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# PMP REPORT

SEPTEMBER 1, 2006 – AUGUST 31 2007



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



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The Performance and Monitoring Plan (PMP) is presented for the reporting period of September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007 of the Ecoregional Initiatives program (ERI) administered by Development Alternatives Inc. The following report summarizes the quantifiable data of project advancements obtained from numerous internal sources. This data reporting complements the more analytical presentation of program achievements, constraints, and recommendations highlighted in the Annual Report and the Semester Report. The tables presented in this report are accompanied with short narratives interpreting the indicators and the data trends. In light of the complexity of the ERI program components and activities, the following observations are intended to explain and interpret the many variables monitored by the project.

The Performance and Monitoring Plan shows clearly that the ERI program is meeting on schedule the large majority of its anticipated targets and in some cases it surpasses expectations. Explanations are given for each variable and the occasional discrepancies between targets established at the outset of the project three years ago and current realities.

# 2 DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

The data collection methodology for the ERI program has not changed over the past year. Rather, significant improvements in rigorous collection of data on agricultural and household revenues have been carried out thanks to recommendations made by USAID Madagascar. As indicated in the previous 2006 Performance Monitoring Plan, the ERI program collects information from a variety of sources noted below. These various tools generate a tremendous amount of data that is summarized as the key indicators of this PMP. Each number recorded in the following tables can be traced back to individual reports, compilations of data, or data bases. Regional and national office staffs are available to help trace back each number if so desired. These sources and their respective strengths and weaknesses are the following:

## *Reports from Activity Intervention Fund Recipients*

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

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

## *Cahiers de Ménages*

The « *Cahiers de Ménages* » are field survey instruments administered to Koloharena and non-Koloharena members for the purposes of recording for a fixed period of time agricultural yields, revenues, and other variables. ERI engaged in 2006 a professional survey specialist from the firm Consultant Associé to devise a standard methodology for information collection. ERI Fianarantsoa subsequently hired the consultancy firms AIDE and Association Sans Frontière to carry out the "Cahiers de Ménages" in order to avoid any possibilities of introducing reporting biases. A sample of 15 households per intervention is followed year after year to judge improvements or declines in agricultural yields and incomes. ERI also administers a questionnaire on agricultural yields and revenues to a sample of the Koloharena population.

The ERI Fianarantsoa program has not been entirely satisfied with the agricultural information collection process. Correlations between agricultural yields and household revenues sometimes have absolutely no links with ERI interventions because these variables are affected by climatic perturbations like cyclones and droughts, farmer behavior affected by market conditions, and other factors far beyond project control. While it is interesting to monitor the rise and fall of agricultural household data, ascribing causality to ERI for these tendencies is sometime spurious. Collection of agricultural data in Fianarantsoa is generating some tensions at the local level. Despite initial enthusiasm by the Koloharena federations, it is turning out that farmers view the questionnaires with growing disdain. Since ERI Fianarantsoa does not pay compensation for carrying out or responding to the surveys, the farmers see no immediate financial benefit to investing time to provide information largely required of external agencies like ERI, USAID, and the American Congress. Even though only 15 respondents per federation are queried, resistance to the information collection process is growing. Until now, ERI does not believe it ethically correct to pay respondents because this could undermine future socioeconomic research carried out by Malagasy government bodies that certainly would not have the financial means to pay for information collection!

The Toamasina ERI field agents carried out the interviews in their respective field sites using the standard guides developed for the *Cahiers de Ménage*. Standardization of questionnaires exists between the two regional offices. Administration of the questionnaires is probably cheaper and more efficient by the ERI staff. Since the government of Madagascar does not collect agricultural information in most of the ERI intervention zones, the complexity and cost of acquiring basic agricultural information remains a major dilemma for both ERI offices. We are not totally satisfied with the quality of information being generated from different sources though we think our general trends are accurate.

#### *TAMIS Project Data Base*

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

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

### **3 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON ADVANCEMENT OF ECOREGIONAL INITIATIVE PROGRAM**

The Performance and Monitoring Plan presents a series of quantifiable and comparable information on the advancement of the ERI program as it enters into its fourth year. Differences in rates of project implementation exist between the Fianarantsoa and Toamasina regional offices because of the political, institutional, and economic particularities of each zone. Rather than comparing and contrasting the two regional programs, it is more useful to judge advancements from year to year for each region. While the qualitative analysis is presented in the Annual and Semester reports and accompanying tables for 2006 and 2007, a careful review of the attached tables shows the following trends.

**Critical Assumptions:** The first table of “Critical Assumptions” summarizes ERI’s understanding of what broad political, economic, and even climatic factors contribute to the achievement or not of project results. Qualitative assessments suggest that the policy context is generally favorable to advancing project objectives. While the national and regional policy frameworks and incentives are in place for achieving successes, ERI staff believe that underlying market incentives so necessary to successful conservation and rural development remain fragile. The quality of rural infrastructures like roads and railroads affect considerably the

functionality of rural markets. Rural infrastructures can also be undermined by such climatic perturbations as cyclones. High rates of inflation diminish the purchasing power of rural populations when there is not corresponding increases in agricultural commodity prices.

Module I: The “Ecoregional Approach to Conservation and Development” Module: This module has largely met its targets in 2006 and 2007. Both regional programs carry out a vast range of consultative events at multiple scales. The indicators do show that forest corridor management plans are not being implemented as anticipated at the outset of ERI because the process of implementing the *Nouvelle Aire Protégée* has taken much longer than anticipated. However, commune level planning and incorporation of the environmental ethos at the local level has expanded dramatically due to the many consultative processes carried out through the new *Centre d’Appui aux Communes* and the Kaominina Mendrika process.

Module II: The “Community-Based Management of Natural Resources Module”: The community management of natural resources is a key component of the ERI program. The indicators clearly show the enormous amount of effort ERI expends in training Malagasy institutions involved in the transfer process. However, due to national forestry policy, the rate of creation of new community forest transfers are slowing down due to the recognition that it is important to reinforce those already existent. ERI is not actively starting any new community transfer agreements because each one takes at least two years to put in place. As 5<sup>th</sup> year funding levels are still uncertain, the project can not commit to a process it may not be able to fund. Community watershed management in its many different forms is expanding on target.

Module III: The “Alternatives to slash-and-burn” Module: The tables in module III and IV show clearly that ERI is engaged in providing agricultural extension services to a growing number of farmers belonging to the Koloharena movement. Rate of adoption of at least two new agricultural practices contributing to the reduction of slash-and-burn agricultural is 30% in Toamasina and 14% in Fianarantsoa. Agricultural yields and household revenue is increasing in each zone with some improvements most likely the direct impact of ERI’s interventions. Other rises and declines in output are due to weather and structural factors in the regional economies. Rates of primary forest conversion are declining rapidly in our respective zones of intervention to nearly 0% per year in the Ranomafana-Andringitra forest corridor. Many factors contribute to this decline in rates of loss of primary forests of which some may be due to the presence of ERI.

Module IV: The “Rural Association Capacity Building” module: The tables for this module show clearly that new Koloharena and other rural associations are continuing to be legally established through registration with formal government bodies. Various indicators are used to measure the strength of these associations such as their capacity to rise, use, and reimburse credit. Both programs are witnessing growth in this sector. The tables show that the new *Centre d’Appui aux Communes* are in place and that investments continue in the Kaominina Mendrika results oriented rural planning process.

Module V: The “Strategic Communication, Education, and Outreach” module: The environmental education programs continue with significant growth witnessed in the Fianarantsoa program and progressive expansion in the Toamasina zones. ERI is extending many new communication tools and messages in rural areas though often with very limited support and recognition from government and other donors. ERI continues to extend many messages though rural radio, technical posters and fact sheets, and through the farmer-to-farmer extension activities. Both programs are confronting difficulties in expanding the *Paysans Animateurs* and *Paysans Vulgarisateurs* system due to the weak financial capacity of the Koloharena cooperatives and federations to pay for the services of these key agents. This points to the reality that agricultural extension must inherently receive some type of state support and recognition – either in industrialized or developing countries.

Activity Implementation Fund (AIF): The AIF fund is on target both for regions in meeting or exceeding its burn rates. The attached tables and narratives explain how funds are utilized through more detailed explanations are provided in the Annual and Semester Reports.

Customer Satisfaction Survey: This year the ERI programs in Toamasina and Fianarantsoa carried out surveys to determine satisfaction with the services of ERI and its partners. The analysis shows that satisfaction with ERI as a project is high, but considerable misgivings are expressed by rural customers concerning the quality of government services like the forestry service. Rural communities are not very familiar with the complexities of the legal issues surrounding bush fires, the establishment of the new protected areas, or other legal questions.

