



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:	WCS
Country:	Madagascar
Reporting Quarter:	FY17 Q3
Person submitting Report:	Alison Clausen

<Highlight 1>: Sylvicultural maintenance in Lokaitra and Vohitaly Corridor

In the Lokaitra and Vohitaly restorations corridors monthly maintenance activities were carried out along a total of 160km of trails and 532 dead seedlings have been replaced.

In order to assess the restoration progress since 2014, monitoring activities were carried out at the Lokaitra corridor and revealed that replanted trees currently range between 40 cm (e.g. *Combretum sp*) and 2m (e.g. *Camposperma micranteia*) in height.

As a response to an immediate threat to the restoration site a mixed patrol team, composed of WCS staff, community members, police officers, and forest department authorities, was sent to arrest two environmental criminals who had burned down parts of the restored forest and converted the land into vanilla plantations. The criminals were transferred to the court in Maroantsetra and are currently awaiting trial.

<Highlight 2>: the promotion of Rice Intensification techniques and initiation of cloves production

Replicating the successful model adopted during pilot activities, a network of community extension workers was trained in rice intensification (SRI) techniques. These community extension workers encouraged and supported local farmers to adopt SRI practices. During this quarter, 72 households with demonstrated interest to adopt SRI were equipped with a plow and seeds allowing them to initiate SRI activities on their arable lands.

To initiate clove production following the norms of organic and fair-trade production, interested local farmers were identified and grouped into 10 associations. During this quarter, 24 940 plastic pots were distributed to local farmers in order to help them to start or expand their clove plantations.

<Highlight 3>: Community session on grievance mechanism around Vohitaly Corridor

In February 2017, a community meeting with 36 participants was organised in Antakotako village, including participants living close to the Vohitaly corridor. The objective of the meeting was to remind the community how the system of grievance mechanism works and to encourage them to use the system if needed.

<Highlight 4>: Youth blog development contest

During this quarter, youth club members were taught on how to use social media as a tool to distribute conservation messages and in the following they were encouraged and supported to develop blogs that help sharing information and personal views on environmental topics.

Three blogs were developed:

- (i) the **open classroom blog** <http://openclassroom-makira.blogspot.com>. Written in English this blog provides a regular update on activities taking place at environmental campus in Maroantsetra and is targeting partners and stakeholders
- (ii) the **coffee blog** <http://cafedemaroantsetra.blogspot.com>. Written in French this Blog is a platform for local youth clubs to exchange views on coffee trees and beans, coffee plantations and coffee consumption.
- (iii) the **ravinala blog** <http://ravinalamada.blogspot.com>. Written in Malagasy this Blog aims to discuss the

importance of this endemic palm, also called traveller's palm, for Malagasy people.

Photos



Measurement of heights of replanted trees at Lokaitra corridor and photo evidence of illegal vanilla plantations on a freshly burned patch within the Vohitaly restoration site, Makira Natural Park. ©WCS



Community meeting on the system of grievance mechanism in Antakotako Village, Makira Natural Park. ©WCS



Youth club developing blogs for communicating and discussing conservation topics, Makira Natural Park. ©WCS