

# ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION



## INTRODUCTION

Mamabay – comprising Makira Natural Park, Masoala National Park, and Antongil Bay – contains the largest intact forest block of low and mid-altitude rainforest, representing half of Madagascar’s remaining coastal forest and a quarter of its lowland forest. The Makira and Masoala forests and the important forest corridors that connect them harbor exceptional biodiversity –including the Indri (*Indri indri*), Silky Sifaka (*Propithecus candidus*), Red-ruffed Lemur (*Varecia rubra*), Red Owl (*Tyto soumagnei*), the Fosa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*), and rare flora species such as Madagascar Pitcher Plants (*Nepenthes masoalensis*). The forest corridors are also essential for the transfer and movement of species and contribute to their ability to feed and reproduce, as well as the maintenance of the genetic diversity of populations. However, they are vulnerable to a range of threats including slash-and-burn agriculture (*tavy*) from local communities, hunting, illegal logging and mining, which result in forest corridor degradation and fragmentation. As part of our Mamabay conservation program, WCS Madagascar carries out ecological restoration in six crucial and fragile forest corridors and one detached forest parcel that together cover a total of 20,285 hectares. These sites represent the most fragile and important areas of degraded forest in the landscape and contain 1,800 hectares of degraded land.

## GOAL

The overall conservation goal of WCS’s ecological restoration activities in Mamabay is to safeguard the connectivity of fragile forest corridors and one detached forest parcel and thus contribute to the conservation of a range of threatened fauna and flora species and the overall ecosystem functioning.

### Targets

- Six forest corridors: Vohitaly, Lokaitra, Maintimbato, Ampoahantsatroka, Manandriana, Besariaka (total surface area: 20,285 hectares)
- Detached forest parcel of Andranonala (total surface area: 1,300 hectares)
- Between 2018 and 2023: 1,800 hectares of degraded areas to restore

### Field Actors

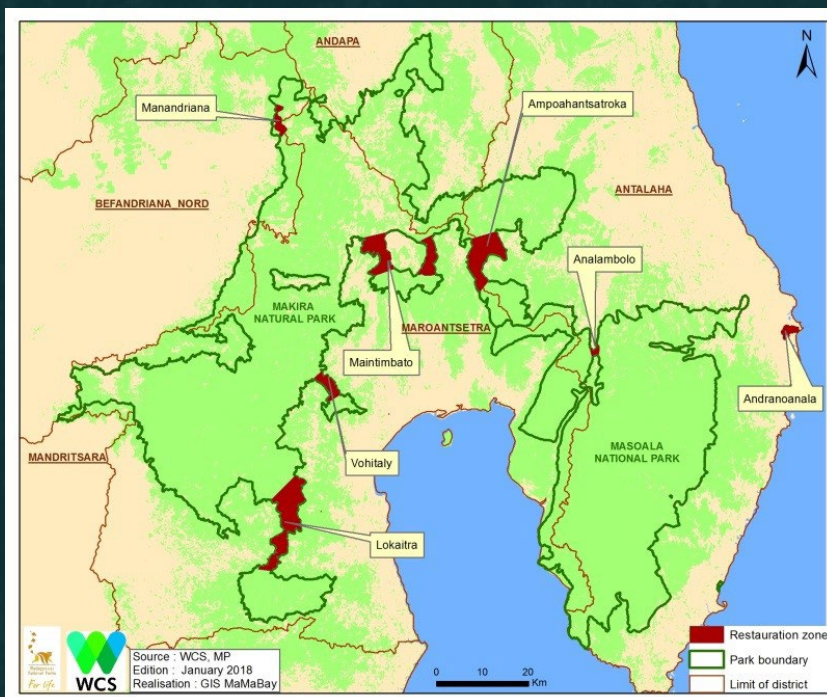
- Local community members
- Nursery workers and restoration technicians

### Supporters and donors

Madagascar National Parks (MNP), Zoo Zurich (ZZ) - Eben!Holz e.V. - The Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation - The Hansdieter and Thildy Kretschmer Foundation (HTK) - Symphysis Foundation - The Abantu Foundation - Global Environment Facility- Satoyama (GEF-Satoyama) - International Union for the Conservation of Nature - Save Our Species (IUCN-SOS) - Tany Meva Foundation - Madagascar Biodiversity Fund (FAPBM)

## OUR APPROACH

- Restore forest areas by using native tree species and ensuring optimal survival rates through the application of best practice restoration and maintenance techniques
- Involve local communities in forest corridor restoration and maintenance activities thereby providing financial incentives for engagement in conservation
- Promote sustainable land use techniques to generate income and improve household wellbeing for local communities including promotion of permaculture and intensive rice cultivation system (SRI/SRA) in villages around forest corridors
- Carry out control and surveillance activities in restored areas to protect regenerating ecosystems including marking of forest corridors limits, installation of information boards on rules and regulations, and implementation of fire control and management system around vulnerable sites
- Carry out education activities including promotion of forest restoration through radio broadcasting, film projection, communication and education materials festivals and events to celebrate nature and to raise the population's awareness about forest protection and fire prevention; and nature and restoration site visits for school children to give them a better understanding of the importance of restoration activities
- Conduct research into ecological restoration activities including research into growth and survival rates of planted seedlings; forest inventories; ecological and economic surveys to assess the impact and success of restoration activities on wildlife as well as human well-being; and development of models for sustainable forestry production and agroforestry with precious timber species



### Contact



Wildlife Conservation Society  
 Tel.: +261 20 22 597 89  
 E-mail: [wcsmad@wcsmad.org](mailto:wcsmad@wcsmad.org)  
 Villa Ifanomezantsoa  
 Face II A 78 D Soavimbahoaka  
 101 Antananarivo, Madagascar  
<http://madagascar.wcs.org>