



Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

Madagascar

A Special Report
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OVERVIEW

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) initiated investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot in January 2001. This hotspot was among the first three selected to receive funding because of its unparalleled biodiversity and the many imminent factors threatening its existence.

This special report of five years of CEPF investment in the hotspot draws from CEPF experience, lessons learned, and project monitoring, including a review of final project reports compiled by civil society groups supported during the period. All available final project reports can be accessed in the Publications section of the CEPF Web site, www.cepf.net.

The report also draws from the results of a questionnaire to CEPF grant recipients in the region in preparation for a 2006 assessment workshop in Antananarivo, Madagascar, as well as the results from the workshop. The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants from Madagascar and beyond. A summary of the workshop, organized by Conservation International-Madagascar, is included in this report..

CEPF is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to engage nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, and other sectors of civil society in conserving the hotspots.

CEPF Niche

The Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot comprises the island nation of Madagascar, and the neighboring island groups of the Mascarenes, Comoros, and Seychelles, with a total area of 594,221 square kilometers. CEPF investment focused on Madagascar, as this island contains the largest amount of remaining habitat in the hotspot and has the most significant national system of protected areas.

At the start of investment, Madagascar's biodiversity faced an immense array of threats. Nearly 80 percent of the island's original forest cover had been lost. The population was estimated at 15 million, with a rate of increase of 3 percent per year. Poverty was extremely high, with the country being regarded as one of the most economically disadvantaged countries in the world. Key threats at the time included agricultural expansion (in particular for upland rice production resulting in a loss of about 2,000 square kilometers of forest per year); uncontrolled livestock grazing; unsustainable charcoal production, mining, hunting, and timber exploitation; and unregulated international trade in plants and animals.

Compounding these threats was a civil society characterized by insufficient technical capacity and limited biodiversity information, alongside an inadequate government presence to manage and protect natural resources, and ambiguous policies. Additional threats present on the island included poverty, and inadequate access to education. These factors presented a complex set of challenges to address if conservation for the people of Madagascar were to be achieved.

The CEPF investment strategy, detailed in the CEPF ecosystem profile¹ for this region, built on

¹ The full ecosystem profile can be accessed in English at www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/Final.Madagascar.EP.pdf (PDF, 362 KB) and in Français at www.cepf.net/xp/cepf/static/pdfs/Final.French.Madagascar.EP.pdf (PDF, 391 KB).

initiatives such as those put forth under the auspices of the National Environmental Action Plan, and recommendations that emerged from a conservation priority-setting workshop (CPW) convened by Conservation International in 1995. This workshop was attended by more than 100 of the world's foremost experts in the island's biology. The workshop proved to be a catalyst for new efforts to conserve the island's rich biodiversity, such as the Second Environmental Action Plan (PE2) and Global Environment Facility programs. As part of the priority-setting process, workshops were held in each of the nation's biodiversity conservation corridors.

CEPF studied the conservation planning and implementation efforts undertaken in the last decade, as well as the key threats facing the hotspot, to determine the niche for investment. Based upon these threats and bearing in mind the roles of other actors in the environment and conservation sector, the niche for CEPF to provide the greatest incremental value focused on a) filling the gaps between existing efforts and investments; b) defining the mechanisms to ensure the proper coordination among existing efforts; and c) providing civil society with the capacity to manage biodiversity conservation more effectively.

Six strategic directions guided grantmaking in the hotspot:

1. Integrating local groups and individuals into the management of protected areas and reserves.
2. Private sector conservation initiatives.
3. Biodiversity conservation and management training programs.
4. Public awareness and advocacy.
5. Small grants program (Biodiversity Action Fund).
6. Creation of a participatory monitoring and coordination network.

Impact

CEPF investment in Madagascar has resulted in both high-profile and subtle conservation achievements, with the most significant impact being a dramatic increase in the role of national NGOs in achieving conservation at the local, regional, and national levels.

Over the five-year period between December 2000 and December 2005, CEPF awarded \$4.25 million in 40 grants to 18 civil society organizations. CEPF funds supported a diversity of projects, with grants ranging from small to large and from the local to national level. Although confined to the parameters outlined by the strategic directions, the various projects addressed a broad set of issues, including biodiversity conservation corridor approaches, conservation planning initiatives, priority-setting activities, and the concerns and priorities of local communities.

Discussion of the impact of CEPF's presence in Madagascar must go hand-in-hand with celebrating the most exciting conservation achievement affecting Madagascar over the past five years: President Marc Ravalomanana's 2003 commitment made at the 5th IUCN World Parks Congress to increase Madagascar's protected area network from 1.7 million to 6 million hectares, and the progress made in the years following. The Durban Vision is an ambitious initiative aimed at increasing the protected area estate as well as the categories of protection to bring local communities into the establishment and management of these areas, such that these areas will conserve biodiversity and yield future benefits for the people of Madagascar.

CEPF, alongside many other donors, contributed to this landmark commitment and the related progress since. Groups had been working toward increased protection for Madagascar's biodiversity for decades, and thus much progress was underway prior to the arrival of CEPF. Nonetheless, CEPF funds were instrumental in supporting much work in the lead up to the

commitment, not least in supporting projects that generated the scientific data necessary to make the case for expansion of the protected area network, as well as the enormous effort that was required to put the issue on the government's agenda and keep it alive.

Efforts since the 5th IUCN World Parks Congress focused on realizing the Durban Vision. CEPF supported grantees to implement the Vision, with grants to prioritize areas of high biodiversity, to conduct surveys to demarcate boundaries, and to work with local communities that will live in or near the new protected areas, among other topics.

Much preparation has been necessary before each new protected area is officially protected by decree – however, by Dec. 30, 2005 more than 1 million hectares of biologically rich land had been officially protected. CEPF support helped to identify these areas, and for some of them, helped to undertake the planning phase required for their successful realization. The newly declared areas are:

- Anjozorobe (Toliary), 50,000 hectares
- Corridor Ankenihey-Zahamena (Province of Toamasina), 475,000 hectares
- Daraina (Diego), 70,837 hectares as a Multiple Use Forest Station under the Forestry law
- Loky-Manambato Forest Station (Daraina), 72,000 hectares
- Makira (Diego/Toamasina), 350,000 hectares
- Sahamalaza (Mahajana), 129,042.74 hectares as part of the ANGAP Protected Area network.

CEPF provided direct support to grantees for efforts in Daraina, Loky-Manambato, Makira, and Zahamena.

Financial sustainability of the current and future protected area system has been a great concern for all. To this end, CEPF supported CI-Madagascar to take a lead role in securing financing for biodiversity conservation in Madagascar. Specifically, funds supported the executive director to act as chairman of the long-term financing committee of the Environmental Donor Group, which has the capitalization of a biodiversity trust fund as a key focus. The target of the fund is \$50 million; to date, more than \$20 million has already been committed, including funds from CI's Global Conservation Fund. Funds will be used to finance the operating costs of existing and new protected areas, and will be an important source of revenue to complement the donor support for PE3 over the next five years, which is projected to reach \$178 million.

Following financial and political support for conservation and its actual manifestation through official protection by decree, CEPF's impact is most pronounced in strengthening the role of national NGOs. At the start of CEPF investment, Madagascar was dominated by a small number of international NGOs. CEPF aimed to diversify this field by providing opportunities for local Malagasy civil society to take on conservation challenges. In many cases, such projects involved capacity building components in grants to both national and international NGOs, so that local actors could improve their technical capacity and chance of success. CEPF investment in at least six national NGOs and seven international NGOs yielded both conservation achievement and a new cadre of local conservationists and conservation organizations.

While institutional development has been regarded as an essential element of success, increasing the scientific and technical capacity of Malagasy scientists was also a priority. Funding to WWF's Ecology Training Program enabled more than 60 individuals to receive such training. CEPF support to CI also boosted the pool of capable Malagasy scientists through a program linked to the University of Antananarivo that provided extra coursework for conservation biology

majors and graduate students. Additional funding to support the research studies of 32 post-graduate students yielded valuable scientific data and boosted the skills of the students. These efforts have yielded a cadre of up-and-coming, knowledgeable, and capable scientists.

Funding to CI-Madagascar through several grants helped with the creation and implementation of the Center for Biodiversity Conservation (CBC). This model represents a significant and strategic step forward in scaling up the impact of CEPF investments, as well as other donor initiatives. This CI initiative, funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, entails investment of \$7.5 million into the CBC to change the scale of conservation by increasing technical capacity and alliance building. The design and implementation of the CBC aims to achieve species, site, and corridor outcomes that improve related policy, increase capacity, and increase land under conservation management. CI will award 30 percent of the CBC funding as grants to partners working in the region, building on the CEPF model of enabling partners.

Under the auspices of the Durban Vision, many of the new protected areas will be managed by local communities. Preparation for this reality was a focus of a number of CEPF grants where CEPF supported local communities to manage and benefit from their natural resources, via community-based management contracts. For example, projects in the Makira Conservation Area (for 10 communities totaling 10,800 people, for 38,000 hectares) and in the Manambolomaty Lakes Complex (for two “Associations” for management of freshwater resources) had great success in their work with local communities.

CEPF supported scientific surveys throughout the country to enable identification of the most critical areas and species for inclusion in the country’s new protected area network. These studies resulted in the discovery of 120 species new to science.