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

 SO6 Core Indicator and Ecoregional Alliance indicator

 **Ecoregional Alliance indicator**

## 4 Critical Assumptions Table

Critical Assumptions						
Performance Indicator	Government support for eco-regional planning and CBNRM initiatives	Legislative support for decentralized management of natural resources	Financial support for eco-regional planning and CBNRM	Support for ERI	Economic stability	Environmental stability
<b>Indicator Definition</b>	Government of Madagascar support for the Ministry of Environment and PE3 remains strong: stable funding, staffing levels, and mandate	Government of Madagascar implements laws and policies that are supportive of devolved management of natural resources by rural communities	Financial support from the Government of Madagascar and donors for eco-regional planning and CBNRM initiatives remains adequate	Government of Madagascar and USAID support for ERI is maintained over the duration of the project	Economic conditions in Madagascar remain conducive to devolved management of natural resources with no significant deterioration in rural incomes	Environmental conditions in Madagascar remain conducive to eco-regional conservation and CBNRM with no significant deterioration in climatic trends or population patterns
<b>Data Source</b>	Ministry of Environment, ONE, ANGAP	Ministry of Environment, ONE, ANGAP	Ministry of Environment, ONE, and PE3	Ministry of Environment, ONE and PE3, USAID	Various	Various
<b>Commentary and Observations</b>	The presence of Regions and their mission as coordinator of local and sustainable development reinforced the need and the relevance of an eco-regional approach to development and conservation. Regional development plans strongly support environmental agendas. <i>Madagascar Naturellement</i> and Madagascar Action Plan maintain strong environmental orientation.	The decentralization process is ongoing in the country, initiated by the Government and supported by the technical and financial partners. The EP3 and many other programs are reinforcing the capacity of key actors at regional level (CIREEF, DRDR, GTDR, ABC, CAC, CSA...) and legal instruments for regionalization are developed. The r-TGRNR and the resources management	EP3 funding in general is quite stable. Although, CBNRM funding is coming through the CIREEFs which have very little experience in mobilizing donors' resources. This means that many donor projects like ERI are forced to carry out activities that otherwise would be assigned to the state structures. State engagement in local level conservation and development activities is sometimes limited.	ERI funding from USAID is currently stable and increasing somewhat.  Different political events in late 2006 (presidential election) and 2007 (referendum, parliamentary election) have somehow disturbed the programmatic agenda in rural areas.	After the 2002 crisis, rural economic conditions are remaining stable if not improving. However, the rural economic situation is precarious due to fluctuating prices for key agricultural commodities and rising inflation rates. Market conditions are also affected strongly by transport infrastructures that can be easily undermined by severe cyclones or public policy (ie: rehabilitation of secondary roads or FCE/Port of	Environmental conditions remain relatively stable. No major deterioration in climatic trends or population patterns thus far observed at the local level.  The environmental situation is always precarious because impacts of environmental factors like cyclones can quickly and deeply affect the regional economy. Similarly, declines in the viability of transport infrastructures can contribute to rapid environmental change

	<p>CBNRM is considered as an important tool for sustainable resources management, especially within the SAPM/NAP context as a collaborative governance type.</p> <p>Some complementary government programs, such as those in the transport sector, have not advanced sufficiently well to assure sound management of natural resources (ie: FCE railway or secondary road rehabilitation)</p>	<p>transfer initiatives are not supported as they should be, though.</p>	<p>Regarding the SAPM/NAP process and support, a better coordination and harmonization of the approaches and procedures is still needed from the donors in order to ensure appropriation and sustainability.</p>		<p>Manakara).</p>	<p>at the ecoregional scale.</p>
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## 5 Performance and Monitoring Plan (PMP) Tables for Fianarantsoa and Toamasina for 2006

Results Module 1: Eco-Regional Approach to Conservation and Development Is Adopted and Implemented by Multiple Actors in Priority Eco-Regions											
	Overall Impact		Component 1.1: Establish process for systematic review of priority setting and adaptation of a shared eco-regional vision		Component 1.2: Improve communication and coordination between eco-regional conservation and development partners		Component 1.3: Increase the capacity to access and utilize information and planning tools within the eco-region		Component 1.4: Integrate eco-regional vision into partners' decision-making		
Indicator	Communes adopt environmentally sound development plans		The management plans of the corridors are elaborated, implemented, and periodically reviewed and updated		Consultative bodies and platforms at provincial, regional, and local level are functional and dynamic.		Regional and local structures, organizations, and Communes use information and tools for improved planning		Investment in environmental activities at community level increased		
Indicator Definition	Number of communes integrating environmental issues into their development plans in the two eco-regions <b>(SO6 Core Indicator; Fianarantsoa and Toamasina Alliance Indicator)</b>		Stakeholders establish, implement the management plans, share experiences and review impact of the eco-regional approach <b>(Toamasina and Fianarantsoa Alliance Indicator)</b>		Periodic meetings take place and planning tools established		Number of structures, organizations, and Communes using tools and information		Number of environmental activities funded		
Eco-regions	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	
<b>Life of Project Target</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>70</b>	
<b>Baseline Data</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>0</b>	
2005 Actual	New	1	0	PA CAZ established; PlaCAZ rejuvenated	Plan not elaborated	2	6	8	7	100	22
	Cumulative	17	0			4	6	15	7	215	22
2006 Target	10	10	25%	25%	8	10	10	10	40	28	
2006 Actual	New	0	0	Plan remains unwritten	Plan remains unwritten	1	54	6	15	115	50
	Cumulative	17	0			5	60	21	22	330	72
2007 Target	15	15	50%	50%	12	15	15	15	60	42	
2007 Actual	New	10	6	35%	6.25%	16	57	13	6	83	35
	Cumulative	27	6	35%	6.25%	21	117	34	28	413	107
2008 Target	20	20	75%	75%	16	20	20	20	80	56	
2008 Actual	New										
	Cumulative										
2009 Target	25	25	100%	100%	20	25	25	25	100	70	
2009 Actual	New										
	Cumulative										

## Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall Indicator:** The overall indicator for this module is the degree in which environmental “reflexes” are integrated into rural commune development plans. This indicator presumes that commune development plans in ERI’s strategic zones of intervention have been revised in the first place, and that these revisions include environmental considerations. Official revision of commune development plans has generally not occurred in communes along the forest corridor. The Régions of Vatovavy-Fitovinany and Haute Matsiatra have been slow to start the systematic revision of commune plans in order to parallel regional plans. However, ERI Fianarantsoa has actively implemented the Kaominina Mendrika process to assure that communes carry out a range of integrated environmental

**Component 1.1:** The ERI Fianarantsoa regional office continues to confront difficulties in completing the revision of commune development plans (PCD). While many steps have been carried out in launching the public consultation for revision of the plans (6.25% of the process is completed for all 18 communes where ERI intervenes), ERI has set up the Kaominina Mendrika planning process in 6 communes along the forest corridor and the Centre d’Appui aux Communes serves the eastern side. These structures contribute greatly to the public dialogue required to carry out the lengthy and expensive process required to modify the PCD. However, 57 meetings were held to promote the new protected area of Fandriana-Vondrozo.

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

**Component 1.3:** Performance is advancing on this indicator because ERI Fianarantsoa developed effective planning tools with the Koloharena federations and cooperatives (ie: annual work plans using the Kaominina Mendrika format) and commune level planning (ie: Kaominina Mendrika planning tools). As reported in the Annual Work plan, a large variety of environmental activities have been carried out ranging from radio spots to launching anti-bush fire campaigns to working with the Catholic Church to promote reforestation activities. 6 communes (Ranomafana, Tsaratanana, Tolongoina, Ikongo, Miarinarivo and Sendrisoa) and 198 rural associations (55 in Tolongoina, 53 in Ikongo, 67 in Miarinarivo, and 23 in Sendrisoa) used the Kaominina Mendrika planning tool. ERI is not as far along on the use of Appreciative Inquiry and Development Pathways as it would like because of the high labor and financial costs of using these tools widely. However, this will change because of a contract launched with the NGO Haonasoa that will use these tools as part of the public consultation process for the new Fandriana-Vondrozo protected area.

**Component 1.4:** A very large number of environmental activities are now being carried out through ERI and its various partners. This target is largely surpassed because of the growing motivation of rural communities to carry out many of their own environmental education campaigns, reforestation, and other community mobilization work. This transversal reflects environmental education activities carried out by all of the modules. For instance, environmental activities carried out by the Kaominina Mendrika process or the KASTI anti-fire activities are recorded here. More than half (\$146 000) of our Activity Intervention Fund is expended on community environmental activities.

## Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall Impact:** During the reporting period ERI Toamasina assisted 10 communes in the revision of their communal development plans (PCDs). These plans are now much improved and fully take environmental concerns into account. They are also exemplary in that they demonstrate an understanding of the linkages between various sectors that are essential for overall rural development. It is important to recall that the baseline analysis of 33 PCDs for this indicator showed that 16 communes had already integrated environmental concerns in a significant manner in their plans. This number was corroborated by recent reports from field agents that counted 22 additional

(non-revised) PCDs that incorporated environmental concerns. It should be noted that, due to budgetary constraints (no AIF funds remaining for M1 activities), it is unlikely that this indicator will change during the remainder of the Program (unless the 5<sup>th</sup> year option is exercised).

**Component 1.1:** Although the corridor management plan remains unwritten, progress has been achieved. According to our new indicator definition, we may consider the process as being 50% completed when the public consultation process on the new PA is finished. For the CAZ PA, this process is nearing completion. District-level consultations were conducted in 2006 and the agreed methodology for commune-level consultations was tested in late 2006. This methodology is currently being used, simultaneously, in 10 corridor communes. It is expected that the consultation process will be concluded by the end of October and that the overarching corridor management plan will be written in the ensuing six months.

**Component 1.2:** Progress reported for this indicator included meetings conducted by the PlaCAZ to develop and validate the ecoregional or sustainable development vision for the CAZ as well as meetings and plans by USAID Alliance working groups. The platform for the Ankeniheny-Zahamena corridor or PlaCAZ conducted 5 stakeholder consultation meetings in each of the Districts that overlap with the CAZ. In February, a validation workshop for the vision was organized for technical members of the platform; the vision itself, which can be considered as a planning tool, was finalized in March. The USAID Alliance organized working groups on agricultural production and commercialization, commune support, and establishment of the new CAZ PA in early 2007. Each group subsequently met twice and also developed a work or action plan. Moreover, it should be noted that ERI Toamasina field agents recorded over 100 meetings related to the establishment of the new CAZ PA in the 40+ communes where the Program operates.

