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## **SEMI ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

*Maintaining Biological Integrity of Critical Biodiversity Habitats  
Associate Cooperative Agreement No. 687-A-00-04-00090-00*

**JANUARY - JUNE 2009**



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## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>BBOP</b>	Business and Biodiversity Offset Program
<b>BRD</b>	Bioclimate Research and Development
<b>CAG</b>	Conservation Action Grants
<b>CAZ</b>	Corridor Ankeniheny Zahamena
<b>CBD</b>	<i>Conférence pour la Diversité Biologique</i>
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organization
<b>CCBS</b>	Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards
<b>CCD</b>	Communal Development Committees
<b>CCEE</b>	<i>Centre pour la Conservation et pour l'Education Environnementale</i>
<b>CEG</b>	<i>Centre d'Enseignement Général</i>
<b>CEP</b>	<i>Commission Environnement – Pêche</i>
<b>CNFEREF</b>	<i>Centre National pour la Formation, Education, Recherche en Environnement et Foresterie</i>
<b>CI</b>	Conservation International
<b>CIMF</b>	Comité Inter-Ministériel Mines Forêts
<b>CMP</b>	<i>Comité Multilocal de Planification</i>
<b>CNRE</b>	<i>Centre National pour la Recherche Environnementale</i>
<b>COAP</b>	<i>Code des Aires Protégées</i>
<b>COBA</b>	<i>Communauté de Base</i>
<b>COFAV</b>	Corridor Fandriana-Vondrozo
<b>COGE</b>	<i>Comité de Gestion</i>
<b>DCPSE</b>	<i>Direction pour la Coordination, de la Planification et du Suivi-Evaluation</i>
<b>DGEF</b>	<i>Direction Générale de l'Environnement et des Forêts</i>
<b>DPRH</b>	<i>Direction de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques</i>
<b>DREFT</b>	<i>Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, des Forêts et du Tourisme</i>
<b>DSAP</b>	Direction de l'Appui aux Systèmes des Aires Protégées
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EP3</b>	Madagascar's Environmental Program Phase 3
<b>EPP</b>	<i>Ecole Primaire Publique</i>
<b>FAPBM</b>	<i>Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité à Madagascar</i>
<b>FCPF</b>	Forest Carbon Partnership Fund
<b>GDRN</b>	<i>Gestion Durable des Ressources Naturelles</i>
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Fund
<b>GERP</b>	Groupe d'Etudes et de Recherches pour les Primates
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>GOM</b>	Government of Madagascar
<b>IDA</b>	International Development Association
<b>IEG</b>	<i>Indice d'Efficacité de Gestion</i>
<b>IHSM</b>	<i>Institut Halieutique des Sciences Marines</i>
<b>IUCN</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
<b>LCM</b>	Land Change Modeler
<b>LMU</b>	Local Management Unit
<b>MCPA</b>	Marine and Coastal Protected Area
<b>MAEP</b>	<i>Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Elevage et de la Pêche</i>
<b>MAP</b>	Madagascar Action Plan
<b>MATE</b>	Man and The Environment
<b>MaVoa</b>	Madagasikara Voakajy
<b>MBG</b>	Missouri Botanical Garden
<b>MEFT</b>	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Tourism
<b>MEM</b>	<i>Ministère de l'Energie et des Mines</i>
<b>MFPAB</b>	Madagascar Foundation for Protected Area and Biodiversity
<b>MNP</b>	<i>Madagascar National Parks</i>
<b>MPA</b>	Marine Protected Areas
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>NPA</b>	New Protected Areas
<b>OLEP</b>	<i>Organe de Lutte contre l'Evenement de Pollution Marine par les hydrocarbures</i>
<b>ONE</b>	<i>Office Nationale de l'Environnement</i>
<b>PA</b>	Protected Area
<b>PACP</b>	<i>Programme d'Appui aux Communautés de Pêcheurs</i>

<b>PAG</b>	<i>Plan d'Aménagement et de Gestion</i>
<b>PBZT</b>	<i>Parc Botanique et Zoologique de Tsimbazaza</i>
<b>PCD</b>	<i>Plan Communal de Développement</i>
<b>PDD</b>	Project Development Design
<b>PES</b>	Payment for Ecosystem Services
<b>PGES</b>	Social and environmental management plan
<b>PNUD</b>	<i>Programme des Nations Unis pour le Développement</i>
<b>POWPA</b>	Program of Work on Protected Areas
<b>PTA</b>	<i>Plan de Travail Annuel</i>
<b>REBIOMA</b>	<i>Réseau pour la Biodiversité de Madagascar</i>
<b>REDD</b>	<i>Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation</i>
<b>REPC</b>	<i>Réseau d'Educateurs Professionnels pour la Conservation</i>
<b>RTM</b>	Reggio Terzo Mondo
<b>SAPM</b>	<i>Système des Aires Protégées de Madagascar</i>
<b>STTA</b>	Short-term technical assistant
<b>TAMS</b>	<i>Tetik'Asa Mampody Savoka</i>
<b>TBD</b>	To be determined
<b>TDY</b>	Temporary Duty
<b>TFT</b>	Tropical Forest Trust
<b>TNC</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>TPF</b>	The Peregrine Fund
<b>UCFB</b>	<i>Unité de Coordination Foresterie Biodiversité</i>
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>VCS</b>	Voluntary Carbon Standard
<b>WCS</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>WWF</b>	World Wide Fund for Nature

## I. INTRODUCTION

This report covers activities for the period from January 1 to June 30, 2009 for the USAID Project under the “Maintaining Biological Integrity of Critical Biodiversity Habitats,” Leader Award No. LAG-A-00-99-00046-00. As per the Leader Award document, the main mission of the “Maintaining Biological Integrity of Critical Biodiversity Habitats” program (MIARO) was to provide support to the Madagascar Protected Areas System (SAPM).

In September 2003, President Marc Ravalomanana declared at the World Parks Congress in Durban that his country would expand its protected area system to cover approximately 10% of the country’s surface. The MIARO program has focused on supporting the government to make that “Durban Vision” into a reality. As of June 2009, there are over 5.5 million hectares protected or where conservation organizations, whether international, national or local, are actively working to secure the conservation of natural habitats of key importance for biodiversity conservation. This achievement required unparalleled collaboration between diverse organizations from government ministries, conservation NGOs and rural development partners all the way down to the communities living around the new protected areas. CI and its partners under the Miaro program have supported the design of the new Protected Area System of Madagascar (SAPM), which includes identifying the most important sites to protect through compilation and analysis of large datasets on biodiversity distribution, developing and testing new models for engaging communities in conservation, developing new tools for improving management effectiveness and monitoring and identifying and acquiring new financial resources and putting them to work to conserve Madagascar’s unique natural heritage. USAID’s support through the MIARO program has therefore been essential to the process of designing and creating the new protected area system.

To build upon the achievements under the MIARO program, activities in the field continued with an extension period from April to July 2009 to help to consolidate the success of the program and continue to build the enabling conditions for the long term success of biodiversity conservation in Madagascar through new activities 1.6, 1.7, 1.8 and 2.4.

Nethertheless, the beginning of 2009 was impacted by a political crisis which led to a coup d’Etat and ousting of the president, directly impacting on the progress of project activities. The US government has withdrawn financial support to the Government of Madagascar until political stability is re-established and democratic elections take place. As a consequence, the project was forced to reformulate USAID funded activities to exclude capacity support to government at all levels and reorient aims towards community support.

Regarding the legal framework for SAPM, after the adoption of the COAP law by the Parliament in 2008, efforts focused on the preparation of two application decrees, the first one on the revision and fusion of the two current decrees (No. 2005-013 of January 11, 2005 and No. 2005-848 of December 13, 2005), and the other one on marine protected areas. The draft are available and need to be presented and validated at the SAPM commission and the DSAP.

In light of the US government decision to suspend non humanitarian assistance, no further technical support was given to the Minsitry for this activity after the coup d’Etat in March 17.

Communication activities were conducted at the national, regional and local levels to promote understanding of SAPM and the options it provides for improved management of natural

resources. Related to that, a brochure integrating general information on SAPM was produced and was widely distributed. A website for SAPM within the MEFT's website (<http://www.meeft.gov.mg>) describing the SAPM process and providing information on different sites was created.

In terms of tools, MIARO produced a compilation of all the technical and legal documents developed in the last few years by the SAPM commission. One hundred hard copies were distributed to organizations involved in protected area creation and management, and electronic copies were distributed widely, in addition to an interactive CD containing a selection of freely available practical guides covering protected areas. Moreover, MIARO and the REBIOMA project produced an interactive CD of the 18633/2008 inter-ministerial executive order designating all new temporary protected areas to achieve Madagascar's Durban Vision commitment. The CD includes the national map and provides site-specific information for all existing and new protected areas under SAPM. An online version of the CD is available at <http://atlas.rebioma.net>.

In the field, MIARO provided direct support to develop management plans for CAZ, COFAV and Ambatotsirongorongo through involving a range of stakeholders in the data collection, analysis and development of the document. For these sites, the governance structure has been designed as well, with a description of roles and responsibilities of each level. This model for large corridors has inspired the other sites to develop their own governance structures.

Some restoration activities were conducted, which allowed the development and application of some innovative habitat restoration techniques, namely in Didy, Mantadia and Makira.

In the **extension period**, activities in CAZ and COFAV focused on supporting the management and governance at the local level. Activities were completely focused on communities support. The goal is to identify, map and prepare the local management plans of the management units within these protected areas. For CAZ, 108 management units have been identified for the entire protected area and in COFAV, this process has been conducted in two regions (Haute Matsiatra and Vatovavy Fito-Vinany) among the five. With the support of MIARO, eight management units in CAZ are transfer of management sites where the process of renewal of several management contracts has started.

For marine activities, direct support was provided to develop marine reserve in Manombo and Saint Augustin communes around Toliara. Two marine reserves among the Five targeted were created in June 2009, in partnership with local organizations such as Reef Doctor, IHSM and the local fishing communities. The various experiences with creating marine reserves were shared and compiled into a common methodology for this process. Marine reserves are tools for ensuring sustainability of local livelihoods by implementing sound fisheries management practices.

This semester, activities related to improving protected areas management effectiveness allowed us to capitalize and disseminate the SAPM management tools. During the first quarter, the major achievements were the completion of training of promoters and departments at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests on the use of these tools and the application of the accompanying software, Miradi. Promoters and Ministry staff are now able to apply the knowledge gained during training. In the extension period and after the Coup d'Etat, efforts focused on preparing overall management plans of three new priority protected areas

(Bemanevika, Nosivolo River, Mahavavy-Kinkony complex) and also developing economic activities that will benefit communities around these protected areas.

Regarding the sustainable financing component, MIARO supported foundations such as Tany Meva to develop its new strategic plan to ensure its investment achieves effective results. This semester, MIARO also provided technical support to the Madagascar Foundation for Protected areas and Biodiversity for its communication plan and grantmaking strategy to ensure resources are allocated to protected areas where they will have the greatest conservation impact.

Finally, MIARO participated actively in the USAID lessons learned workshop. It was an opportune time to share results and best practices, as well as the lessons drawn from the experiences of the different USAID projects within the environment program. Key messages in terms for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in the context of the living conditions of local people were formulated. USAID will use these outcomes to better configure its strategies and new financing mechanisms for the next 5-year phase.

## II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### ACTIVITIES LINKED WITH RESULT MODULES

#### **Result Module 1: Ecological linkages established and maintained**

##### **SUB RESULTS MODULE: 1.1. Promote the definition of policy and legal parameters for the establishment of new protected areas**

###### **a. SAPM Policy documents/tools**

###### *1. Sustainable natural resource use guide*

A guide on the sustainable use of natural resources in protected areas was produced which focused on legal aspects of the issue.

A group of consultants was recruited at the beginning of 2009 to develop the technical part of the guide to be practical and usable by field-level practitioners. The consultants' tasks were the following:

- Define the technical directions for activities related to utilization of natural resources;
- Use various parameters such as productivity and regeneration to determine authorized harvest rates for each species so as to meet current and future needs and demand;
- Provide guidance on developing management plans for the resources in question.

The guide was developed, available and approved by the SAPM Commission.

###### *2. Co-management and community management protected areas governance types in Madagascar*

Most of the new protected areas in SAPM involve some form of co-management between government agencies and local communities or the private sector. The proliferation of new stakeholders involved in protected area creation and management over the past few years has resulted in many new examples of these co-management arrangements. A compilation of these examples has been produced by the MIARO program to highlight different case studies of co-management and community protected areas. The document also provides lessons learned and

recommendations based on interviews with actors whom have been involved in establishing these new management models.

### *3. Compilation and distribution of the tools developed by the SAPM Commission in a folder and CD*

MIARO produced a compilation of all the technical and legal documents developed in the last few years by the SAPM commission. Although electronic copies of these individual documents have already been distributed widely, this compilation is intended to serve as a practical collection of documents for protected area managers and other stakeholders. One hundred hard copies of the document were distributed to organizations involved in protected area creation and management. These documents are also available on an interactive CD that also contains a selection of other freely available practical guides covering protected area management issues.

