PMP REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2005 – AUGUST 31, 2006

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The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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1. Introduction

The Performance and Monitoring Plan (PMP) is presented for the reporting period of September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006 of the Ecoregional Initiatives program (ERI) administered by Development Alternatives Inc. The following report summarizes the quantifiable data of project advancements obtained from numerous internal sources. This data reporting complements the more analytical presentation of program achievements, constraints, and recommendations highlighted in the Annual Report and the Semester Report. This report should be read in collaboration with narrative text and detailed tables presented in the previous reports. In light of the complexity of the ERI program components and activities, the following observations are intended to explain and interpret the many variables monitored by the project.

The Performance and Monitoring Plan the fruit of a consultative process at the national and regional levels. We thank various partners for their constructive suggestions and critiques. The ERI program views this PMP as an interative monitoring plan subject to revision and modification reflecting the experience gained with implementing the USAID Madagascar SO6 and government of Madagascar monitoring and evaluation systems.

The PMP for the ERI program is an integral part of the broader monitoring and evaluation instruments of the USAID Madagascar mission, the Ecoregional Alliance/USAID, the PE III environmental program, and the Madagascar Action Plan of the government of Madagascar. ERI program achievements should contribute to the provision of information to these higher level institutions. As a consequence of the inter-linked nature of the many monitoring and evaluation plans operating at multiple scales, various methodological complexities invariably surface. For the sake of honesty and transparency, it is important for ERI to note the critical assumptions and even potential fallacies of its PMP monitoring system

Climatic, political and economic factors at the local, regional, national, and even international scales affect in many complex ways the ability of the ERI program to implement the five results modules. Policy interventions at the macro level operate as both incentives and disincentives to program implementation especially in the domains of agricultural intensification and community resource management. Exchange rate fluctuations can help or hinder agricultural activities at the village level. Similarly, weather and climate can profoundly influence agricultural systems. Cyclones and droughts influence in many complex ways rural infrastructures, markets, prices, and other economic and social variables.

The PMP presented in this document represents results obtained primarily by ERI, though it must be recognized that many of these achievements emerge from a wide range of collaborative arrangements with many partners involved in implementing the ecoregional conservation and development approach. For instance, some achievements like the attainment of “food security, nutrition, and overall health” noted in Module 3, component 3.4 is not simply the purvey of ERI. It is also a result of effective inter-project implementation with other USAID programs (SanténNet) and other government of Madagascar initiatives. ERI alone will not reduce the length of the hungry season! Similarly, one cannot say that ERI by itself brings an end to forest conversion, but rather it works in concert with others to bring about a reduction in slash-and-burn agriculture (*tavy*). Other ERI programs, like the NODE “Fruits of the Forest” in Fianarantsoa financed by Conservation International, also contribute to the reduction of slash and burn agriculture. Intellectual honesty requires a project like ours to indicate carefully what it alone achieves, but also to note openly what activities it carries out in concert with others. Indeed, the accompanying charts notes through a color coding system those variables that also serve as an Ecoregional Alliance indicator. In the end, it is clear from the analysis of the accompanying tables of achievements that ERI alone can control some factors contributing to project performance, but in other cases, it is at the mercy of a wide range of intervening factors!

The measurement of indicators in some cases is relatively simple, but in others very complicated. Measuring and attributing percentage increases in average household incomes and yields in target communities may seem simple in a PMP document, but the reality of measuring this at the grassroots level is much different. As noted above, the attribution of project interventions to improved household performance is very difficult to separate out from other intervening variables.

Projects can try to factor out project influences through the use of control groups or communities, but this raises many ethical dilemmas related to whether a project should deliberately avoid encouraging economic development in some villages simply for the sake of a monitoring system. Statistical weighting techniques can also be used, but then considerable financial resources must be invested in in-depth quantitative measurements and multivariate statistical analysis. Scarce project resources risk in these cases being siphoned off into expensive monitoring systems. Striking a balance between the use of quantitative and qualitative measurement and analysis thus is of critical importance to the ERI program.

For this reason, the PMP proposed by the ERI program utilizes a wide array of measurement and analytical tools. The attached PMP indicates the broad verifiable indicators and targets the project will use to chart advancements. Other tools, like the TAMIS project monitoring tool, help to generate other types of data indicating project performance. But in the field, project performance must also be assessed through the use of participatory monitoring and evaluation tools based on the toolbox of rapid rural appraisal techniques. Ultimately, the ERI program will adjust and modify its programs and activities by learning from the many clients it serves at various scales who communicate perspectives and information through a variety of instruments and forums.

2. Data Collection Methodology

The information disseminated for the Performance and Monitoring Plan has been collected from a variety of sources. These various tools generate a tremendous amount of data that is summarized as the key indicators of this PMP. Each number recorded in the following tables can be traced back to individual reports, compilations of data, or data bases. Regional and national office staff are available to help trace back each number if so desired. These sources and their respective strengths and weaknesses are the following:

Reports from Activity Intervention Fund Recipients

All Activity Intervention Fund (AIF) recipients submit reports to ERI regional offices on a periodic basis. These are gleaned to provide the statistical information presented in this PMP. The raw data generated from these reports are incorporated into the project TAMIS data base and kept in other project files.

Much data is gathered from the reports submitted from contracted partners like the Koloharena field agents, field staff of various non-government organizations, and reports from various government agencies carrying out field training. These many reports complement the monthly reports received from ERI's own field agents living in various communes along the forest corridors of Fianarantsoa and Toamasina.

Cahiers de Ménages

The « Cahiers de Ménages » are field surveys administered to Koloharena and non-Koloharena members for the purposes of recording for a fixed period of time agricultural yields, revenues, and other variables. ERI engaged professional survey specialists from INSTAT to design the survey instrument.[1] The Toamasina field agents carried out the interviews in their respective field sites whereas the Fianarantsoa program hired professional surveyors to administer the questionnaires. This later decision was taken by ERI Fianarantsoa to explore whether biases are introduced when Koloharena normally report on yield increases and rates of technological adoption. To our pleasant surprise, we found that Koloharena reporting is remarkably consistent with data collected and analyzed by professionals.

Supplemental Field Questionnaires

The ERI Fianarantsoa team carried out a special survey to analyze the issue of the definitions and strategies of response to the hungry season. This data was used to assure ourselves that

[1] Dieudonné Ravelonandro et al. « Cahiers de Ménages, » ERI, 2006.

indicator 3.3 is indeed correct for the 2006 year. From time to time throughout the year, supplemental field questionnaires are carried out to go into greater depth on a particular issue. For instance, our agricultural technical staff may carry out more in-depth studies on the impact of a new agricultural tool on labor and income dynamics. This information generally enters into the Annual Report.

TAMIS Project Data Base

The TAMIS project data base is used by all DAI projects around the world. It is a data collection system that allows staff to enter data linked to annual work plan results modules, components, and activities. Meetings, seminars, key telephone conversations, missions, and commentaries are recorded in the data base. Measurable activities are automatically linked to the PMP – every nearly every variable presented in this PMP can be traced to a detailed table and specific activity within the TAMIS system. TAMIS permits the ERI staff to record how every work activity is linked to specific work plan activity.