CEPF support focused on several flagship species, such as the Madagascar fish eagle, Madagascar teal, and Sakalava rail. CEPF funds helped to stabilize the conservation status of the Madagascar fish eagle through support to the Peregrine Fund.

CEPF improved the livelihood status of local communities surrounding several protected areas. CEPF supported numerous projects that made the link between sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. Projects undertaken by MATEZA in Zahamena, L’Homme et l’Environnement in the Vohimana Forest, and the Wildlife Conservation Society in Makira included income generation components, and other elements of social importance such as health, nutrition, and involvement in resource planning and management. Communities participating in these programs have demonstrated understanding and commitment to conservation by reducing deforestation and other negative actions.

A 2006 socioeconomic analysis across the CEPF geographic funding area and a project- and portfolio-specific study performed through administering questionnaires to grantees found that CEPF-supported projects in Madagascar often occurred in rural areas with high levels of poverty, even by Madagascar standards. Within these areas of poverty, CEPF grantees often focused on female-headed households, although given the broad presence of the poor most projects likely involved households and communities with very limited means. CEPF projects directly and indirectly contributed to poverty reduction and improved human conditions in these regions while achieving their primary objective of biodiversity conservation. Direct impacts included creating more than 200 jobs and providing training to nearly 2,000 local people. Indirect impacts include creating local organizations, strengthening civil society, and other activities that maintain and restore the ecosystems upon which many poor people in Madagascar rely. CEPF projects contributed to secure management at both the household and community levels by creating or

strengthening approximately 212 local organizations and building alliances between these organizations and 76 other institutions. All of these efforts to create or strengthen local organizations and networks help empower local rural communities by increasing the information flowing to them and their capacity to respond to markets, government, projects, the legal system, or other sources of change. Effective local institutions have been shown to use such capabilities to help reduce poverty in the communities where they work. Our analysis of indirect impacts on poverty in almost certainly is conservative as several indirect contributions are difficult to summarize statistically and other indirect effects were beyond the scope of the study.

Overall, Madagascar has experienced many positive and exciting conservation impacts during CEPF's five years of investment. CEPF projects built confidence in local NGOs and strengthened partnerships, as well as helped to increase collaboration amongst the many groups present in the country. It is, however, the rise of the local NGOs and local talent that CEPF regards as the most significant of impacts – many of the conservation achievements realized during CEPF's investment period were achieved by these Malagasy institutions and individuals. With this growing committed and skilled local conservation force, Madagascar can start to look forward to a sustainable future.

Implementing the Strategy

CEPF initiated grantmaking in Madagascar in January 2001, following approval by the CEPF Donor Council of a CEPF ecosystem profile for Madagascar. The approval included an allocation of \$3 million to be spent over five years in implementing the investment strategy detailed in the profile. In December 2001, the Council allocated an additional \$1.25 million to implement the strategy. The investment in Madagascar was concurrent with investments in the Tropical Andes and Guinean Forests of West Africa hotspots. CEPF has since launched investment in a number of additional hotspots, an expansion that afforded an element of exchange and adaptive management between the locations during the period.

At the close of the five-year investment cycle, CEPF had invested \$4,249,839 in 40 grants. The grants ranged in size from \$3,000 to \$538,435; a full list of grants is provided in this report, beginning on page 18. All CEPF grants awarded helped meet a specific strategic direction from the ecosystem profile (Table 1).

Table 1: Investment Allocation by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction	Funds Allocated	Number of grants
1. Integrating local groups and individuals into the management of protected areas and reserves	1,579,017	10
2. Private sector conservation initiatives	703,012	7
3. Biodiversity conservation and management training programs	763,910	10
4. Public awareness and advocacy	321,938	3
5. Biodiversity Action Fund	632,187	7
6. Creation of a participatory monitoring and coordination network	249,775	3
TOTAL	4,249,839	40

During the five-year investment period, CEPF played a strategic role, supporting civil society-led activities that would provide incremental value in addressing national-level threats. CEPF

grantees report that at least \$5.7 million in additional resources were leveraged to meet conservation objectives.

Strategic Direction 1: Integrating local groups and individuals in the management of protected areas and reserves

This strategic direction sought to address the lack of local civil society involvement in protected area management, and particularly the need to increase the number and improve the performance of local NGOs in protected area management and conservation in general. Given the enormity of the task and the inability of national authorities to fulfill all the needs for protected areas and especially for new areas that were likely to be afforded protected area status in the future, this strategic direction was a major priority for CEPF investment.

This strategic direction received the largest investment of all, with \$1,579,017 allocated for 10 grants. At the start of CEPF investment, Madagascar was dominated by international NGOs. While many of these organizations were making progress on conservation issues, CEPF wanted to diversify the field of actors to create a more sustainable scenario. With the paucity of local NGOs with a proven track record, CEPF implemented this strategic direction by funding two types of projects: grants to local NGOs, and grants to international NGOs to work with local groups.

CEPF took its first chance with the small Malagasy NGO Association Fanamby for the project, *Initiation of a Natural Resource Management Program in the Area between the Loky and the Manamboto Rivers, Northeast Madagascar*, a move that was met with surprise in some corners. Yet this project was so successful (eventually 72,000 hectares of this area was officially protected in 2005), that CEPF quickly followed suit with a grant to MATEZA with the *Communities and Zahamena Protected Area Project*. What made these projects stand out was that they were fully implemented by a Malagasy NGO, and, integrating local groups into natural resource management was a primary goal. During the final evaluation of both projects, it was apparent that the strategy of transferring responsibility to the local grantee and the local communities was a win-win situation.

Numerous international NGOs made important contributions to this strategic direction as well. The value of this theme was especially apparent given the need to prepare for the new management opportunities that were to be implemented as part of the Durban Vision. Indeed, integration of local communities into management of the future protected areas, as well as the lands surrounding these areas, gained significance during CEPF's investment cycle. Many of the projects that CEPF supported, such as *Wetland Conservation in the Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex*, focused on enhancing the sustainable use of wetland resources in western Madagascar, achieved this goal by empowering civil society to design and implement community-based action plans. This project sought to alleviate poverty through promotion of an innovative combination of traditional management practices with science-based resource management, which would eventually be legally binding and supported by national policy initiatives for decentralization and community control of resources. As testament to the success of this initiative, 150,000 hectares of lakes, rivers, forests, and mangroves are slated to receive Provisional Protection Status as the first step in becoming a co-managed protected area.

As the investment cycle progressed, the value of these approaches became stronger, and CEPF capitalized on these successes by supporting similar projects in different areas. CEPF now has numerous examples of successful models for approaching co-management challenges, and a proven track record of local Malagasy NGOs, or local offices of international NGOs, in doing so.

Strategic Direction 2: Enhance private sector conservation initiatives

This strategic direction proved the most challenging to implement. It was initially envisaged to address the threats posed by the large extractive industries engaged in timber extraction, as well as mining for sapphires and titanium. It was also evident that there was a need to create alternative livelihoods for people living near protected areas, due to intense poverty and the resulting threat of encroachment and natural resource exploitation. Thus the strategic direction was developed with a view toward enlisting private sector investment, mainly through tourism, that might have beneficial effects on local incomes.

As this strategic direction unfolded, it became evident that the larger more challenging private sector industries (such as mining) were not being addressed via CEPF grants. In fact, private sector initiatives were barely being addressed at all. CEPF received proposals and supported a number of projects, yet none of these tackled the really controversial topics. Nevertheless, it was apparent that links between the private sector and conservation were few, and therefore CEPF supported smaller projects that were pioneering in their approach. A project by L'Homme et L'Environnement stands out as particularly interesting and innovative, *Local Population and Private Sector Involvement for Sustainable Biodiversity Conservation at the Vohimana Rainforest in Madagascar*, in that the project aims to generate alternative incomes for communities by producing essential oils marketed to European and other cosmetic companies. The project team has conservation goals such as halting the rate of deforestation, and uses education, health care, and employment in essential oil production to communicate its conservation messages. At the same time, its essential oil operation must make a profit; this project has yielded very useful information for future initiatives involving local communities, poverty alleviation, and conservation of biodiversity.

At the end of the investment cycle, we can conclude that there have been some strides in addressing the private sector on small scale issues, but that a major effort needs to be undertaken in the future to deal with some of the more challenging and powerful extractive industries.

Strategic Direction 3: Biodiversity conservation and management training program

Lack of capacity was consistently recognized as a serious deficiency in Madagascar's ability to conserve its natural resources, including national awareness of the nature and importance of the threats and ability to design actions to overcome them. As a result, international experts and international institutions have dominated conservation activities, a situation that is unsustainable in the long term. This strategic direction was designed to address this concern and thus focused on training Malagasy staff.

Seven projects were approved under this strategic direction. Some projects, such as WWF's Ecology Training Program (ETP), provided guidance, aid, and mentorship to Malagasy graduate students enrolled in the ETP of WWF-Madagascar. Under this project, eight Ph.D. students received support for their research, and field school sessions were held and attended by ETP students and students from the University of Toliara and the University of Antananarivo. This program is regarded as one of the cornerstones of training for up-and-coming Malagasy scientists.