**Component 1.3:** Numbers reported for this indicator are equivalent to communes that use planning and informational tools. Seven communes conducted appreciative inquiries in representative Fokontany; results were incorporated into revised communal development plans (PCDs). A number of communes also used administrative and natural resource maps developed by the ERI Program. These were employed in locating forest management transfer areas, local planning for implementation of the Madagascar Action Plan (MAP) and establishment of the new CAZ PA. In addition, the maps were used to plan for improved security and to verify the location of activities of illegal miners. Agricultural development zone maps are also currently being used during the public, communal consultation for the new CAZ PA.

**Component 1.4:** ERI Toamasina field agents continued to register large numbers of investments in environmental activities by numerous stakeholders. Activities included reforestation with native and exotic species (including *Jatropha*), soil conservation measures employing direct seeding in vegetative cover, carbon sequestration and natural forest restoration, planting of bamboo, and various environmental actions under the umbrella of the Kaominina Mendrika initiative. Investors included D1 oils, Madagascar Bamboo, Tany Meva, Conservation International, Semis-Direct Madagascar, Durrell Wildlife Trust and SAF-FJKM. Again, it is useful to recall that there are many more environmental activities being funded in our intervention zones than originally anticipated. Consequently, targets originally set may not be sufficiently ambitious for this indicator.

## Results, Module 2: Community-Based Management of Natural Resources (CBNRM) Is Improved and Expands to Protect the Forest Corridor

	Overall Impact		Component 2.1—Improve local understanding and implementation of GELOSE/GCF processes and CBNRM practices		Component 2.2—Enhance the technical assistance, administration, and strategic resource allocation of Malagasy institutions involved in the transfer process		Component 2.3—Promote and implement the strategic allocation of resources within community management agreements to protect the most threatened areas of the forest corridor				Component 2.4—Improve watershed management to ensure adequate quantity and quality of water for ecological, domestic, agricultural, and rural enterprise use	
Indicator	Natural resources transferred to local management		Communes and Communities aware of CBNRM opportunities		CBNRM extension services functional		CBNRM initiatives supported				Communities develop and implement integrated village territory management plans	
Indicator Definition	Amount of natural resources under legal community management in the two eco-regions (SO6 Core Indicator)		Number of solicitations from communities demonstrating CBNRM interests		Number of trained and active agents from CIREEF, projects, NGOs...		a) Number of CBNRM contracts signed b) Percentage realization in accordance to the corridors management plans (Toamasina Alliance Indicator)				Number of communities developing and implementing integrated village territory management plans	
Eco-regions	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA		FIA		TOA	FIA
<b>Life of Project Target</b>	<b>15 787 Ha</b>	<b>26 800 Ha</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Baseline Data</b>	<b>2 787 Ha</b>	<b>13 783 Ha</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
2005 Actual	New 85	13 927	40	15	34	180	1	25%	4	70%	4	3
	Cumulative	2 872	27 710	40	15	34	9		17	35%	4	3
2006 Target	6 787 Ha	17 800 Ha	75	12	20	20	19	25%	19	60%	11	9
2006 Actual	New 37 320	0	44	16	105	21	8	25%	2	105%	5	7
	Cumulative	40 192	27 710	84	31	139	17		19	70%	9	10
2007 Target	9 787 Ha	20 800 Ha	105	15	30	30	26	50%	23	90%	20	14
2007 Actual	New 19 795	9 749	45	18	55	657	13	45%	5	85%	5	3
	Cumulative	59 987	37 459 ha	129	49	194	30		24		14	13
2008 Target	12 787 Ha	23 800 Ha	125	17	40	40			23	100%	35	18
2008 Actual	New											
	Cumulative											
2009 Target	15 787 Ha	26 800 Ha	150	20	50	50			23	100%	55	20
2009 Actual	New											
	Cumulative											

## Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall Impact:** The module II program in Fianarantsoa continues to advance well with many indicators being surpassed due to the strong interest of local communities in local level resource management. Our life of project targets are being met or are surpassed considerably. ERI Fianarantsoa is contributing actively to the capacity building of 9749 hectares of transferred forests of which 205 hectares are new to this year. Next year ERI does not plan to add on more new transfers but rather focus on obtaining renewal of the 75% of the GCF contracts that have expired.

**Component 2.1:** The ERI Fianarantsoa program is swamped with demands from local communities requesting assistance to set up and strengthen community based resource management programs. From the high demand, ERI focuses on trying to support the strengthening of the 18 COBA who placed formal requests for assistance. 3 requests came from COBA seeking to halt illegal exploitation of forest resources and 8 demanded help to deal with the expansion of slash-and-burn agriculture in their GCF or GELOSE areas. 5 requested financial assistance to implement resource management plans. ERI is now investing considerable resources to set up federations of COBA in order to expand our outreach to the many seeking renewal of expired contracts.

**Component 2.2:** This indicator is surpassed each year because of our strong working relationship with the department of water and forests and local community groups. 657 people received training on various issues ranging from fire management to techniques to set up community resource management agreements. This year the department of water and forests did not receive training, rather, at the instigation of ERI they conducted most of the community level trainings themselves.

**Component 2.3:** This component represents the numbers and percentages of community-based resource management agreements established and signed. 24 COBA requested support to help implement resource management plans and 85% of the plans were carried out. Percentages were obtained by noting: 2 COBA carried out 10% of the activities envisaged - trainings and education for COBA in the first year after the signature; 2 COBA reached the 25% of execution of plan of installation - delineation, community monitoring of forest areas and opening access paths in the second year after the signature; 4 COBA carried out 75% of plan of installation- utilization of user zones and conservation of controlled use zones. in third year after the signature; 16 COBA obtained 100% of plan realization - total implementation of all the elements of the management plan.

**Component 2.4:** Watershed management plans have been elaborated for three new sites this year - Sendrisoa, Madiorano and Tolongoina. Meanwhile, through close collaboration with the DRDR of Vatovavy-Fitovinany, new watershed demonstration sites re being set up by the Koloharena federations in Kelilalina and Tolongoina. Micro-watershed management activities are also being carried out by the *Maisons Koloharena*.

## Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall Impact:** The life of project target of 15,787 ha has been largely surpassed. The Program now supports 30 COBA who manage nearly 60,000 ha (approximately four times the life of project target) of forest and marshland. The difference is mainly due to a hypothesis used at the start of the ERI Program that has since proven untrue. Originally, the average projected size of a management transfer was 400 ha (based on LDI experience); in reality the average size is closer to 1,000 ha. Regarding future perspectives, we expect to facilitate the signature of a dozen new management transfer contracts during the upcoming reporting period.

**Component 2.1:** Again, the results for this indicator have outstripped the target. This is partly due to the fact that requests for support are not only limited to management transfer contracts but comprise all aspects of natural resources management (e.g., technical advice for reforestation, environmental communication, support for village territory and mirco-watershed management plans, etc.). The establishment of the new CAZ PA has also affected this indicator: as part of the communication campaign, there are now village communication agents who have raised environmental awareness in even the most remote areas of the corridor. As a result, requests for support on environmental activities have increased.

**Component 2.2:** The target of 30 persons trained was surpassed by more than 20 during the reporting period. Again, this is partly due to the establishment of the new PA: several training sessions were organized for a range of stakeholders. Additionally, Malagasy Forest Service personnel and other stakeholders were trained in forest zoning methodologies and ERI organized a training session for rural commune Mayors and their staff concerning forest management transfer contracts.

**Component 2.3:** Based on revised indicator definitions and calculation modes, the target for the reporting period regarding percentage of implementation of management transfer contracts was not attained. This is due to the fact that several new contracts were signed during the reporting period and are thus only in their start-up phase (25% implementation); when these contracts are averaged in with the older contracts which have attained 75% implementation, the result is below the target. In contrast, the number of signed contracts (13) exceeded the reporting period target of 7 (26 minus 19). These contracts were all signed in important corridor communes: Andranobolaha (6), Anjahamana (4), Morarano (2) and Antanandava (1). It is expected that the COBA associations that manage these contracts will become leaders within the COBA Federation or Federations slated to co-manage the new PA.

**Component 2.4:** Development and implementation of integrated village territory management plans is a challenging activity due to the complicated tenure regimes within most territories. Significant time must be invested in meetings and discussions in order to reach a common vision. This is the main reason why results for this indicator lag behind the targets. That being said, the targets that were set were probably overly ambitious. At this point in the project future emphasis will be placed on implementing the 14 plans that exist rather than on developing new plans.