The TAMIS data base is a very powerful tool allowing rapid monitoring of advancement by work plan results modules. However, the system is only as good as the data entered into it by regional office and field staff. As with any data collection system, timely entry of data varies considerably due to daily time constraints. Regional office staff should not be glued all day to a computer screen!

3. General Observations on Advancement of Ecoregional Initiatives Program

The Performance and Monitoring Plan presents a series of quantifiable and comparable information on the advancement of the ERI program. *It should be made clear at the outset that inter-regional program comparison of results is a largely spurious exercise because economic, political, and cultural differences between the Fianarantsoa and Toamasina preclude facile comparisons*. Regional program orientations and strategies differ quite considerably in light of this variation. Rather, it is more useful to assess whether multi-year target achievements set for each regional program have been met. While the qualitative analysis is clearly presented in the Annual Report for 2006, a careful review of the attached tables shows the following trends:

Critical Assumptions: The first table of “Critical Assumptions” summarizes ERI’s understanding of what broad political, economic, and even climatic factors contribute to the achievement or not of project results. Qualitative assessments suggest that the policy context is generally favorable to advancing project objectives. While the national and regional policy frameworks and incentives are in place for achieving successes, ERI staff believe that underlying market incentives so necessary to successful conservation and rural development remain fragile. The quality of rural infrastructures like roads and railroads affect considerably the functionality of rural markets. Rural infrastructures can also be undermined by such climatic perturbations as cyclones. High rates of inflation diminish the purchasing power of rural populations when there is not corresponding increases in agricultural commodity prices.

Module I: The “Ecoregional Approach to Conservation and Development” module has largely met its targets in 2005 and 2006 in Fianarantsoa and Toamasina. However, both programs are confronting difficulties in bringing about revisions in commune development plans and in effectuating the preparation of ecoregional conservation plans for their respective forest corridors. The creation of the New Protected Areas (NAP) has stalled for the time being the finalization of corridor management plans. For this reason, the explanatory notes in the PMP tables go into considerable detail to spell out the external factors affecting the rate of advancement of these two dossiers. However, many more environmental activities have occurred than originally anticipated and this suggests that our original indicators were perhaps under estimated.

Module II: The “Community-Based Management of Natural Resources Component” is advancing very well and is surpassing dramatically its initial life of project targets in both regional

programs. This reflects the enthusiasm of local communities to set up community-based resource management agreements in critical areas along the forest corridors. ERI is taking the decision to halt financing of new community management agreements in order to concentrate scarce resources on existing agreements. The ERI micro-watershed management initiative is also expanding at an acceptable rate in both provinces.

Module III: The alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture module focuses on slowing and halting the conversion of primary forests. ERI and its partners have not been able to set up an adequate ecological monitoring system. Under the aegis of the EP III program, other Ecoregional Alliance USAID programs ought to work together to conduct baseline analysis and monitor conversion rates. This analysis has not yet started in any significant way in either province. ERI is mandated to increase agricultural yields and rural incomes. The PMP shows quite variable results. Agricultural yields have not uniformly increased due primarily to poor weather in the 2005-2006 growing season. However, rural incomes have increased on average from 1.5-4.2% in ERI's zones of intervention in Toamasina and on average 11% in Fianarantsoa. Ascribing causality directly to ERI for these set-back and achievements is difficult because of the numerous exogenous factors influencing farmer behaviors and agronomic conditions. However, ERI's annual and quarterly reports describe in considerable details how many project interventions do indeed contribute to an improving rural economic situation.

Module IV: The "Rural Association Capacity Building" module shows a very dramatic increase in the numbers of Koloharena farmers officially registered with the state. A growth rate of 20% per year continues in both Fianarantsoa and Toamasina. Various indicators of institutional strength are noted in both provinces. Fianarantsoa Koloharena show a considerably stronger capacity to advocate for issues of concern than those in Toamasina. This may be largely due to the expansion of the Koloharena movement in new areas in Toamasina where capacity building takes considerable time. Success in administering credit programs varies widely between the two regions.

Module V: The "Strategic Communication, Education, and Outreach" module continues to grow at a very rapid pace. Thanks to the additional specialized staff recruited by the program, this component has now surpassed many of the original project targets. Project achievements are also being met at a very rapid pace because of the growing capacity of rural beneficiaries and partners to design and implement themselves both communication medium but also messages. This makes implementation of this module much more effective than initially anticipated. The wide variety of communication tools and messages can be accessed through the TAMIS data base and the annual and quarterly reports. For the sake of brevity, these are not described in the PMP tables.

Activity Implementation Fund (AIF): The combined results of the analysis of the AIF fund from both regional programs shows that this funding mechanism is reaching a significant number of beneficiaries. In both regions, the AIF touched in 2006 between 21-35,000 people, a large majority whom are farmers. This is significantly more than originally expected. The fund is reaching most of its targets; though more work needs to go into explicitly channeling project resources to women and to increasing the capacity of our contractors to meet contractually defined objectives. We remain dissatisfied with our ability to either sub-contract to qualified service providers or to build rapidly enough the abilities of our major clients, the Koloharena, to manage funds in an efficient fashion. Our contractors and service providers are uniformly confronting difficulties in meeting in a timely fashion expected deliverables.

The color code for the attached tables is the following. It is hoped that this will show the linkages between the ERI PMP and those of the Ecoregional Alliance USAID and the USAID SO6 core indicators. .

SO6 Core Indicator and Ecoregional Alliance indicator

Ecoregional Alliance indicator

4. Critical Assumptions Table

Critical Assumptions						
Performance Indicator	**Government support for eco-regional planning and CBNRM initiatives**	**Legislative support for decentralized management of natural resources**	**Financial support for eco-regional planning and CBNRM**	**Support for ERI**	**Economic stability**	**Environmental stability**
Indicator Definition	Government of Madagascar support for the Ministry of Environment and PE3 remains strong: stable funding, staffing levels, and mandate	Government of Madagascar implements laws and policies that are supportive of devolved management of natural resources by rural communities	Financial support from the Government of Madagascar and donors for eco-regional planning and CBNRM initiatives remains adequate	Government of Madagascar and USAID support for ERI is maintained over the duration of the project	Economic conditions in Madagascar remain conducive to devolved management of natural resources with no significant deterioration in rural incomes	Environmental conditions in Madagascar remain conducive to eco-regional conservation and CBNRM with no significant deterioration in climatic trends or population patterns
Data Source	Ministry of Environment, ONE, ANGAP	Ministry of Environment, ONE, ANGAP	Ministry of Environment, ONE, and PE3	Ministry of Environment, ONE and PE3, USAID	Various	Data Source
Commentary and Observations	The presence of Regions and their mission as coordinator of local and sustainable development reinforced the need and the relevance of an eco-regional approach to development and conservation. Regional development plans strongly support environmental agendas. *Madagascar Naturellement* and Madagascar Action Plan maintain strong environmental orientation.	The decentralization process is ongoing in the country, initiated by the Government and supported by the technical and financial partners. The EP3 and many other programs are reinforcing the capacity of key actors at regional level (CIREEF, DRDR, GTDR, ABC, CAC, CSA…) and legal instruments for regionalization are developed. The r-TGRNR and the resources management transfer initiatives	EP3 funding in general is quite stable. Although, CBNRM funding is coming through the CIREEFs which have very little experience in mobilizing donors' resources. This means that many donor projects like ERI are forced to carry out activities that otherwise would be assigned to the state structures. State engagement in local level conservation and development activities is sometimes limited.	ERI funding from USAID is currently stable and increasing somewhat.	After the 2002 crisis, rural economic conditions are remaining stable if not improving. However, the rural economic situation is precarious due to fluctuating prices for key agricultural commodities and rising inflation rates. Market conditions are also affected strongly by transport infrastructures that can be easily underminded by severe cyclones or public policy (ie: rehabilitation of secondary roads or FCE/Port of Manakara).	Environmental conditions remain relatively stable. No major deterioration in climatic trends or population patterns thus far observed at the local level. The environmental situation is always precarious because Impacts of environmental factors like cyclones can quickly and deeply affect the regional economy. Similarly, declines in the viability of transport infrastructures can contribute to rapid environmental change at the ecoregional

