



## LINKING ACTORS FOR REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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## FINAL PROGRAMMATIC REPORT

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>ACORDS</b>	: Appui aux Communes et Organisations Rurales pour le Développement du Sud
<b>AGETIPA</b>	: Agence Générale d'Exécution de Travaux d'Intérêts Publics d'Antananarivo
<b>CBO</b>	: Community – Based Organizations
<b>CBNRM</b>	: Community Based Natural for Resources Management
<b>CCD</b>	: Communal Development Committees
<b>CGDIS</b>	: Commissariat Général pour le Développement Intégré du Sud
<b>CIREEF</b>	: Circonscription Régionale de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêts
<b>CMU</b>	: Comité Municipal d'Urbanisme
<b>CRD</b>	: Comité Régional de Développement (Regional Development Committee)
<b>CSOs</b>	: Civil Society Organizations
<b>DGC</b>	: Développement et Gestion des Connaissances
<b>DGEF</b>	: Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts
<b>DTM</b>	: Direction de Tutelle des Municipalités
<b>EU</b>	: European Union
<b>FAFAFI</b>	: <i>Fanentanana Fambolena sy Fiompiana</i> - Cultivation and Farming Sensibilization
<b>FTU</b>	: Fort Dauphin
<b>GDA</b>	: Global Development Alliance
<b>GOM</b>	: Government of Madagascar
<b>HIMO</b>	: Haute Intensité de Main d'œuvre (Work For Food approach)
<b>IHSM</b>	: Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines
<b>IG2P</b>	: Integrated Growth Pole Project
<b>LARO</b>	: Linking Actors For Regional opportunity
<b>LWA</b>	: Leader with Associates Award
<b>MBG</b>	: Missouri Botanical Garden
<b>MEEF</b>	: Ministère de l'Environnement et des Eaux et Forêts
<b>MIRAY</b>	: Consortium WWF-CI-PACT/Program for Ecoregion-Based Conservation and Development
<b>NEAP</b>	: National Environmental Action Plan
<b>NGOs</b>	: Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>NRM</b>	: Natural Resource Management
<b>NRMP</b>	: Natural Resource Management Project
<b>OCA</b>	: Organizational Capacity Assessment
<b>ODC</b>	: Other Direct Cost
<b>ONE</b>	: Office National pour l'Environnement (National Environment Office)
<b>PAE</b>	: Plan d'Action Environnementale (Environmental Action Plan)
<b>PAIGEP</b>	: Programme d'Appui aux Initiatives de Gestion Economique et Planification
<b>PCD</b>	: Plan Communal de Développement (Communal Development Plan)

<b>PHBM</b>	: Projet de la Haute Bassin de Mandrare
<b>PIMP</b>	: Programme d'Investissement Municipal Public
<b>PIP</b>	: Programme d'Investissement Public
<b>PPP</b>	: Public-Private-Partnership
<b>PUDI</b>	: Plan d'urbanisme Directeur
<b>RDP</b>	: Regional Development Plan (Plan Régional de Développement)
<b>PRSP</b>	: Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan
<b>PST</b>	: Projet Sectoriel de Transport
<b>QMM</b>	: Qit Minerals Madagascar
<b>RFA</b>	: Request for Approval
<b>RDP</b>	: Regional Development Plan
<b>RIP</b>	: Regional Investment Plan
<b>RIS</b>	: Regional Investment Strategy
<b>SAVEM</b>	: Sustainable Approach for Viable Environment Management
<b>RDF</b>	: Regional Development Framework
<b>SEIA</b>	: Social and Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>SIFA</b>	: Sehatra Ifampidinihana ho Fampandrosoana an'Amboasary (Amboasary Development Dialogue Structure)
<b>TSU</b>	: Technical Support Unit
<b>UNPD</b>	: United Nations Program for Development
<b>USAID</b>	: U.S Agency for International Development
<b>UP</b>	: Urban Plan
<b>WCS</b>	: Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>WWF</b>	: World Wide Fund for Nature

## I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Initiated jointly by USAID and QMM, LARO program is a combination of multi-sectoral governance and conservation of natural resources, integrated into a coherent vision of development applied at regional, communal and local levels.

LARO, as a Malagasy word that means, “the unique and best product obtained from the mixing of various ingredients”, explains this idea and challenge. LARO is a comprehensive program that supports the regional development of the Anosy Region through a participatory regional planning process and the implementation of concrete prioritized field actions such as community reforestation activities, aquaculture and implementation of Conservation site.

Launched in October 2003, LARO is a two years program with two phases. The first one lasted from October 2003 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004 and the second one from January 2004 to October 2005:

- The first phase corresponds to: (i) the re-launching of the CRD through the involvement of a wider array of regional actors and the adherence of local, regional and national actors to the Regional Development Framework; (ii) the production of the Urban Plan for Fort-Dauphin; (iii) the initiation of conservation and development activities in targeted communes focused through reforestation, conservation and income-generation, and aquaculture activities.
- The second phase aims to: (i) integrate key planning and coordination functions in the CRD under a new reinforced executive structure, working under a credible and legitimate board of members; (ii) provide an organizational support and a technical assistance in planning and knowledge management to the CRD; (iii) incorporate key environment issues into local planning in selected communes; (iv) support conservation, plantation and income-generating activities involving local communities.

Pact Madagascar worked in close partnership with the QMM team to provide support to: (i) regional actors to validate and finalize the Regional Development Framework (RDF); (ii) selected communes in the development and follow up of their communal development plans; (iii) selected local communities to manage their natural resources in a sustainable manner; (iv) the contribution to a sustainable supply of wood and alternative energy sources for the population.

LARO worked in close collaboration with: (i) the Regional Development Committee of Anosy (CRD) for all activities related to Regional Planning; (ii) the CIREEF of Anosy and WCS for all environmental activities; (iii) FAFAFI for activities related to mobilization and improvement of local community livelihood (development of income-generating activities); IHSM, for the component related to the implementation of the aquaculture site of Ambinanibe.

During these two years of implementation, LARO reached several major and decisive results, which will durably impact positively the development of Anosy Region.

- **Mobilization of regional actors across different levels:** The LARO team carried out a range of mobilization activities in all key activity areas under the 3 components of the program. For the regional planning activities, mobilization of local, regional, and national stakeholders was decisive for (i) the re-launching of the CRD and for (ii) the elaboration, internalization and validation of the Regional Development Framework (RDF) and the Regional Development Plan (RDP). Support was also provided to the Urban Planning Committee (CMU) of Fort Dauphin as well as to Communal Development Committees in rural area (CCDs) in the mobilization of communal stakeholders respectively for (i) their involvement in the strategic formulation of the urban plan of the city and (ii) their involvement in the updating of Communal Development Plans (PCDs) and (iii) integration of an environmental dimension in these plans. The implementation of the conservation site of Ambatotsirongorongo and the choice of the site for reforestation activities entailed also intensive mobilization activities at the community level.
- **Elaboration of the Regional Development Framework and Regional Development Plan:** LARO supported, the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> stages of RDF, defining 8 development axes and 7 development poles of the region validated by representatives of all stakeholders during two successive General Assemblies (GA) of the CRD held in December 2003 and in May 2004. 150 (during the 1st GA) and 350 (during the 2<sup>nd</sup> GA) members of the CRD, representative of actors from remote areas of the Anosy Region, actively participated in the discussion and validation of the RDF. As from September 2004, the LARO team concentrated its support to the new Regional executive authorities and the CRD for the elaboration and validation of the Regional Development Plan (RDP) and the Regional Investment Plan (RIP). LARO also helped promoting and advocating RDF, RDP and RIP at the central government level.
- **Organizational and Institutional Development Support to the CRD:** This support aims to ensure that the CRD acts as a platform of dialogue for the regional stakeholders. After a long and intensive support to the organizational and institutional development, the CRD reached a formalized statute and the recognition of a major institutional mechanism for the Anosy Region. During the General Assembly of August 2005, where 450 CRD members participated, the statute and the internal procedure were adopted and a new president and board members were elected. The main attribution of the CRD would be the role of a consultative committee for the regional government and to act as a mechanism ensuring the integration/participation of all stakeholders in the regional development process.
- **The elaboration of Fort Dauphin's Urban Plan (UP):** Supported by LARO, the Urban Development Plan of Fort Dauphin is achieved. Fort Dauphin is considered to be the most important development node in the Anosy region and also selected by the government as one of the 3 growth poles of the country.
- **Construction of tree nursery:** The tree nursery of Mangarivotra is fully operational and has produced 120,000 plants, planted during the 2005 reforestation campaign in 5 Communes covering 100 Ha. This activity is in accordance with the priorities of RDF and RDP.

- **Implementation of the conservation of Ambatotsirongorongo:** The management plan of the site is finalized, public consultation and awareness were carried out at the level of the community surrounding the site on the major stakes related the conservation of the site. The WCS team helped to identify the potential pressures and threats to the site. Cultural and socio-economic studies evaluating the interest of local communities in the Ambatotsirongorongo conservation site are completed.
- **Implementation and valorization of Regional Information System:** LARO has provided a specialized technician in information and knowledge management. This technician has ensured a close support in implementing the program activities such as the production of different analysis required to elaborate the SDR, the elaboration of management plans of the Ambatotsirongorongo Conservation site and the elaboration of the “Tableau de Bord Environnemental” (TBER). The Regional Information System is considered as an important tool to support any decision-making process of regional stakeholders.
- **Construction of the aquaculture** site of Ambinanibe with IHSM is achieved. The main objectives of this site are to strengthen the capacity of the local community in aquaculture techniques and to serve as a training place for the students of the Ambaninanikely training center. In addition, it is also a potential source of revenue for the local community through the sale of shrimps coming from the basin.

Several major events that have directly and positively supported the LARO implementation strategy:

- **The implementation of Regions in May 2004:** The new Chief of Region was appointed in September 2004. This situation extended the intervention areas. The nomination of the new Chief of Region as well as its new staff served as a dynamic in the elaboration of a Regional Development Plan (RDP) and progressively lead the LARO team in adjusting its strategy of support to the regional planning activities. The elaboration of a RDP was actually a top priority of the new Chief of Region as one of his performance evaluation criteria. Thus, starting in September 2004 and lasting 6 months, all efforts of the LARO team were focused on these activities, leading to some delays on other planned activities.
- **The creation of USAID Ecoregional Alliance Anosy:** This Alliance is a platform designed by USAID projects to facilitate the coordination of interventions around the common theme of sustainable resource management and rural development inside the Anosy Region. Pact/LARO was chosen by USAID Madagascar to be the coordinator of the Alliance USAID in the Anosy Region. LARO was mandated to coordinate with all Alliance members the development of work plans, performance targets, and planning tools to ensure maximum inter-project coordination. The major task of the Alliance Coordinator is to facilitate communication between Alliance members and a wide variety of regional actors. Since its creation, the USAID Alliance Anosy, under Pact/LARO coordination has organized a monthly meeting to coordinate actions and share information among alliance members.

