database to provide network with upcoming funding opportunities. Assistance offered to help with funding applications.</p> <p>Developed set of documents (e.g. basic survey protocol and data sheets, hygiene and biosecurity protocol, guidance for applying for research permits) and distributed to all in network.</p> <p>Challenge: Little pro-active engagement from groups to make use of network</p>
2	Develop and strengthen collaborative networks to help deliver the NSAP objectives.	2.2	The Chytrid Emergency Cell (CEC) is supported and demonstrate enhanced effectiveness at implementing actions.	<p>APL and Assistant APL organised the annual National Chytrid Monitoring Programme on behalf of the CEC, ensuring collection of swabs from 8 sites and subsequent export for analysis.</p> <p>Helped facilitate further chytrid research in Madagascar from overseas researchers including aiding in the permit process and assisting in logistics.</p> <p>Developed chytrid related guidance e.g. hygiene and biosecurity guidance, reporting dead frog guidance.</p> <p>Assisted in developing and delivering annual updates to Government on chytrid and related research in Madagascar</p>
2	Develop and strengthen collaborative networks to help deliver the NSAP objectives.	2.3	at least 8 national NGOs / groups across Madagascar trained and engaged in amphibian conservation activities.	<p>Engaged ten local NGO's in survey and monitoring network. Provided training to 22 individuals from 11 groups on amphibian survey and monitoring techniques in 2018.</p> <p>Assistant APL provided mentoring and training to Malagasy herpetologist Jary Razafindraibe for amphibian survey work in Ambohitantely Special Reserve.</p> <p>A 2-day training course for staff from the permitting department for the Ministry of Environment was carried out in September 2018 in Andasibe. In addition to building relationships this was to provide a basic insight and understanding of amphibian research, to help those staff in reviewing research permit applications. This was followed by a 1-day workshop in Tana involving Ministry</p>

				staff and representatives from local NGO's and organisations to discuss how to improve and streamline the research permitting process for all involved
2	Develop and strengthen collaborative networks to help deliver the NSAP objectives.	2.4	Support Malagasy organisations to secure funding for amphibian conservation. At least one application per year for Mitsinjo, MaVOA, Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group, VIF and ADEFA, prepared by organizations with APL support	Supported VIF in application for CEPF funding in 2017 (successful). Wider project team supported VIF in obtaining funds in 2017 from GWC to reinstate community patrol activities at Ankaratra PA. Providing quarterly funding opportunities and offered support in preparing funding applications to local groups - no uptake yet. Development of Mantella cowanii Action Plan done in collaboration with local communities and local NGO's. This action plan will help with funding applications in the future. National Geographic Species Recovery Fund application planned for October 2019. Working with Madagasikara Voakajy and Centre ValBio to identify new unprotected amphibian KBA's in Madagascar for potential future Rainforest Trust funding.
3	Establish a sustainable funding mechanism for the continued oversight and implementation the New Sahonagasy Action Plan (NSAP).	3.1	a long-term fundraising strategy is established, that will ensure sustainable funding for the network and priority actions.	Funding brief developed led by Durrell with input from partners and Advisory Board. ASA using to engage prospective donors interested in Madagascar. No success in obtaining further funds as yet
3	Establish a sustainable funding mechanism for the continued oversight and implementation the New Sahonagasy Action Plan	3.2	At least 2 Partnership with private sector companies established, with objective to establishing a sustainable funding	Key activity for Project Lead James Lewis. His loss at start of project meant loss of capacity and expertise within project team to undertake this.

	(NSAP).		mechanism.	
3	Establish a sustainable funding mechanism for the continued oversight and implementation the New Sahonagasy Action Plan (NSAP).	3.3	Close working relationship between APL & government authorities to support the action plan and implementation of policies and strategies, as evidenced through meeting minutes and bi-annual Government updates	APL and Assistant APL developed very good working relationship with key Government officials getting their support for this work. Regular meetings with officials were organised and held though officials frequently cancelled these due to competing priorities. This was compensated for by frequent ad-hoc meetings (during times when present at same events), phone calls and emails. Quarterly brief summary updates on progress and annual reports provided to the Government. Annual 1-day meeting to update Government on progress of CEPF project and NSAP held in 2016 and 2017. 2018 meeting postponed due to Government elections. Training to develop knowledge and understanding of amphibian survey and monitoring methods provided to Government officials from the research permitting department. Given the bureaucratic difficulties within the Government this was a great achievement.
4	Increased understanding, engagement and support for amphibian conservation throughout Malagasy society.	4.1	Strategy for the implementation of education, information and awareness campaigns throughout Malagasy society developed and implemented in conjunction with the ASG Communication and Education Working Group.	A 2-day amphibian awareness and education festival was held in Tamatave in May 2019. The first day was a conference debate on amphibian conservation held at the University of Toamasina. The second day at Parc Ivoloina was a festival for children and adults, with competitions, activities themed around amphibians and the environment. This was in collaboration with Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group. A series of further festivals at other sites around Madagascar is planned (funding dependent). Ongoing engagement with education groups Save the Frogs and Conservation Fusion over collaboration on promoting amphibian education and engagement activities. This deliverable was delayed due capacity challenges(outlined elsewhere in report) to concentrate on first developing local amphibian survey network.
4	Increased understanding, engagement and support for amphibian conservation	4.2	Four working relationship with community-based groups established,	Assistant APL undertook two visits to Durrell's field projects in Alaotra and Ankarafantsika to develop knowledge and understanding of community-based conservation activities. Involved local communities in the development of Mantella cowanii Action Plan. Currently engaging with local communities at Fohisokina on

