



Village near the Anjozorobe forest.

SMALL GRANT TRIGGERS LARGE INVESTMENT

A small grant to a young NGO in Madagascar to help create, strengthen and empower a local community structure for forest management, triggered a much larger project supported by UNDP-GEF and the Malagasy government. As a result, the formal process for the declaration of a 52,200 hectare protected area was started in 2005.

Madagascar's president made history at the last World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003) by declaring that, in view of the immense value of the country's biodiversity, the government was going to embark upon a tripling of the surface of its protected areas in the next five years. The news energized the conservation sector and a group called Vision Durban -which incorporates the relevant national institutions, technical support providers, NGOs, donors and the like- was formed to lead the process. What has been agreed within the Vision Durban group is the fact that Community Conserved Areas and co-managed protected areas have been identified as essential modes of governance. In this context, five new protected areas were created in 2005.

ACTIVITIES In the late nineties, Fanamby, a young NGO founded by local conservation and development experts, carried out a successful research, planning and awareness-raising project funded by IUCN NL, in the Anjozorobe forest corridor. This area has one of the few remaining highland forests on the island, which badly needs legal protection in view of rapidly expanding slash-and-burn practices. The NGO also helped to set up a regional forest management plan with three communities and provided technical assistance in agricultural improvement, health, education and income-generating activities. The regional plan foresees the establishment of various zones in which activities compatible with conservation objectives may take place.



IMPACT The project generated confidence in Fanamby among large donors such as GEF. This led to an agreement between UNDP-GEF, the Malagasy government and Fanamby on a 1.5 million dollar project to establish an officially protected area in the Anjozorobe forest corridor.

Five years after the IUCN NL funded project, in December 2005, a ministerial decree was issued giving temporary legal protection to a large part of the Anjozorobe forest. The decree included a preliminary management plan based on civil co-management and land use zoning, the outlines of which had been developed by Fanamby with the local communities. This Anjozorobe-Angavo protected area is one of the five created as part of the President's pledge made in 2003, two of which are now co-managed by Fanamby. The NGO was also involved in drawing up the texts of the legislative proposals for the establishment of all five protected areas. The definite declaration of the 52,200 hectare protected area in the Anjozorobe forest is expected in 2007, after all conditions with regard to a management plan and participatory management structure have been met.



Villagers preparing terraces for reception facilities. All photos: A. Raselimanana.

Grantee: Fanamby

Project: 'Biodiversity conservation in the Anjozorobe forest' (1998-2000)

Grant size: € 51,000

Category: Conservation

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