- **The Launching the World Bank funded project Integrated Growth Pole (IG2P):** The Anosy Region was selected as one of the priority intervention zones of this project. Overlap and complementarities between some activities of LARO and IG2P have been observed at the level of the Urban Planning component. The IG2P objective is to support private sector led growth through the provisioning of a legal, physical and business environment in three selected regions: Antananarivo – Antsirabe, Nosy Be, and Anosy/Fort Dauphin (called “growth poles”). IG2P intervention in the Anosy Region is focused on mining and tourism activities development.
- **The Implementation of the European Union ACORDS:** (Appui aux Communes et Organisation Rurale pour le Développement du Sud). This program supports and strengthens the capacity of communes to improve local governance in the province of Fianarantsoa and Toliara, including the Anosy Region. The existence of this new program in Anosy has been helpful to draw out the impact of the Regional Planning up to communes and to ensure the coherence between local planning and regional planning.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the implementation of the program highlighted the development of a close synergy between MISONGA and the new USAID programs in the Anosy region (JariAla, Miaro, and SantéNet). MISONGA, as USAID good governance program, worked closely with LARO to support decentralization and to promote the participation of civil society in decision making. MISONGA and LARO worked collaboratively and shared resources throughout the year 2005 for a successful support to the Regional Planning initiative in the Anosy Region.

Globally, all LARO major objectives were reached during the 2 years implementation of the Program. LARO assumed a successful transition to the new USAID programs implemented in the Anosy Region such as MISONGA, JariAla, SantéNet and Miaro. Some key results of LARO intervention over the past two years have contributed to the design and integration of these programs into the coherent Regional Development Framework.

## II PROJECT DESCRIPTION (BACKGROUND)

### II.1 The intervention zone - Anosy Region

The Anosy Region is located in the extreme southeastern part of Madagascar and includes three administrative districts: Fort-Dauphin, Amboasary and Betroka which was integrated into the Anosy Region in September 2004. Anosy is one of the most well-known tourist destinations in the country (ranked third) due to its wealth of natural resources and unique floral and faunal biodiversity. The national park of Andohahela, covering 76,000 ha, is well known and received an international ecotourism award for combining humid and dry forests within one protected area.

The region has also enormous economic potential in terms of mineral resources, agriculture, fisheries, and other sectors. QMM investment provides an important opportunity for the region by encouraging the development of infrastructure (port, airport, roads, etc), and generating employment for the local population. This will eventually provide financial resources for decentralized administrative structures such as communes and regional administration offices. In addition, the watershed of Mandrare and the Manampanihy Valley are very important zones for agricultural development and the Anosy coast is rich in marine and sea products such as lobster and shrimp.

However, these potential projects will not really benefit the Region unless a clear and coherent development strategy is in place. The population of the Region is projected to double within the next 20 years, which will increase demand for energy and natural resources, degradation of forests, loss of biodiversity and threats to many species. Without





*Regional Authority during the opening session of the General Assembly of CRD in August 2005*

a proper development plan, the already difficult socio-economic situation could worsen. Some current socio-economic indicators in the Anosy region are alarming: household income of \$57/year; 23,72% of the population suffers from malaria/fevers and 9,23% from diarrhea; 74% of the population in Fort-Dauphin and 85% in Amboasary are illiterate and, 74% of children do not attend school.

## II.2 Regional Planning dynamics

Over the past 7 years, there have been substantial efforts to create an integrated regional planning framework in the Anosy region to ensure greater coherency among development activities and to integrate environmental considerations across all sectors. Regional planning aims to make development investment more productive since they are based on priorities, needs and aspirations of the local communities and the region as a whole. The Regional Development Plan (RDP) serves as the main reference document for development initiatives in the region.

## II.3 Comité Régional de Développement de l'Anosy (CRD)

The Regional Development Committee (CRD) aims to ensure a "continued regional dialogue" focused on development issues in the Anosy region. It is engaged in the process of regional development planning to produce the Regional Development Framework (SDR) with the participation and collaboration of public, private, and civil society actors from across the Region.

The CRD reports to the Region's General Assembly, composed of representatives from the Provincial and Regional Public Services, elected officials, civil society organizations, private sector and from the 43 communes of the region. It is the CRD's General Assembly, which has the responsibility to review and validate the RDF and all other related documents.

### Mission -Vision of CRD Anosy

The CRD is founded on the willingness shared by the actors to reach a level of cohesion and coherence, effectiveness and sustainability of the actions or development via openness, dialogue and partnership.

It proposes to bring all expertises and advocacy initiatives available within members (private, public, local, regional, provincial and national) through participatory regional development process. It proposes to assume the reinforcement of the decentralization process and the organizational and institutional strengthening of the Region, promoting constantly, the participation of the citizens or their representatives within the decision-making process.

***CRD's vision is "a participative and sustainable development within a Region of Anosy, green and attractive".***

## II.4 QMM

QIT Madagascar Minerals (QMM), is a mining company that is 80% owned by the Rio Tinto Group, an UK/Australian-based mining company, and 20% by the Government of Madagascar (GOM). Over the past 15 years, QMM has been exploring the feasibility of initiating a mining project to extract grains of ilmenite sands and small quantities of zircon sand from a mineral sands deposit near the coast. The deposit consists of three blocks in the sub-regions of Petriky, Mandena and Ste-Luce in the region of Anosy (Fort Dauphin). To secure an environmental permit for the proposed project (the central Mandena block), QMM prepared a Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) study that was submitted to the GOM in May 2001.

## II.5 GDA/Alliance

The Global Development Alliance (GDA), launched by USAID in 2001, is a US Government business model for public-private collaboration that supports the underlying principles of USAID's strategy for reorganization and reform. Through the GDA approach, USAID hopes to stimulate new investments and practices by bringing new actors and new ideas into the international development arena. As part of this strategy, LARO program is a public-private partnership between USAID and QMM that promotes the implementation of a sustainable development framework and effective good governance practices in the Anosy Region.

This USAID-QMM Alliance is motivated by three primary interests centered on the Anosy region:

- i. Poverty of Malagasy people, especially in the region of Fort-Dauphin, exacerbated by their vulnerability to recurrent natural disasters, continued food insecurity, lack of regional planning to manage the sustainable exploitation of natural resources and shortcomings in government management of social sector priorities;
- ii. Madagascar's rich natural resources, notably its unique biodiversity, which is of immeasurable global importance; and
- iii. High potential of mining investment as a driving economic force that also contributes to the long-term resolution of the social and environmental issues.

Pact Madagascar, using the Civil Society Leader with Associates Award (LWA) funding mechanism, proposed the integrated LARO program to support the Alliance to achieve three main results:

1. Civil Society and regional actors integrate social, economic and environmental dimensions into a regional development framework;
2. The RDF integrates local development initiatives and plans;
3. Conservation & development activities contribute to the protection of Malagasy biodiversity within the context of local and regional development frameworks.

### III TABLES OF ACTIVITIES

#### III.1 Year 1: October 2003 – October 2004

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Status of Achievements</b>	<b>Gap Analysis</b>	<b>Support Documents</b>
CRD Lessons Learned Identified and Shared	-Lessons Learned Reports available and discussed by regional partners. -Resulting recommendations collected and integrated as basis for CRD General Assembly.	Achieved		- Consultancy Report, institutionalization of the CRD Anosy.
Social Mobilization and Community Consolidation	-Mentoring and Training of Anosy zonal teams and community groups/CCDs for CRD participation. -Selected CCDs focus on integration of local development priorities into communal and regional development plans.	Achieved but continued in year 2.	To integrate the district of Betroka in the new region.	- Annex Consultancy Report, institutionalization of the CRD Anosy.
CRD General Assembly and reconstituted CRD	- 1st General Assembly held. - Zonal mobilization & 2nd General Assembly held and new CRD established and functional. -CRD recognized by key GOM and Donor partners as representative of Anosy region.	GA achieved. Reconstitution of CRD (not achieved); to be continued in year 2.	Reconstitution of CRD is still pending (Waiting for decentralization context notably the implementation of "Region").	- PV Report of the GA of December 2003. - Annex Consultancy Report, institutionalization of the CRD Anosy.
Information Available to Regional Actors	-Info and Databases repatriated and available in the region.	Achieved		- Database at the CRD GIS unit

Activities	Milestones	Status of Achievements	Gap Analysis	Support Documents
<p>Technical Support Unit (TSU) created and functional</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-TSU Team identified and training, material support and mentoring provided.</li> <li>-TSU team provides support to RDF and CRD General Assembly initiatives.</li> <li>-TSU integration into CRD/regional coordination entity.</li> <li>-TSU provides on-going support for regional planning and RDF development initiatives to all regional stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<p>Achieved</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recruitment of technical coordinator with CRD.</li> <li>- Progressive transfer of technical skills will be done after the reconstitution of CRD.</li> </ul>

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Status of Achievements</b>	<b>Gap Analysis</b>	<b>Support Documents</b>
Participatory review and validation of RDF priorities and recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communications materials and repackaging developed and produced.</li> <li>- Sectoral groups active, orientations are adjusted.</li> <li>- Validation Workshop.</li> <li>- Zonal consultations/training.</li> <li>- Review and adjustment of Phase IV documents and presentations in light of zonal review &amp; diagnostics.</li> <li>- CCD &amp; Zonal trainings and mobilization for RDF review.</li> </ul>	Achieved	With some delay because of constraints like communal election in November 2003.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PV des réunion des Groupes Sectoriels</li> <li>- Workshops reports for the validation of the RDF</li> </ul>
RDF Finalized and representative of Anosy regional development investment priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General Assembly to validate RDF priorities.</li> <li>- Elaboration of Regional Investment Strategies.</li> </ul>	<p>RDF (finalized)</p> <p>RIS (not achieved during year 1 but see table for year 2)</p>	National Programming mechanism is till by sector. The Vice Prime Minister team is starting to review this mechanism and will economic programs in regional level. The region will coordinate with CRD the elaboration of RIS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phase 4 and 5 of RDF.</li> <li>- Regional Investment Plan Document.</li> <li>- GA of the CRD Anosy Report.</li> </ul>
Strategic Advocacy and Marketing of RDF potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GOM and Donor agencies informed of RDF potential.</li> </ul>	Achieved		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CRD Trip report to Antananarivo</li> </ul>
Mobilization of Investment partnerships in support of the RDF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Donor programs invest in Anosy region in line with RDF priorities.</li> </ul>	Achieved	Some key actions will be funded next year. The CRD and The Region will continue to promote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrated Growth Pole Project Investment in the Anosy Region</li> </ul>

