CEPF Final Completion and Impact Report

Organization's Legal Name:	The Aspinall Foundation
Project Title:	Developing Community-based Conservation in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana Forests and Wetlands
Grant Number:	66088
Hotspot:	Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands
Strategic Direction:	1 Empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority key biodiversity areas.
Grant Amount:	$163,955.00
Project Dates:	January 01, 2017 - September 30, 2021
Date of Report:	January 31, 2022

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS

The Aspinall Foundation Madagascar Programme - Madagascar Office of International Organisation - Project lead - Project coordination and implementation
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust - International Organisation - sub-grantee for wetlands aspects of project (but sub-grant terminated after only a few months due to security issues)
DREEF Boeny - Regional governmental forestry & environment office, Boeny region; responsible for community-based natural resource management transfer contracts (TGRNs) in Ambato-Boeny District
DREEF Betsiboka - Regional governmental forestry & environment office, Betsiboka region; responsible for TGRNs in Maevatanana District
University of Mahajanga - Collaboration for lemur monitoring and botanical surveys
The Peregrine Fund Madagascar - Madagascar Office of International Organisation - Collaboration for training of local communities in monitoring of Madagascar Fish Eagles
VOI "Lovasoa" - Local community association (VOI) responsible for management of Anaboazo-Anosikary forest and Andranovorilava lake (Ambato-Boeny District)
VOI "Tafita" - VOI created during project, responsible for management of Ambatomasina forests and lakes (Ambato-Boeny District)
VOI "Fivoarana" - VOI created during project, responsible for management of Anjiafitatra forests (Ambato-Boeny District)
VOI "Ala Fazahoantsoa" - VOI created during project, responsible for management of Ankamakama forests and Besaka river (Ambato-Boeny District)
VOI "Soanavela" - VOI created during project, responsible for management of Kamotro Lake and adjacent forests (Maevatanana District)
VOI "Mitsinjo" - VOI created during project, responsible for management of lakes and forests around Marofototra (Maevatanana District)

VOI Tsimialonjafy - Local community association created during project, responsible for management of Komadio Lake and adjacent forests (Maevatanana District)

CONSERVATION IMPACTS

Planned Long-Term Impacts: 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1. Local communities have enhanced capacity and desire to sustainably manage natural resources within the Ambato-Boeny and Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny Key Biodiversity Areas of the Northwestern landscape corridor in Madagascar.	Achieved. Six local community associations were created during the project and simplified natural resource management plans developed and signed for all six, incorporating conservation of biodiversity in general and highly threatened endemic species in particular, restoration of local forests and wetlands, and improved sustainable management of natural resources. These six associations, plus one that was created prior to the CEPF funding, have been supported technically, logistically and financially to implement these sustainable resource management plans. It should be noted however that the sites are close to the limits of the two KBAs but not within them as the habitats within the current limits of the KBAs had been destroyed prior to the project starting. We recommend modifying the limits of the KBAs to reflect the reality of the remaining habitats and the distribution of endangered species, based on the results of our project.
2. Over 10,000 hectares of wetland and dry forest habitats are of improved quality within the Ambato-Boeny and Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny Key Biodiversity Areas of the Northwestern landscape corridor in Madagascar.	Achieved. Over 37,000 hectares of wetland and dry forest habitats are under improved management due to the project, within seven community-managed sites of which six were newly-created during the project. The six new community-management agreements cover over 30,000 hectares, including over 11,000 ha of dry deciduous forest and over 1,200 ha of river and gallery forest designated for community-based protection, almost 4,000 ha of freshwater lakes designated for improved community-based management, and over 1,800 ha of disturbed land designated for community-based reforestation.
3. Priority areas for formal protection have been identified	Achieved. The extensive participatory surveys of wetlands and dry forests identified several key sites for the protection of threatened habitats and species. These priority areas have been mapped using participatory techniques, and placed under formal community-based management agreements. They can in future be incorporated into "protected areas" in the strict sense of the term, if local communities and regional authorities wish to do so. The limits of a such a New Protected Area have been proposed based on the results of this project.

Impact Description	Impact Summary
4. The consultations and data collection required for the application to becoming a Protected Area are complete	Partially Achieved. The priority areas have been placed under community-based management agreements during the project. Further consultations will be required to determine if an application to group these sites into a Protected Area is desired by local communities. However if so, all or almost all data collection has been completed to facilitate an application.