The compilation includes the following documents:

- I. Introduction to SAPM:
  - a. System of Protected Areas of Madagascar framework
  - b. Orientation document
- II. Guide to developing an environmental impact study for the creation of a new protected area:
  - a. Guide to implementing an environmental and social impact study for new protected area creation
  - b. Protected area creation, safeguard measures, procedural framework
  - c. Guide to developing the social safeguard plan
- III. Guide to new protected area creation
  - a. Guide to the creation of protected areas within the System of Protected Areas of Madagascar
  - b. Procedural manual on the creation of terrestrial protected areas within SAPM
- IV. Guide on new protected area governance
  - a. Practical guide on the governance of protected areas in Madagascar
- V. Guide to communal consultations
  - a. Practical guide on the commune-level consultations process
- VI. Management plan
  - a. Template for developing a protected area management plan
  - b. Guide to the development of a protected area management plan
- VII. Guide to the sustainable use of natural resources within a protected area
  - a. Guide to the sustainable use of natural resources within a protected area with the Legal and Technical parts
- VIII. Legal framework of new protected areas
  - a. Order No. 18177/2004 on the definition and delimitation of sensitive forest zones
  - b. Interministerial Order No. 18633/2008/MEFT/MEM on the temporary protection of sites targeted under Interministerial Order 17914/2006 and on the removal of the suspension of issuance of mining and forestry permits for certain sites
  - c. Revision of the Protected Areas Code
- IX. Marine
  - a. Orientation document on the creation and management of marine protected areas in Madagascar
  - b. Procedural manual for the creation of marine protected areas in Madagascar
  - c. Simplified MPA user guide

## **b. Legal aspects**

### *1. COAP Amendment*

The proposed COAP amendment was approved by the Senate and passed to the National Assembly on November 13, 2008. Due to the current political situation in Madagascar, the law has not yet been signed by the President or put into effect. The original COAP and its two application decrees therefore remain in force.

### *2. “Decrets d’application”*

After the parliamentary approval of the proposed COAP amendment, a legislative consultant was hired by MIARO in January 2009 to work on developing the various application texts that are required. The following steps were followed by the consultant, with oversight from the SAPM Commission:

- I. Revision and fusion of the two current decrees (No. 2005-013 of January 11, 2005 and No. 2005-848 of December 13, 2005, and identification of the sector-specific texts that apply to protected areas and therefore need to be taken into consideration (DRAFT 1);
- II. Harmonization of the results from DRAFT 1 and other pertinent documents (e.g., governance types in SAPM, community protected areas, management tools, private protected areas, sustainable use of natural resources, etc.). (DRAFT 2);
- III. Examination of the compatibility between DRAFT 2 and the procedural manuals for terrestrial and marine protected areas (DRAFT 3);
- IV. Final version of proposed decrees

In addition to fusing the two decrees, MIARO also worked on developing a proposed decree on marine protected areas. This draft decree outlines aspects specific to the marine realm.

A model “cahier de charges” related to management delegation for a protected area was also developed.

## **SUB RESULTS MODULE: 1.2. Identify and promote potential new Protected Areas in consultation with regional and local actors**

### **a. Communication**

Previous efforts in communication focused primarily on site-level activities. During this reporting period, MIARO worked to communicate the progress that has been made in the implementation of SAPM in Madagascar. Target groups included authorities, decision-makers, current and future protected area managers, and donors. Communication tools were developed and used to this end: A SAPM Kit that included a brochure on SAPM, and web pages dedicated to SAPM on the MEFT website.

During the MIARO extension period, we also developed communication tools on the management of new protected areas, governance, and sustainable use of natural resources. These tools are meant for use by local communication agents.

A communication firm was recruited to develop these tools. The firm was responsible for the following:

- Identify communicators’ needs in terms of tools, focusing specifically on field-based agents

- Based on expressed needs and the various documents that define SAPM, develop communication tools on:
  - The concept of SAPM
  - The role of communities in protected area governance
  - Sustainable use of natural resources
  - Development of a simplified protected area management plan
- Present tools to be approved
- Print tools

The firm's deliverables included the following:

- Guide to protected area management, governance, and sustainable natural resource use in Malagasy
- Guide to radio programming
- Film

Targeted communication campaigns were held to complement the development of these tools :

- 30 June -1- 2nd July 2009: CAZ
- 7-8-9 July 2009: COFFAV

The program was terminated on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and CI paid for a final communication campaign in Diana on July 27, that had already been planned. The planned activity in Anosy was cancelled.

#### **b. Communicate the results of prioritization at national level**

##### **INTERACTIVE CD ON THE MADAGASCAR PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM (SAPM) PRODUCED TO IMPROVE THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR INTER-SECTOR COLLABORATION IN FAVOR OF PROTECTED AREAS**

MIARO, in collaboration with ReBIOMA, produced an interactive CD with a series of maps that provides site-specific information for all existing and new protected areas under SAPM. The online version of the CD is available at <http://atlas.rebioma.net>

A workshop had been planned to demonstrate the utilization of the CD and to distribute 200 copies. The targeted beneficiaries were the site promoters and other institutions involved with protected areas. Unfortunately, the workshop had to be cancelled due to the current political situation. Instead, the CDs were distributed as follows: SAPM Committee (50 CDs), environmental institutions (5 each) and site-promoters. During the USAID Eco-regional Alliance workshop that was held in June, a total 45 CDs were distributed to participants. A brief summary of the content, the use and system requirements are included with the CD.

##### **MARINE CONSERVATION PARTNERS' CAPACITY IN PRIORITIZATION STRENGTHENED**

Through MIARO support, Joseph Maina from the WCS/Kenya program provided short-term technical assistance from January 11-25, 2009 to provide technical input into the integration of climate change vulnerability analyses for the ongoing marine protected area priority setting. During his visit, he led a training workshop entitled "Conservation Action in a Changing Climate: Environmental vulnerability in the Western Indian Ocean." The training focused on the use of GIS as a methodology for the priority setting of marine protected areas.

One valuable aspect of this workshop was the introduction of a "climate change factor" among variables to be considered in this priority setting goal. Consideration of environmental vulnerability is an important step in the establishment of marine protected areas; and should be taken into consideration as part of the comprehensive concept of a "seascape."

This workshop also demonstrated the need for additional methodology, data and scientific arguments in the establishment of the MPA network in Madagascar. Environmental modeling is a key potential tool for establishing MPAs in Madagascar. Participants came from diverse institutions (WCS, WWF, CI, PNRC, National Center for Oceanographic Data in Toliara). They were very supportive of the application of GIS and the vulnerability modeling in the definition of MPA limits and area.

The training was organized by WCS and REBIOMA. A process of data collection was initiated to obtain the necessary data for modeling the marine environment's vulnerability to climate change. For this first step, only imagery data are required. Additional kinds of data will be required in the next steps; in particular, biological, physical, hydrological and socioeconomic data.

#### **INFORMATION AND DATA SHARED THROUGH THE MARINE PRIORITY-SETTING WORKSHOP**

A workshop was organized by REBIOMA on March 3rd to: (1) present progress in the marine priority setting process and (2) define the next steps to move forward on systematic conservation planning for marine protected area creation. This presentation was made to the Ministries of Fisheries, Energy and Mines, and OMNIS as a means to involve them in the process and to facilitate exchange of data. A national workshop on marine priority setting will be held at a later date to obtain input from experts. This workshop would be funded by Mac Arthur Foundation.

#### **c. Supporting the development of the “Document d’orientation” for marine and coastal PA**

##### **DRAFT NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MARINE PROTECTED AREAS REFINED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION REVISED COAP**

In April 2008, WCS contracted STTA (Resolve) under the supervision of an IUCN expert to draft the “*Document d’Orientation pour la création et la gestion des Aires Marines Protégées à Madagascar*” and the “*Manuel de Procédure pour la création et la gestion des Aires Marines Protégées à Madagascar*.” This work is a continuation of the efforts of IUCN Marine Conservation expert Dr. Charlotte De Fontaubert and Dr. Herilala Randriamahazo, Director of the Marine Program for WCS.

The orientation and procedural documents for marine and coastal PAs were drafted to develop a national strategy for MPAs in Madagascar and inform the revision of the COAP and its *décrets d’application*. These documents were validated through a workshop held on February 26, 2009. A simplified MPA user guide based on legal MPA documents was also presented at the workshop and is ready in a draft version. The current versions of the three documents represent the best knowledge in MPA priority setting; however, it is anticipated that these documents will continue to be revised based on additional input from all stakeholders.

#### **d. Building government capacity to manage MPAs including development of a national strategy for MCPA incorporation into current national PA management structure (COAP)**

##### **MARINE GROUP CREATED TO SERVE IN AN ADVISORY ROLE IN MPA ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION**

With a change in the Ministries in 2008, the *Commission Environnement Pêche* (CEP) was no longer functioning as an effective national platform to promote and coordinate a coherent marine framework for the establishment of MPA. As an alternative to this platform, the Director of Protected Areas at MEFT formalized a marine working group to provide support for the creation and monitoring of MPAs. This group meets on a regular basis and is comprised of

technicians from the government, NGOs and the private sector involved in the creation and management of marine protected areas.

**e. REBIOMA database is further developed and used for conservation planning at national and regional scales in support of the SAPM creation process**

**DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA TO ESTABLISH NEW MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

At the beginning of 2009, WCS through REBIOMA engaged a short term technical consultant, Faratiana Ratsifandriamanana, to build a database with the criteria required to identify priority sites for marine conservation in Madagascar. Several activities were carried out including literature search, collection of information, field surveys, and direct observations. This led to the establishment of a matrix table with different parameters of information that need to be integrated for the creation of marine protected areas.

As a result, a set of 10 criteria were defined that include: bio-ecological characteristics, national/international importance, uniqueness, productivity, vulnerability, naturalness, economic interest, social interest, scientific interest; and practicability. The matrix table is a tool to better understand these different criteria and the relevant sections for identifying sites of interest to the Marine Conservation in Madagascar. Based on these criteria, nine sites were designated as potential sites for marine conservation in the northwest and southwest of Madagascar: Nosy Hao, Andavakalovo Island, Lakandava, Nosy Iranja, Nosy Tanikely, Banc de Rameza, Nosy Vaha, Agnahibe, Vahilava.

**SUB RESULTS MODULE: 1.3. Establish new Protected Areas (outside of USAID priority zones)**

**a. Technical support to promoters**

**NEW PROTECTED AREA TSIMEMBO- MANAMBOLOMATY – THE PEREGRINE FUND**

The Peregrine Fund was funded by USAID to create a new protected area in the Manambolomaty wetlands. Last year, The Peregrine Fund (TPF) and Durrell Wildlife were funded through MIARO's Conservation Action Grants (CAG) to obtain temporary protected status of the Tsimembo Forest. Later, USAID asked TPF to combine the Tsimembo Forest and Manambolomaty wetlands into a single protected area and to develop the PAG and PGES of Tsimembo- Manambolomaty, which is located in the central-western part of Madagascar, in the Antsalova district and Region of Melaky. This new protected area includes mangroves, lakes, marshes and dry forests. One part of the wetland is classified as a RAMSAR site. Tsimembo-Manambolomaty has already obtained temporary protection status. Local consultations have been completed, and the PAG and PGES have been validated by local communities and stakeholders. The PAG was developed following the guidelines and structure developed by MIARO.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Follow up the process until the publication of the creation decree;
- Implement the measures described in the PAG and PGES

## **DEVELOPMENT OF THE PAG: BEMANEVIKA AND MANDROZO – THE PEREGRINE FUND**

Creation of the Mandrozo new protected area was supported by USAID. The new protected area is composed of dry forest, palm forest, savanna and marshes, and it is characterized by its richness in bird species. The creation of Bemanevika was also supported by USAID. This new protected areas is a refuge for many endangered species such as *hibou rouge*, *aigle serpentine*, *busard de Madagascar*, etc.

The Peregrine Fund was funded through MIARO's CAG program to develop the PAG of Bemanevika and Mandrozo. For the Mandrozo protected area, the PAG was developed using the guidelines and structure developed by MIARO and was validated by local and regional stakeholders. For the Bemanevika protected area, the PAG was also developed and validated.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Follow up the process until the publication of the creation decree;
- Implement the measures described in the PAG and PGES
- Build the capacity of stakeholders

## **DEFINITIVE PROTECTION STATUS OF TSITONGAMBARIKA NEW PROTECTED AREA - ASITY**

ASITY Madagascar was funded through MIARO's CAG to prepare the definitive protection status of Tsitongambarika. This new protected area, which is located in southeastern Madagascar, obtained temporary protected status last December. Local consultations, the PGES, and zoning have been completed and validated by local and regional stakeholders. The PAG and governance structure are not yet finalized.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Complete the PAG;
- Clarify the governance structure and management units;
- Complete the physical demarcation of the new protected area

### **b. Technical support to the newly established DSAP and SAPM Commission**

MIARO has provided continued support to DSAP throughout the development and establishment of SAPM. Support focused primarily on the following: The COAP amendment and the associated application decrees, the priority-setting map for terrestrial and wetland zones, preparation of Order No. 18633 of October 17, 2008, and updating and finalization of the various SAPM tools. In addition, MIARO provided ongoing support to DREFT and promoters at the regional level.