Recognizing that training other than scientific was necessary for the sustainable development of a vibrant local conservation corps, CEPF supported several projects specifically aimed at human resources development. CI benefited from one such grant via the grant *Management Training*, which provided IT, GIS, English, finance, administration, and project cycle management training to CI-Madagascar staff. By the end of the grant, 50 percent of the CI-Madagascar staff had received training – thus increasing the number of highly trained local management staff and making this locally staffed international NGO more able to independently attract new donors and

implement strategic projects. Other projects included large training components, while at the same time focusing primarily on a conservation target. One of these projects, *Assessment of Priority Areas for Plant Conservation in Madagascar* implemented by Missouri Botanical Garden, produced a competent, confident, and inspirational local team that has taken the lead on identifying the key areas of importance for plants that need to be included in the new protected area system. At the start of the project, staff from Missouri led the project and dominated all communications, but by the end this had changed and Missouri staff only occasionally appeared – mainly to compliment the Malagasy staff on their excellent work.

CEPF is particularly excited about the development of skills in the Malagasy staff of international NGOs, and believe that this is one of CEPF's best strategies to ensure sustainability of conservation efforts in Madagascar.

Strategic Direction 4: Public awareness and advocacy

Lack of awareness about environmental issues and priorities, and a poor legislative framework related to protected areas, were the basis for this strategic direction. CEPF addressed this challenge via three grants, with the majority of the funding going support to CI-Madagascar to conduct focused policy advocacy related to PE3 and the Durban Vision. As part of the *Biodiversity Advocacy* project, CEPF supported the activities of CI's executive director in the policy realm. This work included the initial groundwork for the realization of the Durban Vision, and subsequently, establishment and capitalization of the Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar, as well as collaboration and coordination with the Malagasy government to formally establish a suite of protected areas to meet the commitments laid out in the Durban Vision of 2003.

In hindsight, the funds allocated for this important issue were insufficient. Much of Madagascar is remote, and reachable only by radio. In the future, efforts need to be put into developing innovative ways to communicate about environmental issues, and to engage a public that has other serious priority issues, such as addressing poverty.

Strategic Direction 5: Small Grants Fund (Biodiversity Action Fund)

When the ecosystem profile was developed, the inclusion of a small grants mechanism was a cornerstone of capacity-building plans, the intention being that this mechanism would be managed in country to build the skills of small local organizations. Initial efforts to structure a small grants program suffered from a number of institutional and logistical difficulties. The centralized management of the program presented several issues related to costs and management, implementation in a large area with differing needs, and the ability to be proactive in grantmaking due to the broad geographic distribution of the target audience. Also at issue was the low capacity of organizations to apply for and implement grants and the inability of a centralized mechanism to effectively deal with this. Many of the organizations that CEPF would have liked to reach did not have Internet, telephone, or bank accounts.

To solve this problem, early in 2004, CEPF approved a grant to CI-Madagascar to implement a small grants mechanism. This project aimed to use an innovative decentralized nodal mechanism to get close to the target audience. CI used the experimental approach of awarding subgrants to regional institutions operating as nodes in priority areas, to reach potential local subgrantees. CI provided basic training in contract and financial management to the regional nodes, and set out broad conservation guidelines for the subgrants. To date, the project is an overwhelming success. The regional nodes have been able to use the subgrants to further conservation efforts on the local level, and by acting as donors in their own right, have been able to boost their own profiles. The

Malagasy NGO Association Fanamby is one of the regional nodes working in the Daraina region in northeast Madagascar.

Strategic Direction 6: Creating a participatory monitoring and coordination network

Initially this strategic direction was designed to include a coordination mechanism that would, among other things, be the on-the-ground mechanism for communicating and monitoring the CEPF portfolio. However, the proposal that was submitted to CEPF to take on this challenge omitted local NGOs, and proposed to only coordinate CEPF projects rather than performing an overall function for Madagascar. There was also disagreement on the level of decision-making authority that the coordination mechanism would have, an issue that is largely determined by controls imposed on CEPF grant making through our mandate from the Donor Council. CEPF was unable to come to an agreement on modifications to the project and therefore this project did not move forward. Fortunately, a number of collaborative partnerships and coordination focus groups were already in existence in Madagascar, and these thus allowed CEPF to focus on specific coordination needs, for example coordination of data through the Madagascar Biodiversity Network (REBIOMA), and TRAFFIC International's project on trade in plants and animals.

Conclusions

At the close of CEPF's five years in Madagascar, it is evident that funding had a significant and inspiring impact. CEPF stimulated and supported actions by both international and national NGOs, and this has played a major role in moving forward the country's conservation agenda.

CEPF support filled a key niche, specifically in supporting work in the policy and financing realm, in supporting local NGOs and increasing the technical capacity of Malagasy staff, and most importantly, in supporting contributions to Durban Vision and the implementation phase of it that is now underway. CEPF funds enabled the involvement of a wide range of actors, many of whom had never been given the opportunity to expand and strike out on their own. CEPF also allowed better known entities to take risks to strive for conservation objectives where the future was uncertain. In the five years since the arrival of CEPF, despite the small allocation for this hotspot, it is apparent that the funds have reaped conservation rewards.

CEPF's impact can be summarized as follows:

1. CEPF investment helped lay the groundwork for the Durban Vision, and supported its implementation. This investment focused on the policy, advocacy, and awareness arenas. The Durban Vision represents solid government support for biodiversity conservation and for inclusion of local communities in the conservation and management of newly established protected areas. CEPF projects yielded scientific data to justify the need for an increase in the protected area network, and helped determine where these new areas should be located. This process, the Durban Vision, benefited from the involvement and efforts of local, national and international NGOs, many of which have been able to participate and contribute more fully because of their CEPF support.
2. The close of the CEPF investment cycle, Dec. 30, 2005, coincided with the president of Madagascar's official decree to protect more than 1 million hectares of biologically rich land. CEPF support helped identify these areas, and for some of them, helped undertake the planning phase required for their successful realization. The newly declared areas are:
 - Anjozorobe (Toliary), 50,000 hectares
 - Corridor Ankenihey-Zahamena (Province of Toamasina), 475,000 hectares

- Daraina (Diego), 70,837 hectares as a Multiple Use Forest Station under the Forestry law
- Loky-Manambato Forest Station (Daraina), 72,000 hectares
- Makira (Diego/Toamasina), 350,000 hectares
- Sahamalaza (Mahajana), 129,042.74 hectares as part of the ANGAP Protected Area network.

3. CEPF significantly increased the role of local NGOs and community groups in biodiversity conservation. Specifically, CEPF directly supported six local NGOs, and indirectly supported many more through the CI-Madagascar small grants program. CEPF support to international organizations included strong support to raise the technical capacity of in-country field offices, with the result being that many of these offices can now implement projects in their own right. CEPF funds provided the push that these international organizations needed to allow their local offices to take responsibility for conservation challenges in their own country. In sum, CEPF investment strengthened the profile of local organizations, and most significantly, enabled them to prove their ability and commitment to achieve conservation targets at home in Madagascar.

4. CEPF supported grantees to address the issue of financial sustainability of the current and future protected area system, and specifically supported CI-Madagascar in securing financing for the capitalization of a biodiversity trust fund that has a target of \$50 million. This fund has been established and donors are in the process of releasing their initial pledges.

5. CEPF supported local communities to manage and benefit from their natural resources, via community-based management contracts. Contracts between the communities and the government have, for example, been put into place in the Makira Conservation Area (for 10 communities totaling 10,800 people, for 38,000 hectares), in the Manambolomaty Lakes Complex (for two “Associations” for management of freshwater resources).

6. Support to WWF, CI, and other grantees has allowed for scientific surveys resulting in the discovery of 120 species new to science.

7. CEPF increased the scientific and technical capacity of more than 60 individuals. These students completed WWF’s rigorous Ecology Training Program, and several have gone on for more advanced studies. CEPF support to CI also boosted the pool of capable Malagasy scientists through a program linked to the University of Antananarivo. These efforts yielded a cadre of up-and-coming, knowledgeable, and capable scientists.

8. CEPF support focused on several flagship species, such as the Madagascar fish eagle, Madagascar teal, and Sakalava rail. CEPF funds helped stabilize the conservation status of the Madagascar fish eagle through support to the Peregrine Fund.

9. CEPF support improved the livelihood status of local communities surrounding several protected areas. CEPF supported numerous projects that made the link between sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. Projects undertaken by MATEZA, MATE, and WCS included income generation components and other elements of social importance such as health, nutrition, and involvement in resource planning and management. Communities participating in these programs have demonstrated understanding and commitment to conservation by reducing deforestation and other negative actions.

Overall, Madagascar experienced many positive and exciting conservation impacts during CEPF’s five-year investment cycle, and CEPF can take credit for supporting participation in and

contribution to many of these events. That said, it is the rise of the local NGOs and local talent that CEPF regards as the most significant of impacts, because it is here where the impact will continue for years to come.

At the same time, the challenge of the future remains enormous. Projected donor allocations to PE3 are substantial, yet they are not expected to cover what is needed to fully protect Madagascar's fragile and threatened biodiversity, nor are they expected to be able to make the full range of on-the-ground links with communities such that benefits accrue to local people. Substantial funding and effort will be needed in the future to support those new protected areas that will be proposed under the President's goal of tripling the protected area network. It is expected that there will be a greater need for NGO involvement in the new protected areas, and funds to support them.