	throughout Malagasy society.		and engagement with other local community based organisations to promote biodiversity conservation and a sustainable use of their resources.	development of conservation activities for this species. Preliminary engagement with local communities for future conservation efforts at Marosalava forest in northern Madagascar.
5	Develop the institutional capacity of Vondrona Ivon'ny Fampanandroana (VIF).	5.1	CEM pre assessment report produced, identifying the organisational strengths and organisational weaknesses of VIF. These weaknesses will be the targets of subsequent training interventions.	CEM pre assessment along with series of training recommendations for VIF finalised November 2017. In total 8 training recommendations for VIF made. Subsequent meetings in March 2018 identified those that should be a priority for implementation as part of the CEPF project.
5	Develop the institutional capacity of Vondrona Ivon'ny Fampanandroana (VIF).	5.2	Capacity development intervention reports produced, outlining what was undertaken during the various training interventions. The training include at least one senior staff	VIF Director Harilala Rahantilasoa attended a 5-day training course on Managing and Leading Conservation projects in Mauritius in August 2017 (Recommendation 8) VIF Head of research Falitiana Rabemananjara undertook the training course "From Mauritius to Madagascar: building regional capacity for biodiversity conservation and monitoring" funded by CEPF in 2018/2019 (Recommendation 8) Nirinarison Rabezanahary (Monitoring and Evaluation Manager) and Bénie Vonjy Razafindriaka (Environment Manager) undertook a week-long knowledge exchange trip to Durrell's project in Alaotra to understand how Durrell manage and run community based Protected Area management programmes to help inform activities at Ankaratra Protected Area (Recommendation 3) Andriantiana Rabezanahary and Andriamampianina

			from VIF trained in management and leadership training (5-week course)	Rakotoarisoa (VIF technicians) along with 8 members of Ankaratra local associations undertook week-long knowledge exchange visit to Ankarafantiska Protected Area. This was to see Durrell's work with local communities and meet the local community associations involved in managing the Protected Area (Recommendation 3) 3-day training workshop delivered to four senior VIF staff on data management (Recommendation 4) Ongonig to identify suitable group to provide mentoring on developing comms strategy
5	Develop the institutional capacity of Vondrona Ivon'ny Fampanandrosoana (VIF).	5.3	CEM post assessment report produced, identifying organisational strengths and weaknesses of VIF and how they have changed following targeted capacity development and training interventions.	Not undertaken. Being organised for first-half October 2019. On hold until further funding secured.
5	Develop the institutional capacity of Vondrona Ivon'ny Fampanandrosoana (VIF).	5.5	Good Practice Guidelines for conducting small NGO effectiveness checks in the Indian Ocean Region produced.	Not done. To be led by Jamie Copsey (as his area of expertise) following completion of post-training assessment. Jamie Copsey left Durrell in July 2017

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

As part of their activities the two recruited roles have produced the following:

Rapid Response Protocol: guidance on reducing the risk reduce the risk of transfer of pathogenic organisms within and between amphibian populations in the wild and for bringing amphibians into captivity from the wild if necessary (arriving from the disease).

Standard protocol for the ecological monitoring of Amphibians in Madagascar: a relatively simple method based on the sampling time which must be quite short, the cost of sampling expensive and the human need the minimum possible but knowing that all the species likely to be present on the site will have to be sampled. Primarily for groups not undertaking amphibian surveys but wishing to collect information on amphibian populations for comparison across years. In addition, a standardised data collection sheet has been produced.

Research permit application guidance for fauna and flora in Madagascar: guidance on how to request a research permit in order to undertake research in Madagascar.

Hygiene and biosecurity guidance: This guidance has been designed to be used during a field visit to prevent transmission of diseases, primarily chytridiomycosis. The proposed guidelines are flexible and adaptable. All visitors should adopt basic biosecurity concepts and adapt them to each situation in the field, even if the site manager does not specify requirements.

