

THE MAKIRA CARBON PROJECT: CONSERVATION THROUGH AVOIDED DEFORESTATION IN MAKIRA NATURAL PARK



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Makira Natural Park harbors the largest remaining contiguous tract of low and mid-altitude rainforest in eastern Madagascar. The importance of Makira Natural Park, which covers 372,470 hectares, lies in its astounding biodiversity and its level of species endemism which is certainly amongst the highest in the country. The Makira forest is of global importance and ensures the ecological integrity of one of the most diverse and intact areas of Madagascar. Human demands from the 90,000 people living around the Makira Natural Park threaten the integrity of the forests, which in turn affect the livelihoods that depend on them. Makira faces a number of challenges, including growing demands from the surrounding communities for agricultural land, particularly rice cultivation, bush meat hunting, collection of non-timber forest products, and illegal logging and mining.

The growing market for carbon credits from tropical and sub-tropical forest-based activities offers Madagascar an important opportunity to address deforestation in the country while generating revenue for forest management and investment in sustainable economic development in surrounding rural areas. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), in its role as delegated manager of Makira Natural Park, is working in partnership with the Government of Madagascar to develop and promote the Makira Carbon Project. This project is in accordance with the strict and rigorous procedures of a recognized methodology.

By selling VCS and CCBA verified carbon credits generated through avoided deforestation, the Makira Carbon Project aims to align the emission reduction targets from deforestation and forest degradation with conservation efforts while supporting the development of the local population living around the project area. This approach ensures the project sustainability while guaranteeing the support of local communities to undertake actions to avoid deforestation.

Duration:

30 years from 2005 to 2034

Location and Project Area:

Northeastern Madagascar

372,470 hectares in Makira Natural Park
MaMaBay landscape

347,587 hectares of sustainable
management area

Project Partners:

- The Ministry of Environment, Ecology, and Forests
- Tany Meva Foundation
- Makira Carbon Company
- 73 community associations

Multiple Benefits:

• Climate Benefits

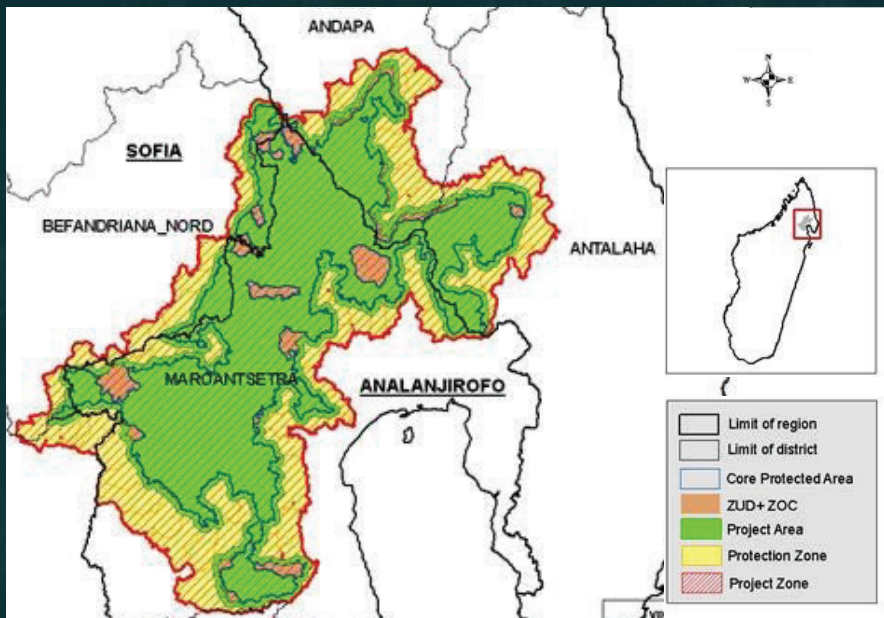
Significant sequestration of CO₂ over a 30-year period and contribution to the reduction of Madagascar's greenhouse gases emissions

• Community Benefits

Protection of the integrity of ecosystem services which are vital to local and regional economies, and empowerment of local communities in sustainable resource management and in improved agricultural practices

• Biodiversity Benefits

Maintaining the rich biodiversity of Makira and the connectivity between the protected areas of northeastern Madagascar



Project milestones

2008

Agreement between the Government of Madagascar and the Makira Carbon Company (MCC), appointing this latter as the exclusive agent for the sale of Makira carbon credits, and defining the benefit sharing arrangement and the Makira Carbon Project management mechanism

2012

- Official creation of Makira Natural Park by Decree No.2012-641
- Validation of the Makira Carbon Project
- PDD against the «Verified Carbon Standard» (VCS)
- Certification of Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) generated for the period 2005-2009

2013

- Validation of the Makira PDD against "Gold Level" of the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) Standards
- Signature of first sales of carbon credits agreement

2015

- Signature of the first series of financing agreements with communities

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The integrated approach developed by the Makira Project has already proven effective in reducing deforestation throughout the landscape. Through the Project's interventions since 2005, around 6,000 hectares of deforestation was avoided in Makira Natural Park. A large number of sales on the voluntary market have been concluded since December 2013. Revenues from these sales of carbon credits are used to support and strengthen continued community engagement in sustainable resources use and co-management of Makira Natural Park, following a structured benefit sharing mechanism:

- 50 percent of net revenues are allocated to activities in support of community management of natural resources and socio-economic development of communities
- 20 percent of net revenues are used for conservation activities in the Park's core zone
- 20 percent are assigned to the Government for the fight against deforestation
- 10 percent are used for monitoring, marketing and verification costs

The Makira Project exemplifies the commitment of the Government of Madagascar to promote conservation and sustainable resource use through effective partnerships with local communities and international NGOs. The project is working with the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) to achieve the highest standard of certification and to be a leader in maximizing and delivering multiple benefits. It is already clear that this can lead to significant reduction in deforestation rates and create opportunities to generate revenue to ensure the triple benefits of climate change mitigation, community development and biodiversity conservation.



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