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Status of Achievements</b>	<b>Gap Analysis</b>	<b>Support Documents</b>
Assessment of PCD in light of local development priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local priorities identified and compared to PCD.</li> <li>- Differences reconciled and lessons learned drawn to contribute to national PCD reflection.</li> </ul>	Communes with Environmental, Conservation zone and income generating activities (achieved)		- Report and tools from the consultancy on the Elaboration of Sectoral Guide for Communal Development Plan (PCD) update.
Assessment of RDF in light of PCD development priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCD priorities identified and compared to RDF.</li> <li>- RDF contents reviewed, debated and reconciled with PCD and local development priorities.</li> </ul>	Achieved (To be continued in year 2)		- Report and tools from the consultancy on the Elaboration of Sectoral Guide for Communal Development Plan (PCD) update.
Technical Assistance for FTU Urban Plan development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assistance provided.</li> <li>- FTU Urban plan developed and adopted by Municipal council and Govt of Madagascar.</li> </ul>	Achieved (To be continued in year 2)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultancy Report on the elaboration of the Fort Dauphin Urban Plan.</li> <li>- Report, Plan d'Urbanisme directeur de la Ville de Fort Dauphin.</li> <li>- Consultancy report, Etude de Génie Civil Urbain by SOMEAH.</li> <li>- Consultancy report, Etude des Tendances d'Evolution Démographique de la Ville de Fort Dauphin.</li> </ul>
Anosy RDF and Fort Dauphin Urban Plan are coherent and integrated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-going reflections to reconcile RDF and FTU/Urban Plan held.</li> </ul>	Achieved		

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Status of Achievements</b>	<b>Gap Analysis</b>	<b>Support Documents</b>
Creation of functional tree nursery for Anosy region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site confirmed and supporting material and human resources in place; nursery established.</li> <li>- Evaluation and prioritization of regional reforestation needs to guide nursery production.</li> <li>- Nursery planting and care for 150,000 seedlings for reforestation exercise.</li> <li>- Evaluation of first cycle of nursery operation and replanting for subsequent cycles.</li> </ul>	Achieved for this first period. (To be continued year 2)		- CIREEF reports + FAFAFI Subgrantee report.
Community Education and Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Education &amp; Mobilization program developed and initiated.</li> <li>- Community Groups and reforestation initiative management structures developed and functional.</li> <li>- Education and mobilization underway.</li> </ul>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Not achieved (Planned for second year)</p>	Expected January 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trip Report of LARO Mobilization team.</li> <li>- FAFAFI Subgrantee report.</li> </ul>
Reforestation Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reforestation needs and priorities defined for selected sites.</li> <li>- On-going development of training and intervention techniques and tools for future campaigns.</li> <li>- Community capacity developed</li> </ul>	<p>Not achieved (Planned for year 2)</p> <p>Not achieved (Planned for year 2)</p> <p>Not achieved (Planned for Year 2)</p>	Expected April – May 2005: best period for reforestation	

Activities	Milestones	Status of Achievements	Gap Analysis	Support Documents
	to master and implement reforestation techniques.			
Monitoring, Evaluation & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-going monitoring and assessment conducted.</li> <li>- Analysis of tree nursery establishment lessons learned and integration into DGEF tree nursery development guidelines and initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing monitoring (achieved)</p> <p>Assessment (expected)</p>		
Site identification and evaluation of conservation, regeneration and income-generating activity potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site confirmed.</li> <li>- Evaluation and prioritization of conservation needs and potential income-generating actions.</li> </ul>	Achieved		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PV of meeting</li> <li>- WCS Subgrantee Report</li> <li>- Consultancy Report, Etude Bilan Diagnostic Ambatorongorongo</li> </ul>
Community Education and Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Education &amp; Mobilization program developed and initiated.</li> <li>- Community Groups and structures developed for conservation zone and activity management.</li> <li>- Community agents trained and functional.</li> </ul>	Achieved		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WCS Subgrantee Report.</li> <li>- FAFAFI Subgrantee Report.</li> </ul>

Activities	Milestones	Status of Achievements	Gap Analysis	Support Documents
<p>Identification &amp; Implementation of sustainable community-based natural resource management and income-generating techniques</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate conservation zone and income-generating techniques defined for relevant sites.</li> <li>- Ecotourism potential assessed and integrated into community development activity planning.</li> <li>- CBNRM plan developed and Community Management transfer initiated.</li> <li>- On-going development of training and intervention techniques and tools.</li> <li>- Community capacity developed to master and implement conservation management and income-generating techniques.</li> </ul>	<p>Achieved (Diagnostic study take in account many topics including ecotourism development and governance activities).</p> <p>CBNRM (not achieved) -depends on the scenario of Management Plan of Ambatotsirongorongo.</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>Expected (December 2004). Understanding local context and issues and Social mobilization required more efforts.</p> <p>Clear status for conservation site not defined (not CBNRM) Ambatotsirongorongo will be considered in the umbrella of Durban Vision to implement conservation site. Reflections are currently evolving.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WCS Subgrantee Report.</li> <li>- FAFAFI Subgrantee</li> </ul>

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Status of Achievements</b>	<b>Gap Analysis</b>	<b>Support Documents</b>
Monitoring, Evaluation & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-going monitoring and assessment conducted.</li> <li>- Analysis of and support for regional commercialization of natural resource and ecotourism products.</li> <li>- Analysis and Integration of lessons learned into regional development and planning initiatives.</li> </ul>	On-going monitoring achieved.		
Site identification and evaluation for aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site confirmed.</li> <li>- Evaluation and prioritization of intervention needs and actions.</li> <li>- Partnerships developed and collaborative intervention plans defined for social and technical interventions.</li> </ul>	Achieved with the preliminary study to implement shrimp aquaculture in Ambinanibe.		- IHSM Report + QMM Report
Community Education and Mobilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Education &amp; Mobilization program developed and initiated.</li> <li>- Community Groups and intervention management structures developed and functional.</li> <li>- Interventions initiated and continuing education and mobilization underway.</li> </ul>	Achieved but considered as key for succeeding (to be continued and reinforced).		IHSM Report

Activities	Milestones	Status of Achievements	Gap Analysis	Support Documents
Development & Implementation of sustainable community-based aquaculture techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate aquaculture techniques defined for selected sites.</li> <li>- Community group training conducted and interventions initiated.</li> <li>- On-going development of training and intervention techniques and tools.</li> <li>- Community capacity developed to master and implement aquaculture techniques.</li> </ul>	Not achieved (current activities)		
Monitoring, Evaluation & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-going monitoring and assessment conducted</li> <li>- Analysis of and support for regional commercialization of aquaculture products.</li> <li>- Analysis and Integration of lessons learned into regional development and planning initiatives.</li> </ul>	On-going monitoring achieved. (Assessment - expected)		

Activities	Milestones	Status of Achievement	Analysis of Gap	Support Documents
Sensitizing & Mobilization of BETROKA stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Betroka stakeholders (mayors and theirs staffs, sub-prefecture government bodies, projects, NGOs/Associations, private sectors, traditional authorities) are sensitized and mobilized.</li> <li>- The concept of dialogue structure and its role is understood by actors.</li> </ul>	Achieved		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trip Report of LARO team for sensitization action in Betroka.</li> <li>- GA of Anosy CRD Report.</li> </ul>
Implementing BETROKA Sub-prefecture dialogue structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General Assembly of Betroka dialogue structure held.</li> <li>- The dialogue structure of Betroka is setting in place and all actors, communes are represented.</li> </ul>	Achieved		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PV of GA of the Betroka Dialogue structure.</li> <li>- Trip Report of LARO and CRD team in Betroka.</li> </ul>
Integrating BETROKA Dialogue structure with CRD Anosy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zonal mobilization for the preparation of General Assembly.</li> <li>- General Assembly of CRD Held.</li> </ul>	Achieved		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report on GA of CRD of August 2005.</li> <li>- Trip report of LARO and CRD teams.</li> </ul>
Reconstitution of CRD Anosy with the 03 sub-prefectures dialogue structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new board of Directors/ CRD is established (General assembly) and recognized by partners and national partners.</li> </ul>	Achieved		PV of the CRD Anosy GA of August 2005.
Developing and implementing Inter-communalities OPCI in key zones (prioritized development nodes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 03 inter-communalities set in place and functional.</li> </ul>	Achieved		

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Status of Achievement</b>	<b>Analysis of Gap</b>	<b>Support Documents</b>
Updating Information and availability to Regional Actors including BETROKA issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Info and Databases updated and available in the region.</li> <li>- “Tableau de Bord Environnemental” functional.</li> </ul>	Achieved		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental instrument panel “tableau de Bord” of Anosy Region.</li> <li>- Environmental Database of the Anosy Region available at the CRD Anosy GIS Unit</li> </ul>
Continuing to support Technical Unit (functional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TSU provides on-going support for regional investment plan and updating RDF.</li> <li>- Adding 01 Technician for Region/CRD.</li> </ul>	Achieved		

**III.2 Year 2: October 2004 – October 2005**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Status of Achievement</b>	<b>Analysis of Gap</b>	<b>Support Documents</b>
Integrating Betroka issues and Refining RDF (Regional Development Framework)	- Sectoral groups active, orientations are adjusted.	Achieved	Activities focused on the finalization of the RDP during 6 months after September 2004.	- Regional Development Framework updated integrating Betroka.
	- Validation Workshop	Achieved		- Regional Development Plan Of Anosy.
Continuing the elaboration of Regional Investment Strategy in close collaboration with “Region”	- RDF priorities with Betroka validated.	Achieved		- Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) and Regional Investment Plan (RIP) documents.
	- Elaboration of Regional Investment Strategies.	Achieved		
Continuing the Strategic Advocacy and Marketing of RDF potential	- GOM and Donor agencies informed of RDF potential and the RIS.	Achieved		- Trip Report of CRD team visit in Antananarivo. - Donors round tables PV. - Workshop for the RIS presentation. (Antananarivo)
Mobilization of Investment partnerships in support of the RDF	- Donor programs invest in Anosy region in line with RDF priorities.	Achieved		Donors round tables PV

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Status of Achievement</b>	<b>Analysis of Gap</b>	<b>Observation</b>
Assessment of RDF in light of PCD development priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCD priorities identified and compared to RDF.</li> <li>- RDF contents reviewed, debated and reconciled with PCD and local development priorities.</li> </ul>	Achieved (partially)	Priority were given to the elaboration and finalization of the Regional Development Plan	- Consultancy report, Elaboration de Guide Sectoriel pour la mise à jours des PCDs.
Develop and Produce updated/simplified PCD guidelines for Anosy communes and in conformity with RDF priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PCD guidelines elaborated and disseminated to Communes.</li> </ul>	Achieved		- Consultancy report, Elaboration de Guide Sectoriel pour la mise à jour des PCDs
Anosy RDF and Fort Dauphin Urban Plan are coherent and integrated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-going reflections to reconcile RDF and FTU/Urban Plan held.</li> </ul>	Achieved		- Techsult Report on the EIA of the Urban Plan of FTU under IG2P support.