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

		Overall Impact	Component 3.1 <sup>1</sup> —Promote development and adoption of improved agricultural technologies and practices within integrated management of farming/natural resource systems				Component 3.2—Enhance producer capacity to maximize profits and meet market-quality, volume, and scheduling requirements		Component 33—Improve food security, nutrition, and overall health	
<b>Indicator</b>		"Slash-and-Burn" practices decrease in Communes of intervention.	Households adopt sound agricultural practices and techniques for soil and water conservation				Households derive higher income from crops		Hungry season is reduced	
<b>Indicator Definition</b>		Decrease (%) in the rate of primary forest <sup>2</sup> loss in strategic communes of intervention <sup>3</sup> versus control sites <b>(SO6 Core Indicator; Fianarantsoa and Toamasina Alliance Indicator)</b>	a) Number of household adopting at least 2 improved practices or techniques b) Increase in production of staple food crops (paddy rice, manioc or maize or potatoes) <b>(SO6 indicator; Alliance Toamasina indicator).</b>				Percentage increase in average household income in the target communities <sup>4</sup> <b>(SO6 Core Indicator, Fianarantsoa Alliance Indicator)</b>		Length (in weeks) of hungry season	
<b>Eco-regions</b>		TOA	FIA		TOA		FIA		TOA	FIA
<b>Life of Project Target</b>			<b>6 380</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>7 440</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Baseline Data</b>			<b>1 380</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2 440</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>
2005 Actual	New		0	N/A	500	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22
	Cumulative		1 380		2 940					
<b>2006 Target</b>			2 880	20%	3 440	10%	10%	10%	14	20
2006 Actual	New		4 008	5.95%	1 590	6	2.25%	0.9% - 10.8%	16	21.12
	Cumulative		5 388		4 530	6				
<b>2007 Target</b>			3 880	30%	4 440	30%	15%	15%	12	18
2007 Actual	New	Statistics from JARIALA not available yet	2 633	13.5%	1 817	14.5%	8%	34.9%	15.2	22.72
	Cumulative		8 021		6 347					
<b>2008 Target</b>			5 130				20%	20%	10	16
2008 Actual	New									
	Cumulative									
<b>2009 Target</b>			6 380				30%		8	14
2009 Actual	New									
	Cumulative									

<sup>1</sup> This Component 3.1 is a consolidation of previous Component 3.1 and 3.2.

<sup>2</sup> Primary forest conversion defined as "Newly created "tavy" in primary forest".

<sup>3</sup> Intervention commune: ERI and/or Alliance USAID implementing partners area of intervention

<sup>4</sup> Household income increases or decreases may be independent of the project interventions in the event of political instability, weather, devaluation and other macro factors beyond ERI control.

## Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall Impact:** The overall intention of Module III is to offer alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture. The overall rate of deforestation along the Ranomafana – Andringitra forest corridor seems to be falling dramatically – about 0% per year over the past five years. This compares to a previous rate of about 2% per year on the western side of the corridor and 1% per year on the eastern side. In addition, the rates of adoption of alternative agricultural practices is increasing as farmers diversify and increase production at the same time. New agricultural commodity streams are being introduced effectively such as: jatropha, orange sweet potatoes, artemesia, new varieties of bananas... More genetic material is also entering in the agricultural system through new seeds and plant stock for grains, pulses, artemesia, and dry season vegetables. Much of this significant advancement is due to the farmer-to-farmer system introduced by the ERI program.

**Component 1:** The indicator of rates of adoption shows that this year 1590 new farmer adopted at least two new agricultural techniques. Overall, adoption rates are 14% for new agricultural techniques. The decline is due to the fact that ERI has expanded into new communes along the corridor and we find it takes time to build confidence among rural households to adopt new agricultural practices. While ERI Fianarantsoa is well on its way to meeting overall targets for the project, we remain somewhat frustrated by the low up-take of proffered agricultural practices. Many reasons may explain the slow rates of adoption of agroecological practices. Our field research suggests that many agroecological practices may involve some extra inputs of labor or require tenure security. This undermines the ability of otherwise responsive farmers to adopt techniques designed to reduce slash-and-burn agriculture. The aggregate improvements in agricultural rates of adoption and yields per hectare of various commodity crops are listed in this component chart. Agricultural yields increased this past growing season by 14.5% in general despite the normal vagaries of weather. This average figure hide significant changes in program of key commodities like rice grown through different techniques. 1817 new farmers adopted at least two new agricultural practices this past year. This figure may underestimate the spread effect of agricultural adoption by farmers who are not Koloharena farmers. We estimate that the entire Koloharena movements of approximately 7500 members belonging to 670 associations cultivate about 2400 hectares of rice yielding a total of about 4000 metric tons of rice.

Rice culture	Area in ha	Production (metric tons)	Yields (metric tons/ha)
<b>SRA</b>	877.83	1904.5	2.16
<b>SRI</b>	206.46	862.51	4.71
<b>SRT</b>	1319.73	1282	1.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>2404</b>	<b>4049.20</b>	

We add to this table our estimation of the amount of rice produced under traditional means (SRT) in order to provide a comparison in relation to our estimations of amounts planted using SRA and SRA rice cultivation practices. This shows that traditional techniques continue to play an important role in agriculture but that a large number of farmers are adopting the more productive SRA and SRI techniques. In the chart below, we note two different reporting systems for generating data on agricultural production. The “Koloharena Data” is from reports generated by the Koloharena themselves. Since ERI Fianarantsoa also carried out the *Cahiers de Ménage* and individual questionnaires, we averaged these three data sets together to obtain the cumulative data average for agricultural yields for rice, manioc, corn, and potatoes. It should be noted that ERI is monitoring 5% of same members of all the Koloharena through our *Cahiers de Ménage* and survey questionnaire instruments.

Production (metric tons)	Results 2005-06 Metric tons (Koloharena data)	Results 2006-07 Metric tons (Koloharena data)	Difference Metric tons between 2005/06 and 2006/2007 (Koloharena data)	%	Cumulative Average of Changes in Production from 2005/2006 and 2006/2007  (Koloharena data, Cahiers de	Yields  2006-07 (metric tons/ha) (Koloharena data)

					<b>Ménage, and Questionnaires)</b>	
Rice	2761	4049	1288	47%	48 %	1.68
Manioc	2662	3410	748	28%	31 %	5.28
Corn	1688	1417	-271	-13%	-14 %	2.5
Potatoes	1538	1417	-121	-8%	-7 %	15

Rice production is increasing dramatically by Koloharena farmers adopting new agricultural techniques of SRA and SRI. We estimate that about 4000 metric tons of rice were produced by Koloharena members this past year. While traditional rice cultivation yields are improving because of heavier uses of compost and manure, the low yields of 1.05 tons/hectare bring down the overall gains being obtained by those using new agricultural techniques. We believe that adoption of new techniques in a risk aversion cultural context remains slow. SRA and SRI do require more labor, controlled use of water, agricultural inputs, and strong market linkages to succeed! These conditions are not always brought together in remote areas served by ERI Fianarantsoa. Manioc production is expanding dramatically because of the introduction of new varieties and the technique of grafting. Corn production fell because of theft and wild dog infestations. Potato production fell significantly because good varieties resistant to various plant diseases are no longer sold in the region.

**Component 2:** Household revenue seems to be increasing significantly. The *Cahier de Ménage* studies show that incomes are increasing among the sample households by 34% over the previous year because of new and diversified sources of income. Women’s income generation activities have been generating significantly more income for the household. The role of the GCV grain banks, artisanal activities, sale of fresh fish, honey, and tuber crops all play a key role in the income increases. Koloharena farmers are much more engaged in commercial agricultural activities and other income generation activities than in the past. We do suspect that while revenues have increased significantly from the sale of commodities, this does not translate into reduction of food shortages during the “hungry season” because of pressing needs to spend money on other key survival needs such as medicine, home energy, and schooling for children....

**Component 3:** The reduction in the hungry season is defined by the average amount of time the household does not eat rice. 4 out of 9 federations reported that the hungry season grew worse last year. Even though revenues increased from the sale of rice and other commodities, it appears that revenues were used to purchase other commodities beside rice itself. So, we see a contradictory process whereby increases in revenue do not necessarily translate into reduction of the hungry season. Revenues may be used to pay school fees, hospital care, or other expenses. The length of the hungry season is also determined by factors far beyond the control of ERI such as locust attacks, cyclones, or other disasters.

## Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall impact:** The statistics from the forest cover analysis between 2000 and 2005 will be available only at the end of the year. Yet, preliminary figures from the majority of the Communes where ERI is intervening indicate some regression of loss of the forest during this period compared to 1990-2000 period.

**Component 3.1 (a):** The survey sample revealed an average of 30% of Koloharena families that had adopted two new practices during the reporting period. An extrapolation of this percentage yields 2,633 households. This represents a reduction from the previous reporting period due, principally, to the fact that ERI Toamasina’s new intervention zones – over half of our operational area – are included in the survey this time (they were not included previously); the Koloharena movement is still very young in these zones and adoption rates for new agricultural techniques are just beginning to increase. Overall, the principal obstacles for adoption are: insufficient financial means for most rural households coupled with a reluctance to invest and the lack of credit or micro-finance institutions in the isolated zones where only ERI works. Nevertheless, adoption rates are promising in most of the older zones: 72% in Ambtondrazaka, 23% in Ambatovy-Beforona-Andasibe, 33% in Brickaville and 14% in Toamasina II. Moreover our observations and interviews with Koloharena members lead us to believe that results acquired via Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and demonstrations will have a significant impact in the very near future.

**Component 3.1 (b):** Survey results showed a 13.5% increase, on average, for the three principal staple crops with a 13.7% increase for rice, a 16.2% increase for cassava, and a 10.8% increase for maize. Average yields for rice attained nearly 2.5 t/ha in the Ambatondrazaka intervention zone but, overall, this number fell due again to the inclusion of the new zones (Manakambahiny-Est, Didy, Sahambala, Anjahamana, Fito, and Maroseranana) in our sample. The Toamasina II District suffers from a lack of land suitable for irrigation while the promotion of improved techniques for rainfed rice production on hillsides is in its infancy. It is important to note that fifteen Koloharena farmers from the Anivorano Est and Fenerive Est areas were chosen to participate in the national intensive rice culture competition (two of them won prizes). Average yields for cassava (1.5 t/ha) are still low, recording 16.2% increase from last year (1.25t/ha). Yet this result represents a significant increase over traditional techniques that yield 700-900 kg/ha. The same observation can be made for maize which only revealed average yields of 1.5 t/ha but which climbed to 1.8 t/ha this year in areas where new techniques have been introduced via FFS (10.8% increase from last year, 1.6t/ha).