CEPF 5-Year Logical Framework Reporting

LONG-TERM GOAL STATEMENT	TARGETED CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	RESULTS
<p>Corridor concept and management frameworks incorporated into national policy creation and decisionmaking.</p>	<p>1.1 Protected areas increased from 1.7 million to 3 million hectares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zero species loss over the next decade - Representative freshwater protected areas based on recommendations of priority-setting exercise conducted in November 2001 established 	<p>1.1 Areas protected will increase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In September 2003, President Marc Ravalomanana pledged to increase Madagascar’s protected area network from 1.7 million hectares to 6 million hectares. Subsequently, much work has been done to determine where these new areas should be, such that species will not be lost. This work has been undertaken by the Durban Vision Group, compiling species distribution data into maps of priority areas as tools in the planning process. - In December 2005, the Minister of Environment, Water, and Forests signed the legal documents to create the following new protected areas of primary forest under a temporary protection status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anjozorobe (Toliary), 50,000 hectares ▪ Corridor Ankenihey-Zahamena (Province of Toamasina), 475,000 hectares ▪ Daraina (Diego), 70,837 hectares as a Multiple Use Forest Station under the Forestry law and ▪ Loky-Manambato Forest Station (Daraina), 72,000 hectares ▪ Makira (Diego/Toamasina), 350,000 hectares ▪ Sahamalaza (Mahajana), 129,042.74 hectares as part of the ANGAP Protected Area network. - This increased the total area officially protected in Madagascar by 1,146,879.74 hectares.

	<p>Area Protected</p> <p>1.2 Immediate Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zahamena-Mantadia Corridor (50,000 hectares) under protection and corridor created (100,000 hectares) - Ranomafana-Andrigitra Corridor (25,000 hectares) under protection and corridor created (100,000 hectares) - Makira Corridor (100,000 hectares) under protection and corridor created (300,000 hectares) - Zahamena Protected Area (63,500 hectares) under effective management - Daraina Forest (25,000 hectares) under protection and corridor created (15,000 hectares) - Menabe Forest (10,000 hectares) under 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Durban Vision Group, under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, has identified the priority areas for inclusion in the expanded protected area system, through analysis of species and habitat distribution, thereby contributing to the goal of achieving zero species loss. - CEPF supported freshwater conservation via two projects, one focusing on three lakes (Befotaka, Soamalipo, and Ankerika, 7,491 hectares) in the Antsalova region of western Madagascar, and the other in the Mahavavy-Kinkony wetland complex, including lakes, rivers and mangroves. This area (also in western Madagascar) is slated to become a new protected area. Alaotra Lake was declared a RAMSAR Site in 2003 covering 722,500 hectares. <p>Area Protected</p> <p>1.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zahamena-Mantadia corridor. A Vision for the Conservation of the Mantadia-Zahamena corridor was developed in collaboration with local authorities based upon an agreed vision that combined biodiversity and environmental data in planning the corridor. In early 2005 this zonation was agreed at the regional level. - Ranomafana-Andrigitra. Establishment of this corridor was modeled on the process used for the Zahamena-Mantadia corridor. The Planning Committee working with the new Regional Chiefs developed and implemented regional development plans that include the vision for the conservation of the corridor. More importantly, lessons learned from these approaches above have been incorporated in the planning activities in Menabe Forest and Bongolava and Andavakoera. - Makira Biodiversity, land use and socioeconomic studies have been carried out and the limits of the Makira Conservation Area
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	<p>protection and corridor created (40,000 hectares)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kinkony Mahavavay complex (10,000 hectares) under protection and corridor created (250,000 hectares) - Eastern River Basin Complex (6,000 hectares) under protection - Mikea-Fiherenana Complex (15,000 hectares) under protection and corridor created (55,000 hectares) <p>5-10 years</p> <p>1.3 Long-Term Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Littoral Forest Complex (25,000 hectares) under protection and corridor created (75,000 hectares) -Ibity-Itremo Complex (1,000 hectares) under protection 	<p>have been proposed and agreed upon at the national, regional, and local levels. Ten community-based resource management contracts have been completed. Amounting to 38,800 hectares of land and 28,800 hectares of forest under community control, and affects a population of 10,800 inhabitants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zahamena – CI transferred management of Zahamena to ANGAP in 2002, and has since provided technical support. - Daraina - 72,000 hectares has been declared the Loky-Manambato Forest Station via decree N°5862-05-MINENVEF. - Menabe – In September 2004, Fanamby signed an MOU with the government to coordinate institutions and activities on the path to declaring this 30,000 hectare area to be a protected area. - Kinkony-Mahavavy – BirdLife International is implementing a project focusing on local community and private sector involvement. Early in 2006, around 150,000 hectares of lakes, rivers, forests and mangroves will receive Provisional Protection Status as the first step in becoming a co-managed protected area. - Eastern River Basin Complex – CEPF has not provided direct support to this area because other organizations are working there. - Mikea-Fiherenana Complex – CEPF has not provided direct support to this area because other organizations are working there. <p>1.3 Long-Term Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Littoral Forest Complex – Many of these small, fragmented forests are the subject of conservation action, for example by QMM, a mining company, in south-eastern Madagascar, and at the French Mountain near Antsiranana in northern Madagascar. - Ibity-Itremo Complex - owing to the amazing diversity of endemic plants endemic to these calcareous outcrops, these areas received special attention from Missouri Botanical Garden in their work to identify priority areas for plant conservation. CEPF supported
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<p>CEPF PURPOSE</p> <p>Malagasy civil society (scientific leaders, NGOs, and private sector) collaboratively and effectively participate in the protection of biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>IMPACT INDICATORS</p> <p>1.1 The number of national-level scientific, NGO and private sector initiatives oriented toward biodiversity conservation increases.</p> <p>1.2 Existing national NGOs and other private sector participants working in biodiversity conservation expand their staff, diversity of abilities, and total coverage.</p> <p>1.3 Increase in the number of established local NGOs, scientists, and others working in biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Missouri Botanic Gardens to implement conservation measures in these mountain massifs that are known as orphan sites, often overlooked because of the poor faunal community.</p> <p>RESULTS</p> <p>1.1 CEPF supported a total of 18 different grantees, all of which conducted work at the national level. All CEPF projects have been oriented towards biodiversity conservation. CEPF increased the number of national-level conservation initiatives by supporting grantees to implement at least 21 separate initiatives.</p> <p>1.2 At least six national NGOs and seven international NGOs expanded their staff, diversity of abilities, and total coverage by direct support from CEPF. Virtually all CEPF grants contributed to institutional development as it is recognized that appropriate levels of support for administration, finance and management are key to these organizations being able to function professionally and into the future. Indirectly (via the CI-Madagascar small grants program) CEPF support enabled three NGOs to receive training in grants management and to expand their total coverage through disbursement of subgrants to local partners.</p> <p>1.3 CEPF support contributed to the establishment of Vahatra, a new Malagasy NGO which aims to advance the development of high-quality national conservation and biological scientists. CEPF support ensured that at least five newly established/young NGOs were assisted to stand on firm ground, via funds for institutional development; these NGOs include Asity, Association Fanamby, Birdlife International-Madagascar Program, L’Homme et l’Environnement, and MATEZA. Support to WWF’s Ecology Training Program resulted in 60 students trained in scientific methods. Support to CI’s program with the University of</p>
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	<p>1.4 Increase in the overall funding of conservation activities within the hotspot to reach a minimum level of 2 times the initial CEPF funding by the end of the CEPF funding period.</p> <p>1.5 Increased collaboration between civil society towards biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Antananarivo resulted in conservation biology students receiving extra training to prepare them to be employed with organizations working under the National Environmental Program; additionally support to CI has ensured that 32 post-graduate research studies on endangered flora and fauna were funded.</p> <p>1.4 CEPF grantees report that \$5,751,790 in project co-financing and leveraged funds has been generated. Additionally, CEPF support to CI has in part contributed to development of a biodiversity conservation trust fund, which has a target of \$50 million. \$20 million has already been committed — more than double the CEPF investment.</p> <p>1.5 All CEPF grants have required an element of partnership and collaboration. A 2006 socioeconomic study of CEPF investments in Madagascar found that CEPF projects created or strengthened approximately 212 local organizations and built alliances between these organizations and 76 other institutions. All of these efforts to create or strengthen local organizations and networks also help empower local rural communities by increasing the information flowing to them and their capacity to respond to markets, government, projects, the legal system, or other sources of change. Effective local institutions have been shown to use such capabilities to help reduce poverty in the communities where they work.</p>
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List of Approved Grants

Strategic Direction 1: Integrating local groups and individuals in the management of protected areas and

The Manambolomaty Conservation Project

Continue assistance to the recently completed CEPF-funded Madagascar Community-based Wetlands Conservation Project, which operated from 2001-2004, by providing assistance and support (technical, logistical, supplies, and material) for two local associations in their progress to be authorized by the Malagasy government to manage their natural resources for a 10-year period.

Funding: \$10,000
Grant Term: 1/05-12/05
Grantee: The Peregrine Fund

Makira Forest Area Conservation Project

At the request of the Government of Madagascar, assist in the creation and management of a new protected area in northeastern Madagascar. The future reserve will help conserve a number of Critically Endangered species, such as the Madagascar serpent eagle and three out of 11 varieties of Malagasy lemurs. Biodiversity and socioeconomic surveys will be conducted and the information used to demarcate the future protected area.