	CBNRM is considered as an important tool for sustainable resources management, especially within the SAPM/NAP context as a collaborative governance type. Some complementary government programs, such as those in the transport sector, have not advanced sufficiently well to assure sound management of natural resources (ie: FCE railway or secondary road rehabilitation)	are not supported as they should be, though.				scale.

5. Performance and Monitoring Plan (PMP) Tables for Fianarantsoa and Toamasina for 2006

Results, Module 1: Eco-Regional Approach to Conservation and Development Is Adopted and Implemented by Multiple Actors in Priority Eco-Regions										
	Overall Impact		**Component 1.1—Establish process for systematic review of priority setting and adaptation of a shared eco-regional vision**		**Component 1.2—Improve communication and coordination between eco-regional conservation and development partners**		**Component 1.3—Increase the capacity to access and utilize information and planning tools within the eco-region**		**Component 1.4—Integrate eco-regional vision into partners' decision-making**	
Indicator	Communes adopt environmentally sound development plans		The management plans of the corridors are elaborated, implemented, and periodically reviewed and updated		Consultative bodies and platforms at provincial, regional, and local level are functional and dynamic.		Regional and local structures/organizations, and Communes use information and tools for improved planning		Investment in environmental activities at community level increased	
Indicator Definition	Number of communes integrating environmental issues into their development plans in the two eco-regions[2] **(SO6 Core Indicator; Fianarantsoa and Toamasina Alliance Indicator)**		Stakeholders establish, implement the management plans, share experiences and review impact of the eco-regional approach **(Toamasina and Fianarantsoa Alliance Indicator)**		Periodic meetings take place and planning tools established		Number of structures/organizations, Communes, using tools and information[3] (based on a simple scoring sheet)		Number of environmental activities funded[4]	
	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA
Life of Project Target	25	25	100%	100 %	20	25	25	25	100	70
Baseline Data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005 Actual	3 communes, 3 regions	0 communes 5 regions	PA CAZ established; PlaCAZ rejuvenated	Plan not elaborated	2	6	9	7	14	22
2006 Target	10	10	25%	25%	8	10	10	10	40	28
2006 Actual	0 Communes	0 Communes	Plan remains unwritten	Plan remains unwritten	2	54	1	15	115 (79 Alaotra Mangoro, 30 Antsinanana, 6 Analanjirofo)	50
Cumul	1 Commune, 3 Regions	0 communes, 5 Regions	Plan not formulated	Plan not elaborated	4	60	9	22	215	72

Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

Overall Indicator: The overall indicator for this module is the degree in which environmental "reflexes" are integrated into rural commune development plans. This indicator presumes that commune development plans in ERI's strategic zones of intervention have been revised in the first place, and that these revisions include environmental considerations. An evaluation by the *Comité Multilocal de Planification* showed that most communes have incorporated

[2] Natural Resources Management activities, participation in corridor platform, forest management transfer process, forest and corridor protection (patrol), reforestation activities, BV protection, water management.

[3] Information and communication technology, cartography and various map, access to governmental and eco-regional paper, computerized process, audio and visual communications.

[4] Environmental activities determined as those financed by the Activity Intervention Fund that contribute to the integration of ecoregional visions into partners decision making.

reforestation and other specific environmental activities into their existing commune plans. Yet, these activities reflect a limited vision of environmental management because at the time of preparation of these plans the ecoregional vision was not yet deeply anchored into public consciousness. As of this time, no commune development plans have been revised along the corridor due to the priority the government of Madagascar has placed on developing *Plans Régional de Développement (PRD)* and *Plan Régional de Dévelopement Rural* (PRDR) which in turn are to influence the revision of commune plans. The *Chefs de Région* have been somewhat ambivalent about the need to revise commune plans until national policy becomes clear as represented by such documents as the *Madagascar Action Plan*. The closure of the MISONGA/USAID project also affected efforts to launch revisions of commune development plans – a quite costly, lengthy, and complex process requiring considerable financial resources.

Component 1.1 : The forest corridor management plan has not yet been elaborated by provincial actors because the effort of government and other stakeholders has been placed on developing the *Nouvelle Aire Protégée (NAP)* for the Fandriana – Vondrozo forest corridor. The corridor management plan will emerge once major institutional issues are resolved such as an inter-ministerial conflict between mining and conservation interests. ERI and its Ecoregional Alliance partners have invested heavily in building public support for the concept and practice of the NAP and in resolving the fundamental policy differences between the Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests.

Component 1.2: The indicator for this component is far surpassed because ERI invested heavily in promoting commune and regional level consultation along the Fandriana – Vondrozo forest corridor. A wide variety of consultative meetings were held to launch the NAP and planning tools were used to facilitate public education about this new protected area encompassing nearly 500,000 hectares. Many commune and regional consultative activities were co-financed with Ecoregional partners like Conservation International or WWF.

Component 1.3: This indicator was surpassed because ERI Fianarantsoa developed effective planning tools with the Koloharena federations and cooperatives (ie: annual logframes and work plans) and commune level planning (ie: Kaominina Mendrika planning tools). As reported in the Annual Work plan, a large variety of environmental activities have been carried out ranging from radio spots to launching anti-bush fire campaigns to working with the Catholic Church to promote reforestation activities. ERI is not as far along on the use of Appreciative Inquiry and Development Pathways as it would like because of the high labor and financial costs of using these tools widely.

Component 1.4: A very large number of environmental activities are now being carried out through ERI and its various partners. This target is largely surpassed because of the growing motivation of rural communities to carry out many of their own environmental education campaigns, reforestation, and other community mobilization work. This transversal reflects environmental education activities carried out by all of the modules. This trend will likely continue in the future.

Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

Overall Indicator: The baseline analysis of 33 communal development plans (PCDs) showed that 16 communes already integrate environmental concerns in a significant manner in their plans, i.e., at least two qualifying environmental activities were included in the plan. The challenge is perhaps not integrating these concerns into communal development plans, but rather facilitating **implementation** of planned environmental activities. Fourteen (14) communes are currently targeted for PCD revision; the revision process is ongoing for 2 of these communes; the process should commence in 6 additional communes during the month of October; it is expected that 8 PCDs will thus be revised, incorporating environmental concerns, before the end of 2006.

