

INTEGRATED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY IN THE SOUTHEAST WATERSHED OF MAKIRA NATURAL PARK, MADAGASCAR



SUPPORTED BY THE GEF-SATOYAMA PROJECT



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Makira Natural Park harbors the largest remaining contiguous tract of low and mid-altitude rainforest in eastern Madagascar and harbors 17 species of lemurs. One area of particular ecological and social fragility within the site is its southeast watershed that encompasses two forest corridors – the Vohitaly and Lokaitra corridors, which link two important forest parcels to the main forest block and the surrounding community.

Human demands from the 90,000 people living in the Makira landscape threaten the integrity of the forests, which in turn affect the livelihoods of people that depend on them. The site faces a number of challenges including growing demands for agricultural land, bushmeat hunting, illegal logging and mining, and collection of non-timber forest products. However, the biggest threat to Makira forest is slash-and-burn agriculture (*tavy*) that is used to cultivate rain-fed rice rather than irrigated rice.

This project focuses on activities in the southeast watershed of Makira and aims to protect the conservation importance of the landscape in partnership with local communities. It aims to increase the communities' abilities to improve natural resource based on livelihoods through increased diversification and resilience building. The project will also set the groundwork for future sustainability by building capacity of stakeholders on good governance of natural resources, and by involving youth and women in environmental actions and decision-making.

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of the project is to improve the ecological integrity of the Makira forest and the well-being of communities dependent on local natural resource in and around the southeast watershed of Makira Natural Park.

Duration:

July 2016 to December 2018

Location and Project Area:

District of Maroantsetra,
Analanjirifo Region, Madagascar
190,622 hectares of the southeast
watershed of Makira Natural Park,
MaMaBay landscape

Project Partners:

- The Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forests
- 21 community associations
- Lafaza Trading Company

Supporters and main donor:

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), implemented by Conservation International's CI-GEF Project Agency, and executed by Conservation International Japan

Contributing donors:

- Helmsley Charitable Trust
- Friends of Masoala
- Tany Meva Foundation
- Madagascar Biodiversity Fund (FAPBM)
- Individual donors

Project Objectives & Activities

1 Reinforce the ecological integrity of the southeast watershed of Makira Natural Park by:

- Supporting the restoration of two fragile forest corridors within Makira Natural Park (Vohitaly and Lokaitra)
- Implementing control and surveillance activities with local communities in the watershed

2 Enhance livelihoods and food security of local communities by:

- Promoting development of organic and FairTrade clove production through technical capacity building, certification and establishment of growers' cooperatives
- Promoting an improved rice growing intensification system

3 Improve local governance through community capacity building by:

- Building capacity of stakeholders on good governance of natural resources and decision making.



EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- 256 hectares of restored forest ecosystems are maintained and viable with an average seedling survival rate of >85%.
- Deforestation rate within the project area is reduced by 25%.
- Encounter rate of five threatened diurnal lemur species is maintained or increased.
- 20% of the households within the project area are engaged in the sustainable production of FairTrade certified cloves.
- Each cooperative that is established under this project makes at least one sale of FairTrade certified cloves in collaboration with private sector partners.
- An increase by 30% of farmers practicing improved rice intensification techniques in the watershed is recorded.
- 210 young people are actively engaged in education activities and in diffusing conservation messages through social media and other forms of communication.
- 200 natural resources ambassadors are trained within women's associations and provided with materials to carry out awareness-raising with women in community associations in the project area.

Impact

Project Beneficiaries:

- 25,000 direct beneficiaries in 21 local communities
- 127,423 indirect beneficiaries in local communities of the Makira watershed

Targeted Species:

- Indri (*Indri indri*)
Critically Endangered
- Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur (*Varecia variegata subcincta*)
Critically Endangered
- White-fronted Brown Lemur (*Eulemur albifrons*)
Endangered
- Red-bellied Lemur (*Eulemur rubriventer*)
Vulnerable
- Western Lesser Bamboo Lemur (*Haplemur occidentalis*)
Vulnerable



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