Planned Short-Term Impacts: 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

Impact Description	Impact Summary
1. Northwestern landscape corridor effective area extended to include project zone (c36,000 ha) Sites level	Achieved. Community-based conservation activities have been facilitated in seven priority sites within the project zone. Six community associations created and supported to implement newly-created simplified management plans for the sustainable use of natural resources, and one other community association supported to implement an existing management plan, across an area totalling just over 37,000 ha.
2. Two "orphan" KBAs promoted, totalling 36,000 ha (Ambato-Boeny KBA: 12,754.5 ha; Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny wetlands KBA: 23,313 ha)	Achieved. The Aspinall Foundation is promoting community-based conservation at seven sites within the project area. The limits of a New Protected Area have been proposed based on the results of this project. As noted previously, the priority sites identified during this project lie outside the current limits of the two KBAs; we therefore recommend modifying the limits of the KBAs to reflect the reality of the remaining habitats and the distribution of endangered species, based on the results of our project.
3. Three or more wetlands assessed for their biodiversity and conservation potential	Achieved. Fifteen wetlands were assessed for their biodiversity and conservation potential, using participatory techniques, and priority wetlands identified.
4. Five or more forests assessed for their biodiversity and conservation potential	Achieved. Twelve forests were assessed for their biodiversity and conservation potential, using participatory techniques, and priority wetlands identified.
5. Two or more wetlands managed for improved biodiversity conservation, covering >1,000 ha	Achieved. Simplified management plans were developed and signed for lakes at four community-managed sites and for rivers at two community-managed sites. The lakes cover 3,950 ha and the river area covers 1,200 ha (including the banks of the river).
6. One community-based TGRN management plan implemented, covering 3,200 ha	Achieved. Support provided throughout the project to the Lovasoa VOI for the implementation of their community-based TGRN management plan, covering 3,200 ha (or 3,154 ha based on updated GIS work during the project).

Impact Description	Impact Summary
7. Two or more community-based TGRNs created and/or supported, covering c10,000 ha Species level:	Achieved. Six community associations were created during the project, and their community-based TGRNs were completed, validated and signed. The TGRNs cover a total of c34,000 ha, incorporating zones for forest conservation, reforestation, improved lake management, and other activities.
8. Mongoose lemurs (CR) protected in three or more forests (local extinctions avoided & populations stable or increasing)	Achieved. Mongoose lemurs are protected by signed community-based TGRN agreements in forests at 7 sites, with monitoring ongoing. Local extinctions within those sites have been avoided, and populations appear to be increasing.
9. Crowned sifakas (EN) protected in three or more forests (local extinctions avoided & populations stable or increasing)	Achieved. Crowned sifakas (which are now listed as CR) are protected by signed community-based TGRN agreements in forests at 7 sites, with monitoring ongoing. Local extinctions within those sites have been avoided, and populations appear to be increasing.
10. Rufous brown lemurs (VU) protected in three or more forests (local extinctions avoided & populations stable or increasing)	Achieved. Rufous brown lemurs are protected by signed community-based TGRN agreements in forests at 6 sites, with monitoring ongoing. Local extinctions within those sites have been avoided, and populations appear to be increasing.
11. Nocturnal lemurs identified and protected in one or more forests each (local extinctions avoided & populations stable or increasing)	Partially achieved. Nocturnal surveys have not been organised during the project due to security concerns. However at least two species of nocturnal lemurs (Microcebus sp. and Lepilemur sp.) do occur in at least some and probably all of the forests that are being protected by the project, and by default are therefore being protected.
12. Madagascar flying foxes (VU) protected at one or more roosting sites	Achieved. Four flying fox roosts are protected by signed TGRN agreements in forests at 4 sites.
13. Madagascar fish eagle (CR) protected at one or more breeding sites and/or two or more feeding sites	Achieved. Five Madagascar fish eagle nests are protected by signed TGRN agreements at three sites. Five wetland feeding sites are protected by TGRN agreements.
14. Humblot's heron (EN) protected at two or more feeding sites	Achieved. Humblot's heron feeding sites are protected by signed community-based TGRN agreements of wetlands at 4 sites.
15. Madagascar grebe (VU) protected at two or more breeding sites	Not achieved. We have no confirmed sightings of Madagascar grebe from the project sites as yet, although local people claim they are present at some of them.
16. Presence/absence of target fish species determined in three or more lakes or rivers (Paretroplus maculatus (CR), Paretroplus kieneri (VU), Paratilapia polleni (VU) and Pachypanchax arnoulti (VU; previously referred to as Pachypanchax sp nov. 'Betsiboka'))	Achieved. Presence/absence of target fish species was determined in five wetland sites. Paretroplus maculatus (CR) was confirmed from 4 lakes, Paretroplus kieneri (VU) from 1 lake and likely to be present, if rare, at 3 others. Paratilapia polleni (VU) was reported from 2 lakes, although the photos were not good enough for confirmation of the identification by international experts. Pachypanchax arnoulti (VU) is considered rare in the area by