Component 1.1: Although the management plan remains unwritten, some progress had been achieved. MIARO is working with a consultant to develop the management plan for the proposed CAZ PA. An outline of this plan was agreed earlier in the year. Up-to-date information on the progress on this plan was not available at the time of this report. The PlaCAZ is developing the ecoregional or corridor vision with support from ERI and WWF. The ecoregional vision is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Management plan elements for the greater CAZ (the forest corridor plus adjoining forest/agriculture mosaic and agricultural lands) are being formulated for the commune-level consultation planned for the new CAZ PA. Unfortunately, it seems as if this consultation will not take place in 2006 due to funding problems (an inability to access needed PE3 funds). As a compromise, the methodology, which includes negotiation and agreement on management plan zones, may be tested in two pilot communes before the end of the year.

Component 1.2 : Targets for this indicator may be ambitious as there is only 1 current structure (PlaCAZ) that can contribute to this indicator. The PlaCAZ is currently developing an ecoregional vision – due to be completed by the end of the year – that can be subsequently counted as a planning tool. The USAID Alliance and ERI facilitated a round table of technical and financial partners for the Alaotra-Mangoro Region in August. One of the principal recommendations of the round table was to establish a platform for these partners. A similar process is underway for the Atsinanana Region. Two additional platforms may thus be operational shortly and able to contribute results to this indicator.

Component 1.3 A large number of informational and planning tools are currently being developed by ERI-Toamasina and its partners for use at the commune level. These include appreciative inquiries in 5 communes, agricultural development zone maps for 2 communes (as part of the commune-level consultation process for the new CAZ PA), and basic administrative, Koloharena and natural resources maps for all 46 of ERI-Toamasina's communes. It is expected that a large number of these tools will be completed and utilized before the end of the year and that the annual indicator target will be surpassed.

Component 1.4 Initial baseline information collected was surprising. In fact there are many more environmental activities being funded in our intervention zones than originally anticipated. Consequently, targets originally set may not be sufficiently ambitious for this indicator.

Results, Module 2: Community-Based Management of Natural Resources (CBNRM) Is Improved and Expands to Protect the Forest Corridor										
	Overall Impact		**Component 2.1—Improve local understanding and implementation of GELOSE/GCF processes and CBNRM practices**		**Component 2.2—Enhance the technical assistance, administration, and strategic resource allocation of Malagasy institutions involved in the transfer process**		**Component 2.3—Promote and implement the strategic allocation of resources within community management agreements to protect the most threatened areas of the forest corridor**		**Component 2.4—Improve watershed management to ensure adequate quantity and quality of water for ecological, domestic, agricultural, and rural enterprise use**	
Indicator	Natural resources transferred to local management		Communes and Communities aware of CBNRM opportunities		CBNRM extension services functional		CBNRM initiatives supported		Communities develop and implement integrated village territory management plans	
Indicator Definition	Amount of natural resources under legal community management in the two eco-regions **(SO6 Core Indicator)**		Number of solicitations from communities demonstrating CBNRM interests		Number of trained and active agents from CIREEF, projects, NGOs…		Number of CBNRM contracts signed and; implemented in accordance to the corridors management plans **(Toamasina Alliance Indicator)**		Number of communities developing and implementing integrated village territory management plans	
	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA
Life of Project Target	15 787[5] ha	26 800 ha[6]	150	20	50	50	38 contracts signed; 100% implemented	23 contracts signed; 100% implemented	55	20
Baseline Data	2 787 ha	13 800 ha	TBD	0	TBD	TBD	8; TBD	13; TBD	0	0
2005 Target	4 787 ha	15 800 ha	45	7	10	10	14; 10%	16; 30%	4	4
2005 Actual	75 85 ha	27 710 ha	40	15	34	180	19; 20 %	17; 35%	4	3
2006 Target	6 787 ha	17 800 ha	75	12	20	20	19; 25%	19; 60%	11	9
2006 Actual	46 727	0	44	16	105	41	9 at 30% advancement 8 à 20 % advancement 4 expected to be signed by December 2006 5 in process of being	19; 70 %	9	10
Cumul	46 727 Ha	27 710 ha	89	31	105	204	21 ; 25%	19 ; 70 %	9	10

Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

Overall Indicator: The Fianarantsoa ERI program presently works to support the sound management of 21, 710 hectares of primary forests placed under resource management agreements like GELOSE or *Gestion Contractualisée des Forêts (GCF)*. As of this reporting period, ERI has met its life of project target acreage of 26,800 hectares. Several thousand additional hectares will be added to this cumulative total over the next year. This expansion is taking place within the context of the creation of the New Protected Areas (NAP) and for this reason ERI Fianarantsoa is paying particular attention to reinforcing existing contracts rather than creating an excessive number of new ones. Thus, in 2006 it did not achieve its targets because the effort was made in the

[5] This number is based on 38 contracts during the LOP and on an average of 350 ha/contract (this latter number is based on previous LDI/PTE experience). In addition, we have added the area of the 8 contracts signed during LDI/PTE which total 2,787 ha.

[6] 13000 ha is a minimum that the Fianarantsoa team will reach during the LOP, in addition to 13800 ha signed under LDI/PTE.

previous year to set up new GCF/GELOSE and then work with these during the life of the project. ERI also works through the grant from Conservation International's "Fruits of the Forest" NODE program to provide capacity building support to the current COBA associations managing these vast areas.

Component 2.1: The ERI program receives numerous solicitations from rural communities to set up new resource transfer agreements. ERI reviewed carefully 16 of these requests for support, but is only providing technical assistance to a handful of requests. Many of the requests were viewed as dubious and opportunistic land grabs rather than true community initiatives. In light of the fact that 86 GCF/GELOSE presently exist along the Ranomafana – Andringitra forest corridor set up by previous donors during EP II and receive very little external coaching, ERI has decided to focus most of its efforts on capacity building for existing structures. Many of the COBA set up during the LDI period are up for re-evaluation by the CIREEF/DIREEF and thus these COBA management units require considerable assistance to help them wade through the re-certification process. This strategy has been incorporated into the CIREEF 2007 annual work plan.

Component 2.2: ERI Fianarantsoa works very closely with the regional CIREEF forestry services but in a complementary fashion with the JariAla project. ERI has trained over the past year 41 forestry agents and forestry specialists from non-governmental organizations. This is double the anticipated target for 2006. The life of project target reflected in this component has been surpassed of "trained and active agents from CIREEF, projects, NGOs" because ERI has focused much training resources on the COBA and Koloharena agents responsible for community resource management agreement implementation.

Component 2.3: This component represents the numbers and percentages of community-based resource management agreements established and signed. This indicator parallels the previous ones in showing that 19 new resource transfer agreements (primarily GCF) are underway, but that about 70% of the complex process of registration has been met. ERI will not set up new GCF/GELOSE as of mid-2006 because the process takes about two years and hence there would be no time to provide necessary back-stopping to new agreements by the end of the project in two years.

