

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: Human Footprint

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Expedition Madagascar

Implementation Partners for This Project:

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): July 1, 2004 - December 31, 2005

Date of Report (month/year): August 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

Madagascar, the big island off the east coast of Africa, is considered one of the most important “hotspots” for biodiversity on the planet. Eighty percent of the island’s plants and animals exist nowhere else on Earth. The lemur, for example, is a branch of primates found only on Madagascar. So great is the variety of living things on this France-size island that some scientists believe it should be considered an eighth continent.

Since humans arrived, a number of extraordinary species have gone extinct, including a dwarf hippopotamus a huge tortoise species, a gorilla-size lemur, and a ten-foot-high ostrich-like bird. Humans have also cut down 80% of Madagascar’s original forest cover. Today the threats to the forests that remain are not primarily commercial logging but the activities of millions of poor people trying to grow enough rice and to harvest enough firewood to feed their families.

Despite the massive losses in forest cover, there is still much left to preserve in Madagascar, making this country a leading repository of life’s diversity and one of the most important priorities for international wildlife protection groups such as the World Wildlife Fund.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

The goal of Expedition Madagascar was to radio reports and a website on the forests and wildlife of Madagascar.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

No.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

Yes.

A website was produced—Fantastic Forests: The Balance Between Nature and People of Madagascar—which can be viewed at <http://www.wbur.org/special/madagascar/>). A documentary was produced: *Noah's Raft: Saving the Forests of Madagascar*, which was distributed by Radio Netherlands. It can be heard at <http://www.radionetherlands.nl/features/science/050829rf>. The documentary was distributed in the U.S. as part of Public Radio International's weekly show on the environment *Living on Earth*. It can be heard at <http://www.loe.org/shows/shows.htm?programID=05-P13-00047>.

Grossman also produced a related show about how vetiver grass was used to prevent erosion on the Finanrantsoa-Manakara rail line (helping to preserve the line as a means for transporting fruit to market, and thus preventing forest from being cut for subsistence agriculture). This 8-minute show was a broadcast on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. A version of this show was broadcast on *The Science Show* of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Two 5-minute stories about Madagascar's wildlife were produced for the show *Man and the Environment* of Deutsche Welle Radio, Germany's international broadcasting network.

The Madagascar website was honored with three major journalism award: the 2006 Science Journalism Award for Excellence in Online Media of the American Association of Sciences, the 2006 online media award of the Society of Environmental Journalists and the 2006 Science-in-Society Award of the National Association of Science Writers.

Noah's Raft: Saving the Forests of Madagascar was honored with two major journalism awards: the 2006 Media Award (for broadcast) of the American Institute of Biological Sciences and an honorable mention in the broadcast category of in the Science-in-Society Awards of the National Association of Science Writers.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

No.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

N/A

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

None.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
WBUR-Boston	B	\$10,000.00	
The Whole Systems Foundation	B	\$3,000.00	
Nancy Coutu Memorial Fund	B	\$300.00	

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes _____

No _____

If yes, please also complete the following:

For more information about this project, please contact:

Name: Daniel Grossman

Mailing address: 25 Hawthorne Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Tel: 617-923-9073

Fax:

E-mail: grossmad@colorado.edu