

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Madagascar
Program Title:	Biologically Diverse Forest Ecosystems
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	687-006
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$6,847,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$8,725,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2003
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2007

Summary: Madagascar has consistently been identified by the international community as one of the highest biodiversity conservation priorities in the world. USAID's program to conserve biologically diverse forest ecosystems includes training, technical assistance, and grants to local organizations. It is concentrated at the national level and in three priority eco-regions around the country. Core activities are designed to improve forest and "protected area" management systems; maintain the biological integrity of critical biodiversity habitats; promote alternatives to the practice of slash-and-burn agriculture; support development of eco-enterprises; and improve environmental governance.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$5,700,000 DA). USAID is working toward improved protected area management by continuing to fund activities to implement President Ravalomanana's pledge to triple the country's protected area network. This includes the creation of new conservation sites and developing new management systems. USAID is providing training to promote collaboration between managers of protected areas and private ecotourism operators. It is working with the Government of Madagascar (GOM) to build on efforts to strengthen potential income sources for habitat conservation by developing the management capacity of Malagasy environmental trust funds/foundations, finalizing creation of a specific biodiversity trust fund, and identifying new funding sources.

USAID is improving forest management systems by finalizing a regional handbook covering the zoning process that will serve as the basis for the zoning of conservation and production forests. USAID is working to establish a sustainable strategy to control forest exploitation. This includes the implementation of a new transparent forest-permitting system--one that encompasses a formal bidding system and is appropriate to the Malagasy context. USAID is also funding work on landscape restoration to reconnect degraded forest corridors in priority areas.

Outside of the main protected areas, USAID is promoting alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture by training farmer-to-farmer extension agents in natural resource management and agricultural development, with an emphasis on the adoption of small-scale, integrated farming systems. It is also continuing to reinforce the pioneering "Green Commune" approach (criteria for certification as a green commune include a record of "zero fires," combined with communal reforestation efforts). Principal contractors and grantees: Conservation International, International Resources Group, Development Alternatives Inc. (prime), World Wide Fund for Nature, Wildlife Conservation Society, GOM/ANGAP (sub),

Increase Private Sector Growth (\$600,000 DA). USAID is increasing private sector investment in natural resource management by supporting ecologically and economically sustainable forest and natural product enterprises. It is providing technical or financial assistance to 20 eco-enterprises and small businesses; assisting in the implementation of an ecotourism strategy at the eco-regional level; and supporting the National Office of the Environment to ensure the integration of environmental considerations, including training on the effective use of environmental impact assessments into economic investment decisions. Principal contractors and grantees: Chemonics, International Resources Group, Wildlife Conservation Society (prime).

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$547,000 DA). USAID's joint environmental and governance activities help selected government units to increase access to information about natural resource management. USAID is working to ensure that rural radio networks in the new eco-regional zones are independent and sustainable. USAID is establishing a Multi-Sector Information Service to link information sources to generate crosscutting data for advocacy and decision making among governmental partners and environmental civil society organizations (CSOs). USAID is also continuing to help key environmental CSOs advocate effectively. Thirty environmental groups are being selected in FY 2005 for grants and training in advocacy, gender, and organizational strengthening. Principal contractors and grantees: Pact (prime), Catholic Relief Service (prime), local civil society organizations (subs), International Resources Group (prime), National Office of the Environment (sub).

FY 2006 Program: Improve Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation (\$6,725,000 DA). Efforts will be pursued to triple protected areas with the formal establishment of an additional one million hectares. New models for protecting critical biodiversity outside of the national park system and that involve local communities and private sector operators will be put into place, and additional funding mechanisms will be explored for protected area management. Support will be reinforced for a revitalized forest authority and management systems. USAID will continue to support communities that reduce destructive farming methods, and will increase the number of communities assisted. Same implementers as above.

Increase Private Sector Growth (\$1,200,000 DA). To better conserve biodiversity, USAID will further expand the promotion of business relations between producer associations and eco-enterprises to access domestic and international markets for agricultural/natural products. The partnership agreement between managers of protected areas and private sector operators will be expanded to enhance ecotourism products and services. Forest industry activities will also be increased to promote reforestation and ecological restoration zones. Same implementers as above.

Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$800,000 DA). USAID plans to continue its crosscutting environmental governance program. USAID plans to keep helping the government, CSOs, and the private sector gain access to information to promote better environmental decision making, and bring communication access to towns bordering the country's remaining primary forest. USAID also plans to continue providing assistance to CSOs to improve their ability to serve as environmental advocates. Same implementers as above.

Performance and Results: USAID's environmental activities contributed to a number of important results in FY 2004: 1) The program's focus on integrating multiple land use into conservation planning contributed to the decrease in forest loss in two priority forest corridors. 2) Significant progress was made in fulfilling President Ravalomanana's commitment to triple the protected area network - 6 million hectares were identified and prioritized as critical biodiversity habitats for new conservation sites. 3) With the support of the U.S. Forest Service, a strategic forest zoning framework was developed that delineates conservation and production zones. 4) 68% of targeted farmers (approximately 20,000 farmers) were using at least two of the elements of an integrated "farming systems" approach, with an average increase in income of 31%, to help provide alternatives to slash-and-burn agricultural practices. 5) To promote investment in natural resource management, USAID supported linkages between 20 eco-enterprises and producer associations to improve market access for natural products. 6) The National Office of the Environment, with USAID assistance and advice, reviewed 30 environmental impact assessments submitted by investors from different sectors, including agriculture, mining, and roads.

By the end of the program in 2008, slash and burn agriculture in targeted areas will be reduced, total forest area under conservation in Madagascar will have been increased, and national forest management practices and environmental governance will be improved.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Madagascar

687-006 Biologically Diverse Forest Ecosystems	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	5,996	250
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	5,996	250
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	8,233	0
Expenditures	3,299	9
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	14,229	250
Expenditures	3,299	9
Unliquidated	10,930	241
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	6,847	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	6,847	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	8,725	0
Future Obligations	24,867	0
Est. Total Cost	54,668	250