Component 2.4: This final component illustrates in quantitative terms that ERI's watershed management program is advancing well. Ten (10) village resource management plans are presently being set up in selected watersheds along the Ranomafana – Andringitra forest corridor. This complements the micro-watershed management demonstration plots set up around the *Maisons Koloharena* farmer demonstration areas. ERI Fianarantsoa is working with other Ecoregional Alliance USAID partners to focus inter-project cooperation on the Kelilalina watershed near Ranomafana National Park, but many other sites also benefit from inter-donor cooperation and coordination.

Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

Overall Indicator: The ERI Toamasina program works to facilitate by COBA associations the maintenance of a significant acreage of primary forest placed under community management - 46 727 hectares. Eight community forest management contracts were inherited from the MIRAY project of PE II and 9,407 hectares from the predecessor LDI/PTE program.

Component 2.1 : Forty (40) manifestations of interest were received from mayors, Koloharena associations, and the forestry service in 2005 and this has jumped to 75 in 2006. The growing knowledge of rural communities of the government support for community level development is at the heart of this interest. As in the Fianarantsoa program, ERI will not be able to meet all of the community requests for support to set up GCF/GELOSE resource transfer agreements because of the extensive time it takes to build up community capacity to respond to complex administrative procedures.

Component 2.2: The numbers of trained field agents (14) and PV agricultural animators trained by ERI continues to climb from the 34 in 2005 to the 105 in 2006. This reflects the solid foundation built by ERI that allows it to expand training opportunities in agricultural intensification and community enterprise activities.

Component 2.3 : The number of signed community resource management agreements is expanding at a progressive rate. Time is required to work through the administrative process to achieve signature of resource management contracts. More could be done, but ERI staff and the local communities have had to focus as well on setting up such new mechanisms as the new protected areas (NAP), forestry zoning procedures, forest adjudication… The rate of implementation of the various steps of required to obtain forest transfer agreements has been high because of the strength of the COBA associations.

Component 2.4 : The ERI Toamasina program has advanced considerably in putting in place the foundations for integrated village and territorial management plans. The current 9 villages involved in the pilot process should help ERI advance further in the next year in expanding the program.

Results, Module 3: Profitable and Environmentally Sound Farming Systems Replace Slash-and-Burn Agriculture at a Landscape Scale

	Overall Impact		**Component 3.1[7]—Promote development and adoption of improved agricultural technologies and practices within integrated management of farming/natural resource systems**		**Component 3.2—Enhance producer capacity to maximize profits and meet market-quality, volume, and scheduling requirements**		**Component 33—Improve food security, nutrition, and overall health**	
Indicator	"Slash-and-Burn" practices decrease in Communes of intervention.		Households adopt sound agricultural practices and techniques for soil and water conservation		Households derive higher income from crops		Hungry season is reduced	
Indicator Definition	Decrease (%) in the rate of primary forest[8] loss in strategic communes of intervention[9] versus control sites **(SO6 Core Indicator; Fianarantsoa and Toamasina Alliance Indicator)**		a) Number of household adopting at least 2 improved practices or techniques b) Increase in production of staple food crops (paddy rice, manioc or maize or potatoes) **(SO6 indicator; Alliance Toamasina indicator).**		Percentage increase in average household income in the target communities[10] **(SO6 Core Indicator, Fianarantsoa Alliance Indicator)**		Reduction in length of hungry season	
	TOA	FIA	TOA	**FIA**	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA
Life of Project Target	50%	50%	a)5000 (+ baseline) b) 50%	a)5000 (+ baseline) b) 50%	30%	30%	8 weeks	14 weeks
Baseline Data	0	0	a) TBD b) TBD	a) TBD b) TBD	0%	0%	24 weeks	24 weeks
2005 Target	0%	0%	a) 500 (+ baseline) b) 10%	a) 500 (+ baseline) b) 10%	5%	5%	16 weeks	22 weeks
2005 Actual	NA	N.A.	Terms of reference developed and contractor identified (ERDR) to administer household data book	a) baseline + nouveaux = 2940 b) N.A.	TOR elaborated and service provider chosen ("Consultants associés") for household databook	TOR elaborated and service provider chosen ("Consultants associés") for household databook	N.A.	N.A.
2006 Target	(n/a)	(n/a)	a) 1000 (+ baseline) b) 20%	a) 1000 (+ baseline) b) 20%	10%	10%	14 weeks	20 weeks
2006 Actual	(n/a) Await results from other Ecoregional Alliance partners	(n/a) Await results from other Ecoregional Alliance partners	a) Number of adoptants utilizing at least 2 new activities (52.4% 2660 ABZ), 6.6%= 40 (ABDL), 1308 (Mor) b) Increase in production : - Rice : 5%, 7% (ABZ, MOR), 4% (nlle zone); - Manioc : 2%, 3% (ABZ, Bef) ;	a) Number of adoptants utilizing at least 2 new activités = 1590 Koloharena farmers b) Increase in production : - Rice -2,2% **(4 730.30t)** - Manioc +10% (4492.17 t) - Corn +24% (1064 t) - Potatoes -8% (787t)	1.5%, 1.2%, 2% (ABZ, MOR), 4.2% (New Zones, Ambodilazana, Andranobolaha)	11% Increases vary ranging from 0.9% for artisanal products to 10.8% for field crops	0 (ABZ et FNE) à 16 semaines au sein des Nouvelles zones, Ambodilazana, Andranobolaha, zone Beforona,	21,12 weeks

[7] This Component 3.1 is a consolidation of previous Component 3.1 and 3.2.

[8] **Primary forest conversion defined as "**Newly created "tavy" in primary forest" .

[9] **Intervention commune**: ERI and/or Alliance USAID implementing partners area of intervention

[10] Household income increases or decreases may be independent of the project interventions in the event of political instability, weather, devaluation and other macro factors beyond ERI control.

			-Corn : 8% (ABZ), 8.3% (nlle zone)					
Cumul				**4 530**	**Average 1.5 – 4.2 %**	**Average 11%**		**21,12**

Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

Overall Indicator: The data collection and analysis for module III is the first of its type for the ERI program in general. The data collection process is exceptionally complex because careful data collection and analysis is required in the field but also careful interpretation at the programmatic level. Considerable care was taken to identify variables that can be followed in the years to come. Clearly, the overall intention of this module is to reduce the rate of conversion of primary forests on the eastern and western side of the Ranomafana – Andringitra forest corridor. The Ecoregional Alliance USAID members agreed with the USAID Madagascar mission that financial resources would be combined and that JariAla and ERI would work together to conduct the necessary analysis to record rates of forest conversion. Many technical and institutional obstacles have hindered the collaborative effort with EP III actors. Until now, this key indicator "Slash and burn practices decreased in communes of intervention" can not be measured because various actors can not arrive at a common methodology and practice for measuring these environmental changes. But, even if the changes conversion rates were measured, assigning causality to any particular project involved in contributing to arresting the phenomena is highly spurious. Halting slash and burn agriculture in primary forests is the result of multiple interventions by multiple players at multiple scales!