Impact Description	Impact Summary
	Fisheries officials but was not reported during our surveys, although it would not be expected to occur in lakes (the type locality is a Pandanus swamp and it can also be encountered in small streams). Near the end of the project a photo of a fish was sent from the Besaka River of the Ankamakama site, identified provisionally as Paretroplus lamenabe (EN).
17. Three or more target floral species identified and each protected at one or more sites	Partially achieved. A preliminary report of a floral inventory has been provided by a student from the University of Mahajunga. 22 species endemic to Madagascar were listed in the report, of which three are considered of conservation concern on the IUCN Red List. These three species are each present, and therefore protected, in at least two of the newly-created conservation sites.
18. Three or more lakes assessed for potential to reintroduce Madagascar Big-headed Turtles (CR) 19. Participatory population monitoring programmes established for all species above	Achieved. We were not expecting to find Madagascar Big-headed Turtles in the project sites, but surprisingly found them at four lakes, so the assessment was that reintroduction was not necessary, but that habitat protection was. All four lakes are now managed by newly-created community-conservation agreements.
19. Participatory population monitoring programmes established for all species above.	Achieved. Participatory monitoring programmes have been established at all seven project sites.

Unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?
No

PROJECT RESULTS/DELIVERABLES

Overall results of the project:
The project was remarkably successful in achieving the strategic direction to empower local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in priority key biodiversity areas. The project organised participatory biodiversity surveys of wetlands and forests in and around the two key biodiversity areas of Ambato-Boeny and the Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny wetlands, resulting in the identification of priority sites for community-based biodiversity conservation. Based on these survey results, six new community associations were created to provide them with the legal structure to protect and manage their local biodiversity. The community associations were supported in the participatory development of simplified management plans for defined areas of their natural resources, leading to the transfer of management responsibility from regional government to the local community associations. These six new community-management agreements cover over 30,000 hectares within the project area, including over 11,000 ha of dry deciduous forest and over 1,200 ha of river and gallery forest designated for community-based protection, almost 4,000 ha of freshwater lakes designated for improved community-based management, and over 1,800 ha designated for community-based reforestation. This is a remarkable achievement by all involved, especially considering the issues related to insecurity that have impacted the project since the beginning, in addition to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic over the past couple of years.

One other community-managed site is also part of the project, created back in 2012. Between them all, these seven community-managed sites created since 2012 cover 37,363 hectares and support the long-term conservation of several of the most unique and threatened species of vertebrates in the world. Critically Endangered crowned sifakas and mongoose lemurs occur at all seven of the sites (latest count 332 individuals in 81 groups and 63 individuals in 21 groups respectively), and Vulnerable rufous brown lemurs at six sites (54 in 21 groups). The Critically Endangered Madagascar big-headed turtle, a species with the highest EDGE score of any terrestrial vertebrate anywhere in the world, occurs in at least four of the wetland sites. Madagascar fish eagles, another Critically Endangered species endemic to western Madagascar, nest at three of the sites and feed in the wetland areas of at least five. Endangered Madagascar herons have been reported at four of the sites and Vulnerable Madagascar flying fox roosts are present at four of the sites. The Critically Endangered endemic cichlid fish Paretroplus maculatus has been found at four of the sites, and at least two other highly threatened endemic fish species are also protected by the new agreements.

The project has facilitated numerous activities to support the local community associations managing these remarkable sites. Seedling nurseries and associated reforestation efforts have been established, community members have been paid to undertake forest and wetland patrolling and monitoring, the executive boards of each community association have been provided with training in organisation and management, training and support have been provided in improved agricultural practices, and equipment has been provided to maintain these activities.

The project has been awarded additional funding from the IUCN-SOS "Save Our Species" initiative, and the project co-ordinator Maholy Ravaloharimanitra has been awarded a ZSL EDGE fellowship to expand the work on the Madagascar big-headed turtle.