Activities	Milestones	Status of Achievement	Analysis of Gap	Support Documents
Maintenance of tree nursery in Mangarivotra	- Tree nursery remaining functional.	Achieved		FAFAFI Subgrantee Report.
Community Education and Mobilization	- Community Education & Mobilization program developed and initiated. - Community Groups and reforestation initiative management structures developed and functional. - Education and mobilization underway.	Achieved  Achieved		- FAFAFI Subgrantee Report.  - LARO and CIREEF team Trip report.
Reforestation Campaign	- Reforestation needs and priorities defined for selected sites. - On-going development of training and intervention techniques and tools for future campaigns. - Community capacity developed to master and implement reforestation techniques.	Achieved  Achieved  Achieved		- FAFAFI Subgrantee Report.
Monitoring, Evaluation & Assessment	- On-going monitoring and assessment conducted.   - Analysis of tree nursery establishment lessons learned and integration into DGEF tree nursery development guidelines and initiatives.	Achieved (partially)   Not achieved	The reforestation activities launched were delayed not allowing an exhaustive assessment of the tree planted.  These activities were transferred to JariAla.	Additional information about on fire activities around the selected reforestation site.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Status of Achievement</b>	<b>Analysis of Gap</b>	<b>Observation</b>
Restitution of diagnostic study of Ambatotsirongorongo for conservation site, regeneration and income-generating activity potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site confirmed.</li> <li>- Evaluation and prioritization of conservation needs and potential income-generating actions.</li> </ul>	Achieved		- WCS Subgrantee Report
Continuing Community Education and Mobilization	- Community Education & Mobilization program developed and initiated.	Achieved		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WCS Subgrantee Report</li> <li>- LARO Team Trip Report</li> </ul>
	- Community Groups and structures developed for conservation zone and activity management.	Achieved		
	- Community agents trained and functional.	Achieved		

Activities	Milestones	Status of Achievement	Analysis of Gap	Observation
Implementation of sustainable community-based natural resource management and income-generating techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate conservation zone and income-generating techniques defined for relevant sites.</li> <li>- Ecotourism potential assessed and integrated into community development activity planning</li> <li>- CBNRM plan developed and Community Management transfer initiated.</li> <li>- On-going development of training and intervention techniques and tools.</li> <li>- Community capacity developed to master and implement conservation management and income-generating techniques.</li> </ul>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved partially</p> <p>Not achieved</p> <p>Not achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>	<p>Choice for the management option of the site was not made (CBNRM,...)</p>	<p>WCS will be the leader for ecotourism, research and the development of “conservation site”</p> <p>CIREEF leader for management status and plan (CBNRM)</p>
Monitoring, Evaluation & Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-going monitoring and assessment conducted.</li> <li>- Analysis of and support for regional commercialization of natural resource and ecotourism products.</li> <li>- Analysis and Integration of lessons learned into regional development and planning initiatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Achieved partially</p> <p>Achieved partially</p> <p>Not Achieved</p>	<p>Priority and effort were given to the elaboration of the RDP of Anosy.</p>	
Training for fishermen with new techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site confirmed.</li> <li>- Evaluation and prioritization of intervention needs and actions.</li> <li>- Partnerships developed and collaborative intervention plans defined for social and technical interventions.</li> </ul>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved partially</p>		

Activities	Milestones	Status of Achievement	Analysis of Gap	Observation
Continuation of community Education and Mobilization	- Community Education & Mobilization program developed and initiated.	Achieved partially		Visit of QMM and other IHSM sites for demonstration, mobilization & training
	- Community Groups and intervention management structures developed and functional.	Achieved		
Development & Implementation of sustainable community-based shrimp aquaculture techniques	- Appropriate aquaculture techniques defined for selected sites.	Achieved		
	- Community group training conducted and interventions initiated.	Achieved		
	- On-going development of training and intervention techniques and tools.	Achieved partially		
	- Community capacity developed to master and implement aquaculture techniques.	Achieved		
Monitoring, Evaluation & Assessment	- On-going monitoring and assessment conducted	Achieved partially		
	- Analysis of and support for regional commercialization of aquaculture products.	Not Achieved		
	- Analysis and Integration of lessons learned into regional development and planning initiatives.	Not Achieved		

## IV KEYS ACHIEVEMENTS BY COMPONENTS

### IV.1 Result 1: Civil Society and Regional Actors Integrate Social, Economic and Environmental Dimensions into a Regional Development Framework

- **Institutional Regional Planning Framework in place.**
- **Technical capacities in the Anosy region for regional planning are improved.**
- **The Anosy region has a Regional Development Framework (RDF) owned by**
- **The Government of Madagascar and key donor agencies adhere to this RDF.**

Ensuring participation and involvement of large array of regional stakeholders and building regional capacity to pilot and undertake planning activities (particularly those related to the RDF process) constitute the major objective under this component. The implementation of the new Region in September 2004 contributed to comfort LARO support to the Anosy Region Planning activities by introducing them in a legal framework.

One of the top priorities of the new Chief of Region has been the completion of the Regional Development Plan (RDP). Anosy Region already has the advantage of possessing the RDF and a preexisting operational regional actors participation mechanism through the CRD. The RDP consisted mainly to a transformation of guidelines extracted from the Regional Development Framework into prioritized actions and projects ready to be funded and executed.

#### IV.1.1 Keys achievements

- **CRD Formalized and recognized by the Regional Authority**



*General Assembly of the CRD Anosy for the adoption of the new statute and the election of the new President (August 2005)*

LARO supported CRD Anosy Organizational and Institutional Development. This support aimed to ensure that the CRD has the appropriate structure and capacity to lead regional development planning activities. CRD activities also have to ensure involvement of all stakeholders in the Regional Development Planning process. LARO assisted the CRD on its strategic formulation. A consultant was hired to help the CRD develop a clear mission statement, according to the evolution of the institutional context of decentralization.

Several institutional scenarios were developed for the CRD with a proposition of statute and internal policy for members as well as procedure for its formalization and legalization.

This result has served as an input to raise discussions and reflections among CRD's members during the 2 General Assemblies (GA) of December 2003 and May 2004. Comments and feedback from this GA were integrated to better reflect all members' vision and the evolution of the context of decentralization.

Before each GA, intensive mobilization activities were carried out by a joint LARO and CRD team, at the level of communes with appropriate communication tools. These activities aimed to prepare a full participation of stakeholders from these zones to the discussions during the GA.

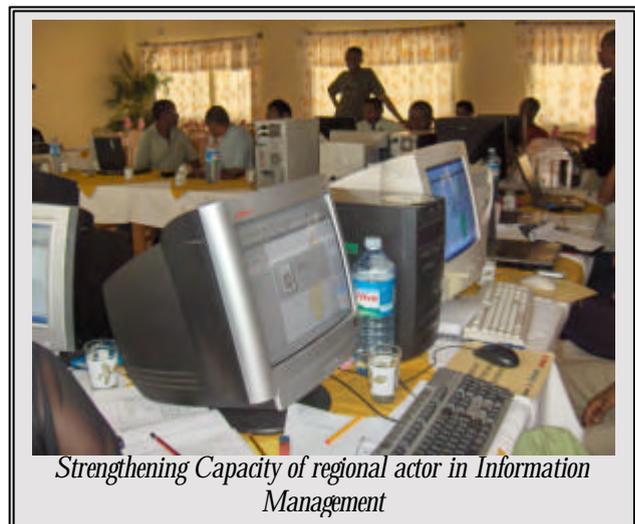
After the 2 first GA, representant of communes assisting to the GA held mobilization activities and sent regularly reports to CRD. Social Mobilization activity is a one of the key factor for real participation of all actors in the Region. LARO team has permanently helped the CRD team in the development of communication tools and in strengthening capacity in social mobilization technique.

The institutionalization and legalization of the CRD was achieved during the GA of August 2005. This result was reached after an intensive mobilization and awareness campaign carried out by CRD team after the GA of May 2004. For the first time along its existence the CRD is legally constituted. Its members adopted the proposed statute and internal policy, new President and Executive Board were elected. By the same time, the new structure of the CRD was implemented as well as the CRD was recognized by the Regional authority as key regional development mechanism, having the same importance as the Regional Council (to be put in place later).

- **Technical capacities to support planning process strengthened and transferred to regional technicians**

LARO team utilized two main mechanisms to develop the needed capacity in planning at the regional level: (1) Mentoring training where Pact placed its technical staff permanently within the CRD, associated with other technical assistance as needed; and (2) providing grants to support the acquisition of equipment and recruitment of permanent technical staff by the CRD.

One GIS specialist was permanently placed within the CRD to raise technical capacity and to provide support in spatial analysis during the elaboration of RDF, and to facilitate discussion and decision making processes.

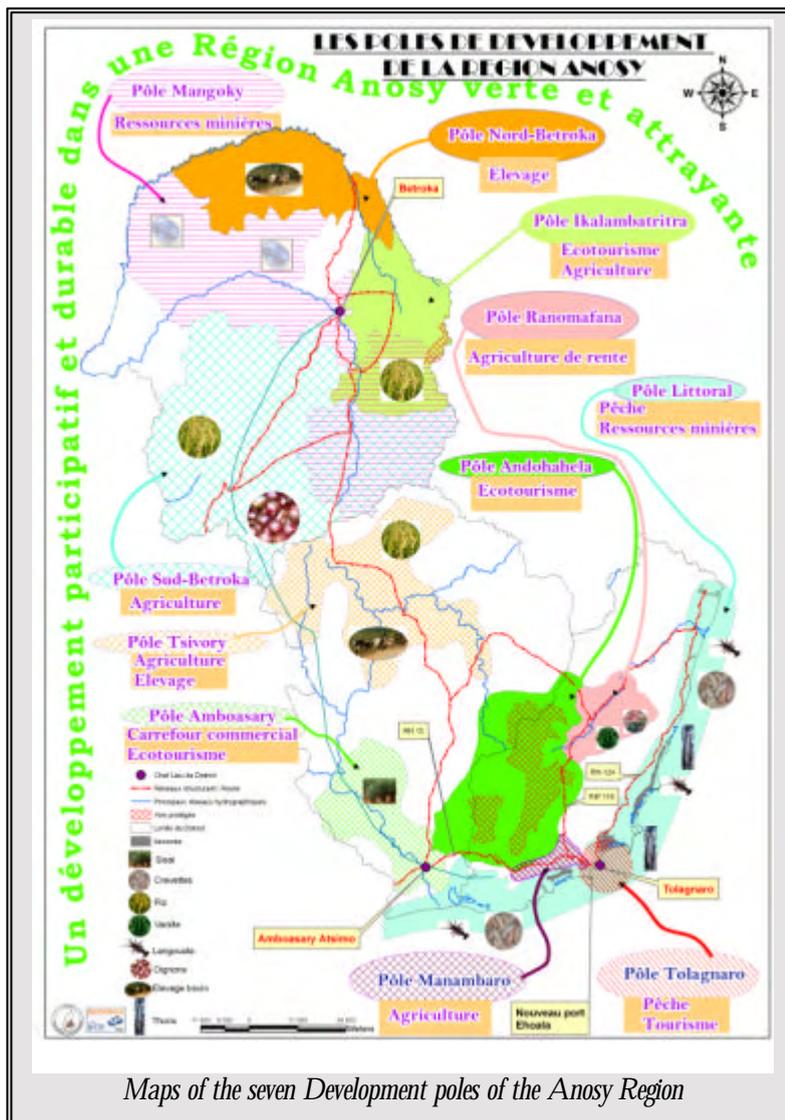


Other specific specialists were deployed by Pact in response to requests by CRD, especially during the preparation for the three General Assembly sessions. The team has worked in

close collaboration with consultants leading the technical aspects of the planning process and institutional and organizational development of CRD.