### **c. Support to Ambatotsirongorongo Protected Area**

#### **AMBATOTSIRONGORONGO PROTECTED AREA DOCUMENT FINALIZED AND SUBMITTED TO THE DGF/DSAP REQUESTING DEFINITIVE PA STATUS**

The creation of the Ambatotsirongorongo Protected Area in the Anosy Region is currently in its final phase. Validation of the *Plan de Gestion Environnemental et Social* (PGES) resulted in the issuance of the environmental permit that will allow for definitive establishment of Ambatotsirongorongo as a Protected Area. The management plan (PAG) was finalized and submitted to the DGEF for validation by the DGEF/DSAP.

## **CAPACITY OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (COGE) MEMBERS STRENGTHENED IN BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT**

To support community governance, training on bush fire management took place in February 2009 in Manambaro, Fort-Dauphin. Participants included members of the fire committee from the surrounding villages.

### **SUB RESULTS MODULE: 1.4. Refine conservation priorities in USAID priority ecoregions**

#### **a. Support the development of management plan, PGES for all PAs in USAID priority ecoregions**

##### **ANKENIHENY-ZAHAMENA CORRIDOR (CAZ)**

Development of the CAZ PGESS is an activity led by the MEF and would be funded by the Biocarbon Fund. The activity has been suspended due the funds unavailability from the Biocarbon Fund. Nethertheless, data collection has already been undertaken with the CAZ team. Collected data include the list of communes, list of fokontany/villages, census of people living near the new protected area, current use of resources, and safeguard measures proposed by local people.

##### **FANDRIANA-VONDROZO CORRIDOR (COFAV)**

A draft of the COFAV management plan was developed using a participatory approach. Stakeholders throughout the corridor contributed to the development and drafting of the plan, either directly or by participating in local-level consultations that took place in 47 communes throughout the corridor. Finalization of the management plan is forthcoming.

Regarding the PGESS that was funded by IDA/GEF, a baseline for COFAV was developed and delivered by the consulting firm Land Ressources. Comments are being provided before the document is finalized.

#### **b. Development of appropriate management structures**

##### **ANKENIHENY-ZAHAMENA CORRIDOR (CAZ)**

Keeping with Madagascar's decentralization policy, the management of CAZ has been ensured by the 3 DREFT affected by the new protected area (Aloatra-Mangoro, Atsinanana and Analanjirofo) until the definitive protected status is obtained. A technical committee that is co-chaired by the three DREFTs and includes representatives of various technical groups was thus established. This committee is charged with following the advancements in the protected area establishment process and providing technical orientations when needed. To fulfill this responsibility, the committee meets bi-monthly.

#### ***I. Governance structure***

MIARO supported a series of consultations and reflections at multiple levels to develop the governance structure for CAZ. A co-management structure has been adopted with strong participation of local communities. Roles and responsibilities at each level have also been defined.

#### ***II. Management plan development***

Various stakeholders at multiple levels have been involved in developing the management plan through their participation in the CAZ Technical Committee. The

management plan is completed and available. The process adopted for developing the management plan was the following:

- Establish writing sub-committee within the CAZ Technical Committee
- Train writing sub-committee on the methods and guides to developing the management plan using MIRADI software
- Draft management plan
- Review of draft by writing sub-committee
- Review of draft by CAZ Technical Committee
- Present draft to stakeholders for approval
- Finalize management plan

### **FANDRIANA-VONDROZO CORRIDOR (COFAV)**

COFAV is being developed as a co-managed protected area. As such, its management involves power-sharing between state actors and non-state actors, namely local communities. The structure and function of the various levels of the management structure have been developed and should be approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests along with the management plan by the end of 2009. In this structure, local communities are responsible for managing areas that have been termed *local management units*.

In the last year, MIARO worked to define and reach agreement with stakeholders on the management structure for COFAV (Figure 1) and to identify roles and responsibilities for each actor within the structure (Table 1). Currently, 70 local forest management transfer agreements exist at COFAV. The associations that manage these agreements correspond to the local management units. Communities with transfer agreements are currently grouped up into 4 federations, which correspond to the Sectors (see Figure 2). The vision is to cover the surface area of COFAV with local management units that are then organized into ten sectors: Fandriana, Ambositra, Lalangina/Ambohimahaso, Vohibato, Ifanadiana, Ikongo Nord, Ikongo Sud, Ambalavao, Vondrozo and Ivohibe.

COFAV's co-management structure is divided into two main parts, a strategic orientation component and a management component. The MEF delegates responsibility to the Orientation Group, which, along with the Regional Orientation and Monitoring Committee, serves to define strategic priorities for management. The COFAV Manager and its staff including 10 sector managers, and the local management unit managers ensure daily management functions and implementation. Currently, many of these different units within the structure remain to be formally put in place and that will be a priority over the coming year once this structure is formally validated and adopted by the MEF. In the mean time, CI and other partners in the regional technical committee are ensuring the role of coordination and funding-raising that will be played by the manager in the future.

**Table 1. Proposed Roles and Responsibilities of the various actors in the COFAV management structure**

Structure	Composition	Responsibilities
Ministry of Environment	The Ministry of Environment and Forests, represented by the Department of the System of Protected Areas	Supervision Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General coordination of the SAPM</li> <li>• Promote general protected area management policies</li> <li>• Apply laws and regulations for good management</li> <li>• Secure funding</li> <li>• Interface with other ministries</li> <li>• Approval strategic orientations</li> <li>• Support the Manager</li> </ul>
Orienting Group/ Board of Directors (a consultative body at the inter-regional level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives of Regions</li> <li>• Representatives of DREFTs</li> <li>• Representative of CMP</li> <li>• Representative of Regional Secretariat</li> <li>• Representative of Mining-Forests Commission</li> <li>• Representatives of donors, promoters</li> </ul>	Decision-making Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure coherence of strategic orientations for good management</li> <li>• Monitor the implementation of strategic orientations</li> <li>• Provide strategic orientation for management of COFAV as a whole</li> <li>• Secure technical and financial support</li> <li>• Conflict resolution</li> <li>• Approve activity plans/ work plans</li> </ul>
Regional Orientation and Monitoring Committee (Regional level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Region</li> <li>• DREFTs from each region</li> <li>• Representatives of technical ministries such as mining, topography, etc.</li> <li>• Inter-communal organizations</li> <li>• Representatives of the private sector</li> <li>• Representative of community federations</li> <li>• Representatives of civil society organizations</li> </ul>	Orientation Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the activities at the manager, sector and local management unit level</li> <li>• Secure technical and financial support</li> <li>• Monitor implementation</li> <li>• Align actions with the regional frameworks</li> <li>• Strategic decision making</li> </ul>
COFAV Manager (Inter-regional level)	Protected area manager and staff	Execution Functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate activities</li> <li>• Compile annual work plans developed at the sector and local management unit levels</li> <li>• Operational decision making</li> <li>• Contribute to fundraising</li> <li>• Ensure implementation, monitoring, an devaluation of activities/ work plan</li> <li>• Evaluate activities in regions</li> <li>• Submit proposal for actions/activities for approval by the Orientation Group and Ministry</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Execute decisions</li> <li>• Develop general and detailed management plan</li> <li>• Develop business plan</li> </ul>
Sector-level Managers (District or inter-communal level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community association federations</li> </ul>	<p>Execution Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement annual work plan</li> <li>• Manage protected area and the local level</li> <li>• Ensure control/surveillance of the protected area</li> <li>• Submit reports to protected area Manager</li> <li>• Submit proposals for improved protected area management to Manager</li> </ul>
Local Management Units (Commune level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community associations</li> </ul>	<p>Execution Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implementation of management plan and local “<i>cahier des charges</i>”</li> <li>• Develop and agree conservation agreements with the protected area manager</li> <li>• Develop and apply <i>Dina</i></li> <li>• Implement annual work plan: control and surveillance, awareness building</li> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Guarantee application of “cahier des charges” and of technical norms for sustainability</li> <li>• Guarantee respect for cultures and traditions</li> <li>• Community mobilization</li> <li>• Identify and implement small development projects with Fokontany heads</li> </ul>

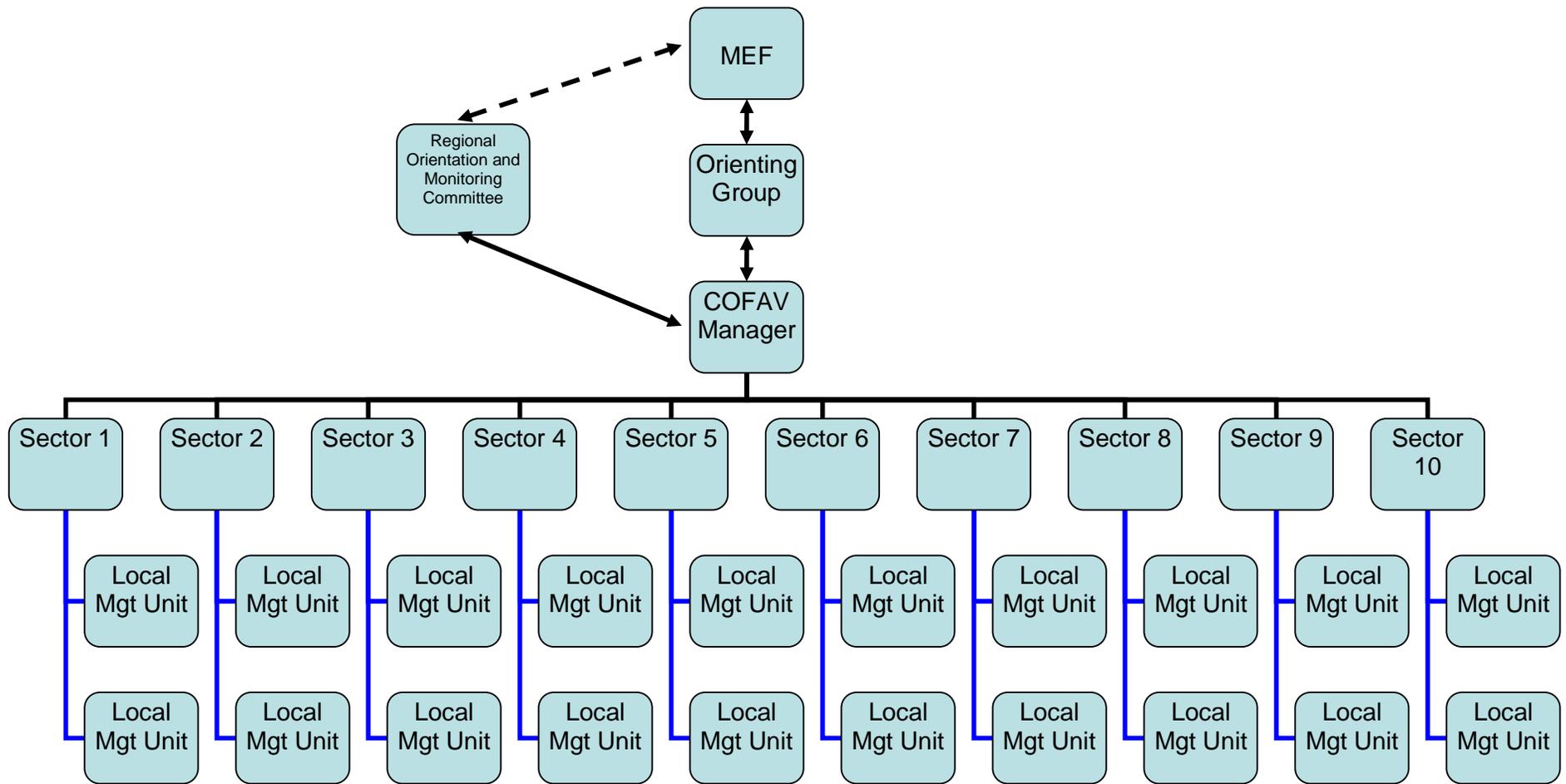


Figure 1. Proposed COFAV protected area management structure. Lines in blue indicate management contracts. Dotted line indicates communication.