Results for each deliverable:

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
1.0	Biodiversity conservation promoted and coordinated within the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area, and preparatory work to apply for protected area status for a defined area within the KBAs (data collection, stakeholders engagement)	1.1	Written document produced clarifying the data and consultations required to allow a future application to be made for protected area status for a defined area within the KBAs	Appropriate documents collated in April 2018, and information summarised in a written document, regarding data collection and consultations required.
1.0	Biodiversity conservation promoted and coordinated within the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area, and preparatory work to apply for protected area status for a defined area within the KBAs (data collection, stakeholders engagement)	1.2	Tick-chart developed to monitor progress towards collecting required data and organising required stakeholder consultations as defined in 1.1	Tick-chart developed in April 2018.
1.0	Biodiversity conservation promoted and coordinated within the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area, and preparatory work to apply for protected area status for a defined area within the KBAs (data collection, stakeholders engagement)	1.3	Project activities of sub-grantee WWT, and of other partners, facilitated and monitored, as evidenced by minutes of planning meetings and by progress reports submitted by project participants	Project activities of sub-grantee WWT facilitated until termination of the subgrant at the end of 2017 due to serious security concerns. WWT conducted some fieldwork prior to the subgrant termination, from July to September 2017. Project activities of other partners facilitated and monitored throughout the project, including the University of Mahajanga, several national consultants, and regional authorities.

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1.0	Biodiversity conservation promoted and coordinated within the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area, and preparatory work to apply for protected area status for a defined area within the KBAs (data collection, stakeholders engagement)	1.4	Project activities and results communicated at an international level, as evidenced by at least four popular media posts per year by partner organisations, and by at least two draft scientific articles for submission to peer-reviewed journals	Twenty-two social media posts on Aspinall facebook page, and at least 16 on Aspinall Madagascar facebook page. Eight blogs regarding the project on Aspinall Foundation website, with associated facebook posts, two of them also emailed directly to 78,785 and 78,955 supporters. Three articles published in the Aspinall Foundation's printed newsletter "WildCry", sent to approximately 7,000 supporters each time, two of the articles also emailed to over 50,000 supporters. Two dissertations prepared by students at the University of Mahajanga, which can be adapted for submission to peer-reviewed scientific journals.
1.0	Biodiversity conservation promoted and coordinated within the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area, and preparatory work to apply for protected area status for a defined area within the KBAs (data collection, stakeholders engagement)	1.5	Written document produced with recommendations and processes to undertake for the creation of any proposed new protected areas	Processes to undertake identified and summarised in April 2018 (see deliverables 1.1 and 1.2)
1.0	Biodiversity conservation promoted and coordinated within the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area, and preparatory work to apply for protected area status for a defined area within	1.6	Process Frameworks for restriction of access to natural resources drafted for each site subject to management interventions, in the context of potential	Process Frameworks drafted in June 2020 for six project sites subject to management interventions.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	the KBAs (data collection, stakeholders engagement)		future protected areas preparatory work	
1.0	Biodiversity conservation promoted and coordinated within the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area, and preparatory work to apply for protected area status for a defined area within the KBAs (data collection, stakeholders engagement)	1.7	Strengthened institutional capacity of The Aspinall Foundation-Madagascar Programme, as evidenced by comparison of Civil Society Tracking Tool scores at project start and end	Civil Society Tracking Tool completed at start and end of project.
2.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation status of wetlands in the M-A-B system, and ecosystem services they provide to local people (Sub-grant to WWT)	2.1	Site Assessment Toolkit created to facilitate wetland assessments at catchment levels in Madagascar. CANCELLED.	Deliverable cancelled due to termination of WWT sub-grant.
2.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation status of wetlands in the M-A-B system, and ecosystem services they provide to local people (Sub-grant to WWT)	2.2	Biodiversity inventory created, focusing on a number of key wetland health indicator taxa, including waterbirds, fish, freshwater invertebrates, and aquatic and marginal vegetation. CANCELLED.	Deliverable cancelled due to termination of WWT sub-grant, but participatory wetland biodiversity inventory subsequently organised under the modified Component 4.
2.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation status of wetlands in the M-A-B	2.3	Report on water quality completed and delivered to stakeholders. CANCELLED.	Deliverable cancelled due to termination of WWT sub-grant, but water quality report subsequently organised under the modified Component 4.

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
	system, and ecosystem services they provide to local people (Sub-grant to WWT)			
2.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation status of wetlands in the M-A-B system, and ecosystem services they provide to local people (Sub-grant to WWT)	2.4	Land-use map and invasive plant distribution assessment for the M-A-B complex completed and used to inform sustainable livelihood focused conservation action. CANCELLED	Deliverable cancelled due to termination of WWT sub-grant, but WWT provided some land-use GIS layers to us prior the termination of the sub-grant.
2.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation status of wetlands in the M-A-B system, and ecosystem services they provide to local people (Sub-grant to WWT)	2.5	Ecosystem services report produced for potential conservation action sites and used to increase local community knowledge of biodiversity value. CANCELLED.	Deliverable cancelled due to termination of WWT sub-grant.
3.0	Enhanced protection of two or more wetland sites, with capacity built within empowered communities to understand, and secure, wetland ecosystem services (Sub-grant to WWT)	3.3	At least 50 families involved in more sustainable practices around priority conservation sites, as evidenced by livelihood logbooks and fishery membership databases	Deliverable cancelled due to termination of WWT sub-grant; however local communties have become involved in more sustainable practices around priority conservation sites under Component 6.
3.0	Enhanced protection of two or more wetland sites, with capacity built within	3.4	Over 1,000 hectares of aquatic and marginal vegetation is restored,	Deliverable cancelled due to termination of WWT sub-grant; however over 5,000 hectares