Specialized consultants in regional planning, institutional/organizational development; communication and social mobilization were recruited to develop the RDF. The LARO team and the technical coordinator of CRD have coordinated all these interventions. LARO covered the costs (salaries and other direct cost) of CRD technical specialists (technical coordinator and mobilization coordinator).

- **Betroka Integrated within the Dynamic of Anosy Regional Development Committee**



Maps of the seven Development poles of the Anosy Region

As decided by the GoM in the implementation of the new 22 Region of Madagascar, Betroka has been integrated as part of the Anosy region. It becomes a new intervention zone for the program, leading the LARO team to support the implementation of a new Regional Development Committee dialogue for the revision of the Regional Development Framework (RDF) and the elaboration of the Regional Development Plan (RDP).

The Anosy Regional Development Committee mobilized and educated Betroka's stakeholders regarding the regional development plan. Following the validation of the Regional Development Plan at the beginning of January 2005, a new permanent bureau was constituted, giving Betroka permanent representation

within the Anosy regional development planning process.

- **4th and 5th Phase of RDF finalized and adopted**

The 4th and 5th phases of the RDF were validated respectively during the two GA of December 2003 and May 2004.

The 4th Phase of the RDF consists of the analysis of major regional problematic, leading to the determination of the main strategic axes for the development of the Anosy Region. The results of this phase constitutes the key elements of the RDF as well as foundation of Communal Development Plans (PCDs). This phase is one of the most important of the elaboration of the RDF. This Phase 4 was the fruit of a very participative process integrating involvement of development actors at the local, regional, provincial and national level as well. This participation was held through workshops, thematic and/or sectorial, Inter sectorial working group session and the GA during which the grand orientations for the development of the Anosy region were validates.

The core of the technical document of the phase 5 was validated and suggestions were proposed by participants for improving and refining its contents. This document included prioritized investments (actions to be funded) for the next five years among the seven development nodes identified and validated during the 4th phase and following the eight grand orientations developed by the administrative "Region". It also took into account the timing of these prioritized actions in reference to those of the PRSP strategy.

- **Regional Development Plan finalized and validated**

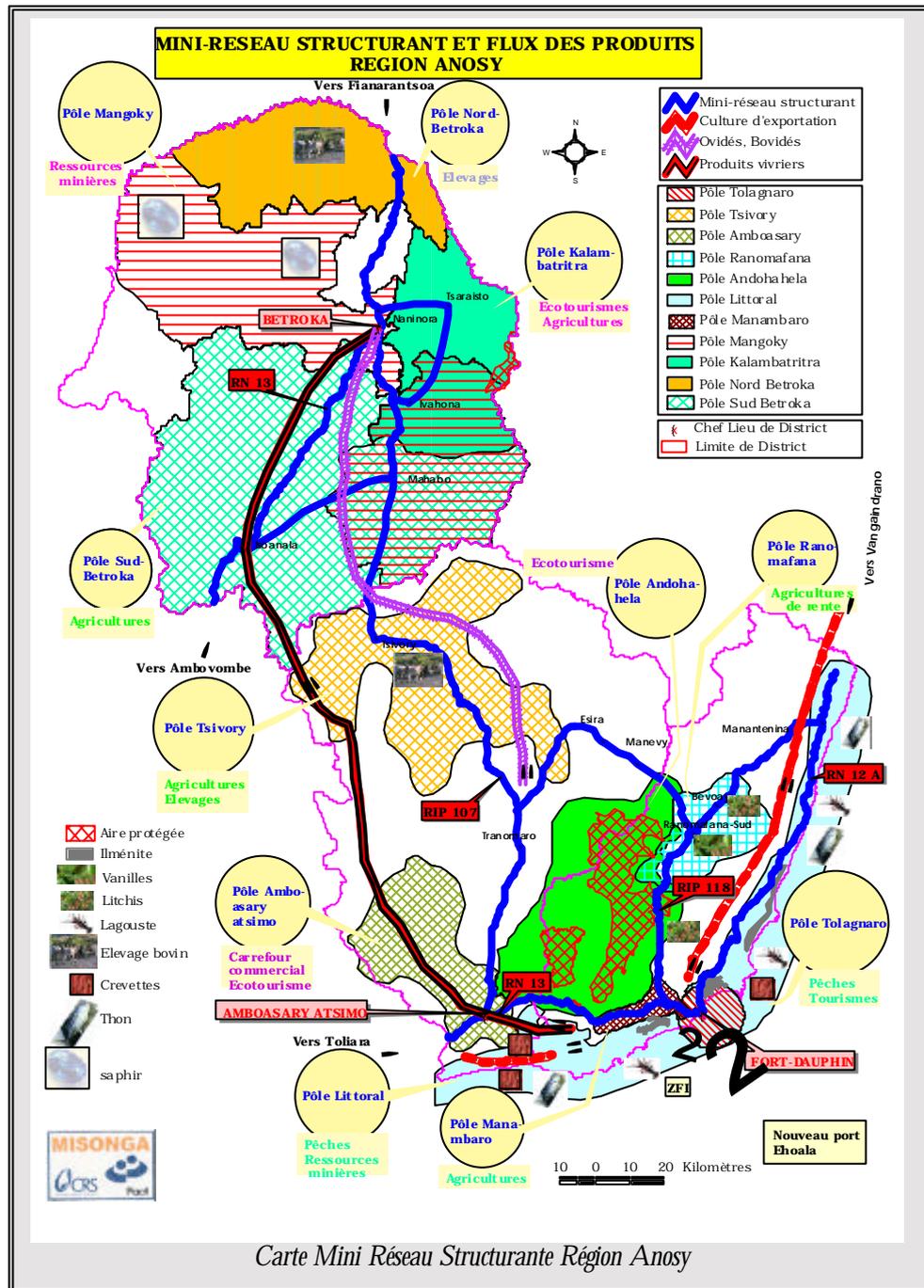
In January 2005, the Regional Development Committee and the new Regional Executive Team completed the first phase of validation of the Regional Development Plan.

As top priority of new Chief of region and part of their performance evaluation criteria, the Regional Development Plan for the Anosy Region was achieved and approved by all stakeholders and the central Government in February 2005. The Regional Development Plan contains technical, chronological and financial details

of the short-terms activities outcomes from the guidelines developed into the Regional Development Framework (RDF) with prioritized actions and projects ready to be funded and executed.



*Donors round table for the promotion of the Regional Investment Plan in Fort Dauphin (August 2005)*



The intensive mobilization held at multiple levels by LARO and CRD team for the integration and participation of all stakeholders in the elaboration of RDF, constituted a decisive piece that facilitated the buy-in, finalization and validation by the regional actors of the RDP.

As a result of this dynamic, the Anosy Region was the first to have its Regional Development Plan completed and approved among the 22 regions of Madagascar. The Anosy Regional Development Framework, which facilitated the conception of the RDP, was considered as a model for the rest of the country.

- **Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) and Regional Investment Plan (RIP)  
Finalized and promoted at different level**

The RIS was achieved after a series of training provided to the pool of local technicians during 3 months (March-June 2005). The Regional Investment Plan (RIP) was directly extracted from the RIS. The RIP is the cost translation of the strategic objectives and activities defined in the Regional Development Plan (RDP). The RIS is intended to provide a strategy through which the regional authority can orientate investments in relation to community development priorities and a means for ensuring that investments yield the intended results.

Promotion and advocacy of the RIP at the central level of the government were organized in Antananarivo. LARO, in collaboration with MISONGA supported travel and lodging costs. The RIP was presented to all Government members (including Prime Minister), high level decision makers in each ministry, President of the National Assembly, President of the Senat, and Diaspora from the Anosy Region living in Antananarivo. LARO, in collaboration with MISONGA, supported all costs related to the organization of this RIP/RIS successful advocacy process.

A donor round table for the presentation and promotion of the Regional Investment Strategy and Regional Investment Plan was also held in Fort Dauphin in July 2005.

- **Anosy Regional Information System Improved to support elaboration of the  
Regional Development Framework (RDF) and the Regional Development Plan  
(RDP)**

Since the year 2000, a Regional Information Management Unit based at the CRD with a populated regional database and a technical capacity was already functional in Fort Dauphin. This unit produced all required analysis for the different phase of RDF. The existence of this unit also contributed efficiently to the elaboration of the RDP.

The Chief of Region expressed his needs to have a similar unit for analysing, producing and managing regional information in order to support the planning, the implementation and the monitoring and evaluation of development activities.

Thus, given the evolution of the regional context and as part of the transition of activities from LARO to MISONGA, the two programs worked closely together to ensure progressively the transfer of the Regional Information Unit from the CRD to the Office of the Region. The Regional Information Management Unit is actually fully transferred and supports the production of maps and other information analysis for the Chief of Region as well as for other stakeholders (CSOs, university...) in the Anosy Region. At the same time, the Unit provides support to regional actors in terms of information management and utilization.

The LARO GIS team also provided support on data collection and production to be integrated into the "Tableau de Bord Environnemental Régional" (TBER) for the Anosy Region in collaboration with ONE and all regional actors. LARO intervention was decisive for the mobilization of local stakeholders in the realization of this TBER. The TBER is now completed and was officially delivered by t ONE to the Chief of Region during the

General Assembly of the CRD in August 2005. Dissemination among regional and national stakeholders is ongoing.

- **Collaboration with other Programs and donors**



*The "Union European Representative" during the Regional Launching of ACORDS on which LARO supported the CRD and Region.*

LARO developed great partnerships with other programs and donors in the region. For instance PHBM (Projet des Hauts Bassins Versants de Mandrare), a project funded by World Bank, was one of key partners of LARO. The PHBM participated in funding all Amboasary participants during the GA. For the launching of ACCORD Project, funded by European Union, LARO supported CRD and the Region for mapping and the presentation of their needs assessment. A group led by CGDIS has been recently set in place to develop strategy for coordinating interventions in the south.