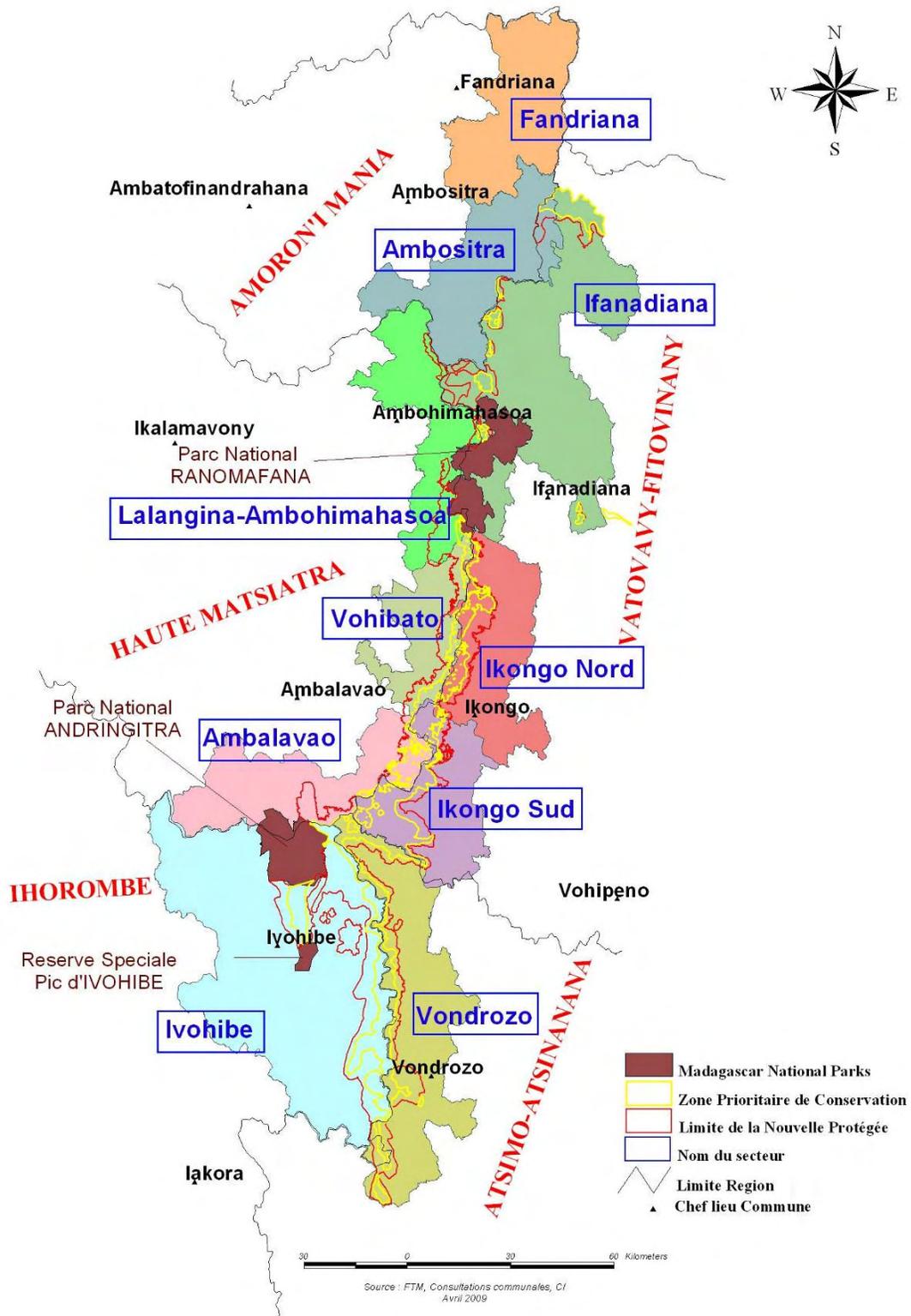


Figure 2. The 10 sectors of the COFAV protected area

## **SUB RESULTS MODULE: 1.5. Develop forest restoration functions and procedures in USAID priority eco-regions**

The restoration activities were carried out during the first quarter.

### **a. Support DGEF to define a national strategy for forest restoration**

Miaro supported the definition of the national forest restoration strategy. We finalized the logical framework of the strategy and submitted it to the DGEF. This document includes the following elements:

- Context
- Outcomes
- Vision
- Principles
- Directions
- Strategies
- Objectives

The strategy addresses the following aspects:

#### **– Prevention of the degradation of existing natural forests and integrated management of forests**

This aspect includes the need for an environmental assessment; i.e. the importance of EIA particularly for mining activities that may have an impact on natural forests. The implementation of this strategic aspect requires the development of management plans, and monitoring of conditions of contracts for management transfers.

#### **- Development of alternatives and creation of new plantations with native species as well as fast-growing species to satisfy needs for woody and non-woody products**

This includes the following:

- Create “biological bridges” with native species and extension of conservation areas for ecosystem viability.
- Ensure the continued supply of ecosystem services
- Rehabilitate or reconstitute a disturbed ecosystem according to the scale and the level of perturbation.
- Afforestation / reforestation (to be integrated to PCD)
- Rehabilitation (agroforestry complex), protection and restoration of soils against *tavy*.

### **b. Implement action plan for Ambohilero site: working with Koloharena Federation and CBOs**

Last year was marked by the evaluation of activities implemented at Didy-Ambohilero.

As agreed between the DREFT and MIARO, regular monitoring of the activities implemented in 2006 under MIARO should be carried out by the DREFT. Due to lack of funding at the DREFT level, it did not occur. However, community associations such as Koloharena were involved in the restoration of a part of the Didy – Ambohilero area.

The evaluation conducted last year looked at the mechanical solutions (i.e. anti-erosive actions and tree planting by Avotral in 2006). Following are the findings:

- vegetation (native species) planted alongside gullies caused by the illegal logging has developed and helped prevent soil erosion as expected despite the existence of *Tavy* in some areas.

- tree planting activities by the local agent mandated by Latitude Timber were not satisfactory because of a lack of technical capacity in such work.
- other mechanical solutions also worked as anticipated (wood blocks to stabilize the soil).
- bypass channels for water diversion in cleared areas are still functional but not enough for the whole area.
- in some areas, the re-establishment of the natural vegetation has developed very slowly because of the lack of humidity in the soil.
- 1,500 young plants still exist that we developed an action plan with federations of CBOs (COBAs) and Koloharena that they put them into the soil

Opportunities for collaboration (post-MIARO) with the DREFT and the local federations of CBOs and Koloharena were discussed to ensure long term implementation and monitoring of the action plan for Didy–Ambohiero. MIARO thus provided to these organizations, initial technical supports such as training on plants production and plantation techniques. so that they could ensure the long term implementation of the forest restoration beyond the program's life.

### ***c. TAMS Project***

The very scarce information available about native species of trees of Madagascar is not helpful for producing native plants in nurseries. Existing data deal more with adult trees. Restoration of the Andasibe forest corridor requires information on the species that are produced in TAMS project nurseries. In 2006, Conservation International commissioned MBG (Missouri Botanical Garden) to gather local knowledge about the native species used by the project to develop a seed and seedling guide for the Andasibe and surrounding rainforest. It was the first of its kind and dealt with sixty species of native trees. Copies were given to the local NGOs, especially nursery staff, and recommendations were given to make notes of new or missing information with the aim of updating the guide in the future.

Over the course of the project, knowledge about the species has improved and more species have been added to the nurseries, leading to the need of an updated guide. Thanks to MIARO, the guide was recently updated and now contains information and photos of 117 species of native trees. Copies will soon be made available not only to project implementing partners but also to those who have interest in conducting forest restoration.

## **SUB RESULTS MODULE 1.6. Communication Campaigns in selected areas**

During the extension period of MIARO, communication campaigns in CAZ and COFAV were reinforced to increase local awareness of SAPM and for a good ownership of the protected area agenda, as they will be part of the governance structure. These campaigns preceded the local consultations that led to defining the boundaries and zoning of these two protected areas.

In the spirit of an exit strategy, the communication was conducted in a participatory way, with the involvement of local communicators from various partners: local NGOs, radio and TV station journalists, COBA federations and COBA.

These partners were provided training in general communication techniques as well as in biodiversity conservation, climate change, ecosystem services, and the future management of the new protected areas. A total of 50 individuals were trained (25 at CAZ and 25 at COFAV) who will ensure the continuity of the communication campaign that was begun under MIARO.

Communication action plans were developed for CAZ and COFAV. These will be implemented with regional partners and Conservation International will support them to seek resources related to that.

## **SUB RESULTS MODULE 1.7. Finalization of the creation of new protected areas in USAID selected zones**

Three types of local managers have been identified for CAZ: local communities, local NGOs or associations that have management arrangements with MEF, and private forest owners. For CAZ, local communities make up the majority of the local management units, which correspond to the goal of developing a “green belt” around the core protected zone. These COBA are grouped into 6 federations, which correspond to the 6 sectors in the CAZ governance structure.

### **1.7.1. IDENTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT UNITS**

The objective of this activity is to identify the local management units within each of the federations/sectors of the new protected area.

#### **CAZ**

The following sub-objectives were also defined:

- Share information with COBA on the advancement of the CAZ creation process
- Discuss roles and responsibilities of the COBA in protected area management
- Provide information on the development of PAGS, “cahier de charges” and *Dina*
- Collect additional information needed for the development of the PGES

To achieve these objectives, a training of trainers approach was adopted. Training/information/exchange workshops were held at the level of each federation. Individuals members of each federation with elevated capacity for learning and message transmission were identified and these people will in turn provide mentoring to COBA.

Workshops were held as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Federation</b>	<b>Communes</b>
May 12-13	Conference Room Commune Morarano-gare	VAHATRINIALA	Morarano-Gare, Fierenena, Andaingo
May 14-15	La Cascade Soarano RN2- Beforona	MIARADIA	Ambohibary, Lakato Andasibe, Beforona_Ampasimpotsy-Gare,
May 26-27	ECAR Anivorano	TSARAFANIRY	Anivorano, Andekaleka Fetraomby, Maroseranana, Ambohimanana,
June 4-5	Tranompokonolona Commune Andranobolaha	TARATRA	Andranobolaha Anjahamana
June 23-24	Community Granary Antanandava	FITOKISANA	Didy, Manakambahiny-Est Antanandava, Amparihitsokatra

Each workshop followed the following agenda:

#### **Agenda**

Day	Activity
Day 1	- Opening: Remarks by Federation President, Chef Fokontany, and Mayor - Presentation of objectives, agenda, and participants
	Presentation of CAZ Presentation of steps taken toward protected area creation
	Presentation of the CAZ governance structure (roles, responsibilities, sectors, local management units) and IUCN category
Day 2	Identification of COBA in each commune and their respective situation/status Information on modifications needed for each COBA's management/ contract documents
	Collection of safeguard elements: -Information on People Affected by the Project (number, location) and their resource use -Compensation measures: Community aspirations, compensation and mitigation, development alternatives, training, etc.

In general, local community members expressed their willingness and commitment to resource management but stated that they feel under-equipped to face the pressures coming from outside interests.

**a. Identification of LMU (local management units)**

Identification of local management units was completed in collaboration with local authorities:

- The list of community-based forest management contracts was collected
- These lists were then discussed during workshops with members of each federation

The identified LMUs include current local management transfer contracts, proposed transfer contracts, other resource management-related contracts, private landowners, and local NGOs and associations such as MATE. This process uncovered the fact that certain COBA within the protected area are not yet members of any federation. Federation presidents thus decided to reach out to these COBA. In addition, certain COBA outside the protected area will be integrated as potential LMU managers as their management decisions may have an impact on the protected area itself. Benefit distribution still needs to be studied carefully, however. (See Map in Annex 2.

Table 2 is a summary of the identified COBA and their location at CAZ. Among the 68 COBA inside the protected area, 38 are existing contracts and 30 are in the process of renewing their contracts.

**Table 2. LMUs at CAZ**

<b>FEDERATION</b>	<b>Communes</b>	<b>COBA</b>	<b>COBA within CAZ</b>	<b>COBA outside of CAZ</b>
<b>Federation VAHATRINIALA</b>	Andaingo	1		1
	Fierenena	6	6	
	Morarano-Gare	8	3	5
<b>Federation MIARADIA</b>	Ambohibary	7	3	4
	Ampasimpotsy-Gare	3	2	1
	Lakato	6	4	2
	Andasibe	9	4	5
	Beforona	2	1	1
	Ambatovola	3	1	2
<b>Federation TSARAFANIRY</b>	Fetraomby	14		14
	Maroseranana	6	3	3
	Ambohimanana	4	2	2
	Anivorano	6		6
	Fanasana -Gare	1		1
<b>Federation TARATRA</b>	Anjahamana	6	6	
	Andranobolaha	6		6
<b>Federation VANONA</b>	Fito	10	10	
	Sahambala	1		1
	Ambodilazana	2		2
<b>Federation FITOKISANA</b>	Didy	19	19	
	Manakambahiny-Est	4	4	
	Antanandava	3		3
	Amparihitsokatra	2		2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>129</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>61</b>

## **COFAV**

At COFAV, community-based forest management contracts are the management structure at the most local level. Until now Four federations and 61 COBA have been established and located in the Vatovavy-Fitovinany Region and Haute Matsiatra. Two workshops were conducted in these two regions, the objectives of which were to reinforce local capacity for the management of COFAV and to identify areas of support required by the management structure.

To cover the entire corridor, the same process will be carried out in the three other regions with the support of Conservation International funding.

### **1.7.2. LOCAL MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE MANAGEMENT UNIT LEVEL**

#### **CAZ**

##### **RENEWAL OF MANAGEMENT TOOLS WITHIN MANAGEMENT TRANSFER CONTRACTS**

Following the evaluation of management transfer contracts that took place in Aloatra-Mangoro, 8 COBA were identified that need to have their management documents updated (e.g., PAGS, cahier de charge, Dina) so as to proceed with the contract renewal process. These updates are currently being finalized.

## **FOREST CONTROL PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

A forest control plan was developed, but since only the DREF agents have authority to document illegal activity, forest control activities at the community level are difficult. Thus, we modified the objective to focus more squarely on awareness building and information in and around Beforona.

Local COBAs indicate their need for additional support when it comes to forest control such as developing vigilance committees made up of COBA members. These committees would conduct periodic control missions in the forest.

With Conservation International's other fundings, experiences in terms of forest patrols have been developed in Maroseranana commune for 5 COBA who have signed "conservation agreements". The approach adopted is called the "Stewardship approach" where wages for patrolling and ecological monitoring are provided in some management units of the protected area. The forest control plan included this experience which is being expanded in other management units such as in the Didy commune and would be generalized in all management unit of the CAZ protected area.

