

**Environmental Impact Assessment
and
Environmental Management Plan**

August 25, 2019

CEPF Grant CEPF-109381

Planet Madagascar

Fire Management and Forest Monitoring in Ankarafantsika National Park.

Madagascar

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization. Planet Madagascar
2. Grant title. Fire Management and Forest Monitoring in Ankarafantsika National Park.
3. Grant number. CEPF-109381
4. Grant amount (US dollars). 200,000
5. Proposed dates of grant. Jan 1, 2020-Dec 31, 2021
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken. Madagascar
7. Summary of the project.

To provide protection of an 8000 ha landscape that includes 357 ha of forest fragments, 4000 ha of forest, and anthropogenic grassland through fire management. Our program will have three teams that conduct 4 patrols each within the management zone. They will look for evidence of human disturbance and sightings of lemurs. We will build/maintain a network of 15km of firebreaks. We will conduct an education campaign via “responsible fire” events, radio broadcasts, and meetings. We will pilot new phone-based ecological monitoring software. We will build capacity in our organization and the local communities that we work.

8. Date of preparation of this document. August 25th, 2019
9. **Status of area to be impacted:** This section should describe the applicant’s understanding of the site. The site is within a National Park that is afforded the protections national parks offer in Madagascar. However, there continues to be illegal activity within our management zone.
10. **Approach:** This section will describe proposed actions during the project. Specifically, what do you intend to do and how will you do it?

We will conduct patrols to monitor the forest and lemurs. They will look for evidence of human disturbance and sightings of lemurs. Using this information we can build maps of forest disturbance and lemur occurrence. We will build/maintain a network of 15km of firebreaks. These firebreaks will be built by using hand tools to clear vegetation spanning 10 m wide. The vegetation will be cleared remove flammable material and to expose the bare ground. The firebreaks are placed in areas to buffer forest from fire originating within grassland. The firebreaks are cleared early in the dry season. We will partner with Madagascar National Parks staff who will backburn behind the firebreaks to reduce fuel load within the management zone. There is illegal burning within the zone conducted by cattlemen to promote new growth of grasses to feed their cattle. Although limiting their access to the management zone limits the resources they can produce in the short term, it is important that they understand long-term negative implications of destroying forest. Therefore, we will conduct meetings with village chiefs and livestock keepers to establish a dialogue and better understand their perspective and issues. We will work with them to find ways for them to sustainability access grazing areas for their livestock, such as rotational grazing and fence based controlled grazing systems. We will also conduct an education campaign via “responsible fire” events, radio broadcasts, and meetings with communities adjacent to our management zone. The educational activities will help raise awareness about the impact of fire for grazing cattle on forests and deter people from setting illegal fires. During meetings and the “responsible fire” days we will present our fire education film. On the radio we will discuss the importance of considering the impact of fire on forests,

people, and lemurs. We will pilot new phone-based ecological monitoring software. The objective is to streamline the process from data collection to data analysis. We will build capacity in our organization and the local communities that we work. In our organization we will conduct site visits to other projects and provide international training experience for our Malagasy staff. We will build capacity in the local communities to conduct fire management activities.

11. **Anticipated impact:** this section will describe the impact and how this impact has been determined.

1. Creation of firebreaks in partnership with Madagascar National Parks (who will do the back burn off of the firebreak) results in an uncontrolled fire that burns forest.
2. Local residents that use fire management zone for illegal grazing are limited resulting in alternative use of the zone. They may engage in other destructive activities (as a need to acquire resources or out of spite because of dissatisfaction with the project).
3. Reduction in fuel load impacts biodiversity. By creating a firebreak and backburning within the management zone we are removing some fuel load (grasses and small shrubs). This fuel load is actually habitat for a number of species (e.g. savannah larks). Thus reducing fuel load could have impacts on biodiversity within the management zone.
4. More participation by women in income generating activities may inhibit their ability to engage in childcare or domestic duties (conforming to gender roles in the community).
5. Patrols are set up to collect data and discourage illegal activity by having a local presence within the management zone. However, patrol members may encounter persons conducting illegal activities and the patrol members may feel that their safety is threatened.

12. **Mitigation measures:** Describe measures that will be taken to mitigate negative impacts.