#### IV.1.2 Keys Constraints and Issues:

- The financial sustainability of the CRD was and remains the key constraint/issue related to this component. Most of all CRD costs were supported and covered by the grant agreement provided by LARO (activities, salaries and ODC).
- Initially LARO intervention zones were limited to the 2 districts of Fort-Dauphin and Amboasary Atsimo. The Implementation of the new Region has extended the intervention of LARO to 3 districts, including Betroka. This extension had an important impact on the resources of the Project during the second year. LARO was able to manage and responded to this situation and ensures integration of Betroka with the collaboration of MISONGA.
- The implementation of the new Regional Authority also required LARO to find the best way to adapt its strategy of intervention in accordance with the evolution of the regional context. LARO was initially designed to support the CRD (most of LARO resources were allowed as grants to CRD) and the finalization of the Regional Development Framework. LARO has succeeded to actively support the new Region in close collaboration with MISONGA.

## IV.2 Result 2: The Regional Development Framework Integrates Local Development Initiatives and Plans

- **An Urban Plan for Fort Dauphin is elaborated and integrated into the RDF.**
- **Selected PCDs reflect local development priorities and are integrated into the RDF**

### IV.2.1 Keys Accomplishments

#### A. Elaboration of Urban Plan For Fort Dauphin

The city of Fort-Dauphin has been abandoned for many years in development terms and the situation was very critical when the current mayor took his position. The city authorities had lost credibility with citizens. No planning tools and instruments were available to deal with the population increase. This weakness in planning will be also strongly felt for some key activities such as the Port construction and IG2P activities with negative effects. Recognizing this situation, the mayor considered the elaboration of the FTU urban plan as critical. This urban plan should constitute the key reference to coordinate and build coherency within all expected activities and projects in the city.

- **Implementation of the “ Comité Municipal d’Urbanisation” (CMU)**

**Integration of national actors in the elaboration of the urban development plan according to the new legal framework**

The urban development plan must have the “force of law” and be defensible against third parties. In order to ensure this, the plan must be developed with national partners within the acceptable legal framework. Following the meeting with the “Direction de Tutelle des Municipalités” (DTM) the elaboration process was adjusted to follow the 1961 urban development code. The AGETIPA in charge of the urban aspects of the IG2P project worked in close collaboration with the LARO/GDA team.

Meetings were held at the end of March 2005 to contextualize and coordinate activities between funding organizations (USAID, World Bank), operators (Pact, Vice Primature, AGETIPA) and beneficiaries (CRD, region, commune of Fort Dauphin). The PIPM is actually finalized and integrated into the grand vision of the urban plan

The “Comité Municipal d’Urbanisation” (CMU) was established to elaborate the FTU Urban Plan. It includes the mayor, members of his team, and representatives of decentralized government agencies. An enlarged committee, adding the chiefs of Fokontany, CSOs, traditional authorities and some population representatives was also set up to involve more actors and to ensure transparency. An open public consultation was conducted after technical validation.

- **Regular workshops with CMU and Enlarged CMU held**

Regular weekly meetings were organized to assist the CMU members to contribute and define the vision and activities for the UP. These meetings constituted an effective tool to receive the population’s

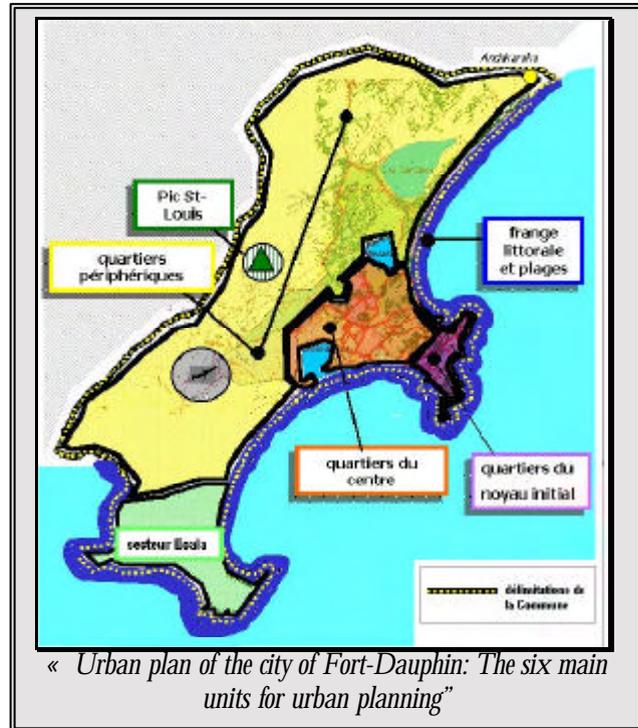
vision regarding the future of their city. Feedback and suggestions were considered to update and finalize a new version of the urban plan.

## ▪ Key studies realized

The following studies were carried out, communicated and integrated into the urban plan. These studies constituted the main inputs to refine the urban plan.

### ○ Baseline study and mapping

The baseline study, led by MADAJURIS Consulting, was finalized and validated. The baseline data on property for the urban community was gathered and analyzed. Property owned by private owners, the State, the province or the communes were mapped. A CD containing the data and maps produced for this study was made available and served as the basis for the discussion of the CMU and the enlarged CMU. Maps (1/10 000 scale) were produced and used as tools for discussion and decision-making by CMU.



### ○ Urban economic and demographic development

This study presented three aspects (i) Studies on the growth of development in Fort Dauphin over a 5, 10, and 15 year time period; (ii) Demographic projections; and (iii) projections on the needs for housing and open space based on occupation and average surface area per home. A user-friendly database (in excel format) was constructed and, with appropriate training, is currently utilized and updated at the communes level.

### ○ Study of civil engineering for improving urban sanitation

This study included: (i) access to potable water, (ii) outlets of used water and rainwater, organization of socio-collective bodies and the feasibility study for the relocation of the main market.

## ▪ Urban plan document available

Results of studies and feedback by of CMU/CMUE (enlarged CMU) were analyzed and integrated into the PUDI (Urban Plan). The PIPM (Municipal Prioritized Investment Plan) developed by AGETIPA through IG2P was considered as well. The final document was updated and presented to the Mayor. The final stage of this Plan was public consultations and its presentation and validation by the Municipal Board/counselors.

## B. Update Communal Development Plan

A coherent regional development framework is necessarily based upon and reflect the shared priorities of local development strategies which bring together the various rural and urban community needs of a given area into a unified whole. Madagascar has embarked upon an ambitious program to promote the creation of Communal Development Plans (PCDs), which are intended to reflect a coherent, commune-level perspective of the most pressing development investment needs of that particular locality.

Unfortunately, to date the PCD experiment has had a wide variety of disparate results, with a number of documents often being designed to satisfy the particular needs or demands of specific donor-financed programs. As a result, PCDs to date do not often reflect a holistic communal perspective of priority development needs, but rather needs expressed by communes based upon the source of financing available. The current PCD process tends to

position local communities only as beneficiaries and not real actors of their development.

### Sectoral Guidelines for PCD update

“These guidelines for PCD update will serve for the update of all Communal Development Plans in the Anosy Region. This update aims to improve the content in order to better reflect the priorities outlined in the Regional Development Framework and the Regional Development Plan in one hand and to capture local priorities in order to adjust the RDP accordingly”

It would be impossible for the Alliance partners to fully address the fundamental issues posed by this situation throughout the Anosy region. However, it is critically important to address them in at least some communes in the region, in order to support complementary efforts now being developed by other partners (UNDP, the World Bank, etc.) to bring a

further coherence to local development planning process.

- **Assessment of RDF in light of PCD development priorities**

Most of the Anosy Region Communes have already a PCD supported technically by the CRD and integrating regional vision during their elaboration. Moreover, during the technical supports for the validation of phase 4 of the RDF, studies were carried out to check coherences between these PCDs and the RDF. The integration of "regional environmental dimension" inside these PCD and LARO "environmental" activities was considered as a priority.

- **Develop and Produce updated/simplified PCD guidelines for Anosy communes**

The Communal Development Plan guidelines were finalized in June 2005. The Communal Development Plans were updated to better reflect the priorities outlined in the Regional Development Framework (RDF) and the Regional development Plan (RDP). These Communal Development Plans will serve to update the RDP to better reflect the local priorities. This guide was jointly funded by LARO and MISONGA.

#### *IV.2.2 Keys constraints and Issues*

- Due to the priority given to the elaboration of the RDP (top priority for the new Chief of Region), the process for the development of the Communal Development Plan guidelines was delayed compared to work plan.
- The Integration of Betroka as part of the Anosy Region required supplementary support and action on the assessment of PCD to analyze the coherence with the vision of the RDP and RDF. These activities are supposed to be relayed by the MISONGA Program in this region.

### IV.3 Result 3: Conservation & Development Activities Contribute to the Protection of Biodiversity in the Context of Local and Regional Development Frameworks

- **Community-based reforestation initiatives facilitated and supported.**
- **Priority biodiversity conservation zone and supporting community-based income-generating interventions initiated in the Anosy Region.**
- **Community-based sustainable management of aquatic natural resources begun.**

The Anosy region is currently at the heart of the on-going effort to reconcile biodiversity conservation with rapid and sustainable socio-economic development within the context of a coherent regional strategy.

- The Anosy region represents the last home of a number of endemic Malagasy flora and fauna which, due to the burden of poverty in the region, are under great pressure by local communities who continue to exploit these precious and rapidly disappearing resources for their daily survival. Experience to date in the Anosy clearly demonstrates that conservation efforts, which do not address the basic realities and needs of the rural and urban poor, will not succeed. Likewise, development activities and initiatives which ignore Madagascar's pressing need for sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation will be unsustainable.



*Tourist guide within the National park of Andohahela- Anosy Region*

- There is an immediate and critical need for local and imported tree stocks for use in restoration and reforestation activities throughout the Anosy region. This need has been generated by the appreciation of the people in the Anosy region that the currently available forest resources will rapidly disappear if action is not taken to address the forest-product needs in a sustainable fashion.
- Another critical challenge in the Anosy region is the effective and improved management of aquatic resources – primarily fish, shrimp and lobster stocks – which are rapidly dwindling due to increased pressures. LARO worked directly with selected local communities in the Anosy coastal zones to help them understand the current and potential future dynamics of the Anosy coastal environment.

### IV.3.1 Key Accomplishments

#### A. Tree nursery and reforestation

- **Tree Nursery Preparation**

The preparation of the tree nursery station started early in 2004 and necessary materials were purchased. This tree nursery was built using technology that has already been experienced by QMM in their intervention zones and in other country. The following activities were carried out for the implementation of the tree nursery:

- Training for the Nursery Gardener. As the technology used for this tree nursery is slightly different compared to the technique that the CIREEF habitually used.
- Purchase of the required equipment and raw materials for the implementation of the tree nursery (substratum, seedlings, fertilizer ...)
- Choice of the site for the implementation of the tree nursery and construction of the dispositive for the protection of the site.
- Construction of the dispositive for the watering of the seedlings and construction of the seedlings and planting out tables.
- Daily Maintenance and watering of the seedlings

Daily workers were supported by the technical team from LARO partners (QMM, CIREEF, PACT, FAFAFI) 48 tables, as nursery beds, measuring 6 by 1.5 meters, were installed. The tree nursery station is functional. For all required work for the preparation of the tree nursery, LARO team had worked with local association of women using a gender sensitive food for work mechanism to provide labor.