## **COFAV**

For COFAV, Agreement has been reached with regional and local authorities and local communities on the limits and regulations of a new protected area in the corridor that will be the principal approach used to reduce deforestation. A zoning plan for the forests of COFAV has been agreed upon with the communities surrounding the corridor. The agreements and negotiations that have taken place between the stakeholders in the project form the basis of a management plan that identifies the detailed strategies to reduce deforestation in the corridor and is therefore the foundation for both the management of the protected area as well as the forest carbon project design. In addition to management plan and zoning, the participatory approach used in the design of the activities was also used to agree upon the governance structure for the management of the corridor. Making this management structure operational at every level, but especially at the field level, will be the major priority for the coming year.

We have field tested and refined an approach to engaging communities in the management of the corridor through conservation agreements. These agreements make explicit the responsibilities that the communities have to reduce deforestation and also the responsibilities that the overall coordinator for the corridor (for the moment CI) has in terms of providing them resources and support in finding alternative economic activities. We have field-tested the approach with 5 communities (in the district of Vondrozo) and will expand this program over the coming year to ensure that deforestation is halted on a much larger scale than has been previously possible. In addition we are preparing to expand our community grant program that provides the means by which communities can develop alternative economic opportunities that reduce pressure on the corridor's forests.

### **1.7.3. CAPACITY BUILDING/ LOCAL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OPERATIONAL**

#### **CAZ**

A workshop was held to share information and to assess the technical and organizational capacity of the federations. This assessment led to the development of a capacity building plan.

Training on various themes was also held by members of the MIARADIA federation for the VANONA federation at Fito. Despite the extreme remote location of VANONA, the members of the federation there are highly motivated.

**COFAV**

Workshops on the operationaliation of local management units resulted in the identification of training and capacity building needs of these structures. So, 4 Federations and 61 COBA in Vatovavy-Fitovinany and Haute Matsiatra regions have participated in these workshops. The process will capacity building will continue with Conservation International in the following months.

**Table 3. The different sectors of the governance structure for Haute Matsiatra Region and Vatovavy Fitovinany regions in COFAV**

REGION	DISTRICT	SECTOR	FEDERATION	COMMUNE	COBA			
Haute Matsiatra	Ambalavao	Ambalavao	Mitsinjo Ny Hoavy	Ambohimahamasina	Fitamito			
				Ambohimahamasina	Itaolamijoro			
				Ambohimahamasina	Lovaso			
				Ambohimahamasina	Amboasary			
				Ambohimandroso	Antokinihoavy			
				Miarinarivo	Alaso Fagnahiambe			
				Miarinarivo	Fitema			
				Sendrisoa	Fitema			
				Sendrisoa	Miora Atsimo			
				Sendrisoa	Miora Avaratra			
				Sendrisoa	Tohana			
				Lalangina	Lalangina / Ambohimahaso	Miaramita	Androy	Maintsoririnina
							Androy	Analaso
	Androy	Analameva						
	Androy	3FT						
	Androy	Fagnazava						
	Androy	Mitsinjoala						
	Morafeno	Tsimialonjafy						
	Alatsinainy Ialamarina	Mantsoanala						
	Alatsinainy Ialamarina	Mitsinjo						
	Alatsinainy Ialamarina	Tsimanavaka						
	Vohibato	Vohibato	Vinanitelo				Vinanasa	
	Vatovavy Fitovinany	Ikongo	Ikongo Nord	Tafarina	Ikongo	Analamanitra		
					Ikongo	Miray		
					Ikongo	Faritra		
					Ikongo	Tahiry		
					Ikongo	Isitraka		
Ikongo					Maneva			
Ikongo					Taratra			
Ambatofotsy					Alampo			
Ambatofotsy					Ranomby			
Ikongo Sud			Ambolomadinika		Ala Mamiratra			
			Ambohimadinika		Maroalala			
			Ambohoadinika		Sambatra			
Ikongo Nord			Ikongo Nord		Alamaintso	Tolongoina	FTMTI	
						Tolongoina	FITEHIMA	
						Tolongoina	Miaramientana	
						Tolongoina	Avotra	
						Tolongoina	Maitsoanala	
						Tolongoina	FIMAA	
		Tolongoina		FTMM				
		Tolongoina		Fiarenana				
		Tolongoina		FIAMI				
		Tolongoina		Soamiray				
		Tolongoina		Mila Ezaka				
		Tolongoina		Tafita				
Ikongo Sud		Ikongo Sud		Ankarimbelo	Vinaninony			
					Tratrambe			
					Firaisantsoa			
					Maintimbahatra			
					Matitanana			
					Iarinomby			
					Lohaony			
					Ingidy			
					Zafindraraha			
				Zafindramasy				
	Antodinga	MAMIA						

					Sahonjatsy
					Vohitsoa

**1.7.4. ENHANCE COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN AT THE LOCAL LEVEL/ CARRY OUT COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN WITH RELAY ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL COMMUNICATORS (MAY-JUL) IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF PROTECTED AREA AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

**CAZ**

Awareness building/ communication sessions were conducted at six sites within the protected area: Andranobolaha; Fetraomby; Anevoka; Didy; Amparihivola; et Sahaviavy-Fito. The main message during these sessions focused on the role of communities in CAZ management. The sessions demonstrated the commitment of the local authorities (both elected and traditional) while indicating that the federations are already in place and ready to manage and therefore the communities at the local management unit-level should be as well. These sessions were also used to recall the laws currently in place and what activities are illegal under Malagasy law.

**COFAV**

A capacity building workshop focused on communication was held in collaboration with CMP. Training modules were divided into two parts:

- Introduction to biodiversity, climate change, ecosystem services, management plans, and protected area management and governance
- Communication on the COFAV protected area

A total of 25 individuals participated, including audio-visual journalists from the five regions of COFAV. Communication themes were identified:

- The value of biodiversity
- Changes to the environment: climate change, and progressive degradation in general
- Services and benefits of ecosystems (energy, water, etc)
- Management/governance of COFAV (benefits, roles, responsibilities, etc)

During the workshop, the following strategies were defined:

- Mass media work to spread the messages
- Communication campaigns at the local level (14 communes do not have radio): film, theater, listening groups, public games, etc.

An action plan for implementing these activities has been developed.

**SUB RESULTS MODULE 1.8. Develop and/or refine conservation management plans and other thematic plans for Protected Areas**

**1.8.1. Improve capacity for marine reserve creation and management**

**a. Improving community capacity to become effective stewards of coastal and marine resources leading to sustainable fisheries and sustained livelihoods**

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO SHARE INFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES FOR MARINE RESERVE CREATION AND MANAGEMENT**

A regional workshop took place in the southwest region on July 4, 2009 to ensure lessons learned from the comprehensive zoning process and best practices need to fully engage local

communities in marine reserve creation and management. The goal is to produce a field guide to create Marine reserve.

The commune of Saint Augustin was chosen as a central location for this workshop with over 100 participants from several regions along the west coast. The workshop focused on providing information and lessons learned in two different domains:

- i. Research methodologies that conform to internationally recognized methods, including marine and coastal ecological monitoring techniques (for coral reefs, seagrass, mangroves, and marine mammals)
  - Fisheries research techniques
  - Socioeconomic monitoring research techniques
  - Participatory community-based resource monitoring
  - Review of current efforts and strategic direction for threatened species
- ii. Community-based marine conservation
  - Creation of community *Dinas* regulating resource use and access
  - Surveillance, implementation and enforcement of *Dinas*

**b. Implementation of lessons learned and best practice tools for community marine reserve creation and management at key sites in the Tulear region, communes of St. Augustine and Manombo**

**TWO COMMUNITY MANAGED MARINE RESERVES CREATED IN THE COMMUNE OF ST. AUGUSTIN**

With funding from MIARO, WCS was able to continue to pursue previous activities to create community managed marine reserves that had been initiated under the Africa Development Bank financed “*Program d’Appui au Communauté des Pecheurs*” (PACP). The approach is based on a voluntary approach with the fishing community. Various trainings on the establishment of marine reserves were provided upon the request of villagers. They consisted of the following different elements: participatory and concerted cartography, simplified planning program, marine reserve zoning, management regime, reopening procedures, and community monitoring.

The level of progress in moving forward with the creation of marine reserves varied based on the willingness and assimilation of the local communities. It was noted that communities that were willing to quickly adopt the approach distanced themselves from those which are slow to decide to start. The planning of the activities was carried out based on communities’ willingness to set up a marine reserve. First, community meetings served to define a strategy and validate the feasibility studies for 11 identified marine reserves based on a participatory zoning. Management regimes were discussed with communities in the commune of Mahambo. Marine reserve zoning – including ‘controlled take’ and ‘no-take’ zones – and management plans were then developed for the two sites in the commune of St. Augustine. This resulted in the creation of two community-managed marine reserves that will lead to improved sustainable fisheries for these communes.

**Result Module 2: Management effectiveness for protected areas improved**

**SUB RESULTS MODULE: 2.1. Develop and/or refine conservation management plans and other thematic plans for Protected Areas**

This period from January to March 2009 was used to capitalize our efforts to support the management of new protected areas of the Madagascar System of Protected Areas. MIARO RM2 continued to provide capacity-building on the management and evaluation of protected areas along with training sessions on the use of tools particularly developed for the SAPM for the development of management plans.

**a. Adaptation of guides and software to SAPM to ensure rapid elaboration of plans and for evaluating management impacts. The guide will be strengthened with PA governance, management structures (including community management of natural resources) and mitigation/safeguards.**

The use of the guide for the development of management plans and its accompanying software MIRADI were validated by the SAPM Commission and its use is widely recommended to promoters and managers of protected areas.

The major elements and principles are being integrated into the Application Decree of the Protected Areas Code (Law).

**GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY**

As a member of the SAPM Commission, MIARO participated in the validation of the governance guidance document for the protected areas. It is noted that the governance modes and structures depend on the local and regional contexts in which the protected area is located. The most important opportunity for the new governance of protected areas is the potential active involvement of communities and community-based organizations in the decision-making and on the operational management of these new protected areas.

We also participated in the validation of the guide for sustainable use of natural resources in protected areas. This was organized by the SAPM Commission. The elements in this document are also being integrated into the overall management planning process of protected areas, those with the categories V and VI particularly.

**b. Develop Environmental Education toolkits for use by PA management and teachers in park peripheries**

**TEACHING AIDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TOOL KITS DEVELOPED**

Efforts continued to develop a national environmental education strategy that promotes SAPM; and to produce and distribute teaching aid materials to be used by regional education authorities, teachers, and environmental clubs in the peripheral zones of protected areas. Three new reference tools targeting teachers in primary schools were produced during this reporting period:

- i. Guide on Environmental Education for teachers at national level: The guide “*Tabirin-kevitra ho an’ny fanabeazana ho an’ny tontolo iainana*” is written in Malagasy and provides basic information on biodiversity, ecosystem services and the new protected area system to users such as teachers from primary schools, and animators. About 100 electronic versions have been widely dispatched in primary schools from 22 regions of Madagascar.
- ii. Simplified field guide of MAMABay most attractive fauna: Guides were designed for teachers from MAMABay primary schools that show drawings and description of flagship animals from Masoala, Makira and Antongil Bay living land/seascape.

- iii. Kits of 4 posters on natural cycles (water, oxygen and carbon) and food web: Based on needs assessments carried out at different primary schools throughout Madagascar, there is a lack of didactic tools that prevents the integration of environment and biodiversity conservation in class. To address this issue, WCS developed a kit of water proof posters on natural cycles for teachers for both the primary and secondary curricula. These kits have been distributed to targeted schools located in the proximity of protected areas.

These tools will be multiplied and distributed in CAZ and COFAV with the support of Conservation International.

**c. Continue to develop adaptive ecological monitoring practices for PAs and NPAs including integrated community-based ecological monitoring**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED ECOLOGICAL MONITORING AT PAs AND NPAs CONTINUED**

In addition to Makira, Ambatotsirongorongo and Lac Alaotra, community-based ecological monitoring was developed for Menabe NPA at the beginning of year 2009. A monitoring committee was created and practical training provided.

A follow up mission was also conducted in Makira to evaluate the participatory monitoring activities conducted by the community at two sites. The “Conservation and Research” team of Makira assisted the training to ensure the continuation of the training and supervision.

Asity, a local NGO, who expressed its interest to adopt the methods of community-based monitoring developed under MIARO to be used in Tsitongambarika, was provided with all related documents. A workshop was also organized to evaluate the participatory monitoring practices in Madagascar. Based on the exchanges during the workshop, participants have recommended the creation of a national committee to be led by the MEFT. However, movement was delayed due to the current political crisis.

**SUB RESULTS MODULE: 2.2. Improve and fully implement annual programmatic work plans for Protected Areas**

**a. Assist DGEF/DSAP in developing evaluation system for SAPM**

RM2 developed and proposed to the SAPM Commission an evaluation system of the SAPM protected areas. It addresses some more detailed elements compared to the system currently used by Madagascar National Parks:

- Evaluation of the context
- Evaluation of detailed planing process defining clear objectives and management and monitoring plans
- Inputs, processes and outputs
- Results including effect and impacts.

This new system was validated by the Commission along with the guide for the elaboration of the overall management plan of protected areas. The major elements and principles will be included in the application decree of the Protected Areas Code.

Through the training that RM2 provided to promoters and managers of protected areas, the use of the evaluation system was promoted and technical support provided to individual sites as appropriate.