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	empowered communities to understand, and secure, wetland ecosystem services (Sub-grant to WWT)		evidenced by alien species clearance maps and photographs, and aerial surveys	of wetland habitat has come under more sustainable management under Component 6.
4.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation situation of dry forest sites in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area	4.1	Over twenty community members participate in biodiversity and conservation assessment of at least five local forests and wetlands, as demonstrated by reports and photos	Over 50 community members participated in biodiversity and conservation assessments of over 25 local forests and wetlands.
4.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation situation of dry forest sites in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area	4.2	Presence/absence of target species established at different forest sites within the two KBAs, as demonstrated by a report and distribution maps	Summary table and maps produced illustrating presence/absence of each target species.
4.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation situation of dry forest sites in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area	4.3	Floral inventory undertaken within the two KBAs, and target floral species identified, as demonstrated by a report	Preliminary report provided by Natacha Andrianomenjanahary from the University of Mahajanga. Considering how difficult plants can be to identify, care should be taken when interpreting the results presented in this preliminary report. The report lists 22 floral species considered endemic to Madagascar, of which three can be considered of conservation concern based on the IUCN Red List. One of these, Dalbergia greveana, is listed as Vulnerable and is one of the rosewood/palisander genus of hardwood trees that are highly regarded for their timber. A

Component		Deliverable		
#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
				second species listed as Vulnerable, Homalium erianthum, appears to have a distribution further north than the study site so may have been misidentified. The third species, Capurodendron gracilifolium, is listed as Near Threatened. Further botanical work to confirm identifications and to complete the floral inventory is recommended, but at this stage two endemic tree species can be considered to be target species for future conservation and monitoring in the project area, namely Dalbergia greveana (VU) and Capurodendron gracilifolium (NT). The former was recorded at two sites (Anjiafitatra and Kamakama), the latter at three sites (Komadio, Anjiafitatra and Kamakama).
4.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation situation of dry forest sites in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area	4.4	Major threats to forests, wetlands and target species identified at different forest sites, as demonstrated by a report	Threats to local forests, wetlands and target species were identified and listed in the sites assessments report provided by Lucien Randrianarimanana.
4.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation situation of dry forest sites in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area	4.5	Community-based conservation opportunities identified at different forest and wetland sites, as demonstrated by a report"	Community-based conservation opportunities for local forests and wetlands were identified and listed in the sites assessments report provided by Lucien Randrianarimanana.
4.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation situation of	4.6	Priority forest and wetland sites for biodiversity conservation identified	Priority forests and wetlands for biodiversity conservation were identified in the sites assessments report provided by Lucien

Component		Deliverable		
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	dry forest sites in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area		within and around the two KBAs, as demonstrated by a report	Randrianarimanana, who also provided a report on developing community-based conservation at the selected priority sites.
4.0	Increased knowledge of the biodiversity value and conservation situation of dry forest sites in the Ambato-Boeny-Maevatanana area	4.7	Report produced on biodiversity and conservation assessment of forest and wetland sites within and around the two KBAs	A summary report of the biodiversity and conservation assessment of forest and wetland sites was provided by Lucien Randrianarimanana.
5.0	Community-based forest monitoring developed and supported and immediate-term threats mitigated	5.1	Local communities empowered to monitor at least three local forests and two local wetlands and the target species and direct threats within them, as evidenced by monitoring reports or logbooks made by the respective communities and submitted to the projec	Local communities were empowered to monitor seven local forests and five local wetlands, and the target species and direct threats within them.
5.0	Community-based forest monitoring developed and supported and immediate-term threats mitigated	5.2	Forest monitoring plots established in at least three forests, as evidenced by report	Forest monitoring plots were established in 6 forests (Anosikary, Antsirasira, Mangidirano and Beranonorana/Anjiafitatra in early 2018, and Ikay-Komadio and Liolava-Kamotro in early 2019).
5.0	Community-based forest monitoring developed and supported and immediate-term threats mitigated	5.3	Local community members trained in participatory monitoring techniques in at least three forests, as evidenced by training evaluation reports	Local community members trained in participatory monitoring techniques in seven forests during the course of the project, with regular follow-up and support.