In addition to the preparation of the tree nursery, LARO team provided the communes and local community with training for the implementation and management of the tree nursery. The choice on the principal criteria to be observed for the location of the tree nursery site, LARO team worked in collaboration with communal authority for its identification.

- **Community mobilization for the Reforestation**

LARO team in collaboration with FAFAFI and CIREEF of Fort Dauphin held mobilization activities at the level of the communes selected for the reforestation activities. The mobilization included provision of training to local community on the technique of reforestation, maintenance of plantation and sensitization on the importance of the reforestation in their communes.

A coordinator for reforestation activities has been recruited in order to assume the supervision of reforestation in each community. Several meetings were held between LARO, CIREEF, FAFAFI and the mayors and communal council presidents in each of these selected communes to build support and gather input for project design.

- **Reforestation**

The reforestation campaign is entirely completed. All the 120,000 seedlings from the tree nursery of Mangarivotra were planted. The reforestation campaign was realized in five communes (Mahatalaky, Ifarantsa, Soanierana, Mandiso and Isaka Ivondro).

Based on technologies tested by QMM in other zones in the Anosy region, 100ha reforestation was covered during this campaign that started in May 2005. The reforestation was officially launched with the presence of Regional authorities and USAID/NRO team.



The launching included training sessions provided by CIREEF on site preparation, reforestation, forest maintenance and management. A coordinator for reforestation activities has been recruited in order to assume the supervision of reforestation in each community. LARO team also facilitated meetings with the mayors and communal council presidents in each of these five communes to build support and gather input for project design.

## **B. Ambatotsirongorongo Conservation Site**

- **Diagnostic Study**

A multidisciplinary diagnostic study was finalized and validated to define activities for the implementation of a conservation site in Ambatotsirongorongo. Results of this study constituted the core plan of action to be followed by the LARO implementation team.

A review of the diagnostic study on the Ambatotsirongorongo conservation site was done in December 2004. Local communities are now much more aware of the importance of protecting this forest area, and a major decision was made to stop bushfire activities. A three-dimensional terrain model representing the site was given to the mayor and his team to serve as a tool for monitoring pressures and capturing information.

- **Awareness and sensitization Campaign**

Awareness and literacy activities were supported and several local associations are now in place. For income-generating activities, as furnishing groundnut seeds to villagers and farmers are now completed. According to Fanentanana Fambolena sy Fiompiana (FAFAFI – Cultivation and Farming Sensitization), every farmer should be able to get double of the furnished quantity at the end of the production campaign.

- **Environmental education**

A package composed of chart of animals identification, stickers, lever, pencil, tee-shirt, cap, was provided to twenty teachers of elementary school of the commune of Sarisambo and Ranopiso. WCS team has worked in collaboration with the Education circumscription (CISCO) team for the conception if this kit. Several meetings with responsables of the CISCO were held for the elaboration of this scholar kit for environmental education.

- **Biological Inventory & Management Plan**

Based on preliminary investigation realized by QMM, LARO in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) completed the first the management plan of the Ambatotsirongorongo Conservation Site. Physical boundary delimitation, a biological inventory of different faunal and floral species of the site as a complementary to the preliminary study and investigation realized by QMM, and research on land tenure status were also finalized.

- **Feasibility study for the implementation of the Conservation Site**

This feasibility study included the identification of threaten faunal and floral species, a complementary socio-economic study and the zoning of the site.

This study leaded to the discovery of fauna and flora, to the assessment of the great social, cultural and economical potential and to the identification of the major threats affecting the local biodiversity. WCS team has proposed a management plan. Particularly, a Management plan for *Phelsuma antanosy* and the *Flagellia indica* (Vahimpiky) has been developed. The first one is an endemic species that is considered by the IUCN in 2001 as an endangered reptile species and the second one is harvested by local community to serve as raw material for local artesian craft.

WCS team completed the cultural and socio-economic studies evaluating the interest of local communities in the Ambatotsirongorongo Conservation Site, helping to identify all potential pressures and threats to the site. WCS has discovered that four communes (Analapatsy, Manambaro, Ranopiso and Ankaramena) are affected by the conservation site, rather than the one commune originally identified by QMM during their preliminary site assessment. These four communes are not yet informed about the conservation site but will be engaged during the next quarter.

- **Elaboration of infrastructure Plan for Ecotourism**

Ecotourism plan of the site were developed and proposed by WCS team (Cf. report of WCS) after a field visit and a prior discussion with some private investor in the tourism sector. The proposed plan includes some recommendations on: the circuits' arrangement, the infrastructure disposition, the implementation of a small interpretation center as well as a proposition of marketing plan for the promotion of the site.

### C. Artesian aquaculture

Mobilization and education of fishermen and villagers surrounding the Ambinanibe lagoon are achieved. All equipment for the operationalization of the aquaculture operation is now on-site, and IHSM is actively working on the construction of the four reproductions and cultivation basins.



*Aquaculture Infrastructure of Ambinanibe Implemented by IHSM*

#### IV.3.2 Key Constraints and Issues

- As result of investigation of WCS during the elaboration of the management plan of Ambatotsirongorongo, the site identified 4 more communes as concerned. This situation, not identified during the recognition phase of the site by QMM may have some important consequences concerning: awareness campaigns and sensitization activities ...
- Some of the new trees planted during the LARO program were destroyed due to recent intense fire activities in the Anosy Region.
- Due to the difficulties to find some very specific equipments needed by IHSM for the construction of the aquaculture basin, some delays occurred for the operationalization of the site of Ambinanibe. This problem was solved and all necessary equipment for aquaculture activities is now operational on-site.
- The construction of the aquaculture infrastructure was achieved in August 2005. However, there was no shrimp ready to be collected at the end of LARO (November 2005). This situation is due to a problem of shrimp larvae supply. The “Centre de Développement de Culture Crevetière” (CDCC) de Mahajanga, which is the principal provider, is not able to supply the demand of IHSM for the site. IHSM has to wait until product will be available from the CDCC.
- The Land tenure status of the aquaculture site of Ambinanibe needs to be clarified. In August 2005, the court of Justice of Fort Dauphin sent to Pact/LARO letter ordering to stop all activities on the site because of opposition from a person pretending to be the owner of the parcel where the aquaculture was implemented. The pretending owner of the site had asked the court immediate demolition of all construction. This issue is still pending and wait for the decision Justice. As the LARO project is closed, follow up of this issue must be done by IHSM, in charge of managing this site.

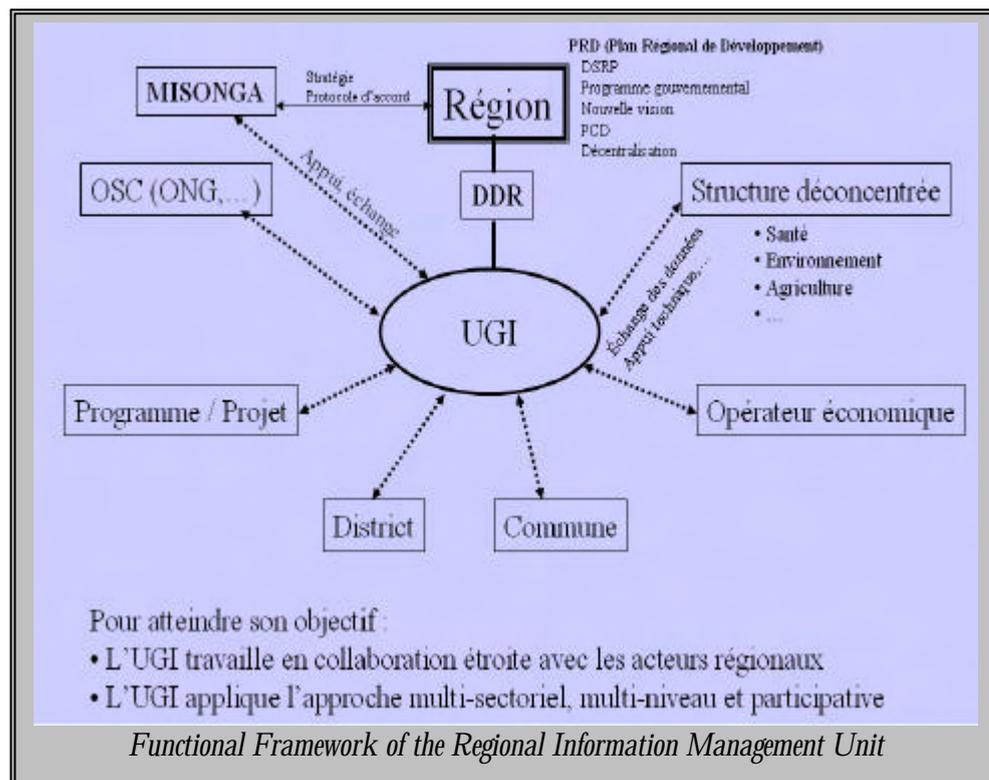
## V LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESS STORY

- **Long times dynamic of Regional Planning:** The elaboration of the Regional Development Framework for Anosy is considered as a pilot project for all Madagascar. The dynamic within the region is well known by financial organizations and central governing bodies. Many CRDs, notably those in Menabe and Mangoro, are following the example that has been set in Anosy. The Anosy CRD was asked to share its experience with those in the other Growth Poles (Nosy Be, Antsirabe). The World Bank has decided to reinforce its intervention via the IG2P project which is starting now with an Environmental Impact Assessment. After the advocacy campaign held at the central government in Antananarivo, technical Ministries are ready to make all required efforts to integrate the 2006 Public Investment Program PIP into the RDF.



- **RDP validated and promoted at different levels:** The long time dynamic of Regional Planning in Anosy constitutes an important advantage for this Region. With the RDF achieved through a highly participative process, the elaboration of the Regional Development Plan required by the new chief of Region was made easier. The region has now become the first one out of the 22 regions of Madagascar to achieve its RDP and to have it approved by both the regional actors and the central government. In order to be truly effective, documents like the RDP must be promoted and advocated at different levels. They need to reach to the Central Government, potential donors, and also private investors in order to get the appropriate resources to meet the defined objectives.
- **First Region to have its Regional Investment Plan achieved:** Among the 22 regions of Madagascar, the Anosy Region is the first to have completed a Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) and a Regional Investment Plan (RIP). These documents serve as key tools to advocate the region to at the Central Government level, private investors and donors.
- **Legalization and recognition of the Anosy's CRD:** The CRD has now for the first time in its existence obtained legal status and elected in a legal and transparent manner a president and a board of members. The Anosy Region has recognized the CRD as being one of the main regional institutional mechanisms for regional development.

- Effective Participative Regional Planning:** Conception of both the RDF and the RDP was highly participative for the Anosy Region. These two processes have seen involvement from civil society, the private sector, the development project, national/provincial/local authorities, and community-based associations. Participation was established through workshops, sectorial working group sessions, and also through the General Assembly during which regional development issues were debated and discussed, offering the opportunity to each actor to share its vision regarding the region of Anosy.