Component 3.1 : The ERI program used two techniques to gather data on rates of agricultural adoption and agricultural yields. Koloharena associations and federations fed information into ERI's field agents who in turn verify trends at the local level. A professional research firm was also hired to institute the "Cahiers de Ménages" field data books. These twin tools suggest that agricultural diffusion is increasing at a respectable rate and that the target for 2006 of 1000 new adoptants has been met (1590 Koloharena this year adopted at least two new agricultural practices). The cross-checked analysis of agricultural production shows variable achievements and set-backs for the key indicator crops of rice, manioc, and corn. Koloharena produced 2.2% less rice in the 2005-2006 agricultural season than in the 2004-2005 season. This was primarily due to the poorly timed and amount of rains of this past season. Potato production also suffered an 8% decline over the previous year. However, corn production grew dramatically at 24% though the overall acreage is not as high as rice. Price incentives for corn probably contributed as well to wider planting this past year. Manioc production also grew by 10%. ERI is completely hampered in its ability to respond to the drought conditions of 2005-2006 because it is not allowed under USAID MOBIS rules to invest any funds in the construction or rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures. At the same time, government policy incentives do not yet encourage widespread use of fertilizers or high-yielding seeds.

Component 3.2 : The household studies showed a much brighter picture for revenue increases. As a result of various income diversification activities promoted by ERI, revenues increased by an average of 11%. Even if yields for agricultural crops declined primarily to poor rains and other agronomic conditions, revenue increased for various field crops by 10.8%. This accounts for increases in yields from dry season crops – a key contributor to income growth and the target of many ERI interventions. Similarly, incomes rose for small animal husbandry by 7.3 % and this is confirmed by market data showing a growing demand for "gasy" chicken from urban centers. Similarly, revenues rose by 4.1% from activities like honey collection and fish production. These are other areas where ERI has focused much technical investment in training. These figures show impressive growth, but at the same time, national inflation rates of about 10-12% undermines these achievements. While it is tempting to conclude that ERI was largely responsible for these increases, assigning causality to a single project is difficult. Farmer behavior is influenced by a wide variety of factors ranging from rainfall to price incentives for inputs and surplus products sold in local and regional markets.

Component 3.3 : The ERI Fianarantsoa program invested considerable time and resources in defining the “période de soudure” or hungry season. The hungry season is rather arbitrarily defined by cultural considerations. Malagasy feel they are “hungry” if they do not eat rice at least one time per day. So, the hungry season is that period when rice is not eaten, but other crops like manioc, potatoes, breadfruit, and other crops may be consumed as a substitute. It was felt at the outset of the program that one of the central goals of the program is to indeed increase food security by reducing the hungry season. In many, but not all of the zones along the forest corridor, the hungry season is believed at present to be about 21 weeks of not eating rice. Of course, rich people will not suffer from lack of rice, but poor are the focus of this indicator! The program sought to reduce the hungry season to 20 weeks but this was not obtained. In fact, no significant difference was noted in our field assessments. However, it is important to note that with the help of FIFAMANOR, 36.08 hectares of experimental sweet potatoes were planted of which 12 hectares were the vitimine A rich orange and yellow varieties. This yielded 1,026 metric tons of potatoes. These new varieties have been quickly disseminated by Koloharena farmers. It should also be noted that 45 hectares of taro were planted using new soil fertility maintenance techniques. Most impressively, at least 8.5 metric tons of fish were produced by the Koloharena this past season. This compares extremely well with the few hundred kilos of fish grown by Koloharena at the outset of USAID in 1998!

Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

Overall Indicator : The process of setting in place the monitoring of conversion rates of primary forests is in place at this time. Led primarily by members of the Ecoregional Alliance, it is clear that additional support by other actors will be needed to obtain an effective measurement of forest conversion rates in different areas of the corridors. This indicator is needed to assess where and how fast tavy agriculture is expanding and to measure whether program and policy interventions are having any impact in slowing conversion rates.

Component 3.1 : The ERI Toamasina strategic zones of intervention consist of two types of agricultural areas – the zones inherited from the LDI interventions (Ambatondrazaka on both sides of the lake, Ambohibary, Morarano, Andasibe, Beforona, Ranomafana, Brickaville, Fénérive) and those where ERI is newly established (Toamasina II, Zone Didy et Manakambahiny Est, Miarinarivo). The rates of agricultural adoption thus vary considerably between these quite distinct zones. The variation of rates of adoption are indicated in the chart with 52.4% rates of adoption in the “ old” zones of former LDI interventions and the “ new” zones with rates of adoption of only 6.6%. It is clear that more farmers are adopting more new techniques in areas linked to agricultural markets but rates and numbers of adoptants are much lower in more peripheral areas of the regional economy. Agricultural yields are also highly variable because of weather.

Component 3.2 : In the area around Ambatondrazaka the general revenue has fallen because the price offered for rice has declined over the past year. But, in the “ new” zones of ERI interventions, it appears that the introduction of new crops has contributed to an increase in revenue.

Component 3.3 : The « hungry » season appears to be declining quite rapidly in the « old » zones of agricultural interventions in the Ambatondrazaka area. But, the overall quantity of rice consumed by household does appear to keep on falling. In the “new” zones of intervention, the hungry season still seems to be remaining the same at 3-4 months. The length of the “ hungry” season will certainly vary in light of a number of intervening factors like weather, agricultural commodity prices, and infrastructure resiliency.

Results, Module 4: Rural Associations Achieve Financial and Organizational Sustainability and Become Effective Advocates for Local Issues								
	Overall Impact		**Component 4.1—Improve the management capacity and financial sustainability of rural associations and federations**		**Component 4.2—Increase rural associations' understanding of, and ability to access, credit**		**Component 4.3—Develop advocacy and negotiation skills of rural associations by strengthening linkages with civil society organizations**	
Indicator	Legally recognized rural organizations committed to improved natural resource management and rural development expand to become advocates for local issues		Rural associations (Federation / cooperative comprises) awarded natural resource management or other contracts[11]		Rural associations able to access credit and repaying loans[12]		Environmental advocacy actions undertaken (rural associations, federation, cooperative)	
Indicator Definition	Number of rural organizations legally registered with local and regional authorities **(Toamasina Alliance Indicator)**		Number of signed contracts **(SO6 Core Indicator; Toamasina Alliance Indicator)**		Percentage of rural associations obtaining and reimbursing credit		Number of advocacy actions **(SO6 Core Indicator; Toamasina Alliance Indicator)**	
	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA
Life of Project Target	x + 50%	x + 50%	200	200	95%	95%	300	250
Baseline Data	X[13]	390					TBD	TBD
2005 Target	x + 10%	390 + 10% = 429	30	30	40%	80%	50	50
2005 Actual	76	443	92	39	On going protocol with OTIV and EAM	68 %	5	65
2006 Target	x + 20%	390 + 20% = 468	60	60	60%	85%	100	100
2006 Actual (Septembre 2006)	101	470	64	68	18.5%	88,34%	9	130
Cumul	567	470	156	107		88,34%	10	195

Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

The ERI Fianarantsoa program now works with 913 legally registered rural associations (Koloharena, COBA, water users associations, road users associations) primarily along the central part of the Ranomafana – Andringitra forest corridor. This represents a significant growth from the 390 recorded present at the beginning of the ERI program in 2004. Average growth rates for registration of Koloharena associations continued at a healthy rate of 20% in 2006. Growth is expected to remain high in 2007 as ERI continues to expand into other communes.