**Component 3.2:** There was an 8% increase in annual household revenue among the survey sample. As can be expected, a higher increase (11.4%) was noted in intervention zones inherited from LDI (from \$316 to \$353/year) compared to an increase of only 3.6% (\$166 to \$172/year) in ERI Toamasina's new zones. The augmentation can be partly attributed to commercial contracts for various value chains (e.g., litchi), the opening of Koloharena sales outlets at the Toamasina and Moramanga markets, and the participation in various fairs at which the Koloharena movement is becoming a privileged partner due to their diligence and respect of market requirements. Moreover, revenue boosts were also realized because of the sale of surplus yields and the development of new value chains (e.g., fruit trees, vegetable gardening, new hillside agricultural production techniques, and intensified animal husbandry). Despite the positive results, targets set for this indicator were again, perhaps, overly ambitious.

**Component 3.3:** The average hungry period in the ERI Toamasina intervention zones is 15.2 weeks (or 68 days) which represents a decrease from the previous reporting period. It is likely that this is partly due to the slight increase in rice production. Again, there is a wide range of results in the various areas where we work: communes in the Toamasina II District registered 22 weeks – a very difficult period for the rural population – while in Ambatondrazaka, the hungry period is 8 to 12 weeks. The inclusion of Manakambahiny Est and Didy (new zones) increased the length of the hungry season in the greater Ambatondrazaka area (previously, a result of 0 weeks or no hungry season was recorded). During the hungry period, it should be noted that Koloharena households do eat rice twice a day and often another meal based on a different staple crop; our definition of the hungry period is the period during which rice is not eaten 3 times a day.

## Results, Module 4: Rural Associations and Communes achieve Financial and Organizational Sustainability and Become Effective Advocates for Local Issues

	Overall Impact		Component 4.1—Improve the management capacity and financial sustainability of rural associations and federations		Component 4.2—Increase rural associations' understanding of, and ability to access, credit			Component 4.3—Develop advocacy and negotiation skills of rural associations by strengthening linkages with civil society organizations			Component 4.4 – Develop administrative and management skills of Communes through capacity building and linking with field activities			
<b>Indicator</b>	Legally recognized rural organizations committed to improved natural resource management and rural development expand to become advocates for local issues		Rural associations (Federation / cooperative comprises) awarded natural resource management or other contracts <sup>5</sup>		Rural associations able to access credit and repaying loans <sup>6</sup>			Environmental advocacy actions undertaken (rural associations, federation, cooperative)			Communes are able to plan and manage their assets and resources through CSC support and KM approach			
<b>Indicator Definition</b>	Number of rural organizations legally registered with local and regional authorities <b>(Toamasina Alliance Indicator)</b>		Number of signed contracts <b>(SO6 Core Indicator; Toamasina Alliance Indicator)</b>		a) Percentage of rural associations obtaining credit b) Average recovery rate on loans			Number of advocacy actions <b>(SO6 Core Indicator; Toamasina Alliance Indicator)</b>			a) Percentage of realization on CAC setting up process and functionality b) Number of Communes and rural associations involved in KM approach			
<b>Eco-regions</b>	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA			TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA		
<b>Life of Project Target</b>	675	585	200	200		95%	35%	95%	300	250	100%	20		20
<b>Baseline Data</b>	460	390	0	0		10%		10%	0	0	0			
2005 Actual	New	76	53	92	39	N/A	N/A	N/A	68	5	65			
	Cumulative	526	443	92	39					5	65			
2006 Target		540	468	60	60	60%			80%	100	100		5	
2006 Actual	New	101	27	64	68	18.5	N/A	N/A	83.3	9	130		5	
	Cumulative	627	470	156	107					14	195		5	
2007 Target		585	507	100	100	75%			85%	200	150	50%	10	50%
2007 Actual	New	27	200	126	189	48.47	N/A	28.3	56.3	6	35	55	5	35
	Cumulative	654	670	282	296					20	230		10	6
2008 Target		630	546	150	150	85%	80%	30%	90%	250	200	75%	15	75%
2008 Actual	New													
	Cumulative													
2009 Target		675	585	200	200	95%	95%	35%	95%	300	250	100%	20	100%
2009 Actual	New													
	Cumulative													

<sup>5</sup> Including commercialization, services, training, production, etc... related to NRM.

<sup>6</sup> Expressing the ability to manage and reimbursing loans, from whether external or internal credit mechanisms.

## Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall Impact:** The Koloharena movement in Fianarantsoa presently consists of 7497 members belonging to 670 associations. The healthy growth of the movement is demonstrated by the legal registration of new associations. The Koloharena federations specify that association membership hinges on 50% of the members paying entry fees, preparation of an annual work plan, and possession of signed minutes of meetings. Last year 157 new associations were created primarily in the communes of Ranomafana and Tsaratanana. But, other new associations were created with the help of the ERI program such as 24 new community forestry COBA and 19 water users associations (AUE). New associations start administrative formalization only after the acceptance from the KoloHarena Federation.

**Component 1:** The institutional strength of the Koloharena movement is measured by the number of contracts signed by the federations and cooperatives. Contracts signed by the Koloharena take many forms. Credit contracts were signed by the Agricultural Supply Centers with Entreprenre à Madagascar (EAM) and TIAVO for agricultural inputs, machinery, and grain storage banks. Marketing contracts were signed with BIONEXX for artemisia in Manampatrana and Kelilana. Advances for purchase of seeds and fertilizers were signed with SDMad. The cooperatives of Tolongoina, Manampatrana, Ialamarina and Ambatovaky now sell SDMad products. Other contracts were signed for ecotourism ventures, provision of fingerlings, and seedling provision.

**Component 2:** The rural credit program advances with 28% of all Koloharena associations now engaged in some form of credit arrangements. This can be loans from the Koloharena cooperatives themselves and from the savings and loans institutions of Entreprenre à Madagascar and TIAVO. Reimbursement rates are 56% at this time. This does not imply defaults but rather that loans are still outstanding as part of the normal reimbursement rate. Reimbursement is generally high with a rate of about 80% each year. New credit is not extended to Koloharena members by TIAVO or EAM until total reimbursement occurs. While credit expansion continues to be quite low, this is for many reasons. Farmers hesitate to become indebted because of legal risks and harsh consequences of non-reimbursement. But, also, it should be noted that credit liquidity limits are encountered by the savings and loans institutions themselves. Credit institutions remain cautious on extending small loan sums to remote rural associations where cost recovery rates are very high. These institutions often require guarantees by ERI – something that the project can not legally do. The creation of the Regional Koloharena confederation is going a long way to building the confidence of the savings and loans institutions because the leadership can exert strong pressure on members to reimburse but also use federation financial resources as a guarantee.

**Component 3:** The ERI project beneficiaries only carried out 35 advocacy actions out of a targeted 250 for this year. The low rate is explained in part by the fact that ERI toughened the standards for defining the term “advocacy.” An advocacy action is defined as an issue that affects the entire community and whereby a written complaint or action is officially filed to an appropriate body. Advocacy is described not only as the registration of a complaint, but the continued monitoring of the issue until its resolution. The Koloharena thus carried out advocacy to support rural literacy programs in Tolongoina, opening up of rural credit opportunities with TIAVO and EAM, launching new ecotourism initiatives, establishment of new Agricultural Supply Centers, lobbying for land for selling vetiver products along the FCE, advocacy for new potable water projects, financial assistance from organizations like PSA, AFDI, and other projects. The issue must not be simply a complaint, by a process of continued

**Component 4:** Supplemental USAID funding was granted to ERI to reinforce the Kaominina Mendrika process and to establish the new Centre d'Appui aux Communes (CAC) along the eastern side of the Ranomafana – Andringitra forest corridor. Six communes participated in the Kaominina Mendrika process and were certified as “Mendrika” in October, 2006 for cycle I. Many more associations are involved in implementing the four stars of the system (see Module I indicator “Overall Impact”). The Kaominina Mendrika Cycle II is currently underway with a larger number of communes. Government participation is stronger with greater involvement from the technical services (DREEF, DRDR, MDAT...). The Fianarantsoa Voahary Salama group prepared a handbook for each of the four star categories (Nature, Wealth, Health, and Power). The Koloharena movement also uses these categories as part of their annual work plan. The new CAC was also set

up in Ikongo with a sub-office in Ifanadiana (housed within the SOFASPAN offices). Four staff members have been recruited and trained, equipment has been purchased, a work plan developed, and implementation is underway despite the perturbations caused by the national constitutional referendum and the legislative elections.

## **Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries**

**Overall impact:** The current number of legal associations supported by ERI Toamasina largely exceeds the 2007 target: 654 vs. 585. These associations are grouped into 21 cooperatives, 17 of which are officially recognized and legal and 4 of which are going through the final steps to attain legal and official recognition. Based on our observations, the Koloharena movement in the Toamasina ecoregion is vigorous, displaying expansion in numbers and geographic coverage without overlooking the aspect of quality; moreover, some cooperatives have been able to establish themselves in record time. These promising results can be attributed to several factors inherent in the ERI Program approach, for example, the permanent presence of field agents who support the movement and raise awareness on a daily basis, and the farmer technicians (PAs, PVs, and PMs) who have incited their peers to join the movement via example, demonstrations and extension work.