Guidelines for reporting dead or sick frogs: intended for multiple people who frequent the environments or amphibians are present. Reporting dead or sick frogs can be an important early warning to amphibian disease outbreaks such as chytridiomycosis.

These documents have been distributed to the members of the local NGO network as well as to researchers engaged by the two roles. Work with the Government is ongoing to include the hygiene and biosecurity guidance with any issued research permits.

The *Mantella cowanii* Species Action Plan is currently in final draft form and will be available in due course.


Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building.

Consider lessons that would inform:

- Project Design Process (*aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Project Implementation (*aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings*)
- Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community

The scope of the project in the proposal was ambitious given the nature of the amphibian community in Madagascar. The time to get a thriving network of amphibian conservation organisations developed in Madagascar was probably underestimated. As mentioned there appears to be a great reluctance for groups to share information on work that they are doing or ideas. This is a barrier to building collaborative, knowledge sharing networks that takes time to overcome. Implementing joint training courses and outreach events such as been done in this project are a very good way to start breaking these barriers down and building a relationship. Good progress has been made but continued effort is needed to really have a network of groups that can work together and support each other to deliver effective conservation.



Some key local individuals and groups engaged in amphibian conservation in Madagascar did not engage with the project at all. The reasons for this are likely varied but highlights the difficulty in building a national conservation community for amphibian conservation. It is therefore important for any project realise that all groups will not be willing to engage and to focus efforts on those who are. . As outlined implementing the project was hindered by the loss of some key individuals and organisational changes which was unforeseen at the design stage. It does however highlight the need for projects to be able to cope with the loss of key individuals. This project did so with some success by shifting responsibilities to over members and focussing on some key areas.

Sustainability / Replication

Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated, including any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability.

The main success has been in the establishment of a local NGO focussed on amphibian conservation to which future funds can be directed. There is also a lot of willing amongst the partners to continue a number of the key aspects of the project namely the network development and educational outreach which have been well received and successful.

Identifying and securing funds for sustaining the project has proved challenging despite the generally positive outlook on the project from outside organisations. Funding what are essentially coordinating roles, albeit Madagascar nationals, generally does not fit with many conservation grant priorities and not seen as attractive to many donors (similar problems are found trying to fund Red List coordinator roles for example). Options such as getting donations from multiple zoos/organisations have been explored but so far has failed to get any traction, likely as few hold Malagasy amphibians or have any presence in the country.

Safeguards

If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards

As the project focussed primarily on coordinating activites relating to amphibian conservation there were no issues elating to social or envionemntal safeguards. Engagment with local communities for the knowledge exchange programmes were via existing Durrell projects where there are long-standing agreements and worknig relationships (Durrell has been working in Alaotra and Ankarafantsika for over 20 years).

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF

Additional reports on specific activities carried out June 2016 - December 2018 submitted with respective progress reports. Available again on request.

Additional Funding

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

Total additional funding (US\$)

\$192,302.00

Type of funding

Please provide a breakdown of additional funding (counterpart funding and in-kind) by source, categorizing each contribution into one of the following categories:

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

A: Additional Durrell co-financing: 9,000USD

The CEPF budget contained 3,000USD per year for office rent costs. As the project personnel were being hosted in the Durrell HQ offices in Antananarivo this rent should have been paid to help cover overheads. Due to the importance and ongoing commitment to the project Durrell forewent these payments in effect keeping them for use by the APL and Assistant APL.

B: GWC funding: 18,700USD (January 2018 - June 2018)

Project staff helped secure a short-term emergency grant from GWC to strengthen the management of Ankaratra Protected Area (including renovating a field station and employing a permanent staff member at site) and restart vital community patrol efforts at site. This grant was given based on information collected during the CEM process and advocacy by Durrell staff on importance and need.

B: CEPF funding to VIF: 160,602USD (May 2018 - April 2020)

APL, Assistant APL and Durrell staff provided assistance to VIF and input into their application to CEPF for funding to support management of Ankaratra Protected Area. Part of this grant is to support the training of VIF in those recommendations identified during the CEM assessment and not able to be carried out in this project

B: Chester Zoo funding for Mantella cowanii workshop: c.4,000USD (November 2018)

The Mantella cowanii Action Planning workshop was able to be organized due to the two recruited roles being in place and co-financed through CEPF grant (due to conservation impact at a priority CEPF site Itremo and community conservation potential). Due to this the project team were able to secure additional funding from Chester Zoo to ensure the running of the workshop.



Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

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

1. Please include your full contact details (Name, Organization, Mailing address, Telephone number, E-mail address) below

Jeff Dawson, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Les Augres Manor, La Profond Rue, Trinity, Jersey JE3 5BP British Channel Islands. Tel: 0044(0)1534 860161. Email: jeff.dawson@durrell.org