

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Field Museum of Natural History
Project Title:	Support to the Malagasy International Association Vahatra
Date of Report:	25 February 2012
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CEPF Region: Madagascar

Strategic Direction: Consolidation

Grant Amount: \$214,391.00

Project Dates: 1 July, 2009 to 31 December, 2011

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner): 1) Volkswagen Foundation and 2) John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation – both of these foundations providing additional funding for infrastructure support to The Association Vahatra, as well as field studies and publications

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

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

The long-term future of the unique and endemic biota of Madagascar rests in the hands of the Malagasy. Certainly for technical support and financial aid the onus is on foreign foundations and granting agencies to help with the advancement of conservation on this island nature, but in the final assessment it is up to the Malagasy themselves to expand programs and national policy; organizations such as Vahatra will play an important role to this end. The mandate of Vahatra and the passion of its founding members is the basis for considerable long-term advancement. Further, the financing model Vahatra has adopted, via trust funds, provides the needed long-term financial stability.

It is groups such as Vahatra that have the strategic capacity to forage ahead and help established integrated national directions and perspectives. In concrete terms these include:

- 1) The education and advancement of generations of Malagasy graduate students that will be the future academics, field biologists and scientists, and decision makers of their nation;
- 2) Improvement of information on the biota of the island and applying these data to conservation and management programs;
- 3) Advancement of the Malagasy scientific community, specifically those individuals working in the domain of conservation biology;
- 4) Progress in the publication on scientific information on the biota of the island through a technical journal;
- 5) Expansion of pedagogic information available to the Malagasy public on their unique animal fauna.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

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

The intended short-term impacts of Vahatra, as reflected in the current project, are to:

- 1) Help reinforce the infrastructure of the Association Vahatra – this will have a major impact on the capacity of the organization to train and advance Malagasy graduate students working in the domain of biology and specifically conservation biology. Partial rehabilitation of the Vahatra building is crucial for augmenting the quality of the working environment for students and researchers associated with the organization and this will lead to greater advancements and productivity. Also, we propose to purchase a small used vehicle for city driving, rather than using the Vahatra 4-wheel drive vehicles for these activities. This is a question of fuel saving and wear and tear on the vehicles we depend upon for difficult field missions.
- 2) Help reinforce the administrative capacity of the Association Vahatra – it is deemed a strategic step for the Secretary General of Vahatra to have the necessary certification to submit financial statements to funding agencies. Without these qualifications, it will not be possible for Vahatra to secure grants directly from granting organizations, and hence, will be obliged to pass their applications by other organizations. This is a major step in the development of the organization's independence and maturity.
- 3) Advancement of scientific endeavors in field biology – the future of developing new initiatives and the prioritization of actions to be taken in the domain of conservation, depend in part on high quality scientific information. With the advancement of field surveys and the projects of students associated with Vahatra, new information will be brought to light on the organisms, biogeographic patterns and origins of the Malagasy land vertebrates. This will have a direct result on the utility of the research being conducted, most specifically its application to the development of conservation science and capacity. While direct monetary support for students is not being sought within this proposal, the other requested support will have a direct bearing on their scientific development. Another aspect to mention is the importance of these field data and their interpretation on national and international policy (e.g., CITES regulations, IUCN statutes, etc.).
- 4) Means for Vahatra scientists to advance in their professional development – one of the important obstacles for Malagasy researchers working in the domain of the natural sciences has been the means to publish their research in scientific journals. Further, an additional problem for the local community is that a considerable number of articles on Madagascar are published in overseas scientific journals and, in many cases, years pass before they are sent to and distributed to Malagasy scientists and decision makers. These problems are now partially ameliorated with the journal Malagasy Nature, which provides a regional means for publishing the results of research at an international standard.
- 5) Pedagogic literature on the island's biota to non-academic Malagasy readers – as the Malagasy society becomes less agrarian and there is movement to urban centers, it is deemed important to disseminate information on the fauna to individuals that have the means to buy partially subsidized books, as well as advanced secondary and college students. The direct result of such public education campaigns will be to help the Malagasy have a greater understanding of the uniqueness of the island's animals and their importance as part of the world's natural patrimony. This is a crucial step in the "greening of Madagascar".

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

Species Conserved:

Corridors Created:

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

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned:

Rehabilitation of certain infrastructure aspects of Association Vahatra

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

The principal building of the Association Vahatra underwent several different projects of rehabilitation and a new building (annex) was constructed.

Component 2 Planned:

Help reinforce the administrative capacity of Association Vahatra

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

The principal project was for Madame Malalarisoa Razafimpahanana to follow coursework to become a certified accountant. This was successfully completed.

Component 3 Planned:

Dissemination of scientific results of studies in field, conservation, and evolutionary biology

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

A considerable number of manuscripts during the grant period were published by the scientific members of Vahatra, as well as associated students. The list of publications is figured in our final report. Further, during the course of this grant four issues of Malagasy Nature, a scientific journal published by the Association Vahatra, were published that contained numerous papers written by Malagasy students and higher level national scientists. For many of the papers published in Malagasy Nature and to a lesser extent in other scientific reviews are the first publications of the respective author(s) and represent a major hurdle in their professional development. Malagasy Nature has been widely disseminated and hence this information is available to numerous researchers.

Component 4 Planned:

Means for Vahatra scientists to advance in their professional development

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

During the course of this grant, the three permanent scientific members of the Vahatra staff were able to advance on numerous aspects associated with their scientific careers, which include new field studies, new scientific results and publications, and new collaborations. With the political problems of 2009 that affected Madagascar in several important manners and still does today, combined with increasing university responsibilities for these three members, the level of advancement may have been less than forecasted. However, the results have been very positive and a growing number of associated graduate students and other pedagogic aspects at the university are very much part of their academic advancement.

Component 5 Planned:

Pedagogic literature on the island's biota to non-academic Malagasy readers

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

Three books were terminated during the course of this grant in a new series published by Vahatra entitled "Guide sur la diversité biologique de Madagascar"; these include volumes on bats, small mammals, and endemic birds. For each volume, well over two hundred copies were dispersed to Malagasy students, researchers, institutes, libraries, and universities. A fourth volume in the series, this one on the island's Carnivora, will be out in May and the plates for this book were finished by the CEPF grant. Finally, another non-academic book on the extinct fauna of

Madagascar is currently in the works and the plates for this book were financed by the CEPF grant.

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

All of the major projected aspects associated with this grant were realized. The exception is that four books were planned and only three were published. The fourth is a bit late and will appear in the first half of 2012.

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

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 projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

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)

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

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 the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
MacArthur Foundation	A	\$399,677	
Volkswagen Foundation	A	164,372 Euros	

**Additional funding should be reported using 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.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

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

Additional Comments/Recommendations

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.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please
complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	no			Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	no			Please also include name of the protected area. If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	no			
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	no			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	no			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

