



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:	WCS
Country:	Madagascar
Reporting Quarter:	FY19 Q2 (October to December 2018)
Person submitting Report:	Andrew Kirkby

<Highlight 1>:

Over forty thousand trees planed in Makira natural park.

The Makira Natural Park in northeastern Madagascar represents one of the largest expanses of humid forest left in the country. Makira is estimated to contain around 50% of Madagascar's floral biodiversity and harbors the highest lemur diversity in the country. However, the park is threatened by fragmentation which risks isolating large sections of forests and further threatens the integrity of the park. Over the course of two years the Wildlife Conservation Society with the support of GEF-Satoyama has been working to reforest key corridors in Makira. This objective is no easy task as thousands of tree seeds needed to be collected from the forest, grown in nurseries, transported to forest sites that are then prepared for transplanting and maintained. Thankfully the support GEF-Satoyama, WCS was able to plant 40,350 native tree species, helping to help regenerate 114 hectares of important corridor forest while working in close collaboration with neighbouring communities.



Communities preparing tree nursery bags at the Lokaitra restoration site, one of the forest corridors of Makira.
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Through encouragement of WCS, although still limited due to cultural norms, women's participation has started to increase with their involvement in forest restoration around Makira.

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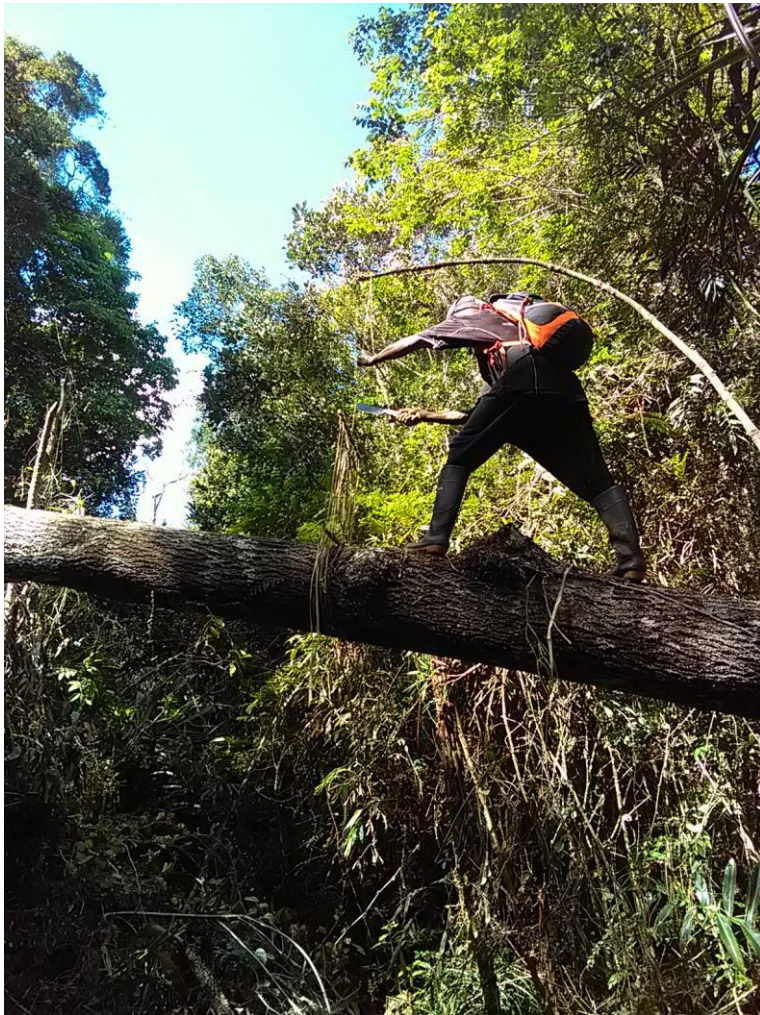
Preparing seedlings to transport to the restoration sites. Transporting seedling is not easy due to rough terrain, however provides employment to eager youth in the landscape.

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<Highlight 2>:

Makira Patrol teams save a Greater Dwarf Lemur

Paulson, a WCS Makira park agent was on patrol with two community team members from the Antsirabe village on the edge of Makira Natural Park. During their mission into the park they started noticing evidence of active traps being set. Traditional lemur hunting methods include clearing forest and leaving one large tree or branch between the forest patches. A suspended snare made of rope and vine is then left in the middle often with fruit attached to it as bait. Upon reaching the disturbed forest the team found a series of snares and started removing them one by one. While in the process, Paulson and his team heard the scream of a lemur close by. Looking around, they found a Greater Dwarf Lemur (*Cheirogaleus major*) hanging in a trap. When they approached the animal was suspended by a rope around his body but was still alive, suspended by a rope around the animal's body. The patrol team immediately cut the rope and the animal quickly escaped back into the forest. GEF-Satoyama has supported over 200 multi-day patrols such as these in Makira over two years, with patrollers covering a total distance of 2080 km. Removal of snares and dissuading illegal activities with the support of communities is one of the effective means of protecting wildlife in the park.



A WCS patroller removing and destroying a lemur trap while on patrol (left). One of the traps removed had an alive dwarf lemur which was set free (right).

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