**b. Provide support to priority NPAs in elaborating overall management plans, monitoring and evaluation systems. Priority sites are: Toamasina and Fianarantsoa corridors, Anosy sites including Ifotaka and Ankodida, Menabe, Makira, PK32 Ranobe, Onilahy, Montagne des Français**

We took the advantage of the period from January to March to complete the training on the use of management tools, i.e. we completed the capacity-building on management planning process and evaluation system of the management effectiveness of protected areas.

At least 16 promoters and managers of protected areas, including NGOs, institutions, associations and community-based organizations were involved: Durrell, The Peregrine Fund, GERP, Asity, MBG, Madagascar Voakajy, ESSA Forêts, Projet Antrema, Fanamby, CI, MNHN = Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Federation of Fishermen, Federation of CBOs, individual CBOs, OPCI, CNFEREF.

Also, local authorities and the central Ministry in charge of protected areas were trained. These included Communes (Mayors), local decentralized services, DCPSE and DSAP from the central Ministry. The DCPSE and DSAP are key departments at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests and supervise, control, monitor and evaluate the SAPM sites.

The content of the capacity-building included notions and theories as well as practical exercises on actual management planning of new protected areas.

**SUB RESULTS MODULE: 2.3. Develop an appropriate system of business plans and marketing programs for protected areas**

MIARO invested in the development of a business plan for Madagascar National Parks (former PNM-ANGAP) during the 2 first years of the program. Support for the development of a new system of business plans for the SAPM has been the focus RM2 thereafter.

**a. Design the best Business Plan template to be used in all protected areas**

As mentioned above, MIARO provided support to develop an appropriate business planning system for Madagascar National Parks - MNP (former PNM-ANGAP). Because of the specificity in terms of institution, management and core funding resources of MNP, their system could not be applied to the other protected areas in the SAPM. These new protected areas have various and different governance systems and modes, management structures and funding strategies.

This context has led us to develop an appropriate system of business planning that can be applied for all SAPM sites. Thanks to the intervention of 2 expert consultants, the system is now available and tested at a new co-managed site (Ankodida).

The structure of the business plan document is divided into 2 main parts:

**PART 1: MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE PROTECTED AREAS**

This section integrates the major elements of the overall management plan such as the context and analyses, governance and management modes, and operational objectives, strategies and actions. This is not as developed as the overall management plan.

**PART 2: THE FINANCIAL PLAN**

This concerns the expected results of the protected areas, the long-term financial strategies, and the financial plan of the protected areas. This also includes significant indicators of the financial projection.

An appendix is included in the system; it is detailed spreadsheets that can be used directly by promoters or managers for developing business plans of NPAs.

**SUB RESULTS MODULE: 2.4. System wide promotion and utilization of PA management and evaluation tools.**

This new activity has been carried out within the cost-extension period and aim to provide directly support to three new protected areas to finalize their management plans that will benefit communities in terms of livelihoods. Initially, four sites (Bemanevika, Nosivolo River, Mahavavy-Kinkony complex and Itremo) were targeted, but due to the short timeline of the project and other internal constraints with the promoter of the site (Missouri Botanical Garden), the case of Itremo was not processed.

**a. Nosivolo NPA in the District of Marolambo (Region of Atsinanana)**

This is the first riverine protected area in Madagascar and is important for the conservation of endemic fish. We collaborated with Durrell who received training on the use of the management planning tools including MIRADI. Communities were involved in the process of management planning as they will co-manage it. An advanced draft of the management plan is available.

**b. Bemanevika NPA in the District of Bealanana (Region of Sofia)**

This NPA integrates a mosaic of ecosystems: permanent and ephemeral lakes, wetlands (mashes), savannah and natural humid forests. These are home to rare and endemic species particularly endemic water and forest birds but also amphibians that are not found elsewhere.

In collaboration with 2 consultants from The Peregrine Fund, MIARO worked to facilitate training and encourage community participation. A final draft of the overall management plan is now available. In addition, a consultant recruited by MIARO worked to develop economic activities for communities. The results of this work will be used by the promoter to improve livelihoods of communities.

**c. Mahavavy Kinkony Complex in the District of Mitsinjo (Region of Boeny)**

Asity is the promoter of this NPA, which has a mosaic of ecosystems including wetlands (lakes and rivers) and dry deciduous forests.

Thanks to the training that MIARO provided, the draft overall management plan was developed.

During all meetings and field activities conducted with the communities and stakeholders, MIARO emphasized their roles in governance and management, and benefits that communities will gain in co-managing protected areas. The management effectiveness evaluation of protected areas as part of the process of management was also integrated into the discussions and support to communities.

## **Result Module 4: Sustainable Financing Mechanisms Mobilized and Operational**

### **SUB RESULTS MODULE: 4.1. Expand and develop management capacity of Malagasy Environmental Trust Funds/Foundation**

#### **4.1.1. LONG-TERM SUPPORT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO TANY MEVA FOUNDATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, STRATEGIC PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS**

##### **a. Support the restructuring of Tany Meva to better meet program needs and implement strategic plan**

###### **TANY MEVA FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN PRODUCED AND APPROVED**

WCS provided support for the development of the new five-year strategy plan for the period from 2009 – 2013 for Tany Meva. This strategy focuses on restructuring the operational modality for Tany Meva to improve its overall effectiveness as an environment foundation to better attain its mission “to manage financial resources to promote the sustainable management of natural resources through the active engagement of communities”. This was presented and adopted by the Board of Directors in February 2009. The key strategic orientations and proposed actions to move forward are highlighted in Table 4.

#### **4.1.2 LONG-TERM SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MADAGASCAR FOUNDATION FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY (MFPAB) FOR INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

MIARO’s contribution during the reporting period supported the increase of FAPBM resources in marketing and communication.

##### **a. Elaboration and implementation of operational document for marketing and communication**

Because FAPBM already had an existing communication strategy, during this reporting period MIARO focused support on the development of communication and promotion tools of the foundation.

For this purpose, the following documents were produced and widely distributed by the Foundation, particularly to sensitize and mobilize the private sector to invest in environment:

- Brochure in English and French
- Booklet in English and French
- Annual report in French.

**Table 4. Tany Meva strategic orientations and actions**

PRINCIPAL AXES OF STRATEGIC PLAN	STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS	PROPOSED ACTIONS
1. Adjust the intervention modality of the foundation	Contribute to the implementation of the environment engagement of the MAP	Ensure 90% of the financing responses to the challenges as defined under the environment commitment in the MAP
	Adopt an approach based on specific geographical and thematic poles	Define the geographical and thematic poles based on the best practices
		Develop a program budget by pole
		Develop strategic partners (nodes)
	Reinforce support to the communities	Reinforce the capacity at the communal level
		Allocate funds for the capacity building at the commune and community levels
	Collaborate with the GOM in the decentralization of the poles	Implicate the Ministry of Environment in the elaboration of the Annual Work Plan
Implicate the decentralized structure in the monitoring and evaluation of projects		
2. Increase the financial capital of the foundation	Increase the funding basis	Increase capital in the international market
		Engage professionals in marketing and fund raising
		Interact with financing initiatives in Madagascar
	Improve the overall value of the offshore endowment fund	Take a more aggressive, but controlled approach in investments that will allow for a greater return
		Partner with the PA and Biodiversity Foundation and other funds
		Diversity the offshore endowment fund
Facilitate the award of financing for the beneficiaries	Simplify the award procedures	
	Launch calls for proposals based on thematic periods	
3. Increase the visibility of the foundation and its actions	Undertake a re-branding of the foundation	Reinforce the image of Tany Meva
		Reassess the logo and slogan
	Improve overall transparency	Ensure maximum organizational transparency (public, staff, CA, partners, government)
	Improve Communication strategy	Put into place an internal unit response for Communication and Marketing
		Undertake a proactive role in public relations Develop specific approaches for beneficiaries, government and donors
Increase Participation	Ensure presence of Tany Meva at all of the large meetings	
4. Reinforce the governance of the foundation	Enlarge the CA	Opening of Board Members (GOM, Donors, Experts, Regions) without modifying the statutes
	Reinforce the empowerment of the Executive Director	Increased delegation of responsibility to Executive Director
		Regular internal team building with staff and Board
		Redefine the responsibilities of the Board, Direction and Staff
	Reinforce the capacity of the Board and the Executive Director	Reinforce the functioning of the committees
Training of the CA in board management, fundraising, investments		

**SUB RESULTS MODULE: 4.2. Build on efforts made and cooperate with other EP3 actors to strengthen potential sources of income for forest habitat conservation**

**4.2.1. TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE DURBAN VISION GROUP – DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE FINANCE FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INITIATIVES FOR FINANCING FOREST CONSERVATION IN A RANGE OF PROTECTED AREAS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES**

**a. Continue to work with the Committee to identify both policy and programmatic actions**

Due to the political crisis and the suspension of the aid to the government, MIARO conservation partners were unable to move forward with policy and programmatic actions with the SAPM sustainable finance committee. Nevertheless, technical input into Biodiversity Offsets. This input is described below.

**4.2.2. UNDERTAKE BIODIVERSITY ECONOMIC ANALYSES AND ORGANIZE FORUMS TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING OF THE VALUE OF CONSERVATION IN MADAGASCAR**

**a. Organize a Biodiversity Offset Meeting and Workshop**

**INITIAL WORKSHOP TO INTRODUCE CONCEPT AND PARAMETERS OF BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS**

Biodiversity Offsets are conservation actions undertaken by the private sector to offset adverse biodiversity impacts in addition to environmental mitigation measures so as to make a net positive contribution to biodiversity conservation. The Business Biodiversity Offsets Program (BBOP) is a program led by Forest Trends, CI and WCS to develop methodologies and pilot applications of biodiversity offsets that appropriately compensate for the biodiversity impacts of large-scale mining, industrial or agricultural developments.

A two-day workshop on Biodiversity Offsets was planned to develop a shared understanding and commitment by the business community, government, environmental constituencies, and communities to use biodiversity offsets, when appropriate, as a sustainable financing mechanism to help implement the Madagascar Action Plan. However, the political situation prohibited the ability of the MIARO team to carry out a fully comprehensive workshop.

Instead a round table discussion on Biodiversity Offsets was organized on February 3, 2009. Kerry Kate (Forest Trends), Director of the BBOP program, and Ray Victurine (WCS representative on the secretariat) presented BBOP overall principles and guidelines. Pierre Berner (Projet Ambatovy) provided an example of how the Ambatovy nickel mine is using the BBOP methodology to identify biodiversity offset activities related to the mine's impacts. Participants conducted the meeting with a discussion on how biodiversity offsets could be more widely applied in Madagascar.

**4.2.3. DEVELOPMENT OF CARBON RELATED PROJECTS FOR FOREST RESTORATION AND FOREST CONSERVATION**

**a. Explore the certification of Makira emission reductions under the new voluntary carbon standard (VCS)**

## **BASELINE FOREST CARBON ESTIMATES LARGELY COMPLETED AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT DRAFTED**

In order to maximize the value of the carbon sequestered in the Makira forests, WCS has engaged in a program of work to receive Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) certification. This work is being carried out with carbon funds in collaboration with Winrock International and Conservation International. The current program of work is a follow up – or more accurately an updating – of the Winrock-conducted forest carbon feasibility study that was completed in 2004 with USAID funding. The activities currently being carried out to acquire this certification include: (i) completing the field botanical data collection to establish the baseline forest carbon estimates; (ii) drafting the Project Design Document (PDD); and (iii) modeling future deforestation scenarios to establish ‘with’ and ‘without’ project deforestation risk over time.

Fieldwork for baseline forest carbon estimates has been largely completed – with information from 50 forest plots, and the remaining plots to be completed by end August 2009. Working with Winrock international, WCS is also completing the Methodology, Monitoring and GHG emissions reductions estimates sections of the project description document (PDD). Baseline deforestation estimation is completed and land change modeling of future deforestation threat is largely complete. Makira will adhere to the World Bank BioCarbon Fund ‘Mosaic’ deforestation methodology. Field verification of the PDD is planned to take place before the end of 2009.

### **b. The Fandriana-Vondrozo Corridor Forest Carbon Project**

During the last few months, we have made rapid progress in setting up the avoided deforestation project in the Fandriana-Vondrozo corridor (COFAV), one of Madagascar’s most important reserves of forest carbon and a site of world-renowned importance for the protection of biodiversity. The collection of field data and most of the analyses necessary to determine greenhouse gas baseline emissions have been completed, agreement has been reached with regional and local stakeholders for the design of a protected area that will include a substantial role for local communities in its management, and we have field tested approaches for engaging communities to ensure good governance of the corridor’s forest resources.

Despite the socio-political events in Madagascar’s capital over the last 6 months that have resulted in a change of government that was branded as a coup d’état by the international community, the activities in the field to conserve the corridor have been little effected. As we enter into a new financial year, we are well positioned to build on the achievements of this last year to ensure that deforestation is reduced and that the spectacular biodiversity of the forest corridor is conserved with the help, and to the benefit of, the local communities with whom we work.

Analyses of deforestation rates over the last 15 years in the corridor have been finished, projections of future deforestation in the corridor have been conducted and the fieldwork to measure forest carbon stocks in a representative sample of sites within the corridor has been completed. Together, these data provide the necessary foundations for completing the Project Design Document that is needed to certify the project to the Voluntary Carbon Standard and the Community, Climate and Biodiversity Standards. Completing the Project Design Document and having the project certified by the VCS and CCBS is one of the highest and immediate priorities for the next year.