1. **Controlled Burn/Back Burning (conducted by Madagascar National Parks staff).** Madagascar National Parks routinely conduct controlled burns within Ankarafantsika National Park. They have the expertise needed to prevent uncontrolled fires. The fires are set in a way that they are low intensity and if they enter forest do not cause much damage. The forest is fire-adapted, and seasonal small fires (similar to those conducted by MNP) are part of the fire ecology of the landscape and help reduce fuel load that promote high intensity high impact fires. However, when they conduct the controlled burn as part of our firebreak (back burn) we will make sure that we have sufficient staff and community members available to fight the controlled fire to reduce its size or stop entirely before it hits forested areas.
2. **Limited use of grazing zones.** In Ankarafantsika, people set fires to burn grasses to graze their cattle, and ultimately simply to feed their families. In the past, this kind of burning has occurred in what is now our management area. With our ongoing program, we have raised awareness in our three core communities about the importance of preserving the forest in and around our management zone, however, there is still a risk of burning taking place from individuals who are not from our core communities. To

mitigate this risk, we will engage and educate members of our three local communities and surrounding communities in education programs and through meetings to establish a dialogue. We will conduct meetings with village chiefs and livestock keepers to establish a dialogue and better understand their perspective and issues. We will work with them to find ways for them to sustainability access grazing areas for their livestock, such as rotational grazing and fence based controlled grazing systems. We also have and will continue to engage in a radio broadcast to inform people outside of our core area about who we are and what we are there to do. This is the first step of a long-term strategy of engaging communities outside our core area.

3. **Reduction in Fuel Load Impacting Biodiversity.** Although we will use methods to reduce fuel load, the amount we remove provides maximum fire protection while minimizing habitat loss for species dependent on this habitat.
4. **Women participation.** It is important to make sure that there are no gender barriers to economic security. In order to accommodate the needs women have for childcare and domestic activities the project activities will take place within their communities allowing them to engage in income generating activities while staying close to home.
5. **Patrol member safety.** Patrols members have been trained to understand that their responsibility is not to enforce rules but rather report on what they observe. They are go out in groups so to improve safety. They are instructed to leave an area if they feel it is unsafe and to report to local authorities if they feel necessary.

13. **Actions to ensure health and safety:** Describe actions that will be taken to ensure the health and safety of workers as well as the site. Include a description of waste management and/or disposal.

We work within a national park and adhere to MNPs regulations on safety and waste management.

14. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** This section aims to outline what steps the proponent will take to monitor and evaluate the impact of the proposed intervention.

We will conduct a baseline before and after surveys to monitor the effectiveness of our project.

15. **Permission of the landowner:** Please verify permission of the landowner to undertake actions on the site, and verify that you have the required permits to undertake this work.

We have an accord of collaboration with Madagascar National Parks which does not require renewal unless we change our activities within the park.

16. **Consultation:** This section aims to outline the range of informed consultations that the grantee has had both with experts to optimize the potential for success, and with stakeholders, particularly local communities, who are potentially affected by the proposed actions. Include dates of consultations.

We consult with potential stakeholders including local residents and MNP on a periodic basis to discuss how to improve the project. For example, the local residents in our management zone suggested that we increase our patrol to improve our capacity to monitor forest, lemurs, and anthropogenic disturbance. Our last consultation with local residents and MNP for this project occurred July 2019.

17. **Disclosure:** CEPF requires that safeguard documents are disclosed to affected local communities and stakeholders prior to project implementation. Please describe efforts to disclose this impact assessment and environmental management plan and provide dates. We will disclose our impact assessment and environmental management plan during our first stakeholder meeting to be held near the beginning of the project.

18. **Grievance mechanism:** All projects that trigger a safeguard must provide local communities and other relevant stakeholders with a means to raise a grievance with the grantee, the relevant Regional Implementation Team, the CEPF Secretariat or the World Bank.

This grievance mechanism must include, at a minimum, the following elements.

- Email and telephone contact information for the grantee organization.
- Email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.
- Email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.
- The email of the CEPF Executive Director: cepfexecutive@conservation.org
- A statement describing how you will inform stakeholders of the objectives of the project and the existence of the grievance mechanism (e.g., posters, signboards, public notices, public announcements, use of local languages).
- You should include the following text, exactly, in any grievance mechanism: “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

Following the guidance above, describe the grievance mechanism that you will use.

For any grievances local residents or stakeholders have with Planet Madagascar’s CEPF funded project “Managing Fires and monitoring forests in Ankarafantsika National Park in Madagascar” can contact the following:

Mamy Razafitsalama, In-Country Director, Planet Madagascar

Phone: +261 2023425 39

Email: mamy@planetmadagascar.org

Address: II R 149 TER Ambohitrakely

Antananrivo 101

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Staff Languages: English, French, Malagasy

Or

Travis Steffens, Executive Director, Planet Madagascar

Phone: +1 647 518 5440

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Or

The Madagascar CEPF Regional Implementation Team:

Organization: Tany Meva Foundation

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RIT Manager: Rijamanitra Ranaivoson

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Or

World Bank Regional Office

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Diana Styvanley, Communications Officer

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Address: 1 Rue Andriamifidy

BP 4140

Antananarivo 101, Madagascar

Staff Languages: English, French, Malagasy

We will provide the above information to all stakeholders during the first stakeholder meeting proceeding or after the commencement of a CEPF funded project. We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at cepfexecutive@conservation.org or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.