



USAID | MADAGASCAR

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

COUNTRY PROFILE



A. Brownell, USAID/Madagascar

USAID is working with people across Madagascar, such as this woman in a tree nursery in Fort Dauphine, to protect their invaluable natural resources.

OVERVIEW

The Government of Madagascar (GOM) is ambitiously addressing the country's immense development challenges. The GOM now requires public disclosure of assets by state officials. The GOM is working to fulfill their pledge to dramatically increase protected areas and national parks from 1.7 million to 6 million hectares by the end of 2008. It is also committed to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and strengthening health care at the community level. These steps have resulted in Madagascar being the first country awarded funding under President Bush's Millennium Challenge Account. However, coupled with increasing poverty, reduced public subsidies, and increasing competition for farmland and other natural resources, the 2006 presidential election could be a flashpoint for the eruption of latent social tensions across Madagascar. USAID's programs focus on health, environmental protection, governance, and rural development.



PROGRAMS

INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

Just under half of all children under five years of age are malnourished and life expectancy is only 55 years. USAID health, population, and nutrition programs work to increase the quality of health services, promote maternal and childhood health and nutrition, and reduce diseases (including malaria and HIV/AIDS). Over 90 percent of children are now completely vaccinated in areas where USAID is working, compared to the national rate of 53 percent. Approximately 3.5 million children aged between 6-59 months received Vitamin A, for a coverage rate of 97 percent. Family planning numbers are also improving, with 33 percent of mothers with infants practicing natural family planning, up from 9 percent in 1999, and 22 percent of women in USAID areas are using modern contraceptives, as compared to the national rate of 18 percent.

IMPROVING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Madagascar is one of the highest biodiversity conservation priority countries in the world. The country has a large number of unique habitats and species that are found nowhere else on Earth and these biological treasures face significant threats due to rural poverty and unsustainable exploitation. USAID's program to conserve biologically diverse forest

MADAGASCAR SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1960
Population: 17.3 million (2004)
Income per person: \$300 (yr)

Source: World Bank Development Indicators

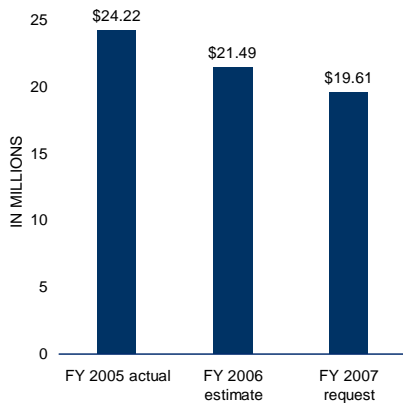
USAID IN MADAGASCAR

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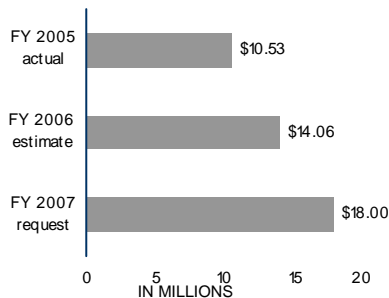


COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO MADAGASCAR



USAID FOOD AID TO MADAGASCAR



For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

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ecosystems is designed to improve 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.

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Installed in 2002, the current elected government maintains considerable public support for its ambitious programs. However, there is the risk that a weak and poorly equipped bureaucracy will be unable to accomplish many of the planned reforms and results. USAID is committed to helping ensure this does not happen. USAID's democracy and governance program is working across sectors to deepen and strengthen civil society, increase the flow of information to citizens and local leaders, and strengthen the government's ability to respond to citizens' demands. In addition, USAID is implementing initiatives in the areas of anti-corruption, women's legal rights, trafficking in persons, education, and information and communications technologies development in Madagascar. USAID support was instrumental in enabling the GOM to develop both its first and second national anti-corruption strategies. USAID was pivotal in the establishment of the first national coalition of civil society organizations.

INCREASING AGRICULTURE AND TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

Madagascar has an average per capita income of only \$255. USAID seeks to accelerate economic growth through business and market development. Specifically, USAID encourages investment through strengthening links between producers, enterprises, and external markets; increases access to finance and more productive technology; and improves trade and investment policies. Agriculture and trade program interventions reinforce Mission conservation and rural development efforts through increased market development and trade in forest based and other natural products. Thanks to a USAID program, over 30,000 households are now producing litchis for commercial export, and over 15,000 households have adopted new farming techniques, which have resulted in a 55 percent increase in their income. USAID support for the development and marketing of environmentally-friendly natural products resulted in new contracts for purchase and export of jatropha (a promising bio-diesel fuel), potato, litchi, ginger, red rice, paddy rice, and maize, totaling over \$1.5 million.