Funding: \$201,771
Grant Term: 1/03-6/05
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Community Forest Management of the Tandroy Forests of Southern Madagascar

Undertake work in four priority communes in the Spiny Forest of southern Madagascar to ensure that a participatory regional conservation action plan is adopted by conservation stakeholders in the Androy region and that an efficient method of transfer of management of natural resources using aerial photography is developed along with an appropriate monitoring system.

Funding: \$89,798
Grant Term: 11/02-4/04
Grantee: Centre Ecologique de Libanona

Building a National Constituency for Bird and Biodiversity Conservation in Madagascar

Establish a strong, independent, and sustainable BirdLife network organization in Madagascar. Build the nucleus of an effective national conservation partner with enhanced staff capacity for institutional development and conservation of Important Bird Areas.

Funding: \$79,354
Grant Term: 7/02-9/03
Grantee: BirdLife International

Central Menabe Biodiversity: Plan for Protection of Nature's Rich Endowment Through the Development of a Regional Management Scheme

Establish a regional management scheme for the highly endangered biodiversity in the Central Menabe region. A protected areas system will be based around the strategies and priority sites defined within the scheme.

Funding: \$94,898

Grant Term: 6/02-6/03
Grantee: Association Fanamby

Madagascar Community-Based Wetlands Conservation Project

Undertake community-based conservation in the wetland areas of Lake Befotaka, Lake Soamalipo, and a project site in the Besalampy area. Develop wetland management strategies and plans, promoting sustainable fishing and forest use and conservation of the Madagascar fish eagle.

Funding: \$140,000
Grant Term: 10/01-9/04
Grantee: The Peregrine Fund

Initiation of a Natural Resource Management Program in the Area Between the Loky and the Manambato Rivers, Northeast Madagascar

Establish programs to maintain healthy ecosystems between the rivers, empower communities in natural resource management, and ensure long-term conservation of the golden-crowned sifaka.

Funding: \$369,636
Grant Term: 6/01-5/03
Grantee: Association Fanamby

Forested Corridors Management

Conduct a regional priority-setting workshop for the Zahamena-Moramanga Corridor and design and implement program to monitor the corridor with government and local nongovernmental partners.

Funding: \$117,037
Grant Term: 1/01-12/04
Grantee: Conservation International

Biodiversity Knowledge Gathering

Develop or support biodiversity studies, including inventories and studies on flagship and newly identified species to inform management decisions. Create biodiversity research station.

Funding: \$238,855
Grant Term: 1/01-12/04
Grantee: Conservation International

Zahamena Protected Area Management

Develop, implement and transfer operation plans for Zahamena National Park to the National Association for the Management of Protected Areas (ANGAP) and involve communities in related training and ecotourism activities.

Funding: \$237,668
Grant Term: 1/01-12/04
Grantee: Conservation International

Strategic Direction 2: Private-sector conservation initiatives

Wetland Conservation in the Mahavavy-Kinkony Complex, Madagascar

Contribute to conservation of globally important biodiversity of the unique western Malagasy wetlands and associated forests through private sector management initiatives controlled by legally registered community associations and industrial food producers operating locally.

Funding: \$200,000
Grant Term: 4/04-12/06
Grantee: BirdLife International

Improving Conservation Site Management Through Stakeholder Empowerment and Private Sector Participation in Daraina, Northeast Madagascar

Establish the Daraina Information and Communication Center as an official forum for community-based forest conservation and community development. All community members, authorities, and public sector personnel will have access to information market structures, product development, natural resources management techniques and improved agricultural systems.

Funding: \$104,500
Grant Term: 4/04-9/05
Grantee: Association Fanamby

Assessment of the Environmental, Economic and Quality Control Issues of Wild-Harvesting Medicinal Plants *Centella asiatica* and *Drosera madagascariensis* in Madagascar

Conduct an assessment of plant populations, traditional use and harvesting, commercial harvesting and domestic and international markets for the two species. Identify means to improve the efficiency and sustainability of harvest by local communities and train local communities in these practices.

Funding: \$10,000
Grant Term: 10/03-3/04
Grantee: L'Homme et l'Environnement

Local Population and Private Sector Involvement for Sustainable Biodiversity Conservation at the Vohimana Rainforest in Madagascar

Protect endangered species and habitat in Anala and Manantantely by creating an awareness of the need for sustainable resource management among local communities and authorities, and by providing alternative income opportunities for local communities through the development of private sector initiatives.

Funding: \$132,750
Grant Term: 8/02-8/04
Grantee: L'Homme et l'Environnement

Community Development and Natural Resources Management in Abohimahasina-ikongo, Southeastern Madagascar (Phase II)

Reduce pressure on the forest by implementing micro-projects and establishing community forest groups and designations.

Funding: \$0
Grant Term: 10/01-5/04
Grantee: The Rainforest Foundation, UK

Communities and Zahamena Protected Area

Contribute to the management of biodiversity in the protected area by initiating and supporting small-scale enterprises and stimulating management plans for three adjacent regions.

Funding: \$167,200

Grant Term: 9/01-3/04

Grantee: MATEZA

Small Scale Initiatives Support

Transfer implementation responsibility for involving local communities in the Zahamena Protected Area to NGOs and support local groups in involving local communities in corridor management.

Funding: \$88,562

Grant Term: 1/01-12/04

Grantee: Conservation International

Strategic Direction 3: Biodiversity conservation and management training

Developing the Antsokay Arboretum as a Center for Biodiversity Study and Ecotourism in Southwest

Create a unique facility for the scientific study, documentation, and biodiversity conservation of the flora of the Spiny Forest as well as to provide a model for the development of sustainable ecotourism in Madagascar. Activities will include improving the herbarium, the living collection, and the scientific documentation associated with the flora of the Spiny Forest.

Funding: \$113,848

Grant Term: 3/05-12/07

Grantee: NGO Arboretum d'Antsokay

Core Support to WWF-Madagascar's Ecology Training Program

Provide core support for the Ecology Training Program to maintain its office and functions, including training Malagasy scientists to meet human capacity needs with a mandate to advance biological, ecological, and education conservation practice, as well as sound policymaking.

Funding: \$20,000

Grant Term: 11/04-10/05

Grantee: World Wide Fund for Nature

Legal Fees Associated with the Creation of the Malagasy NGO “Vahatra”

Support the creation of a Malagasy nongovernmental organization (NGO) that would focus on biological research and training of Malagasy scientists. The requested funds are associated with legal fees for the creation of this NGO.

Funding: \$3,000

Grant Term: 4/04-6/04

Grantee: The Field Museum of Natural History

Mapping the Vegetation of Madagascar

Participate in a collaborative project to produce an accurate and updated vegetation map of Madagascar that can be used for conservation planning and natural resource management.

Funding: \$152,500

Grant Term: 1/03-3/06

Grantee: Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Mapping the Vegetation of Madagascar

Participate in a collaborative project to produce an accurate and updated vegetation map of Madagascar that can be used for conservation planning and natural resource management.

Funding: \$53,110
Grant Term: 1/03-12/05
Grantee: Conservation International

Study Tour to Washington DC for Malagasy Scholars from the University of Antananarivo

Enable Malagasy zoologists and field biologists to come to Washington, DC to interact with various organizations working in the conservation domain on Madagascar (CI and WWF) and examine specimens in the Smithsonian Institution.

Funding: \$6,070
Grant Term: 7/02-7/02
Grantee: World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

Assessment of Priority Areas for Plant Conservation

Identify Madagascar's key floristic regions, set priority areas for plant conservation within these regions, and offer training opportunities for Malagasy students and professionals in applied conservation research.

Funding: \$203,712
Grant Term: 1/02-6/05
Grantee: Missouri Botanical Garden

Ecology Training Program

Mentor, support and build the capacity of Malagasy students by supporting degree programs in conservation science and other activities. This project also includes undertaking biological surveys.

Funding: \$104,500
Grant Term: 9/01-8/04
Grantee: World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

Biodiversity Conservation Training Program

Develop new conservation biology and natural resources management components and integrate into university biology programs, and support post-graduate field study and research.

Funding: \$37,811
Grant Term: 1/01-6/04
Grantee: Conservation International

Management Training

Design and implement professional training program for select staff to more effectively create and implement conservation programs.

Funding: \$69,359
Grant Term: 1/01-12/03
Grantee: Conservation International

Strategic Direction 4: Awareness and advocacy mechanism

Expedition Madagascar

Produce a package of media products to highlight the unusual wildlife of Madagascar, the threats to the country's forests and efforts to promote sustainable use of Madagascar's resources and protect the island's plants and animals. The products will include a Web site and a radio documentary.

Funding: \$14,750
Grant Term: 7/04-12/05
Grantee: The Human Footprint

Hope in Daraina

Together with Association Fanamby, produce a video about the Daraina region in northeast Madagascar in English, French, and Malagasy to publicize the natural resources of the area and actions being undertaken to conserve them.

Funding: \$26,876
Grant Term: 10/02-9/03
Grantee: Conservation International

Biodiversity Advocacy in Madagascar

Develop and implement process for Madagascar protected areas network to be designated by UNESCO as World Heritage sites and design and implement a communications strategy agreed by strategic partners.