We have been providing technical and financial support to two similar projects in Madagascar since 2004: the Makira carbon project in the northeast of the country and the Ankeniheny-

Zahamena corridor carbon project in the centre of the eastern forest belt. At the policy level, CI Madagascar has been supporting the government's efforts to develop a national level strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). In addition, we are supporting the government's efforts to expand the protected area system and currently support activities at 38 new protected areas comprising both forest and wetland sites. The experience gained from these various projects and the national level policy development surrounding climate change issues and protected areas has been used to inform the design of the COFAV avoided deforestation/REDD project.

It is now clear that for the long term success of protected areas, the communities living around these sites need to become better engaged in the management rather than relying uniquely on a state run protected area service. CI has therefore been at the forefront of developing new models for engaging communities in protected area governance and in ensuring that these communities derive benefits from their engagement.

The strategy for reducing deforestation at COFAV involves six interdependent components and this report provides an update on the progress of each:

- Forest Carbon project design
- New Protected Area in the Fandriana-Vondrozo corridor
- Management structure to coordinate forest protection activities
- Conservation agreements with communities in the corridor
- Community small grants program
- Capacity building, technical assistance and communication

#### **CARBON PROJECT DESIGN**

To ensure that the forest carbon project at COFAV is developed such that we are able to demonstrate that carbon dioxide emissions will be reduced, CI has been working to collect and quantify essential data to:

- Estimate the baseline carbon stock for COFAV
- Create a projection of future deforestation rate and location based on the historic deforestation rates and patterns
- Include in the Project Design Document (PDD)

CI has been working with the World Bank's BioCarbon Fund to develop such a methodology that will be submitted to the Voluntary Carbon Standard for validation during 2009. The approach we have been following at COFAV uses the same methodology. The main steps are:

- Define the boundaries of the proposed REDD project activity: spatial boundaries, temporal boundaries, carbon pools, and sources of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Analyze historical land-use and land-cover change in the reference region, leakage belt and project area going back about 10-15 years from present.
- Analyze agents, drivers and underlying causes of deforestation, and sequence the typical chain of events leading to land-use and land-cover change.
- Project the rate and location of future deforestation in the reference region, leakage belt and project area in the without project case.
- Identify forest classes in the areas that will be deforested under the baseline scenario and of the land-use classes that will replace them.
- Estimate baseline carbon stock changes and, where forest fires are included in the baseline assessment, of non-CO2 emissions.
- Ex ante estimation of actual carbon stock changes and non-CO2 emissions under the project scenario.

- Ex ante estimation of possible leakage due to GHG emissions associated to leakage prevention measures and displacement of baseline activities.
- Ex ante calculation of net anthropogenic GHG emission reductions.

#### 4.4.1. SUPPORT IN LEVERAGING REDD FUNDS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES MICRO-PROJECTS

During meetings with local communities in CAZ, we collected information for the PGES. This information includes the following:

- Number of residents, fokontany and villages
- Resource use
- Needed compensatory and mitigation measures; development alternatives, micro projects, training, etc.

These discussions resulted in the list of current practices (Table 5) and the list of priority alternative measures by federation (Table 6).

In general, communication and interaction between the COBA and each Federation is still insufficient, due primarily to the remoteness of certain communes such as Vahatriniala, Tsarafaniry, and Fitokisana. Additional work is needed to ensure these local managers have adequate capacity to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. Efforts should also continue to support local COBA in their forest control activities as well as to provide the development opportunities that will allow them to improve their livelihoods.

**Table 5. Main community activities by Federation**

	Vahitriniala	Miaradia	Tsarafaniry	Vahatra	Fitokisana
		X			X
Handicrafts					
Hunting and fishing	X	X	X	X	X
Medicinal plant collection		X			
Honey collection and fishing		X		X	
Wildlife collection	X				
Orchid collection	X				
Plant collection for essential oil production	X				
Selective logging	X				
Subsistence use					
Animal husbandry (cattle, poultry)					X
Illegal logging	X	X	X	X	
Mining	X	X	X	X	
Charcoal production with native species		X			
Cattle grazing		X	X		
Slash-and-burn	X	X	X	X	X

**Table 6. Priority development activities by Federation**

	Vahitriniala	Miaradia	Tsarafaniry	Vahatra	Fitokisana
Lowland rehabilitation	1	3	2		3
Hillside rehabilitation				3	
Provision of agricultural inputs		4	1	4	2
Behavior change		7			
Dam construction	6			5	5
Short-cycle income-generating activities	2	1	4	1	4
Off-season cultivation	5			8	
Rice cultivation with improved techniques	4				
Training in improved agriculture		2	3	4	1
Microcredit	9				
Fruit tree plantations	3				
Native tree production	10				
Cash crop production				7	
Ecotourism development	7	5			
« Vary malady » production				9	
Fundraising	8	6			
Handicraft training				2	

*\* Numbers correspond to the priority level*

## USAID ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES

MIARO participated in the final USAID Program close-out workshops. In the Antananarivo workshop, a half-day session was allocated to MIARO; a general overview and 3 major themes were presented for the program. These include the process of creation of the SAPM, the communities' roles and benefits, and sustainability. Two strategic questions were then discussed in groups regarding the post-EP3 strategies and the synergy between the conservation and development.

The active participation of partners (technical and donors) was noted and effective. MIARO was able to develop draft exit strategies for the short and long term.

## III. PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED

### **RESULT MODULE 1: ECOLOGICAL LINKAGES ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED**

Due to the political crisis and the suspension of the collaboration with the government, many processes have been interrupted and impacted on activities in the field, as following:

- Interministerial Order No. 18633/2008: In the last report, we indicated that this order is not sufficient to ensure temporary protection of priority sites. A negotiation with DSAP, MAEP, and the Ministry of Land Use is needed but due to the current political situation, this negotiation has not yet occurred.
- The CAG funding enabled promoters to move forward with the creation process for various sites. Requests for temporary status have been prepared and submitted to DSAP, but due to the current political situation they have not yet been approved.

- A series of challenges are being faced by new protected areas:
  - Illegal wood harvest by outside interests, specifically rosewood
  - Increased hunting
  - Forest agents are not assuming their law enforcement responsibilities
  - Local communities feel powerless against the illegal activities
  
- The COAP amendment was approved by the Senate and National Assembly but has not yet been signed by the President and made law
  
- Development of “cahier de charges” for each promoter regarding their responsibilities for protected area management has not yet occurred.
  
- The development process of the national forest restoration strategy was slow because of the change in the structure of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests. The national political unrest was not favourable for the involvement and validation of the document by the Ministry in charge of the forests.
  
- Resistance to behavioural change: During the implementation of the marine reserves, there was a certain level of hesitation by some of the villages due to previous unsustainable development activities in the region. It also takes time for the fishing communities to adapt to new techniques and methodologies such as the use of fishing devices. Marine reserve zoning was also a new concept that had been ignored as a key element in any previous coastal and marine management schemes. In the past traditional maritime fishing had been unregulated; and there was not an overwhelming concern for improved management of their marine resource. The concept of a “controlled take” and “no take” zones was therefore a new concept that will take time for them to fully endorse.
  
- REDD: The main constraint that will become more acute in the coming year is due to the suspension of the USAID environment and rural development program. USAID funding to CI allowed us to do much of the early feasibility and protected area planning work necessary at COFAV and CAZ. More importantly, several of our partners working on rural development issues in areas around the corridor were reliant on this funding. While the suspension of this program will not directly impact the planned activities to reduce deforestation in the corridors, there may be wider consequences within the region. Much of the USAID-funded program was to promote good governance at the local level and to promote better agricultural techniques and these issues have obvious and important links to the similar work we are promoting for natural resources in the immediate vicinity of the forest corridor. It is hard at this stage to predict the impact of the US government’s decision to dismantle its programs that promote good governance at the grassroots level, however we hope this will be a temporary situation and that new projects will be started following the elections that are planned before the end of 2010.

## **RESULT MODULE 2: MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS FOR CONSERVATION AREAS IMPROVED**

RM2 has taken into account the political unrest and maximized the training to promoters, managers and official institutions that have roles in the creation and management of protected areas and the monitoring/evaluation of the SAPM.

The RM2 team couldn't continue its direct support to sites through field visits for safety/security reasons during the period of January – March 2009. MIARO planned also to integrate the regional DREFT of the Ministry in the process, but due to a lack of leadership from the central staff, those regional Directors were not able to participate in the training on management planning process which we were obliged to organize in Antananarivo.

For the period of April – June 2009, activities were more concentrated in the field with a strong emphasis on working with communities. However, the time allocated for the activities is quite tight due to the limited staff members in Miaro and the complexity to travel in the country, in addition to the sensitivity of working with communities. The communication between the field where NPAs are situated and the central office of promoters are not easy sometimes.

### **Environmental Education Tools (ref. 2.1.5)**

Teachers' expectations increased substantially for the Environmental Education program supported under MIARO. Additional training workshops should have been organized to initiate teachers on the use of the environmental education tools, including a teacher's guide, but there was inadequate funding to meet the higher expectations.

### **Ecological monitoring (ref. 2.1.6)**

An ecological monitoring plan has been put into place in most of the protected areas managed by the Madagascar National Parks (ex ANGAP). However, progress in implementing these plans has been limited due to lack of funding and equipment in some of the priority areas. Overall, park agents need more capacity building on range-based monitoring, data storage and analysis.

## **RESULT MODULE 4: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS MOBILIZED AND OPERATIONAL**

We recall that the absence or lack of leadership of Ministerial decision-makers on specific issues related to the green fees framework remains a major constraint for the progress of this activity. Moreover, the REDD-FCPF funding was suspended.

# **IV. RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS**

## **RESULT MODULE 1: ECOLOGICAL LINKAGES ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED**

- Continued support to and collaboration with local communities is needed to ensure their long-term commitment to participating in protected area management, especially during this difficult time.
- Additional reflection is needed on how to stop the illegal pillaging of natural resources that is currently occurring inside protected areas. The Forest Service needs to be supported to play its law enforcement role.

- The local STTA we recruited to coordinate activities on forest restoration in MIARO has been able to provide capacity building to local actors (CBOs and Koloharena). It was crucial to involve these local partners for sustainability purposes as they already manage their natural resources.
- Use of cultural norms in establishing marine reserves: The Vezo fishermen are more responsive when they are listened to and understood. By associating the respect of the culture and the traditional or scientific ecological knowledge, comprehension seems to be reached without too much difficulty.

## **RESULT MODULE 2: MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS FOR CONSERVATION AREAS IMPROVED**

MIARO RM2 has achieved training objectives on the use of management planning tools. We will continue to dispatch and spread these tools and learned lessons, i.e. disseminate best practices, in order for those who had not the opportunities to participate in the capacity-building, to be aware of the agreed process in terms of planning of protected areas but also to use the validated tools in a systemic manner.

**Environmental Educational Tools (ref. 2.1.5):** It is recommended that funding be identified to provide hard copies of the teaching guide to schools instead of an electronic version. A series of training of trainers on how to use guides and tools should be organized for teachers. Additional tools are needed to support environmental education around protected areas. It is also recommended that an assessment on the use of the tools and its impact on students' and teachers' knowledge and skills be undertaken to determine whether there has been any behavior change.

**Ecological Monitoring (ref. 2.1.6.):** As part of the management planning, it is important for each protected area to attribute an adequate budget for ecological monitoring. Conservation targets and monitoring indicators should be linked directly to the project success and should be considered within the budget planning. Budgets for "public awareness" should include community-based monitoring to increase their involvement and involvement in biodiversity conservation.

## **RESULT MODULE 4: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS MOBILIZED AND OPERATIONAL**

- WWF will continue beyond MIARO to build on achievements for the green fees development process. We will liaise with all the ministries that will be involved directly or indirectly with the development, collecting, management and allocation of the green fees. We will also emphasize the development of partnership as we did with PIC for a better synergy and coherence with those who are interested in the development and implementation of sustainable financing mechanisms.

## V. DISCUSSIONS OF OBJECTIVES NOT ACHIEVED

### **RESULT MODULE 1: ECOLOGICAL LINKAGES ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED**

At this stage, we do not know when the Ministry of Environment and Forests (DGEF) will take the lead and continue the process of development and validation of the national strategy on forest restoration. However, we have provided a logical framework that could be used by the Ministry when the situation at national level and in the sector will be stabilized.

### **RESULT MODULE 2: MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS FOR CONSERVATION AREAS IMPROVED**

MIARO is looking forward to the adoption of SAPM tools by the Government through the application decree of the Protected Areas Code. The lack of involvement of DREEF was a decision at the central Ministry's level, particularly for the training sessions in Antananarivo, but we have integrated them in the regional and field-based and/or site-based support. However, a lack of awareness at regional levels of the process conducted at national level in terms of tools has been noted due to the fact that some tools were available but not officially validated and disseminated.

### **RESULT MODULE 4: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS MOBILIZED AND OPERATIONAL**

The development of sustainable financial instruments is a national process and needs the participation of partners, not only NGOs or the civil society but also the Government. The current political instability does not allow the program to liaise directly with the Government but this is an opportunity to analyze the weakness and strength of the systems of sustainable financing mechanisms that could be implemented.