**Component 4.1:** This indicator attests to the improvement of the management and financial capacity of the associations and cooperatives supported by ERI Toamasina. All of these entities possess an annual work plan and conduct self-evaluations at the end of their planning cycles. Most of the older cooperatives (11 of 13) organized general assemblies during which executive boards were renewed and information on cooperative activities and evolution was communicated to members. Based on these developments, relationships and partnerships continue to expand. The number of signed contracts – 126 – is thus almost double that of the previous reporting period. Examples of these contracts include provision of compost to the Projet Ambatovy (ex-Dynatec), provision of ginger to Homeopharma and green bananas to Vonjy Isotry, supplying rooted cuttings of bamboo to the Madagascar Bamboo company, and supplying aromatic and medicinal plant to IMRA.

**Component 4.2:** Although positive trends were noted regarding obtaining and reimbursing credit, the target of 75% was not attained: the current percentage (48) does represent a significant increase compared to the last reporting period. This encouraging result can be attributed to improved collaboration with micro-finance institutions as well as the advent of internal credit mechanisms within Koloharena cooperatives. This year, some cooperatives began to furnish credit to member associations in the form of seeds or livestock. Not only this credit mechanism seems to be appreciated by the farmers, but reimbursement rate records 100%! Although high hopes for credit via FIEFE were harbored, the result was disappointing: only 2 out of 30 dossiers were approved. Based on this result and cumbersome procedures within FIEFE, an accent will be placed on improving relations with other credit institutions in the future such as BCI Toamasina and EAM Toamasina. Reimbursement rate is not available yet since the contracts are not reaching their dates of payment yet.

**Component 4.3:** The number of advocacy actions by Koloharena partners remains low but from a quality perspective, the actions that were observed can be qualified as “true advocacy.” The impacts of these actions affected a large number of beneficiaries including those who are not Koloharena members. Examples include lobbying to obtain land for the Ala Meva reforestation project in four rural communes, advocacy for obtaining 8,000 seedlings from the Malagasy forest service, and lobbying of Regional authorities by the Ambohibary community for the construction of a bridge at the village entrance.

**Component 4.4 (a):** We have estimated the percentage of completed steps for CAC establishment and functionality at 55%. This is based on the following realizations: the office has been built and the CAC field agents (CONAN) have been recruited (25%), the CONANs received initial training (30%), an annual work plan for the CAC was produced (40%) and has begun to be implemented (55%). Full implementation which represents 60% of the steps will occur in the upcoming months.

Similarly, it is expected that the inter-communal structure that will manage the CAC after the withdrawal of ERI will be established by mid 2008.

**Component 4.4 (b):** Five new communes engaged in the integrated Kaominina Mendrika process during the reporting period (Antanadava, Brickaville, Ampasimbe, Manakambahiny Est, and Ranomafana Est). These are in addition to the original five communes (Amparihitsokatra, Morarano Gara, Ambodilazana, Andranobolaha, and Anivorano Est) who have continued to use the tool for commune development. We note that the communes of Ranomafana Est and Brickaville are exemplary as their Mayors have taken the lead on setting targets and implementing the required activities. For the upcoming third cycle, the Regions of Atsinanana and Alaotra Mangoro will be encouraged to increase their participation; we hope that this will in turn improve the participation of the Malagasy Forest and Agricultural services. It is expected that introduction of the tool will be similarly enhanced via the participation of existing associations (COBA/VOI and Koloharana) as well as Fokontany Presidents.

## Results, Module 5: Strategic Communication, Education, and Outreach Lead to Widespread Behavioral Change

		Overall Impact		Component 5.1—Improve rural associations' ability to develop and deliver integrated development messages		Component 5.2—Promote communication techniques through farmer led extension and outreach to improve natural resource management and agricultural practices		Component 5.3—Support national initiatives emphasizing improved natural resource management	
<b>Indicator</b>		Rural associations and grassroots organizations active <sup>7</sup> in improving public awareness of environmental issues		Rural associations develop rural communication tools and messages		<i>Paysans vulgarisateurs/animateurs</i> active <sup>8</sup> in delivering awareness messages in the two eco-regions		CBNRM integrated into national strategies and curricula <sup>9</sup>	
<b>Indicator Definition</b>		Number of associations active in promoting public awareness of sound natural resource management and sustainable agriculture		Number of rural communication messages		Percentage of sample <sup>10</sup> of active PA/PV vs. trained PA/PV		Number of copies of CBNRM tools <sup>11</sup> supporting national initiatives produced and distributed	
<b>Eco-regions</b>		TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA
<b>Life of Project Target</b>		<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>2 500</b>	<b>2 500</b>
<b>Baseline Data</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
2005 Actual	New	15	45	6	5	64.5%	61%	5	660
	Cumulative	15	45	6	5			5	660
2006 Target		80	80	20	20	65%	40%	500	500
2006 Actual	New	213	263	7	21	80%	54%	231	780
	Cumulative	228	308	13	26			236	1 440
2007 Target		100	100	30	30	75%	60%	1 500	1 500
2007 Actual	New	257	315	73	63	62%	54%	205	1 427
	Cumulative	485	623	86	89			441	2 867
2008 Target		200	200	40	40	90%	80%	2 000	2 000
2008 Actual	New								
	Cumulative								
2009 Target		250	250	50	50	95%	95%	2 500	2500
2009 Actual	New								
	Cumulative								

<sup>7</sup> They may perform or produce various communication tools: kabary rally, posters, radio programs, puppet show, movies projection, papers etc...

<sup>8</sup> Participate actively into education and information programs, and disseminating messages on sustainable NRM, new agricultural techniques etc...

<sup>9</sup> COBA participation and contribution as incentive for other communities to adopt CBNRM.

<sup>10</sup> The sample will comprise the same number of PV/PA paid by the cooperative and PV/PA not paid but active within rural associations.

<sup>11</sup> CBNRM tools are different from communication tools.

## Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall Impact:** The environmental communication program of ERI Fianarantsoa continues to advance at a very rapid rate thanks to the strong Module V team and the strong endorsement of the Koloharena movement. The Koloharena participated very actively at the national level in fairs and expositions on alternative energy (jatropha and microhydroelectric power) and the agriculture (Fier Mada). This participation led to the creation of stands, technical brochures, radio and television spots, and good press coverage. The Koloharena very successfully branded themselves at the national level.

**Component 1:** The majority of the messages generated over the past year consisted of technical fact sheets and press on the jatropha plant and its byproducts. These messages concerned very practical issues such as how to make soap, extract oil from hand presses, make oil lamps... Other technical sheets were developed on sweet potato production, moringa uses, and other topics of interest to the Koloharena. Koloharena participated very actively in communicating these messages through rural radios or the Andrew Lees Trust (ALT) radio network.

**Component 2:** The rural extension system for the Koloharena movement is strong and growing. Currently there are a total of 803 *Paysans Animateurs* and *Paysans Vulgarisateurs* in Fianarantsoa (178 *Paysans Animateurs* of which 64% are considered as active and; 638 *Paysans Vulgarisateurs* of which 51% are considered active). The total number of PV and PA is increasing significantly because of the expansion of the Koloharena movement into new communes and *foukontany*. But, an internal evaluation of the efficacy of the agricultural extension system in October 2006 carried out by the Koloharena federations themselves suggested that a significant proportion of the village extension farmers need more training and support despite the fact that a majority carry out their functions as anticipated. Compensation for the services of PV and PA are picked up by the federations but these payments remain problematic because of the limited availability of surplus funds within the coffers of the federations. This points out the reality that very few farmer's cooperatives any place in the world are able to pick up the internal costs of agricultural extension. Even in the United States and Europe, agricultural extension costs are subsidized heavily by the State. ERI is currently working with the federations to beef up training and certification of these network members.

**Component 3:** The ERI Fianarantsoa program contributes financially to distributing a large number of communication tools (banners, brochures, calling cards, posters, technical fact sheets... These cover a very wide range of topics ranging from agricultural techniques to information on the rural electrification initiative in Tolongoina. These materials are distributed at many venues such as fairs, meetings, conferences, and workshops.

## Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall impact:** The associations with whom ERI Toamasina collaborates had a range of opportunities to communicate on a number of themes during the reporting period. Principally, they participated in communication on the establishment of the new CAZ PA during which messages on the importance of the forest and environmentally-friendly agriculture were disseminated. A large number of associations were active in raising awareness among their peers; we documented 257 dynamic associations out of a total of 654.

**Component 5.1:** We recorded 73 new communication messages from September 2006 through August 2007. Again, the communication campaign on the new PA constituted a major opportunity. Additionally, messages on the advantages of improved agricultural techniques linked to priority commodity chains and messages regarding the advantages of joining the Koloharena movement were communicated, not only among the rural population but at the level of local authorities and private enterprises. Communication tools employed ran the gamut of traditional to modern: meetings organized by rural communes and *foukontany*, posters, brochures, demonstrations by model farmers and farmer extension agents, informal farmer-to-farmer contacts, traditional speeches (*kabary*), and projection of films produced or furnished by USAID or ERI all incited questions and interest from

adults and children. We also noted active participation of association members during recording sessions for subsequent radio emissions.