Funding: \$280,312
Grant Term: 1/01-12/04
Grantee: Conservation International

Strategic Direction 5: Biodiversity Action Fund

Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in Madagascar

Organize a workshop with CEPF grantees and other partners in the region to assess the results of CEPF investments and identify collective lessons learned. Results will include documented proceedings and lessons learned to help inform future investment decisions.

Funding: \$62,407
Grant Term: 1/06 – 4/06
Grantee: Conservation International

Emergency Intervention to Prevent Slash and Burn and to Ensure the Sustainability of the Income Generating for Conservation Program

Provide emergency bridging funds to support the local communities' involvement in the alternative, nature-based livelihood activities in the Vohimana corridor south of Mantadia National Park, reducing the threat of increasing the area under slash and burn agriculture.

Funding: \$10,000
Grant Term: 11/05-2/06
Grantee: L'Homme et l'Environnement

Madagascar Small Grants Project

Involve local communities, organizations, and researchers in biodiversity conservation programs via allocation of small grants for biodiversity management, species conservation communication and information gathering. A complementary program of development of capacity for technical action, and project and financial management will also be implemented through regional partners.

Funding: \$271,200
Grant Term: 1/04-12/06
Grantee: Conservation International

A Marketing Pilot for Community-Based Tourism in Madagascar: Designing and Implementing a Pilot that can be Replicated Countrywide

Support the marketing of community-based tourism in Madagascar by building a Web site to market tourism in Madagascar and by training and supporting a marketing officer from the Madagascar Expedition Agency, a Malagasy-owned tourism operator that would channel tourists to two local guides associations.

Funding: \$7,510
Grant Term: 2/03-12/04
Grantee: EcoAfrica Environmental Consultants

First African Botanic Gardens Congress

Support participation of African delegates from the Cape Floristic Region, Guinean Forests of West Africa and Madagascar hotspots at the first African Botanic Gardens Conference in November 2002 in Durban, South Africa

Funding: \$3,000
Grant Term: 11/02-3/03
Grantee: Durban Botanic Gardens

Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People: Linkages Between Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Human Health

Cover travel and full participation costs for individuals from the Atlantic Forest, Chocó-Darién-Western Ecuador, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Madagascar, Philippines, and Tropical Andes funding regions to attend the Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People conference.

Funding: \$2,775
Grant Term: 5/02-7/02
Grantee: University of Western Ontario

This is a multiregional project covering six hotspots; the total grant amount is \$27,200.

Strategic Direction 6: Creating a participatory monitoring and coordination network

Madagascar Biodiversity Network

Improve biodiversity conservation by providing access to the conservation tools and biodiversity data necessary to set conservation targets and to move toward standards for defining conservation outcomes. The project aims to improve conservation decisionmaking by enabling users to conduct advanced spatial analyses for conservation planning and environmental management.

Funding: \$90,024
Grant Term: 2/04-12/05
Grantee: Wildlife Conservation Society

Increasing Knowledge - Decreasing Detriment: Improving the Monitoring and Management of Madagascar's Wildlife Trade

Identify priority species and groups of species in trade and gather baseline information on these species, current production systems, relevant economic variables and existing management measures. Design a monitoring and management system based on the data collected.

Funding: \$45,000
Grant Term: 3/02-12/03
Grantee: TRAFFIC International

Knowledge Management: Information & Monitoring

Staff and equip knowledge management program and develop and implement project cycle management.

Funding: \$114,751
Grant Term: 1/01-12/04
Grantee: Conservation International

Workshop Summary

Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in Madagascar

Panorama Hotel, Antananarivo, Madagascar

18-19 April 2006

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is designed to better safeguard Earth's biodiversity hotspots in developing countries. It is a joint initiative of Conservation International (CI), the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the McArthur Foundation and the World Bank. A key purpose of CEPF is to ensure that civil society partners, such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, and the private sector are engaged in the efforts to conserve biodiversity in the hotspots and in the sustainable management of their ecosystems. As a mechanism aiming at supplementing existing government initiatives, CEPF promotes strategic working alliances among civil society players, as well as governments and academic institutions.

The program's activities started in 2001, with the approval of an ecosystem profile for three hotspots that provide investment strategies and conservation outcomes over a five-year period in three priority areas, including the country of Madagascar. These three areas were targeted as beneficiaries of pilot initiatives that would make it possible to test the efficiency of the program's operating mechanisms.

As 2006 will mark the end of this period, it was decided to convene workshops in the three areas concerned so as to prompt the beneficiaries and all other players to collectively take stock of the impact of the CEPF's five-year investment within a broader conservation and sustainable development context. One goal was to identify the program's areas of success and its links with other initiatives while underlining the lessons learned and the solutions found. Another objective of these roundtables was to examine the benefits derived from the CEPF intervention by the NGOs, community groups and other private sector partners, and to define the key activities that would make it possible to sustain the conservation outcomes being achieved.

In the specific case of Madagascar, the workshop was organized by Conservation International's local branch, in co-operation with the CEPF grant director (based at the organization's headquarters in the United States) and a facilitator. A variety of players was invited so as to ensure the participation of representatives from all program beneficiaries (at the international level as well as at the direct local level); organizations that contribute funds to CEPF; other donors; government officials; and scientists with expert knowledge of the program. The list of individuals who attended the event is appended to this report.

Surveys were sent to the attendees several days before the starting date of the workshop in order to get a feel for desired discussion topics and move faster through the debates. In view of the fact that very few answers were received, an agenda was established that followed the broad lines of the structure adopted for the West African region. Additionally, the discussions which took place during the first day led to some changes being implemented in the second day's agenda, in consideration of the fact that the workshop was the very first opportunity for the program's beneficiaries to meet in person as a group and to answer their desire to use it as an opportunity to share experiences with their peers.



Summary of Day One

The session started with opening statements by Léon Rajaobelina, director of Conservation International's Madagascar Program. The latter welcomed the attendees and commented on the extremely positive development of the national framework within which the CEPF program operates, notably since the launch of the "Durban Vision," a plan that aims at multiplying by three the surface area of protected areas in Madagascar and that will provide more space for civil society players to engage in multiple initiatives. Next Sarah Timpson, the workshop facilitator, outlined the scope of the workshop and summarized its goals and the spirit of participation sought out by CEPF. She explained that, in order to gather ideas from all participants, most of the work would take place in a work group setting, and be

supplemented by presentations made during plenary assemblies and by an open discussion, time permitting.

In order to lay down a basis for the discussion, John Watkin, CEPF grant director for Madagascar, presented a summary of the progress made by the CEPF program in Madagascar in comparison with the goals set forth in the ecosystem profile, notably in terms of program focus, strategic directions, investment priorities, impact indicators, and key conservation targets.

Work began with a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis undertaken by three groups previously formed based upon the participants' preferred language, namely one Francophone/Anglophone group and two Malagasy groups. The discussions can be summarized as follows:

Pluses

(a) Strategy

- Civil society organizations as the primary and direct beneficiaries (without government intermediation).
- Diversified interventions through the involvement of a variety of civil society players, e.g. international and national NGOs, along with community-based organizations; diversified ecosystems and geographically representative regions; multiple donors; interventions at the local, regional and national levels; different project sizes; and different types of activities (field-based line personnel, awareness, environmental education, training of educational staff, research, etc.).
- Framework: the ecosystem approach contributed to establishing a useful framework for a better assessment of the initiatives' impact at a larger scale.
- Integrated vision that combines the notions of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development; integration into communal development plans.
- Strengthening of the NGOs' scientific, technical, administrative, operational, management, and communications capacities (access to funding for planning/management expenses as well as for site-based operational activities); and support from national NGOs to community groups.
- Financial aspect: participation in the dialogue on funding requests at the national level and complementarity with the third phase of Madagascar's National Program for Environmental Action (PE3).

(b) Operations and Methods

- Simple and efficient funding and follow-up/reporting (by the Grant Writer) approach.
- Operational ease and flexibility at the thematic, financial, and planning levels.
- Productive dialogue with the headquarters' grant directors, technical support (advice and services).
- Management and decisionmaking at the level of the headquarters, which simplifies the study and choice of the projects to be funded, away from potential local political pressures.

(c) Outcomes

- Emergence and strengthening of local NGOs.
- Change in the behaviors and accountability for their natural resources.

- Creation of databases (socioeconomic, biological, environmental).
- Communications are improving between the various bodies (local communities, NGOs, local authorities, government's technical services, etc.).
- Better environmental education in rural schools.
- Process support, not only for qualitative results.

Minuses

- (a) Communications
 - Insufficient circulation of information on CEPF fund availability in Madagascar.
 - Lack of knowledge of the CEPF program at the national level (governmental institutions, Malagasy organizations, universities, non-environmental sectors).
 - Lack of sufficient communications/exchanges between partners.
 - Lack of understanding and of appropriation of the objectives envisioned by the CEPF by the community-based organizations, many of whom still believe that the notion of conservation is incompatible with that of development.
- (b) Operational Capability
 - Technical problems with the use of the data-processing tools (notably the software) have made it difficult to submit reports (Performance Tracker): lack of response to technical support calls during the implementation of the program.
 - Insufficient follow-up by, and feedback from, the CEPF regarding the activities undertaken, the periodical reports, the outcomes and lessons learned, as well as regarding the results of intermediate assessments.
 - Lack of access to funds for trips (to share experiences).
 - The formulation of projects is often based on the objectives and vision of those who promote them, rather than the beneficiaries.
 - A small share of the CEPF funds goes to national institutions.
- (c) Funding Criteria
 - The length of the funding period is too short to allow for the expected impact to be felt in a sustainable manner.
 - Uncertainty concerning the funding's perennial nature.
 - Insufficient funds.
- (d) Reports
 - The reporting pace is incompatible with the projects' schedule.
- (e) Results
 - False impression of favoritism toward foreign institutions.
 - The funds secured are not sufficient for all alternatives.
 - Lack of acknowledgement of the importance of the impact of CEPF by the beneficiaries.