Due to the political crisis, MIARO conservation partners were unable to move forward in the identifying policy and programmatic actions with the SAPM sustainable financial committee. However, technical input into Biodiversity Offsets and REDD project were provided during this reporting period.

## VI. LESSONS LEARNED

### **RESULT MODULE 1: ECOLOGICAL LINKAGES ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED**

Several lessons can be extracted from the last six months of program implementation:

- Protected area governance: To engage local communities in protected area governance, we must clarify their roles and responsibilities and ensure they have the necessary capacity to complete their tasks.
- Continued capacity building efforts are needed at the local level to ensure community ownership and engagement in the protected area management process.

- It is important that the communities know and appropriate forest restoration in conservation areas. The continuous improvement of capacity building for actors is among the key factors for the long-term vision for restoration.

#### **RESULT MODULE 2: MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS FOR CONSERVATION AREAS IMPROVED**

MIARO noted a good appropriation of promoters and future managers of new protected areas in the SAPM. The involvement of communities as co-managers or not is increasingly important and effective. However, a strong capacity building process needs to be emphasized as conservation is a new sector for local actors including authorities and community-based organizations.

**Ecological Monitoring (ref. 2.1.6):** The use of range-based monitoring provides important information on the localization of threats in a very short timeframe. It is a key element for areas where threats are difficult to detect, but drastically impact the ecosystem. The involvement of the local population in community-based monitoring is another way to raise their awareness for biodiversity conservation. This should be complemented by a verification process through “rapid range-based monitoring.”

#### **RESULT MODULE 4: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS MOBILIZED AND OPERATIONAL**

The vision of sustainability has been increased for the management of natural resources in Madagascar, particularly for protected areas implementation. The need for sustainable funding sources is now understood but despite some successes initiated by the MIARO program, there is still weak leadership from the Government. We are now experiencing a lack of funding at national level because of the political unrest. Government appropriation and involvement should be fostered to put in place a better foundation for future sustainable funding of the SAPM.

## VII. ACHIEVEMENT TABLE

### RESULT MODULE 1: ECOLOGICAL LINKAGES WITHIN AND BETWEEN LANDSCAPES ESTABLISHED AND/OR MAINTAINED

SUB RM ACTIVITIES	TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENTS
1.1 Promote the definition of policy and legal parameters for the establishment of new protected areas	Category and governance of at least 5 new protected areas determined	Several new protected have already determined their governance structure and also their status such as: CAZ, COFFAV, Tsitongambarika, Ifotaky, Kodida, Montagne des Français, Orangéa, etc. A document about the "capitalisation des expériences et acquis" was produced
	1,3 million ha of new protected areas have definitive status	Several new protected areas achieved the process of creation but the creation decrees are not yet promulgated: case of Makira, Menabe, Ibity, Analalava, etc.
	Regions, communes	Communication campaigns on SAPM and land use planning were organized in many regions and communes concerned by Protected areas creation
1.2. Identify and promote potential new Protected Areas in consultation with regional and local actors	At least 2 terrestrial sites, marine/ZH	Many new protected areas funded through CAG achieved the preliminary process of creation and elaborated the map of urgent conservation priority : Analavelona, Ambondrombe, Antrema, Mangabe, etc.
	At least 2 terrestrial sites, marine/ZH	Many new protected areas funded through CAG achieved the preliminary process of creation and elaborated the map of urgent conservation priority : Analavelona, Ambondrombe, Antrema, Mangabe, etc.
	Production and duplication of conservation digital atlas	Interactive CD on the Madagascar Protected Area System (SAPM) produced and an online version is available at <a href="http://atlas.rebioma.net">http://atlas.rebioma.net</a>
	Species distribution database updated and available for marine priority definition	Marine conservation partners' capacity in prioritization strengthened. Training workshop held to integrate climate change vulnerability analyses into the ongoing MPA. Marine priority-setting workshop held
	Orientation document produced. User guide for practitioners based on legal MPA documents produced	Document d'Orientation, the Manuel de Procédure and simplified MPA user's guide produced in a final draft version.
	National strategy for MCPAs developed	Spatial modeling system adopted; list of data to be used and sources of data available with SECAP
	Data is stored within Rebioma database and used for conservation planning	Database on the criteria for identification of marine site established 9 sites designated as potential sites for marine conservation in the Northwest and the Southwest of Madagascar
1.3. Establish new	At least 2 terrestrial sites, marine/ZH	Locale consultations were conducted at communal level and biodiversity conservation

Protected Area (outside of USAID priority zones)		priorities validated: Tsitongambarika, Mandrozo, Bemanevika, Tsimembo-Manambolomaty, etc.
	At least 2 terrestrial sites, marine/ZH	Any new protected areas outside USAID priority ecoregion was created during this period
	Guide implemented	A compilation of all the technical and legal documents developed in the last few years by the SAPM commission was produced; The technical part of the guideline on the sustainable use of natural resources was also produced
	Definitive PA status issued for Ambatotsirongorongo; Community governance supported	Ambatotsirongorongo protected area document finalized and submitted to DGEF/DSAP with the request for definitive PA status; Capacity of the Management Committee (COGE) Members strengthened; Training on bush fire management held in February 2009
1.4. Refine conservation priorities in USAID priority eco-regions	Management plan for CAZ and COFAV developed	CAZ and COFAV management plan produced
1.5. Develop forest restoration functions and procedures in USAID priority eco-regions	Forest restoration strategy established	Logical framework of the national forest restoration available
		Implementation of action plan for Ambohilero, Mantadia (TAMS) and Makira
1.6. Communication campaigns in selected areas	Communication tools such as booklets, presentations, posters, designed for local communities developed and distributed	A communication agency has been hired through MIARO to produce guide on the management of new protected areas, guide for radio emission and film
	Communication campaign organized for key partners in Anosy Region and Diana	Training of local communicators and members of local communities (VOI) in the new protected areas of CAZ was realized on June 30th, July 1st and 2nd.
1.7. Finalization of the creation of new protected areas in USAID selected zones	Management structure for COFAV operational	CAZ and COFAV governance structure designed Training for communicators on Climate change aspects
1.8. Develop and/or refine conservation management plans and other thematic plans for Protected Areas	1 workshop realized – best practice methodologies presented to local community associations, regional partners, promoters	Regional Workshop held to share information and best practices for marine reserve creation and management
	Process for establishment of eleven (11) marine reserves will be completed up through the process of participatory zonation – including ‘controlled take’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All 11 identified marine reserves participated in the participatory zoning of the 5 steps process.</li> <li>▪ Management regime discussed in villages for marine reserves in Manombo.</li> <li>▪ 2 marine reserves closed for Saint Augustin.</li> </ul>

	<p>and 'no-take' zones for all 11 reserves. Further, of these 11 marine reserves 3 reserves in the commune of St. Augustine and 2 reserves in the commune of Manombo will be established – including identification of management entity, formalization of the 'Dina', and formal ceremony of reserve establishment. This effort will result in the establishment of five (5) community managed marine reserves in the region - leading to improved sustainable fisheries and sustained livelihoods in the region.</p>	
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**RESULT MODULE 2: MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS FOR CONSERVATION AREAS IMPROVED**

SUB RM ACTIVITIES	TARGETS	ACHIEVMENTS
<p>2.1. Develop and/or refine conservation management plans and other thematic plans for Protected Areas</p>	<p>Priority Pas and NPAs have adaptive ecological monitoring program in place</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation of community-based ecological monitoring at PAs and NPAs continued</li> </ul>

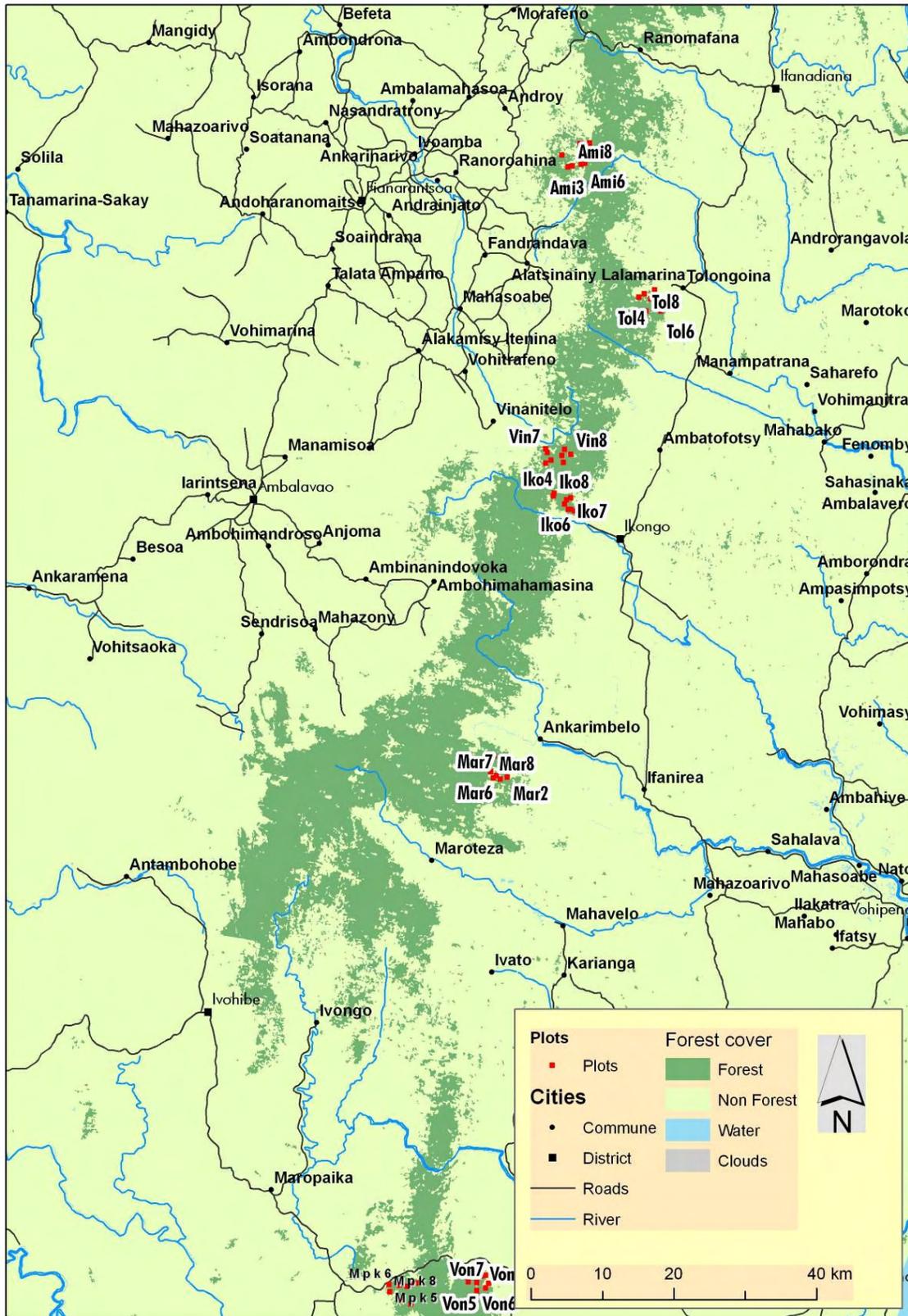
	Environmental toolkits developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teaching aids for environmental education tool kits developed:</li> <li>▪ Guide on Environmental Education for teachers at national level produced.</li> <li>▪ 100 electronic versions have been widely dispatched in primary schools from 22 regions of Madagascar.</li> <li>▪ Simplified field guide of MAMABay most attractive fauna produced: 12 hard back printed versions have been produced and used by teachers as references to teach biodiversity class.</li> <li>▪ Kits of 4 posters on natural cycles (water, oxygen and carbon) and food web: 25 kits distributed for free to targeted schools bordering protected areas</li> </ul>
	PA management plans developed at least for two priority sites	Final draft of management plans available for Bemanevika et Mahavavy Kinkony, Miradi file on management plan available for Nosivolo. Consultants have completed the collecting of data for the development of economic activities around NPA from communities.
2.4. IMPLEMENT PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS	Management effectiveness evaluation system implemented for the New Protected Areas	All promoters trained on the use of the management effectiveness evaluation system

**RESULT MODULE 4: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISMS MOBILIZED AND OPERATIONAL**

SUB RM ACTIVITIES	TARGETS	ACHIEVMENTS
4.1. Expand and develop management capacity of Malagasy Environmental Trusts/Foundations	Tany Meva organization restructured, key manuals prepared to guide operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strategic Plan for 2009-2013 developed and approved by the Board</li> </ul>
4.2. Build on efforts made and cooperate with other EP3 actors to strengthen potential sources of income for forest habitat conservation	Policy and programmatic actions identified through participation in REDD working group and CC cellule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical Support provide to REDD working group, but any other support constrained by political situation</li> </ul>
	BBOP workshop report and action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Round table discussion on Biodiversity Offsets provide orientation on mechanism to key stakeholders</li> </ul>
	Recognition of Makira VERs through the VCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Baseline forest carbon estimates advanced and project description document drafted</li> </ul>

# APPENDICES

**Annex 1. Location of carbon stock measurement plots within COFAV**



**Annex 2 : Carte des Unités locales de Gestion au sein de la « Réserve de Ressources Naturelles Ankeniheny-Zahamena »**