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#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
5.0	Community-based forest monitoring developed and supported and immediate-term threats mitigated	5.4	Threats identified during community-based monitoring reported to community leaders and local authorities, as evidenced by copies of correspondence	Community-based monitoring organised at seven forests and five wetlands, with any threats identified reported to community leaders and local authorities.
5.0	Community-based forest monitoring developed and supported and immediate-term threats mitigated	5.5	Mitigation actions organised to respond to direct immediate-term threats identified during community-based monitoring, as evidenced by reports of actions, outcomes and recommendations	Collaborative missions involving regional authorities, local community authorities, and local community association patrollers, were organised to mitigate immediate-term threats identified during the community-based monitoring.
6.0	Community-based associations created, trained and supported	6.1	Legal recognition for local community associations willing to manage local natural resources for biodiversity conservation, evidenced by the documents creating the associations	Six local community associations were created and legally recognised: the Tsimialonjafy VOI at the Komadio site in June 2019, the Tafita VOI at the Ambatomasina site on 1 Aug 2019, the Soanavela VOI at the Kamotro site on 17 Sep 2019, the Ala Fazahoantsoa VOI at Ankamakama on 7 April 2020, the Mitsinjo VOI at Marofototra in May 2020, and the Fivoarana VOI to manage the Anjiafitatra site on 14th July 2020.
6.0	Community-based associations created, trained and supported	6.2	At least three local community associations and livelihood groups trained in organization, management and conservation, as evidenced by training evaluation reports	Capacity-building and training was provided regularly to seven community associations (the six newly-created associations and one that existed prior to the project commencing).

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#	Description	#	Description	Results for Deliverable
6.0	Community-based associations created, trained and supported	6.3	Simplified community-based management plans developed for priority sites for biodiversity conservation, evidenced by the signed copies of these plans	Six new priority sites for biodiversity conservation were identified during the initial phase of the project. Simplified community-based management plans (PAGS) were developed for all six newly identified priority sites, all six completed and signed in November 2020. Two signing ceremonies were organised, the first on 10 November 2020 at Ambatomasina for the three sites based in the Ambato-Boeny District (Ambatomasina, Anjiafitatra, and Ankamakama), the second on 13 November 2020 at Komadio for the three sites in the Maevatanana District (Komadio, Marofototra and Kamotro). Representatives of the six local community associations attended, as did representatives of various local authorities and security forces, and representatives of The Aspinall Foundation. The documents continued to be validated and signed by various parties over the following days.
6.0	Community-based associations created, trained and supported	6.5	Strengthened institutional capacity of Lovasoa VOI, and two or more other community groups, as evidenced by comparison of Civil Society Tracking Tool scores at project start and end	Institutional capacity of the seven community associations (VOIs) was strengthened through capacity building and training throughout the project. The Civil Society Tracking Tool was used to assess some of these VOIs.
3.0	Enhanced protection of two or more wetland sites,	3.1	Understanding of wetland ecosystem services and the	Deliverable cancelled due to termination of WWT sub-grant, although WWT did undertake

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	with capacity built within empowered communities to understand, and secure, wetland ecosystem services (Sub-grant to WWT)		dangers of unsustainable practices is increased by 50% amongst local community members living around priority conservation action sites, as evidenced by social surveys at the start & end of interventions	some surveys and provide a report prior to termination.
3.0	Enhanced protection of two or more wetland sites, with capacity built within empowered communities to understand, and secure, wetland ecosystem services (Sub-grant to WWT)	3.2	Social surveys at start & end of interventions used to help verify a 1/3 increase in proportion of community members living around priority conservation action sites believing they have technical capacity & authority to make positive decisions in wetlands	Deliverable cancelled due to termination of WWT sub-grant.
6.0	Community-based associations created, trained and supported	6.4	At least 3 local community associations supported technically and financially to implement natural resource management plans, including community-managed seedling nurseries and associated reforestation micro-projects evidenced by technical/finance reports	Seven local community associations (VOIs) were supported technically and financially to implement natural resource management plans over the course of the project. Community-managed seedling nurseries and associated reforestation micro-projects were supported with six of the VOIs. Agricultural support was provided to all seven VOIs. Metal canoes were made available to three VOIs for the lake monitoring activities (Tafita, Tsimialojafy and Soanavela VOIs).