Opportunities

- (a) Improvement of communications

- Need to identify and take advantage of efficient communications means at the national, regional, and local levels (workshops, media, marketing, etc.) to raise awareness among the potential beneficiaries, including the community-based organizations and others, concerning prioritization and the criteria for CEPF funding access.
 - Distribution to project participants and other parties of reports on the projects' outcomes, the lessons learned, and on the overall CEPF assessment.
 - Data on the outcome of CEPF programs implemented in other countries should be made available.
 - Need to directly address issues related to language and the key concerns and education level.
- (b) Methodology and Tools
- Preparation and distribution of a guide on how to access CEPF funding that could help project promoters (NGOs and others) in their contacts at different levels, particularly with the community-based organizations.
 - Preparation and distribution of a guide on how the CEPF operates.
 - Annual meetings, exchanges and creation of networks among beneficiaries.
 - Reference to recent key site ranking to better understand the threats to biodiversity conservation.
 - Adoption of a submission schedule for proposals.
 - Consider making grants to individuals who formulate innovative ideas that can meet community needs while making the former accountable.
- (c) Improved Follow-up
- Possible creation of a local coordination unit.
 - Creation of a follow-up/assessment committee at the national level.
 - Creation and implementation of a standard canvass for all programs.
 - Perpetuation of the projects' outcomes at the level of community structures by raising awareness on such outcomes to guide future initiatives.
- (d) Coordination of, and integration of CEPF into existing initiatives (financial and other) that promote biodiversity and sustainable development, notably:
- the Durban Vision Group and the Biodiversity Conservation Fund;
 - the PE3 (that supports sustainable development through conservation);
 - Opportunity to promote the appropriation of conservation visions at the local level, and to contribute to the implementation of the SAPM (*Système des aires protégées de Madagascar* or System of Protected Areas of Madagascar).

Threats

- (a) Political, economic and/or social context
- Climate of uncertainty linked to incoming elections.
 - Possibility of incoming changes in the political strategies, at the level either of the Government, or of the donors.
 - Inefficiency and opposition to change within governmental structures.
 - Inability to manage information and make it accessible to concerned parties at all levels.

- The level of education and the economic status in Madagascar are still not sufficient to allow for the CEPF conservation vision to be appropriated.
 - Disparity of criteria between donors (corridor or key habitat management, etc.).
- (b) Operations and follow-up
- Lack of competent and eligible local/national site structures (notably, lack of management skills).
 - Creation of a possible cycle of financial dependency.
 - Setting up of a coordination unit that may burden the system.
 - Increasing number of pressures to be faced.
 - Conflicts related to involvement/priorities between local players (biologists/scientists vs. development agents).
 - Misappropriation of funds when follow-up is not continuous.
 - Limited communications budget.



Summary of Day Two

The second day's sessions were opened with a presentation by John Watkin of a matrix summarizing the SWOT analysis performed by the work groups.

Next, based on the comments made during the first day concerning the fact that the workshop was a unique opportunity for the CEPF grantees to share experiences with their peers, the Facilitator asked the participants to share information on their respective activities in order to outline the lessons learned in relation to topics previously outlined as priority issues within the SWOT analysis:

- Community involvement
- Capacity building
- Partnership between civil society organizations and co-financing
- Compatibility between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development
- Communications
- Conflict resolution

The group listened to presentations made by the following grantees:

- *CI Madagascar* notably developed its national capacity building methods by implementing training programs in the fields of conservation and management, along with awareness campaigns.
- *CI Madagascar/Small Grants Fund*: Implementation of the nodes system, according to which agreements are entered into with local organizations for the latter to serve as intermediaries such that small grants can directly reach the communities. Experience-sharing meetings are planned between nodes in the future.
- *Fanamby Daraina*: The Director of this organization underlined the need to involve diverse players as true conservation management partners, including village chiefs, local authorities and others. Obligations should be assumed by the local communities and associations which are in the process of legally registering themselves.
- *BirdLife*: During the presentation on the project associated with the wetlands and forests of the Mahavavy-Kinkoy region, in the western part of the country, it was underlined that they learned that, in order to perpetuate the activities' impact, it is necessary to include actions that have an economic development component.
- *Matez*: This Malagasy NGO was created by former employees of the Conservation International Zahamena project and has been conducting activities in more than 50 communities. The success achieved through the support of the Menine groups was mentioned.
- *The Peregrine Fund* team also stressed that they are supporting ways of making the communities accountable, notably within the framework of efforts to preserve the Madagascar fishing eagle through the creation and strengthening of community-based associations and the formulation of strategies and management plans for the area's fish and forest resources.
- *MATE* mentioned the need for innovative approaches at the community level through revenue generating activities and sustainable development, instead of simply being dependent upon donor's funding. Its project made it possible to identify non-timber forest products such as cloves, and to perform on-site transformation of the so-called "medicine-ball" plants, which are sought after both by the pharmaceutical industry and the national ecotourism industry, a

program that specifically targets Malagasy students. The marketing facet is very important and often overseen in the NGOs' projects.

- Three of the international partners involved in Madagascar (REBIOMA, the Kew Royal Botanical Gardens, and the Missouri Botanical Garden) presented reports on their contributions to Madagascan capacity building at the national level through training as well as through the creation, distribution and use of biological maps and basic data that facilitate analysis, conservation planning, environmental management and result-tracking, and promote better awareness and advocacy.

It became clear as the meeting unfolded that most projects had been addressing several, if not all of, the above-mentioned issues.

These presentations laid out a concrete basis for further discussions to take place within the two work groups on the impact of the CEPF program recommendations and of potential future. Regarding the first item, the following achievements were reported and discussed:

- (a) At the community level:
 - Local initiative promotion and support
 - Involvement of the communities in natural resource management
 - Community snowball effect
- (b) At the institutional level:
 - Emergence of local organizations
 - "Operationalization" of the grantee institutions
 - Diversification and progressive evolution of the local institutions
 - Building of the local partners' organizational capacity
 - Credibility of the national organizations
- (c) Other levels:
 - Appropriation by the decentralized governmental authorities of an environmental perspective.
 - Giving more weight to scientific data and other relevant information in the decision-making process at the operational level
 - Development of partnerships at all levels
 - Opening of intervention zones and of zones co-financed by traditional donors

The participants also discussed what the future holds, with a particular emphasis on a potential second round of CEPF funding, and the three following themes:

(a) CEPF's added value

The value that CEPF adds to other organizations' initiatives was described as follows, and the below list of points should be used as a guide for future actions:

- Resource decentralization in order to optimize community-based organizations' interventions
- Filling up the gaps left by other sources of funding
- Possibility of funding activities and transfers of management (accompanying measures) to the community-based organizations

- Expanding the horizon and reflecting on the links between conservation and development
- Opportunities to take risks and to identify new experimental approaches
- Admissibility for support of intervention zones that are located outside of protected sites
- Development of partnerships
- Flexibility and innovative character

(b) Current and future strategic directions

The work groups took these advantages into consideration while working on a review of the first phase's strategic directions in Madagascar, aiming to formulate recommendations for the future. These recommendations could also guide other donor investments in the hotspot.

- *Integration of local groups and individuals into the management of protected areas and reserves.* All participants agreed that priority should be given to this objective, in light of its complexity and the challenges involved, which cannot be met within short periods of time. Such integration should be increased and maintained to make the local population accountable for conservation from the conceptualization to the development stages, and for the management of current and future protected areas.
- *Private sector conservation initiatives.* Few proposals were submitted to CEPF for business projects. The concept should be reconsidered, and funding available to corporations should be increased. At the same time, the role of the private sector at the local level, or micro-enterprise level, should be encouraged within the framework of the CEPF.
- *Biodiversity conservation and management training.* The importance of this strategic direction has been even more apparent since the adoption of the Durban Vision and the associated protected area expansion plan. The management of such areas is still an enormous challenge. Training should be tailored to specific priority needs. It is essential to identify and strengthen the national institutions that handle the training of the teams who will manage the protected areas.
- *Awareness and advocacy booster mechanism.* In view of the Durban Vision, which is an indicator of tremendous awareness at the central level, it is necessary to improve public understanding about conservation in communities around protected areas.
- *Biodiversity Action Fund.* It is necessary to expand the Small Grants Program by decentralizing the nodes and focusing on local activities.
- *Creation of a monitoring and coordination network.* Such network has already been created within the framework of the Durban Vision and of the Durban Group. It should be maintained to ensure that the initiatives are actually implemented.
- The work groups suggested that the following two strategic directions be added:
 - Strengthening of communications: at the national, regional and, above all, local levels.*
 - Capacity building within civil society so as to ensure implementation of the Durban Vision – at the level of community-based organizations as well as at all other levels.*

(c) Priority interventions

The work groups all underlined that, in view of the "trial" nature of the first phase of CEPF investment in Madagascar, additional investment would be key to consolidate the interim outcomes reached so far, and to meet the targeted goals in a sustainable manner.