**Component 5.2:** Results for this indicator yielded 62% of trained PAs and PVs who are active, below the target of 75%. One of the main obstacles is the lack of financial resources at the cooperative level needed to remunerate these farmer technicians for their extension work. It is expected that this obstacle will be overcome to a certain extent during the next reporting period due to increased cooperative revenue. We note, however, positive trends in some of our intervention zones: the expertise of the PAs and PVs is recognized and private farmers and enterprises pay them for their services. This reality demonstrates that these extensionists are becoming pillars of local development efforts.

**Component 5.3:** Results for this indicator (100 NHWP CDVs, 45 maps, 10 HIP posters, and 50 green revolution posters distributed) are also below the target. In fact, many tools coming from central government departments in Anatananarivo are not received or observed at the regional level; at present there is no relationship between these departments and ERI regional programs (though there are some relations with the ERI national coordination unit). Efforts will be dispensed during the next reporting period so that improved relations are established between government entities (at both the regional and national levels) the Koloharena movement and ERI Toamasina; the ultimate goal is that the Koloharena structures play a more important role in establishing and maintaining communication networks, leading to improved local level diffusion. Some strides have recently been made in this direction via training of selected Koloharena members in internet use and the establishment and use of e-mail.

## 6 Performance and Monitoring Table for Activity Intervention Fund

	Overall Impact		Clear subcontract application procedures developed and disseminated		Clear selection criteria for awards established		Technical assistance provided to applicants and recipients	
Indicator	Percentage of successful subcontracts		Number of calls for proposals		Percentage of subcontracts solicited or non solicited by the Program and funds awarded		Effectiveness of field-based technical assistance provided to contractors	
Indicator Definition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of beneficiaries<sup>12</sup></li> <li>2. Percentage of subcontracts completed</li> <li>3. Percentage of subcontracts achieving targets</li> <li>4. Percentage of female beneficiaries</li> <li>5. Percentage of subcontracts demonstrating positive environmental and socio-economic impact.</li> </ol>		Number of expressions of interest		Number of subcontract: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. &lt; \$10,000</li> <li>2. \$10,000&lt;\$25,000</li> <li>3. &gt;\$25,000&lt;100,000</li> <li>4. &gt;\$100,000</li> <li>5. Amount of money disbursed</li> </ol>		Percentage of subcontractors demonstrating acceptable contract management skill, as defined by the following functions: Meaningful consultation with beneficiaries for decision making Operational performance monitoring system for adaptive management	
	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA
<b>Life of Project Target</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 30,000</li> <li>2. 80%</li> <li>3. 80%</li> <li>4. 30%</li> <li>5. 80%</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 30,000</li> <li>2. 80%</li> <li>3. 80%</li> <li>4. 30%</li> <li>5. 80%</li> </ol>	200	200	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 35</li> <li>2. 50</li> <li>3. 15</li> <li>4. 0</li> <li>5. \$1.050,000</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 35</li> <li>2. 50</li> <li>3. 15</li> <li>4. 0</li> <li>5. \$1.050,000</li> </ol>	60%	60%
<b>Baseline Data</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>2005 Target</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 10,000</li> <li>2. 40%</li> <li>3. 40%</li> <li>4. 10%</li> <li>5. 40%</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 10,000</li> <li>2. 40%</li> <li>3. 40%</li> <li>4. 10%</li> <li>5. 40%</li> </ol>	50	50	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 10</li> <li>2. 10</li> <li>3. 3</li> <li>4. 0</li> <li>5. \$200,000</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 10</li> <li>2. 10</li> <li>3. 3</li> <li>4. 0</li> <li>5. \$200,000</li> </ol>	40%	40%
<b>2005 Actual</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 10,420</li> <li>2. 63%</li> <li>3. 63%</li> <li>4. 30%</li> <li>5. 34%</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4 541</li> <li>2. 60%</li> <li>3. 40%</li> <li>4. 19 %</li> <li>5. 50%</li> </ol>	60	85	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 5</li> <li>2. 4</li> <li>3. 0</li> <li>4. 0</li> <li>5. \$ 94,319</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 16</li> <li>2. 6</li> <li>3. 0</li> <li>4. 0</li> <li>5. \$ 138 274</li> </ol>	46%	75%
<b>2006 Target</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 15 000</li> <li>2. 50%</li> <li>3. 50%</li> <li>4. 15%</li> <li>5. 50%</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 15 000</li> <li>2. 50%</li> <li>3. 50%</li> <li>4. 15%</li> <li>5. 50%</li> </ol>	90	90	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 15</li> <li>2. 20</li> <li>3. 5</li> <li>4. 0</li> <li>5. \$400,000</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 15</li> <li>2. 20</li> <li>3. 5</li> <li>4. 0</li> <li>5. \$400,000</li> </ol>	50%	50%

<sup>12</sup> Individual.

<b>2006 Actual</b>	1. 21,297 2. 85 3. 83 4. 33 5. 39	1. 35,447 2. 48% 3. 32% 4. 25% 5. 44%	109	216	1. 15 2. 10 3. 4 4. 0 5. \$301,282	1. 22 2. 12 3. 0 4. 0 5. \$ 403 435	44%	83%
<b>2007 Target</b>	1. 40,000 2. 60% 3. 60% 4. 20% 5. 60%	1. 40,000 2. 60% 3. 60% 4. 20% 5. 60%	240	240	1. 40 2. 60 3. 18 4. 0 5. \$600,000	1. 40 2. 60 3. 18 4. 0 5. \$600,000	55%	55%
<b>2007 Actual</b>	1. 35,000 2. 73% 3. 70% 4. 35% 5. 48%	1. 12,010 2. 24% 3. 68% 4. 28% 5. 60%	210	111	1. 44 2. 5 3. 1 4. 0 5. \$782,092	1. 20 2. 3 3. 3 4. 0 5. \$735,646	55%	76%
<b>2008 Target</b>	1. 50,000 2. 70% 3. 70% 4. 25% 5. 70%	1. 50,000 2. 70% 3. 70% 4. 25% 5. 70%	300	300	1. 60 2. 80 3. 24 4. 0 5. \$800,000	1. 40 2. 60 3. 18 4. 0 5. \$800,000	60%	60%

## Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall impact:** The Activity Intervention Fund is the heart and soul of the ERI program. This is the fund that allows our partners and clients to carry out a vast amount of activities supporting the objectives of the five programmatic modules. Our clients range from the Koloharena federations receiving contracts to provide agricultural services to private sector firms making films on agricultural intensification techniques. The reporting period of October 2006-September 2007 was a determinant one for ERI Fianarantsoa. About 84% of the total AIF budget allocated to ERI Fianarantsoa for years I-IV are now engaged (\$735,000). Major expenditures were incurred during this period with about 83% of all funds allocated through service contracts to associations, non-governmental organizations, or private enterprises. 12% of our engagements were for per diem and transport costs to partners attending workshops and trainings. 1% of the AIF fund was spent last year on consultants and 4% for the purchase of training and demonstration materials. Between this reporting period and the end of year IV, ERI Fianarantsoa will engage our remaining \$130,000 for activities described below. Since there are still many on-going contracts (32% on-going), this means that many of our target indicators are still outstanding. The percentage of women obtaining direct benefits continues to expand to approximately 28% of our expenditures – above our estimated 20% target.

**Clear application procedures indicator:** Through the rigorous use of USAID subcontracting procedures, the ERI Fianarantsoa program received 111 expressions of response to bids and other calls for goods and services. Open and transparent bidding procedures are used with all transactions clearly recorded in the TAMIS data base.

**Clear selection criteria indicator:** The ERI Fianarantsoa program allocates most of the AIF funds through sub-contracts for goods and services of less than \$10,000. This is due to the fact that most of our clients and partner are small organizations with limited capacity to handle large sums of funds. While management costs for ERI are higher because of this, the large majority of contracts are well utilized. Some larger contracts are awarded each year as indicated in the table to firms or non-governmental organizations capable of handling larger funds. ERI originally anticipated obtaining an Activity Intervention Fund of \$1.6 million through hoped for add-ons from USAID, but in reality, the available funding was only \$735,646 for this year. This does not count the funding received from Conservation International (\$200,000) and administered through the “Fruits of the Forest” NODE program.

**Technical assistance indicator:** ERI Fianarantsoa uses most of its Activity Intervention Fund to provide technical assistance to our clients. 76% of the fund is used for contracts providing training, technical inputs, and other information to rural clients. Because of MOBIS restrictions, ERI is not allowed to grant goods or services to our clients. The remaining AIF funds have been carefully allocated to the technical modules for the remaining period of the project. The AIF budget will provide technical assistance for agricultural intensification, the expansion of the Koloharena movement, the promotion of the Kaominina Mendrika approach, technical support to the *Centre d'Appui aux Communes*, support to community resource management activities... Those contracts will mainly go through Koloharena Federations and COBA networks. The interventions of NGOs and partners will be less direct and will be focused on the reinforcement of rural associations.

## Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

**Overall impact:** AIF contracts benefited, primarily, Koloharena (KH) associations and cooperatives, supporting the farmer-to-farmer approach and facilitating revenue generation. This is a positive scenario for everyone as the Koloharena members benefit from the services of the farmer technicians, the cooperatives gain money and management experience and ERI Toamasina obtains competent service providers who also contribute to the project's objectives, i.e., an expanding and vigorous Koloharena movement. Additional beneficiaries of AIF funds included rural communes in all 3 Regions of the Toamasina ecoregion and large swaths of the rural population via communication activities. Most of the KH cooperatives attained their contract objectives though there were a few who necessitated capacity building regarding organizational management. Most service providers also completed their contract objectives; this can be attributed to stringent

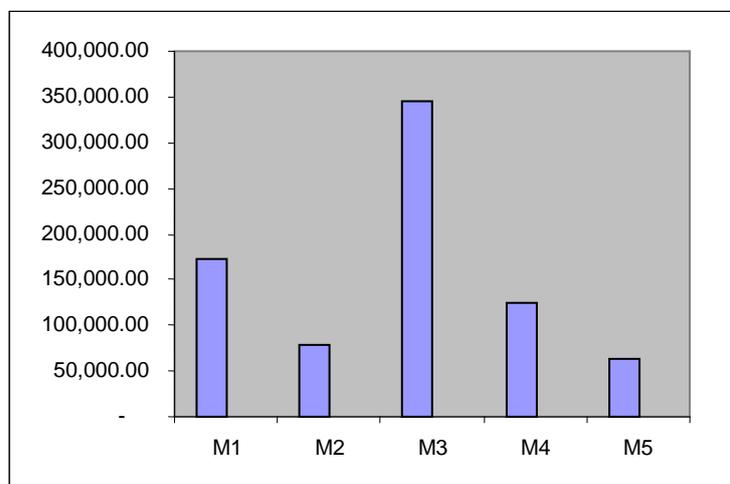
selection criteria including mastery of the participatory approach. The number of female beneficiaries is approximately one third of the total; this indicates, to a certain extent, male predominance among the ethnic groups in the Toamasina ecoregion. We note, however, that some predominantly female KH associations are emerging – in Andasibe and Sahambala communes for example. Environmental and socio-economic impacts are noted at the level of contracts with KH cooperatives, among others. Additionally, communication activities by KH members resulted in positive socio-economic impacts.

**Clear application procedures indicator:** Via announcements and advertisements in local newspapers, ERI Toamasina received hundreds of offers for a wide range of activities including agricultural extension and strategic communication. The announcement for the revision of communal development plans generated over 50 offers from NGOs, individual consultants and consulting firms. We have also recently received interest letters from associations and communes in our new intervention zones, asking for support for the implementation of local activities and for rendering local organizations operational.

**Clear selection criteria indicator:** Contracts less than \$10,000 (the majority) mainly concerned KH cooperative partners and support to rural associations. The contracts with the service providers for the revision of communal development plans were also inferior to \$10,000. Contracts between \$10,000 and \$25,000 included work by Corridor Coffee and Spices (promotion of gourmet coffee), the NGO Voaharisoa (compost training and demonstrations), the NGO Lalana (intensive poultry production for female KH members), the LADIA center in Beforona (agricultural intensification), and the Ravalison consultant group for forest management transfer contracts. The only contract greater than \$25,000 was with the PlaCAZ for establishing and rendering functional the CAC at Ampasimadinika (capacity building for rural communes).

**Technical assistance indicator:** In order to implement capacity building efforts, many of our AIF contracts targeted the local level and KH cooperatives via management of farmer technicians, farmer field schools and field agents. This has undoubtedly helped transfer skills to rural areas and has also aided in empowering these local organizations. The distribution of AIF funds among the five ERI modules (see graph and table below) also demonstrates our technical assistance strategy: funds have been primarily allocated to agricultural activities which are, arguably, the heart of the Program.

M1	M2	M3	M4	M5
172,611.00	78,460.00	345,222.00	125,535.00	62,768.00
22%	10%	44%	16%	8%



## 7 Customer Satisfaction Table

Monitoring Customer Satisfaction—Indicators								
	Overall Impact		Information Exchange		Information Sharing (World Wide Web)		Public Opinion about Eco-Regional Planning and CBNRM	
	Communities (villages) in target eco-regions that rate natural resource management and agricultural services provided by ERI and its partners (e.g., government, NGOs) as good or better		Percentage of partners that rate ERI information exchange and liaison as good to excellent		Number of “hits” and “visits” on ERI Web site each month		Percentage of ERI partners that can name agricultural intensification and CBNRM best practices and approaches based on responses to five tailored survey questions addressing the substance of CBNRM perceptions	
Ecoregion	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA	TOA	FIA
Life of Project Target	500	500	90%	90%	2,000 hits; 1,000 visits	2,000 hits; 1,000 visits	90%	90%
Baseline Data	<100	<100	0%	0%	0 hits; 0 visits	0 hits; 0 visits	TBD	TBD
2005 Target	50	50	50%	50%	400 hits; 200 visits	400 hits; 200 visits	30%	30%
2005 Actual								
2005 cumulative								
2006 Target	100	100	60%	60%	800 hits; 400 visits	800 hits; 400 visits	50%	50%
2006 Actual								
2006 cumulative								
2007 Target	200	200	70%	70%	1,600 hits; 800 visits	1,600 hits; 800 visits	70%	70%
2007 Actual	734	2518		60.50%	No web site set up per USAID instructions	No web site set up per USAID instructions		47.50%
2007 cumulative								
2008 Target	400	400	80%	80%	1,800 hits; 900 visits	1,800 hits; 900 visits	80%	80%
2008 Actual								
2008 cumulative								
FY2009 Target	500	500	90%	90%	2,000 hits; 1,000 visits	2,000 hits; 1,000 visits	90%	90%
FY2009 Actual								
cumul								

## Fianarantsoa Regional Program Commentaries

**Context:** The ERI Fianarantsoa program hired the *Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement* to administer the Customer Satisfaction questionnaire. No ERI staffs were involved in the administration of the survey in order to avoid bias. ERI asked the ISTE students to meet with the sample of Koloharena farmers involved in the *Cahiers de Ménage* group. This accounts for 5% of the entire baseline of Koloharena members. One representative of each of the nine communes of ERI's zones of intervention was also interviewed.

**Overall impact:** From this sample, we extrapolated to the current numbers of Koloharena. We understand that 2518 respondents rate ERI and its partners (government services and NGO's as providing "good" or "better" satisfaction. Thus, about 67% of the Koloharena are satisfied with the services provided by ERI and its partners. The detailed qualitative responses indicate that the rural populations complain especially about the insufficiency of support from the government technical agencies like the DRDR or the CIREEF agriculture and forestry services, respectively. Complaints were especially sharp against the agents of the forestry service. However the qualitative responses indicated many times that farmers are satisfied with the interventions by rural development NGOs engaged by ERI. In general, respondents mentioned that agricultural technicians provide good services but that they would like the entire commune to be covered by these agents rather than just along the Ranomafana – Andringitra forest corridor.

**Information exchange:** The ERI clients recognize the value of the many forms of communication that have been set up by the program. Questions on the survey try to judge how satisfied Koloharena are with the quality and responsiveness of ERI to the Koloharena and commune demands. Satisfaction remains somewhat above average at 60%. In spite of the presence of the BLU radio system, the Koloharena and the commune representative believe that communication must be improved. They recognize that sometimes communications are poor because the BLU radio does not work well due to climatic conditions. It must be remembered that the vast majority of areas serviced by ERI have no telephone services. The survey indicates that our partners complain that we are not responsive enough to their requests for information and advice. Even if our staff receive official letters or requests, we do not send out answers effectively enough. Responses for technical or other assistance sometimes arrives too late. Our BLU radio system is not efficient enough and probably our small staff are overwhelmed with the growing demands from over 7000 Koloharena members.

**Public Awareness of Best Practices:** The survey indicated that the ERI clients still do not have a strong understanding of many environmental issues pertaining to the new protected area legislation, fire fighting policies, and the community forestry management practices of GCF and GELOSE. The survey focused primarily on perceptions about forest management. The results show that the forestry service is not communicating sufficiently well information on these key dossiers. ERI provides sub-contracts and per diems to non-governmental organizations and the forestry service to carry out environmental education activities, but obviously the messages are not getting out with only a 47% rate of understanding of these many forestry related policies and practices. Perhaps the low rate of understanding of these complex laws and policies is due to the fact that rural retention of information is only high when it involves gaining an opportunity for funding or when a major sanction is at hand! ERI must continue to work hard on improving public awareness through our Module V communication program. More radio programs, more public awareness sessions, and more emphasis on getting public service agencies out into the field is clearly needed.

## Toamasina Regional Program Commentaries

**Context:** Surveys were dispensed to 35 respondents among the partners and clients of the ERI Toamasina Program. They were represented as follows: 8% were personnel from the 3 partner Regions (Atsinanana, Alaotra Mangoro and Analanjirofo), 23% were personnel (Mayors, Vice Mayors, Counselors) from our partner rural communes, 23% were members of the executive boards of KH cooperatives, and 46% were KH members.

**Overall impact:** Within our intervention zones, ERI Toamasina is very much appreciated. In contrast, community satisfaction with governmental services (Forestry and Agriculture) is low: around 27% for the Forest Service and only 20% for Agriculture. Reasons for this frustration include requests that went unfulfilled and the lack of agents at the local level. Villagers want either an increased field presence or realization of their funding requests.

**Information exchange:** Partners and clients who answered survey questions demonstrated good knowledge of the ERI program: 99% were familiar with the program, 71% knew the program objectives and 54% were satisfied with their collaboration with the program at the field level. Respondents were also generally appreciative of US government support for sustainable, environmentally-friendly development.

**Public awareness of best practices:** Most of those who participated in the survey were able to cite alternatives to slash and burn agriculture, details on the natural resources management transfer process, and the engagements of the Koloharena movement with regard to natural resources and especially forests. Answers were not as clear or were not provided regarding national parks, the role of VNA/KASTI and the existence and role of the PlaCAZ in the ecoregion of Toamasina.