Tools, products or methodologies that resulted from the project or contributed to the results:

n/a

PORTFOLIO INDICATORS

Portfolio Indicator Number	Portfolio Indicator Description	Expected Numerical Contribution	Expected Contribution Description	Actual Numerical Contribution	Actual Contribution Description

GLOBAL INDICATORS

Protected Areas

Protected areas that have been created and/or expanded as a result of the project. Protected areas may include private or community reserves, municipal or provincial parks, or other designations where biodiversity conservation is an official management goal.

Name of Protected Area	WDPA ID*	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Original Total Size (Hectares) **	New Protected Hectares ***	Year of Legal Declaration or Expansion

*World Database of Protected Areas

**If this is a new protected area, 0 should appear in this column

*** This column excludes the original total size of the protected area.

Key Biodiversity Area Management

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) under improved management—where tangible results have been achieved to support conservation—as a result of the project.

KBA Name	KBA Code	Size of KBA	Number of Hectares with Improved Management
Ambato-Boeny	MDG4		16,900
Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny wetlands	MDG211		20,464

Production Landscapes

Production landscapes with strengthened management of biodiversity as a result of the project.

A production landscape is defined as a site outside a protected area where commercial agriculture, forestry or natural product exploitation occurs.

Name of Production Landscape	Latitude	Longitude	Hectares Strengthened	Intervention

Benefits to Individuals

- **Structured Training:**

Number of Men Trained	Number of Women Trained	Topics of Training
44		40 people received training in patrolling (forests and wetlands) 4 people received training in managing seedling nurseries The executive boards of each local community association received training in association management, but I don't have the figures for how many people (men or women)

- **Cash Benefits:**

Number of Men – Cash Benefits	Number of Women – Cash Benefits	Description of Benefits
44		25 forest rangers, 15 lake rangers, 4 nursery men Additional local people received short-term cash benefits as guides, porters, cooks, and for local transport and labour etc

Benefits to Communities

View the **characteristics** column below with the following corresponding codes:	View the **benefits** column below with the following corresponding codes:
1- Small Landowners	a. Increased Access to Clean Water
2- Subsistence Economy	b. Increased Food Security
3- Indigenous/ Ethnic Peoples	c. Increased Access to Energy
4- Pastoralists / Nomadic Peoples	d. Increased Access to Public Services
5- Recent Migrants	e. Increased Resilience to Climate Change
6- Urban Communities	f. Improved Land Tenure
7- Other	g. Improved Use of Traditional Knowledge
	h. Improved Decision-Making
	i. Improved Access to Ecosystem Services

Community Name	**Community Characteristics**							**Type of Benefit**									**Country**	**Number of Males Benefitting**	**Number of Females Benefitting**
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**a**	**b**	**c**	**d**	**e**	**f**	**g**	**h**	**i**			
VOI "Lovasoa" (Anosikary)	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	Madagascar	20	13
VOI "Fivoarana" (Anjiafitatra)	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	Madagascar	15	11
VOI "Tafita" (Ambatomasina)	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	Madagascar	28	20
VOI "Ala Fazahoantsoa" (Ankamakama)	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	Madagascar	25	20
VOI "Soanavela" (Kamotro)	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	Madagascar	25	17
VOI "Mitsinjo" (Marofototra)	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	Madagascar	25	20
VOI "Tsimialonjafy" (Komadio)	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	Madagascar	40	26

Characteristics of "Other" Communities:

Policies, Laws and Regulations

View the **topics** column below with the following corresponding codes:			
A- Agriculture	E- Energy	I- Planning/Zoning	M- Tourism
B- Climate	F- Fisheries	J- Pollution	N- Transportation
C- Ecosystem Management	G- Forestry	K- Protected Areas	O- Wildlife Trade
D- Education	H- Mining and Quarrying	L- Species Protection	P- Other

No.	Name of Law	Scope	Topics													
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P

"Other" Topics Addressed by the Policy, Law or Regulation:

No.	Country/ Countries	Date Enacted/ Amended	Expected impact	Action Performed to Achieve the Enactment/ Amendment

Companies Adopting Biodiversity-friendly Practices

A company is defined as a for-profit business entity. A biodiversity-friendly practice is one that conserves or uses natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Name of Company	Description of Biodiversity-Friendly Practice	Country/Countries where Practice was Adopted

Networks and Partnerships

Networks/partnerships should have some lasting benefit beyond immediate project implementation. Informal networks/partnerships are acceptable.

Name of Network/Partnership	Year Established	Country/ Countries	Established by Project?	Purpose

Sustainable Financing

Sustainable financing mechanisms generate funding for the long-term (generally five or more years). These include, but are not limited to, conservation trust funds, debt-for-nature swaps, payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and other revenue, fee or tax schemes that generate long-term funding for conservation.

