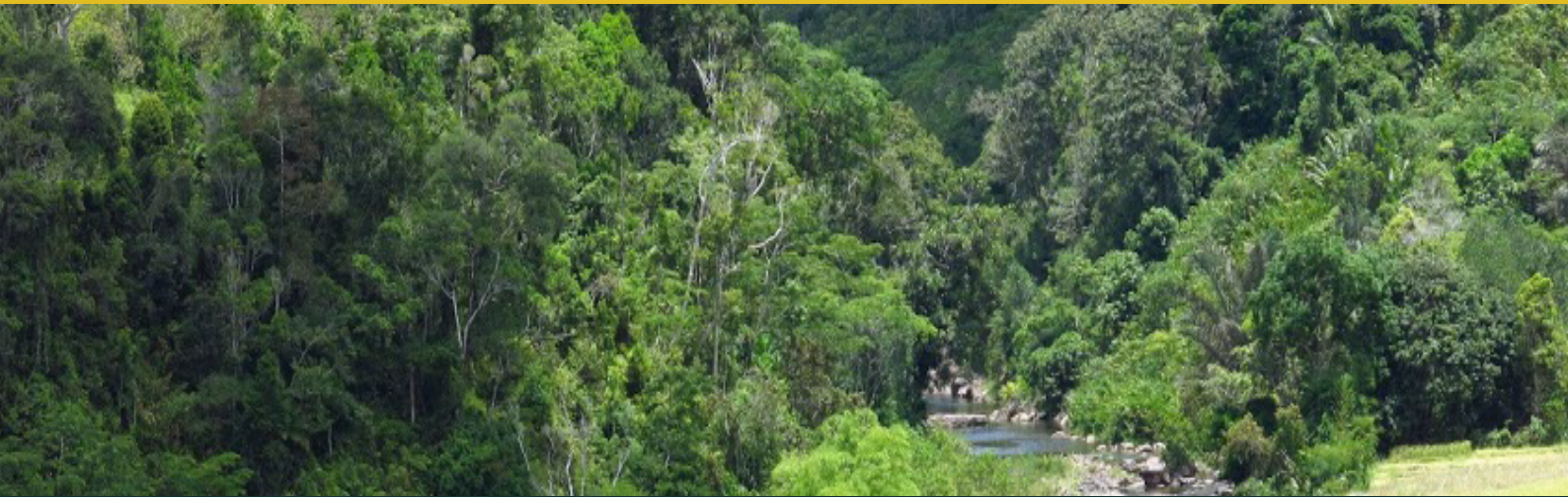


FORUM OF MADAGASCAR'S TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS MANAGERS



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Madagascar is a global terrestrial biodiversity treasure. With endemism of terrestrial species exceeding 90 percent, the island contains 5 percent of the world's biodiversity on less than 0.4 percent of the global landmass. In parallel, Madagascar's 9.2 million hectares of forests provide essential ecosystem goods and services - including water supply and regulation, timber, fish and aquatic resources, and coastal protection - for a population of more than 22 million, mostly rural, poor households.

Given the importance of Madagascar's terrestrial biodiversity, Government, NGOs, communities, and technical and financial partners have invested significant resources over the last two decades to develop about 6.5 million hectares as terrestrial protected areas (PA) network that covers around 11 percent of national territory. Catalyzed by the former President's 2003 "Durban Vision" to triple the size of the PA network, today the network comprises 123 PAs, which is a significant achievement in this impoverished country.

A key characteristic of Madagascar's PA network is that the Government does not typically manage any PAs directly and the vast majority of PAs are assigned to managers through delegation contracts. PA managers are a diverse group. Madagascar National Parks (MNP) -- a national, parastatal association -- manages 43 PAs; and the 80 other PAs are managed by community, NGO, and private sector organizations.

Protected area management is challenging in Madagascar. Many of the challenges faced are not unique to any one PA and are common across different groups of managers.

Duration:

Three years – from April 2017 to March 2020

Location and Project Area:

Madagascar

Project partner:

ONG Fanamby

Main donor:

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust

Implemented by:

WCS Madagascar

Beneficiaries:

Managers of 115 Terrestrial Protected Areas



Overview of the 123 Protected Areas in Madagascar



Expected outputs:

- Creation of a recognized network of terrestrial PA managers
- Existence of a neutral forum to discuss, debate, and reflect on issues relevant to terrestrial protected areas
- Establishment of a community of practice that aims to increase professionalization and technical capacity of terrestrial PA managers through development of sharing amongst members and opportunities to engage with and learn from other specialists in different aspects of PA management
- Better visibility of terrestrial PAs and PA managers within and outside Madagascar

Broader actions:

- Training sessions and peer-to-peer exchanges – including the participation of Government authorities - focused on governance of community-managed protected areas
- Development of a communications strategy and execution of a wide range of communications activities in addition to the conservation education activities
- Education and training activities related to sustainable financing

Limited technical capacity in PA management, poor access to sustainable sources of financing, challenges related to the role of conservation area managers in enforcement within PAs, limited capacity to optimize tourism or conservation enterprise opportunities in and around conservation areas, lack of access to best practice on the effective engagement of communities in sustainable natural resource management, and lack of information in methodologies or techniques for issues such as restoration or ecological monitoring all undermine the management effectiveness of conservation areas, and thus threaten the long-term viability of Madagascar's biodiversity.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

WCS is leading the process of establishing a multi-partner network of terrestrial PA managers that will provide opportunities for exchange and learning in response to member needs. The network aims to contribute to the improved conservation and sustainable management of Madagascar's exceptional terrestrial biodiversity by establishing a functional, sustainable, and active exchange, learning and lobbying network for terrestrial conservation area managers. The network will generate opportunities for exchanges, cross learning, and collaboration between these managers, who are currently often isolated, but who face many common technical and operational issues.



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