The component 4.1 indicates that these rural associations are gaining experience in internal management as reflected by the fact that over 68 contracts were signed with various entities to provide services and goods. This too reflects are growth of maturity of our many rural partners within the Koloharena movement. Despite difficulties in using the MOBIS USAID contracting tool, the ERI program met its targeted goals in component 4.2 of helping rural associations access and repay credit. This reflects again the fact that the Koloharena are increasingly recognized as viable economic partners by the

[11] Including commercialization, services, training, production, etc… related to NRM.

[12] Expressing the ability to manage and reimbursing loans, from whether external or internal credit mechanisms. In the other hand, increase in income (better wealth) may lessen the need of accessing « micro-crédits ».

[13] Number of rural associations to be determined in baseline assessment. Target indicator presupposes expansion of the Koloharena farmers' movement as a factor contributing to greater rural empowerment.

savings and loan establishment due to their generally high rates of reimbursement. The component 4.3 shows that maturity in the Koloharena movement is being achieved by the number of advocacy actions being undertaken by the farmer's movement. In 2006, the Koloharena, COBA, CMP, and other rural associations undertook 130 advocacy actions like lobbying for funding from various donor agencies or the state. Much of this lobbying skill was learned through a MISONGA training program that taught advocacy skills. The Fianarantsoa Koloharena movement took a decisive step of organizing a regional structure (headquartered through the BCI in Manakara and Fianarantsoa) to channel advocacy pressure better on various institutions. This has resulted in more signing of contracts and a wider range of linkages with donors outside of the USAID sphere.

Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

The Toamasina ERI program has similarly witnessed very significant growth in rural associative movements. The program now works with 587 rural associations. Growth has been rapid as this past year 117 new Koloharena associations were registered officially. ERI Toamasina has been moving into new communes never reached by previous projects like LDI. Capacity building has taken time, but in some new zones, like Toamasina II, about 60 new associations are in the process of becoming officially registered. Launching the Koloharena movement in these new zones takes time, but it is evident that the Koloharena in the "old" intervention zones are gaining in maturity.

The maturity of the Koloharena cooperatives and associations is demonstrated by the fact that 64 new contracts were signed with clients this past year. This is right on target and further growth is expected this coming year. Examples of the types of contracts being signed in 2006 is similar to the details provided in the above chart for 2005. ERI continues to be a major source of contracts for the Koloharena. These contracts serve as a capacity building mechanism for these cooperatives and associations as they learn how to work with USAID regulations and procedures. Performance based contracts force Koloharena to meet clearly defined performance targets, though, as the Activity Intervention tables show below, performance skills are not always as high as hoped.

The rural credit program has not expanded adequately as shown by the low percentage of rural associations (18.5%) able to access credit. ERI Toamasina is actively negotiating new institutional arrangements with OTIV in Ambatondrazaka and with the BNI in Toamasina. It is hoped that BAMEX and other members of the Ecoregional Alliance will be able to negotiate new credit arrangements with the FIEF program monitored by BAMEX.

The indicators for component 4.3 show that the lobbying and advocacy efforts of the Koloharena in the Toamasina province are still rather fragile. The associations have been able to lobby for land for reforestation, new funding opportunities with Tany Meva, and price negotiation for rice in Ambatondrazaka. But, these rather limited 9 advocacy measures show that the Koloharena still have a ways to go to advocate their postions and interests in the broader public sphere. ERI has trained members of the cooperative movement in advocacy skills, but it takes time for these associations to build up confidence to articulate positions and interests.

Results, Module 5: Strategic Communication, Education, and Outreach Lead to Widespread Behavioral Change								
	Overall Impact		**Component 5.1—Improve rural associations' ability to develop and deliver integrated development messages**		**Component 5.2—Promote communication techniques through farmer led extension and outreach to improve natural resource management and agricultural practices**		**Component 5.3—Support national initiatives emphasizing improved natural resource management**	
Indicator	Rural associations and grassroots organizations active[14] in improving public awareness of environmental issues		Rural associations develop rural communication tools and messages		*Paysans vulgarisateurs/animateurs* active[15] in delivering awareness messages in the two eco-regions		CBNRM integrated into national strategies and curricula [16]	
Indicator Definition	Number of associations active in promoting public awareness of sound natural resource management and sustainable agriculture		Number of rural communication tools and messages		Percentage of sample[17] of active PA/PV vs. trained PA/PV		Number of copies of CBNRM tools[18] supporting national initiatives produced and distributed	
	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA
Life of Project Target	250	250	50	50	95%	95%	2500	2500
Baseline Data			TBD	0	TBD	TBD		
2005 Target	30	30	5	5	50%	30%	500	500
2005 Actual	15	45	6	5	64.5 %	61%	5	plus de 660
2006 Target	80	80	20	20	65%	40%	500	500
2006 Actual (Septembre 2006)	213	263	7 messages 19 tools	21 messages	80%	53%	231	780
Cumul	293	308	13	26	72%	53%	236	1440

Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

The ERI Fianarantsoa environnemental communication results module is far surpassing its planned objectives. This is due to the fact that ERI hired additional staff that allowed it to construct a series of creative partnerships with service providers, associations, and other partners to carry out a wide range of communication and environmental education activities. The 263 environmental communication activities of the past year also reflects the initiatives taken by Koloharena and other rural associations to submit proposals requiring some small funding or technical assistance from ERI. As the annual report explains, a wide variety of fascinating environmental communication activities are taking place such as those related to the promotion of rural radio shows. A wide array of environmental education messages have been developed and extended through the rapidly growing rural radio network now found the length of the forest corridor. Our *Paysans Animateurs* and *Paysans Vulgarisateurs* are increasingly effective in delivering these messages as well as

[14] They may perform or produce various communication tools: kabary rally, posters, radio programs, puppet show, movies projection, papers etc…

[15] Participate actively into education and information programs, and disseminating messages on sustainable NRM, new agricultural techniques etc…

[16] COBA participation and contribution as incentive for other communities to adopt CBNRM.

[17] The sample will comprise the same number of PV/PA paid by the cooperative and PV/PA not paid but active within rural associations.

[18] CBNRM tools are different from communication tools.

agricultural and community resource management technical assistance. These village extension workers are recognized for their knowledge and skills and are indeed being hired out by other projects. We have surpassed as of now the expected life of project indicators for environmental education activities, but we feel certain that this initiative will continue to grow dramatically in the next two years.

While ERI Fianarantsoa is pleased that the environmental education and communication program is moving forward so rapidly, communication messages are sometimes quite confused and especially around such core subjects as the interface between SAPM/NAP, forest zoning, and Kaomina Mendrika. Numerous planning tools and approaches are being extended to rural populations and thus certain actors, like the commune mayors, are becoming increasingly frustrated about the appearance of multiple and sometimes contradictory messages. State institutions like the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests are not able to assure coherent messages regarding such key issues as the relationship between forest zoning and SAPM/NAP.

The full range of communication tools and activities are noted in the TAMIS data base and may be consulted for more detail.

Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

The ERI Toamasina environmental education and communication program is similarly meeting its module targets in a satisfactory fashion. It has far surpassed the overall target of numbers of associations active in promoting public awareness of sound natural resource management and sustainable agriculture. It was expected that ERI would work with 80 rural associations on environmental education activities, but in fact, it turned out this year to be 213. This reflects a widely growing interest of rural associations to conserve and manage their surrounding resources. Various activities, like environmental fairs, are increasingly used to draw in a large number of people to view demonstrations, stands, and posters. The range of messages is similarly growing dramatically. This pas year 19 distinctive tools were developed to communicate 7 major messages. The tools of communication are increasingly varied ranging from the farmer-to-farmer extension approach to more widespread use of radio, the written press, poetry readings, maps and posters, and village exchanges. Messages are targeted around such issues as community resource management, improved agricultural techniques, rice-fish culture, and reforestation. The *Paysans Animateurs* and *Paysans Vulgarisateurs* structures continue to be the foundation for extending information to rural communities often living in very remote areas. The full range of communication tools and activities are noted in the TAMIS data base and may be consulted for more detail.

6. Performance and Monitoring Table for Activity Intervention Fund

	Overall Impact		Clear subcontract application procedures developed and disseminated		Clear selection criteria for awards established		Technical assistance provided to applicants and recipients	
Indicator	Percentage of successful subcontracts		Number of calls for proposals		Percentage of subcontracts solicited or non solicited by the Program and funds awarded		Effectiveness of field-based technical assistance provided to contractors	
Indicator Definition	Number of beneficiaries[19] Percentage of subcontracts completed Percentage of subcontracts achieving targets Percentage of female beneficiaries Percentage of subcontracts demonstrating positive environmental and socio-economic impact.		Number of expressions of interest		Number of subcontract: < $10,000 > $10,000<$25,000 >$25,000<100,000 >$100,000 Amount of money disbursed		Percentage of subcontractors demonstrating acceptable contract management skill, as defined by the following functions: Meaningful consultation with beneficiaries for decision making Operational performance monitoring system for adaptive management	
	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA
Life of Project Target	1. 30,000 2. 80% 3. 80% 4. 30% 5. 80%	1. 30,000 2. 80% 3. 80% 4. 30% 5. 80%	200	200	1. 35 2. 50 3. 15 4. 0 5. $1.050,000	1. 35 2. 50 3. 15 4. 0 5. $1.050,000	60%	60%
Baseline Data	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2005 Target	1. 10,000 2. 40% 3. 40% 4. 10% 5. 40%	1. 10,000 2. 40% 3. 40% 4. 10% 5. 40%	50	50	1. 10 2. 10 3. 3 4. 0 5. $200,000	1. 10 2. 10 3. 3 4. 0 5. $200,000	40%	40%
2005 Actual	1. 10,420 2. 63% 3. 63% 4. 30% 5. 34%	1. 4 541 2. 60% 3. 40% 4. 19 % 5. 50%	60	85	1. 5 2. 4 3. 0 4. 0 5. $ 94,319	1. 16 2. 6 3. 0 4. 0 5. $ 138 274	46%	75%
2006 Target	1. 15 000 2. 50% 3. 50% 4. 15%	1. 15 000 2. 50% 3. 50% 4. 15%	90	90	1. 15 2. 20 3. 5 4. 0	1. 15 2. 20 3. 5 4. 0	50%	50%

[19] Individual.

	5. 50%	5. 50%			5. $400,000	5. $400,000		
2006 Actual	1. 21 297 2. 85 3. 83 4. 33 5. 39	1. 35 447 2. 48% 3. 32% 4. 25% 5. 44%	109	216	1. 15 2. 10 3. 4 4. 0 5. $301,282	1. 22 2. 12 3. 0 4. 0 5. $ 403 435	44%	83%

Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

The annual and semester reports for the ERI Fianarantsoa program have presented in considerable detail information on the rates of expenditure of the Activity Implementation Fund. This table indicates for 2006 that the ERI Fianarantsoa program is reaching about 35,000 beneficiaries through the AIF fund – nearly double what was originally anticipated. About 48% of these contracts met targets specified in the contracts signed by partners. This reflects that contractors are having difficulties reaching anticipated targets and as a result penalties have been given for delays or unfulfilled activities. 25% of our beneficiaries are women. This is not as high as we hoped initially and reflects a continued challenge for future years. While 44% of all of our AIF activities meet very specific environmental and socio-economic targets, this is not far from our anticipated 50% rate. It is very clear from this table that the ERI staff continues to be swamped by an enormous demand for our services with 216 requests for services recorded (unsolicited demands for goods or services).

The AIF fund has indeed engaged by the mid-point of our program $446 000 or about 64% of the fund. All of these expended funds are for contracts less than $25,000. This reflects a very concerted effort to work with small enterprises, non-governmental associations, and Koloharena farmers associations. About 39% of the AIF funds have been expended by this point because some contracts are multi-year. About 88% of the AIF fund expenditures have been spend on service contracts (associations, non-governmental organizations, enterprises) while 9% is expended through protocols covering per diem or transport for partners. 2% of the contracts are for individual consultants and 1% for material purchases or trainings and demonstrations.

Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

The annual and semester reports for the ERI Toamasina program similarly describe the details of how the AIF funds are being spent in this region. In 2006 the Toamasina program reached at least 21,000 beneficiaries – a marked increase over expected projections of 15,000. Toamasina has obtained a higher rate of meeting expected targets than Fianarantsoa with over 80% of targets being met. Like our sister program in Fianarantsoa, meeting targets of supporting explicit women's activities is lower than anticipated, though this hides probably the fact that many projects are targeted to the household and not specifically women. The percentage of contracts demonstrating positive environmental and socio-economic impacts may be read as low (39% versus an expected 50%) but this hides the fact that the Koloharena beneficiaries themselves are carrying out many environmental and economic development activities independent of ERI.

The majority of contracts are targeted to the Koloharena cooperatives and associations. These sub-contractors carry out many targeted activities ranging from training to carrying out agricultural experiments through the farmer-to-farmer extension system. Most contracts with Koloharena are small and for this reason the vast majority of ERI's contracts are under $25,000. While ERI Toamasina notes that only 44% of the contractors are demonstrate "acceptable

contract management skills” this is largely a result of the fact that most of our contracts are carried out by Koloharena cooperatives. These cooperatives are still young and thus are learning how to work with USAID contracting requirements and obligations. More work is certainly needed to build the performance of these rural associations to handle the performance based contracts. But, ERI believes that it is on the right track in building the capacity of these Koloharena institutions to manage funds for internal development.

7. Customer Satisfaction Table

The Performance and Monitoring Plan indicated that a customer satisfaction survey would be conducted by the ERI program. As of this time, the regional and national program have not been able to carry out this plan. Regional and national field staff have focused their efforts on implementing the program and carrying out the data collection linked to such instruments as the Cahiers de Ménage. Discussions with the USAID Madagascar mission in September 2006 suggested that this satisfaction survey should be done twice in the course of the project and at a later data. Priorities ought to be placed on setting up and reporting on performance indicators of modules I – IV.