Name of Mechanism	Purpose	Date Established	Description	Country/ Countries	Project Intervention	Delivery of Funds?

Globally Threatened Species

Globally threatened species (CR, EN, VU) on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, benefitting from the project.

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Eulemur	mongoz	Mongoose Lemur	CR	Creation of community-managed protected zones where populations were found to occur. Community-based patrols for habitat protection, reducing hunting pressure, and species monitoring.	Increasing

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
Propithecus	coronatus	Crowned Sifaka	CR	Creation of community-managed protected zones where populations were found to occur. Community-based patrols for habitat protection, reducing hunting pressure, and species monitoring.	Increasing
Eulemur	rufus	Audebert's Brown Lemur	VU	Creation of community-managed protected zones where populations were found to occur. Community-based patrols for habitat protection, reducing hunting pressure, and species monitoring.	Increasing
Haliaeetus	vociferoides	Madagascar Fish Eagle	CR	Creation of community-managed protection zones around nest sites. Community-based patrols for habitat protection, reducing hunting pressure, improving fishing practices, and species monitoring.	Stable
Paretroplus	maculatus	Damba Mipentina	CR	Creation of community-managed protection zones within lakes found to support the species, and development of local rules for implementing improved fishing practices (and for reducing illegal fishing practices). Community-based patrols for habitat protection, monitoring fishing practices, and species monitoring.	Unknown
Erymnochelys	madagascariensis	Madagascar Sideneck Turtle	CR	Creation of community-managed protection zones within lakes found to support the species. Community-based patrols for habitat protection, reducing hunting pressure, improving fishing practices, and species monitoring.	Unknown
Ardea	humbloti	Humblot's Heron	EN	Creation of community-managed protection zones within and around four lakes found to support the species. Community-based patrols for habitat protection, reducing hunting pressure,	Unknown

Genus	Species	Common Name (English)	Status	Intervention	Population Trend at Site
				improving fishing practices, and species monitoring.	
Pteropus	rufus	Madagascar Flying-fox	VU	Creation of community-managed protection zones of four forests containing roosting sites of the species. Community-based patrols for habitat protection, reducing hunting pressure, and species monitoring.	Unknown
Paretroplus	kieneri	Kotsovato	VU	Creation of community-managed protection zones within lakes found to support the species, and development of local rules for implementing improved fishing practices (and for reducing illegal fishing practices). Community-based patrols for habitat protection, monitoring fishing practices, and species monitoring.	Unknown
Paratilapia	polleni	Marakely	VU	Creation of community-managed protection zones within lakes found to support the species, and development of local rules for implementing improved fishing practices (and for reducing illegal fishing practices). Community-based patrols for habitat protection, monitoring fishing practices, and species monitoring.	Unknown
Dalbergia	greveana		VU	Community-based habitat protection at two forest sites where the species has recently been reported.	Unknown
Paretroplus	lamenabe		EN	Creation of community-based protection plan for river where the species has been reported to occur.	Unknown

LESSONS LEARNED

The success of the project has been due to the focus on supporting local communities with a clear aim of empowering them to protect and manage local habitats supporting a diverse set of key target species. The vast majority of the project funds have been spent directly within the communities, or on direct support for the communities.

SUSTAINABILITY/REPLICATION

The project has been remarkably successful in providing the legal and administrative framework to allow local communities to protect and manage biodiversity in and around two priority key biodiversity areas. It is essential that support is continued to be provided to these local communities to facilitate the continued implementation of the community-based natural resource management plans. We believe it is unlikely that these plans can be implemented in the long-term without continued community-based support.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS/STANDARDS

Process frameworks for restriction of access to natural resources were drafted for each project site. All management interventions were developed through participatory methods, and management responsibility for natural resources was transferred to, not away from, local communities.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The actual limits of the two KBAs (Ambato-Boeny and Maevatanana-Ambato-Boeny wetlands) need to be modified to reflect the remaining habitat, the current limits include habitat that has already been destroyed, and our project has therefore protected remaining habitat in the areas surrounding the official limits of the two KBAs.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Total Amount of Additional Funding Actually Secured (USD)	$146,000.00
Breakdown of Additional Funding	IUCN SOS grant 2015A-084: 25,000 USD IUCN SOS grant 2020A-141: 108,000 USD ZSL EDGE fellowship grant to Maholy Ravaloharimanitra: 13,000 USD The Aspinall Foundation: unquantified contributions to general running costs of the project and of the Madagascar Programme in general

INFORMATION SHARING AND CEPF POLICY

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. For more information about this project, you may contact the organization and/or individual listed below.

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