The workshop's closing session consisted of a presentation made by CI-Madagascar Director Léon Rajaobelina summarizing the meeting and outcomes.

Annex 1. SWOT Summary

PLUSES	WEAKNESSES	THREATS	OPPORTUNITIES
<p>CEPF Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ecosystem profile, framework Multiple intervention domains (local, regional, national) Implication of the CEPF in the application for funding (on-going and bilateral dialogue) Simple, flexible and negotiable (from a thematic, financial and planning point of view) Involvement of civil society players in the sites' conservation Independent review and selection of projects Opportunities <p>Diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size Six strategic directions Financial institutions Representative geographical cover 	<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of CEPF funding: insufficient distribution of information at a broad scale, the program is poorly known at the national level Communications level within the CEPF regarding feedback despite interim assessments, lack of communications between partners and/or with the partners <p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase does not last long enough Amount is too low Funding is too difficult to obtain for individuals <p>Civil Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of understanding and of appropriation of the vision's objectives by the local communities <p>Reporting Mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical problems Reporting pace is incompatible with the 	<p>Change in the political vision and potential instability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in the conservation policy strategies either at the donors' level, or at the national level Conflicts of interests <p>The donors are attracted to conservation but by way of different approaches</p> <p>Lack of financial and administrative systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to identify appropriate financial and administrative management systems Lack of a system that would allow individuals to access funding On-going dependency of the communities on the CEPF <p>Lack of technical and administrative capabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of desire among beneficiaries to participate in the conservation programs 	<p>Improving communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making the beneficiaries, notably the community-based organizations, more aware of the CEPF's programs and priorities Sharing the lessons learned at the project level, and between CEPF I and CEPF II <p>Tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guide for civil society on how to access CEPF funds Application Process Guide <p>Complementarily with other initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Durban Vision PE3 Sustainable development support through conservation <p>Improved follow-up Local coordination unit</p> <p>Opportunity to strengthen communities in conservation.</p>

<p>Capacity building as a CEPF objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple levels (scientific, technical and management) • Making the groups concerned accountable <p>Measuring success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative and quantitative (process and outcomes) <p>Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At all levels and with diverse players <p>Financial aspect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with planning/development costs 	<p>projects' schedule</p>		
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Annex 2. Participant List

Tahiana Andriaharimalala
Research Programs Coordinator
Lot 102B; Ampandranana
Antananarivo; Madagascar
tahianaa@mate.mg
Tel: 261 20 22 674 90
Cell: + 261 (0) 32 02 643 21

Fenosoa Andriamahenina
TANY MEVA
fenosoa.tenymeva@wanadoo.org

Sylvie Andriambololonera
Missouri Botanical Garden
sylvie.andriambololonera@mobot-mg.org

Aristide Andrianarimisa
REBIOMA
Wildlife Conservation Society
B.P. 8500; Soavimbahoaka
Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
aristide@wcs.org
Tel: 261.2022598

Michele Andrianarisata
Analysis Coordinator
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178; 6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
m.andrianarisata@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Olivier Behra
Executive Director
Man And The Environment
Lot 102B; Ampandranana
Antananarivo; Madagascar
olivierbehra@mate.mg
Tel: 261 20 22 674 90
Cell: 261 (0)33 02 586 72

Stuart Cable
Millennium Seed Bank Project
Royal Botanic Gardens - Kew
Richmond; Surrey
United Kingdom.
TW9 3AB
s.cable@kew.org
Tel: +44 (0)20 8332 5299
Fax: +44 (0)20 8332 5278

Christian Camara
Permanent Representative
Missouri Botanical Garden
camara@malagasy.com

Alison Cameron
Wildlife Conservation Society
acameron@nature.berkeley.edu

Toto Tsiadino Chaplain
Feon'ny Ala -Masoala
ttsiadino@yahoo.com

Joanna Durbin
Directeur du Programme
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Sylvain Eboroke
CEL/Fort Dauphin
libanonaecology@hotmail.com
Tel: 92.212.42
Cell: +261 (0) 32 40 955 64

Lisa Gaylord
Tour Zital, 6th Floor
USAID/Madagascar
B. P. 5253; ZI Taloumis Ankorondrano
Antananarivo; Madagascar
lisa.gaylord@usaid.gov
Tel: 261 20 22 539 20
Fax: 260 20 22 538 86/87

Frank Hawkins
Technical Director of CBC
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178; 6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
f.hawkins@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Christopher Holmes
Wildlife Conservation Society
cholmes@wcs.org
Cell: +261 (0)33 11 88022

Benedicte Leclercq
UNESCO Patrimoine Mondial
22, rue Rainitovo (au dessus CINU)
Antsahavola; Antananarivo 101,
Madagascar
b.leclercq@unesco.org
Tel: +261.2022.545.51
Cell: +261.3314.56.999

Pete Lowry
Curator and Head of the Africa &
Madagascar Department
Missouri Botanical Garden
c/ oMuséum National d'Histoire Naturelle
Paris; France
pete.lowry@mobot.org
Tel: + 33 1.40.79.33.51

Francois Odendaal
3 Bishop Road
EcoAfrica Observatory, 7925
South Africa
francois@ecoafrika.co.za

Monali Patel
Coordinator
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Conservation International
1919 M St NW;
Washington, DC 20036 USA
m.patel@conservation.org

Rivo Rabarisoa
BirdLife International
rivo.rabarisoa@birdlife-mada.org
Cell: 1 261 (0)32 4006 824

Harison Rabarison
Research Manager
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178
6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
h.rabarison@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Jeanneney Rabearivony
Peregrine Fund
pfundmad@wanadoo.org

Pierrot Rabezandry
Club Vintsy
pierrot_rabeza206@yahoo.fr

Sahondra Radilofe
Director of Operations
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178
6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
s.radilofe@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Josette Rahantamalala
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178
6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
j.rahantamalala@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Jeannie Raharimampionona
Missouri Botanical Garden
jeannie.raharimampionona@mobot-mg.org

Leon Rajaobelina
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178; 6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
l.rajaobelina@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79

Serge Rajaobelina
Fanamby
fanamby@fanamby.org.mg
Tel: 22-288-78
Cell: +261 (0) 32 0248587

Haingo Rajaofara
Assistant Director Partners
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178
6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
h.rajaofara@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Bienvenu Rajaonson
Banque Mondiale

Solofoe Rakotoarisoa
Royal Botanic Gardens - Kew
rbgkew@wanadoo.mg

Zo Lalaina Rakotobe
Conservation Strategies Coordinator
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178
6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
z.rakotobe@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Erick Rakotomavo
Fondation Tany Meva
tanymeva@wanadoo.org
Tel: +261 (0)32.0477.272

Pierrot Rakotoniaina
Policy Coordinator
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178
6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
p.rakotoniaina@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Mamitiana Rakotozafy
MATEZA
BP 38; Fenerive Est.
Antananarivo 101
Madagascar

Guy Suzon Ramangason
Directeur Generale
Association Nationale pour la Gestion des
Aires Protegees (ANGAP)
dg@angap.org
Tel: +22.418.03

Harinaina Rameson
Organisational & Institutional Manager
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178
6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
h.rameson@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

McGordon Ranaivo_Arivelon
Fanamby
mc.ranaivoarivelo@fanamby.org.mg
Tel: 032-07-395-00

Jeannin Ranaivonasy
ESSA Forets
jranaivonasy@mel.wanadoo.mg
Tel: 261 (0)24 233 03
Cell: 261(0) 331416671

Nivo Ranaivosrivero
CARE International
nivo@care.mg

Nirina Roseta Rasoaharivava
MATEZA
BP 38
Fenerive Est.; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
cimatezacom@wanadoo.org

Tovonahary Mamitiana Rasolofoharivelo
Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178
6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
t.rasolofoharivelo@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Andriambolantsoa Rasolohery
Remote Sensing Trainer
Conservation International - Madagascar
BP 5178
6, rue Razafindratandra
Ambohidahy; Antananarivo 101
Madagascar
a.rasolohery@conservation.org
Tel: +261 20 22 609 79
Fax: +261 20 22 250 29

Andriamandimbisoa Razafimpahanana
REBIOMA
WCS
razafimpahanana-wcs@ins.mg

Jeanne Marie Clara Razanatsoa
Club Vintsy
pierrot_rabeza206@yahoo.fr

Lily-Arison Rene de Roland
Peregrine Fund
pfundmad@wanadoo.mg
Tel: +032-023-2484

Roger Safford
BirdLife International
Wellbrook Court
Girton Road
Cambridge, UK
CB3 0NA
r.safford@birdlife.org

Sally Timpson
Consultant
45 Sutton PL South
New York, NY 10022 USA
sarah.timpson@undp.org

John Watkin
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Conservation International
1919 M St NW
Washington, DC 20036 USA
j.watkin@conservation.org
Tel: +1 202 912 1767

**Critical Ecosystem
Partnership Fund**
Conservation International
1919 M Street NW
Suite 600
Washington DC 20036
cepf@conservation.org

As of January 2007
Conservation International
2011 Crystal Drive
Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22202
cepf@conservation.org

www.cepf.net