- Regional Information System supporting the regional Planning process:** One of the key points for the success of a planning process is the relevance of the decisions taken, based primarily on adequate tools of decision-making using RELIABLE INFORMATION. Earlier in the process of elaboration of the Regional Development Framework, the Anosy region set up a Regional Information Management Unit. This unit produced all required analysis for the different phases of RDF. The existence of this unit significantly contributed to the elaboration of the RDP. Acknowledging the essential role of this information system, the new Chief of Region has expressed the need to have this unit directly attached to the Region in order to provide some support in the implementation of its activities.
- LARO, an adaptive program:** The main goal of LARO is to support the regional development of Anosy; and this is the reason why it was initially focused on supporting the CRD and the finalization of the Regional Development Framework. When the new 22 regions were implemented with new regional teams and priorities, LARO was able to adapt its strategy in order to be responsive and better deal with the

emerging needs from this new context. For instance, the extension of the Anosy region to Betroka required LARO to expand its activities to this new district.

- **Effective participatory urban planning process:** Fort Dauphin’s urban planning is a more participative one than those of the other 7 principal cities that do urban development planning. The CMU and the enlarged CMU are tools for facilitating community participation in each of the stages of elaboration. Through AGETIPA, the Vice Primature and other financial organizations – particularly the World Bank – accepted and validated this approach.

- **The tree nursery** of Mangarivotra was constructed based on a tested technology from QMM, through collaboration with CIREEF and FAFAFI. It is now the biggest tree nursery in the Region of Anosy and probably in Madagascar. It allows 120 000 plants to be planted in an area of 100 ha. This initiative must be scaled up and replicated in other regions of Madagascar.



*Infrastructure of the Tree nursery of Mangarivotra*

- **Implementation of the new conservation Zone of Ambatotsirongorongo:** The Ambatotsirongorongo Conservation Zone has been one of the zones that has followed all the steps required for the implementation of the Conservation Site (as defined by the Durban Vision Group). After 9 months of intensive activities from WCS, FAFAFI and the LARO team, most of the steps are achieved as the management plan is ready, the land tenure study is completed and the public consultation is on-going. It will be part of the 1 million ha of conservation sites to be officialized by the end of 2005.



*USAID Ecoregional Alliance Members Anosy with local Community. Reforestation In the Commune of Soanierana (July 2005)*

- **Aquaculture site of Ambinanibe Land tenure issues:** In regard to the conflict that happened in the aquaculture site of Ambinanibe, it is always necessary to address land tenure issues very carefully at the first stage of implementation of such activities, like reforestation activities.

## VI KEYS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

### VI.1 Regional Planning activities

#### VI.1.1 *Support to the new region team for the coordination of the Regional Development actions:*

Future support to the Anosy Region for regional planning should be to focus on strengthening the coordination capacity of the regional authorities team. Within the USAID Ecoregional Alliance Anosy, the good governance program MISONGA should ensure the leadership in the implementation of this support. Since most of the tools for assisting with the coordination of development actions are already available for the Anosy Region, the strengthening of coordination capacity should focus on the 3 following points:

- Implementation of Multi-sector and Multi-Project Coordination Unit within the office of the Chief of Region. This Unit would ensure that interventions from all partners contribute to reach the objectives of the RDP. This Unit would also be in charge of monitoring and evaluating the impact of different projects intervening in the region compared to the RDP.
- Support to the Regional Information System, aimed to help the Region in planning, coordination and monitoring roles.
- Strengthening advocacy and negotiation in order to enable it to promote the region to central government and donors to support financially the implementation the RDP. Activity for the promotion and advocacy of the RDP and PRI must be followed up.

#### VI.1.2 *Focus support to the region on the implementation of the RDP*

In order to facilitate the coordination activities of the region, each Program/Project (at least, those who are members of the USAID Ecoregional Alliance), must reframe its Work Plan to be in accordance with the priorities of the RDP.

In the medium term, all actors working in the Anosy region (projects, decentralized services, CSOs,...) should align their action strategies with the main axes and priorities of the RDP of the Anosy Region in order to ensure a synergy of actions and to reach the objectives determined by the RDP.



*GA CRD for the adoption of the Statute and Election of board members*

### ***VI.1.3 Strengthening Regional Capacity in Information Management***

It is necessary to continue the reinforcement of the Regional Information system in order to intensify the role of the region in coordinating the intervention for development and to improve decision-making process for Regional actors. In the upcoming years, two major axes of support have to be developed:

- Reinforcement of the capacity of the Regional Information Management Unit (UGIR) to coordinate the regional information system, to facilitate the information access, and to produce the required analysis needed by the region. The UGIR must also be able to ensure regional capacity reinforcement in information management for the future.
- Implementation of a Regional Information Center to serve as an interface between information users and Information producers. The center will diffuse existing information on the region and record all information needed by the actors.

### ***VI.1.4 Strengthening the mechanism that ensure participation of all regional stakeholders in regional development process***

Since the creation of the CRD Anosy, a mechanism of participation of all stakeholders was set up in the region of Anosy. At present, the CRD has official status and recognition from the regional authorities. The principal challenges that the CRD will encounter are:

- The development of a strategy for sustainable funding of the CRD Anosy.
- Firm establishment of the participation mechanism at the communal level: Coordinating Office at the district level, Communal Development Committee (CCD) at the communal level.
- Clarification of the roles and duties of the CRD in relation to the Regional Council (which will be put in 2006), and the Regional Executive team.

Above all of these activities, the CRD should pursue mobilization activities among its members relating to the question of regional development. Support and reinforcement of the CRD for these activities are still necessary.

### ***VI.1.5 Strengthening the actions of promotion of the RDP and PRI of the Anosy Region***

The RDP and PRI constitute the principal tools of the Anosy Region to ensure negotiation and advocacy for the development of their region. Despite the fact that several sessions dedicated to the promotion of Anosy's RDP and PRI were carried out during 2005, these actions need to be intensified in order to ensure the leveraging of the required resources to reach the objectives fixed within the RDP.

### **VI.1.6 Support update of PCDs in order to better reflect the priorities of the RDP**

Since the elaboration of the communal development plans (PCD) and the RDP of Anosy were not done sequentially, it is necessary to update the PCDs considering the RDP in order to ensure coherence and alignment with the main axes and priorities of the RDP. Moreover, this activity will also be the opportunity to see whether communal level priorities are reflected within the RDP.

In order to update the PCDs, and as a result of the collaboration between MISONGA and LARO, a sectoral guide for the elaboration of the PCD is currently available. For the next few months, the updated phase of the PCD will be implemented with the support of the MISONGA Program. Results of these PCD updates will constitute important inputs for the readjustment of the RDP in order to better reflect the priorities from the community level. A few communes were recently selected by MISONGA for such activities.

## **VI.2 Environmental Activities**

### **VI.2.1 Reforestation activities**

- **Reactivation of the tree nursery of Mangarivotra and follow up of reforestation activities in linkages with the regional vision of development**

It will be very important to continue and extend the efforts of reforestation that have already been launched through LARO for various reasons:

- Fort Dauphin's problems of fuel and construction wood supply are generating intense pressures on the natural forests of the region;
- The city's population will grow exponentially in the upcoming years;
- Due to the launching of QMM's Ilmenite Project, the demand for wood is rising significantly.

The capacity of seedling production of the tree nursery needs to be increased while the initial investment realized within LARO for the construction must be capitalized and enhanced. These activities should be part of JariAla (USAID Forestry Program Support).

- **Development of a sustainable financial mechanism for the tree nursery of Mangarivotra**

In order to ensure the sustainability of the tree nursery of Mangarivotra, a strategy for its financial self-sufficiency needs to be developed during 2006. Some strategic decisions need to be made regarding the management of this tree nursery. Three key questions have to be addressed:

- Will the tree nursery of Mangarivotra always produce seedlings that will be made available for free to the communes and this way, support reforestation actions in the Anosy region?
- Would it be better if the seedlings were sold (at a price that could ensure the renewal of seedlings) to ensure the financial self-sufficiency of the tree nursery?

- Or, are there any other options available to address this problem of sustainability as well as encouraging the reforestation?

A social, economic, and cultural study should be carried out in order to better define the best strategy for the sustainability of the site.

- **Intensification of mobilization activities at community level related to reforestation issues**

In order to ensure successful reforestation activities, it is important to raise the awareness of communal authorities and local communities. The communes and communities should be in charge of the management of these plantations and should ensure the security of these perimeters against bush fire.

### **VI.2.2 Conservation zone of Ambatotsirongorongo**

- **Finalization of the for the conservation site of Ambatotsirongorongo**

Almost all steps for implementation of the conservation site of Ambatotsirongorongo are already achieved. WCS is currently waiting for the attribution of the legal status of the site and has already completed all the processes to obtain the legal statute for Ambatotsirongorongo. Since at the end of LARO, this legal status was not yet reached, MIARO, the USAID program supporting biodiversity conservation is the most appropriate program to take over the relay of LARO action.

- **Strengthening awareness raising and communication activities in the peripheral zones of the Ambatotsirongorongo site**

Awareness campaign and social mobilization activities must be intensified at the community level surrounding Ambatotsirongorongo in order to engage those populations in the management and preservation of the site.

- **Expansion of support to create new protected area (conservation sites conforming to the RDF and RDP axes)**

As part of the implementation of the Durban vision, the Anosy Region already has a comparative advantage because even before the Durban declaration, it had already identified 14 potential conservation zones and then increased to 20 when Betroka was integrated. Support for the development of these conservation sites must be intensified in order to rapidly meet the objectives of the president of Madagascar.

## **VI.3 Plan Urbain de la ville de Fort Dauphin**

### **VI.3.1 Legalization of the PUDI**

The Urban Plan must be officially and legally recognized so that the document can be applied and used to support effectively any urban-related decision making, like construction rules applied to housing.

## VII CONCLUSION

LARO was a complex and comprehensive program. It included all levels of development in a multi-sectoral governance framework. Thanks to the QMM/USAID initiative, the program demonstrated how local concrete activities are linked with regional issues, contributing to the regional development and poverty reduction.

All LARO major objectives were reached during the two years implementation of the program. LARO also assumed a successful transition to the new USAID programs implemented in the Anosy Region such as MISONGA, JariAla, SantéNet, and Miaro. LARO interventions have facilitated the design and the integration of these programs in a coherent Regional Development Framework to contribute efficiently to the development of the Region.

LARO also showed the efficiency of the partnership between public and private sector. LARO brought benefits from QMM technology and experience at the level of community in order to improve their livelihood and natural environment (Reforestation, Conservation Site...).

With the new context of decentralization process, particularly the implementation of the “regionalization”, the Chief of Region acknowledged that this kind of project is ideal to boost regional development. The example of a successful public-private partnership like LARO reinforce the current national Government “3P” (Public - Private - Partnership) strategy and should encourage USAID to promote future GDA initiatives in Madagascar.