



## COMMITMENT SEVEN

# CHERISH THE ENVIRONMENT

Madagascar will be a world leader in the development and implementation of environmental best-practice. After many decades of exploitation and neglect, we have begun to turn the tide. We will become a “green island” again. Our commitment is to care for, cherish and protect our extraordinary environment. The world looks to us to manage our biodiversity wisely and responsibly – and we will. Local communities will be active participants in environmental conservation under the guidance of bold national policies. Given the Government’s vision – Madagascar Naturally - we will develop industries around the environment such as eco-tourism, agri-business, sustainable farming practices, and industries based on organic and natural products. These industries and activities will minimize biodiversity damage and maximize benefits for the nation and the people.

**CHALLENGE 1 >****INCREASE THE PROTECTED AREAS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF LAND, LAKE, MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY****Current Reality**

Madagascar has one of the highest rankings of flora and fauna biodiversity richness and endemism in the world. 85% flora, 59% birds, 91% reptiles, 99% amphibians, and 100% lemurs are endemic.

Such biodiversity is concentrated in the forest ecosystems which are constantly losing ground to agricultural activity. Losing one hectare of forest in Madagascar has a more serious effect on the world biodiversity than losing one hectare of forest elsewhere. From a scientific viewpoint, it means the disappearance of several thousands of species, which do not exist anywhere else. Therefore, Madagascar is obliged to preserve endemic biodiversity through responsible governance for protected areas which will be managed either by the State, private entities, or local communities or put under co-management.

Currently our protected area network covers an area of 1,700, 000 ha, which accounts for 5% of the national territory.



**Goals**

Madagascar is committed to increase the volume of protected area from 1.7m hectares to 6m hectares, and upgrading the protection of the marine economic zone.

The goal is in line with the objective assigned by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and it accounts for 10% of the national territory allocated for ecological balance.

Furthermore, Madagascar will abide by the Kyoto Accords and international climate change agreements to ensure that Madagascar is a green country that contributes not just to national well-being but to global well-being.

**Strategies**

1. Establish new land, lake, marine and coastal protected areas.
2. Ensure financial sustainability for the management of protected areas and the biodiversity
3. Manage the protected areas and the land, lake, marine and coastal biodiversity.
3. Value the biodiversity in a sustainable manner.
4. Establish a national eco-tourism framework and strategy to contribute to the protection and promotion of the environment and to ensure “eco-eco” harmonization (economic - ecological).

PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	PROJECT LEADER
1. Inform and raise awareness with all stakeholders	Minister responsible for Environment
2. Carry out Surveys / Inventories	Minister responsible for Environment
3. Conduct national, regional and communal consultations	Minister responsible for Environment
4. Carry out demarcation/ cartography	Minister responsible for Environment
5. Develop the management scheme and the management mode	Minister responsible for Environment
6. Mobilize the Funds for the Foundation	Minister responsible for Environment
7. Develop other financing instruments	Minister responsible for Environment
8. Increase private sector funding	Minister responsible for Environment
9. Provide for the ecological monitoring and the implementation of measures for the conservation of land and watery ecosystems	Minister responsible for Environment
10. Capitalize the conservation plans per endangered species	Minister responsible for Environment
11. Provide for surveillance and control	Minister responsible for Environment
12. Conduct an examination to determine the value of eco-systems services in Madagascar, including carbon sequestration and it role in financing environmental protection and economic development	Minister responsible for Environment

INDICATORS	2005	2012
Representation rate of the habitats in the protected area system	87%	87%
Mobilized capital amount	US\$18,000,000	US\$50,000,000
Overall efficiency rate or protected areas	51%	70%
Increase rate in number of tourists visiting the protected areas per year	106,600	149,000

## CHALLENGE 2 >

# REDUCE THE NATURAL RESOURCE DEGRADATION PROCESS



### Current Reality

Sadly, Madagascar has not escaped from the increasing degradation of natural resources by irresponsible practices. The abusive and illicit operations by timber and forest producers is one of the major causes of deforestation. This is compounded by the lack of professionalism among forest operators who behave like economic operators who are concerned more about short term profit and interest. In addition, most Malagasy people use wood and its byproducts as an energy source because they do not require preliminary investment in equipment and the product may be purchased in a periodic manner. Apart from such actions, vegetation and clearing fires caused by farmers are a serious cause of forest and natural resource degradation.

Currently the area of Madagascar forests and wetlands with endemic flora and fauna is 9,000,000ha. But these forests are endangered and must be preserved by setting up sustainable natural resource management sites.

### Goals

Madagascar commits to keep its 9m hectare forest and wetland area for the conservation of its natural richness and the sustainable use of its forest, lake, marine and coastal resources.

### Strategies

1. Develop and implement sustainable use plans for land, lake, marine, and coastal areas.
2. Promote the development and use of alternative energy resources such as bio-fuels that include palm oil, jatropha, soy and sugar cane.
3. Manage the clearing of vegetation and the damage caused by fires.
4. Promote reforestation and restore degraded habitats.
5. Promote private sector financing to assist in environmental management.

PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	PROJECT LEADER
1. Refine forest zoning	Minister responsible for Environment
2. Inventory natural resources	Minister responsible for Environment
3. Implement the Sustainable Forest Management Sites [ Sites de Gestion Forestière Durable (SGFD)] - Koloala	Minister responsible for Environment
4. Intensify management transfer of natural resources	Minister responsible for Environment
5. Reorganize the management of traded/ tradable species	Minister responsible for Environment
6. Support the use of improved charcoal making techniques	Minister responsible for Environment
7. Promote the use of alternative energy	Minister responsible for Environment
8. Motivate the population on wild fire preventions	Minister responsible for Environment
9. Strengthen the implementation of anti- fire and clearing laws	Minister responsible for Environment
10. Implement soil erosion control (by wind and water) by planting windbreaks and cover crops	Minister responsible for Environment
11. Improve soil fertility with agroforestry systems, cover crops and conservation of ground and surface water	Minister responsible for Environment

12. For the better management of freshwater resources, watersheds and ecosystems develop an integrated Water Resource Management Plan that includes the promotion of reforestation to protect catchment areas, the monitoring of wells and groundwater, and increasing the efficiency of cropping systems	Minister responsible for Environment
13. Establish land reserves for reforestation [ réserves foncières pour le reboisement (RFR)]	Minister responsible for Environment
14. Promote actions for reforestation, bush covering, and grazing prohibition	Minister responsible for Environment
15. Manage the pilot sites for carbon sequestration	Minister responsible for Environment
16. Promote research and development opportunities to ensure Madagascar becomes a leader in bio-fuel production by using palm oil, soy, maize, jatropha, and sugar cane	Minister responsible for Environment

INDICATORS	2005	2012
Number of developed sustainable use plans	8	219
Percentage of household using alternative energies	10%	25%
Rate of reduced burnt areas	17%	70%
Reforested area	360,000ha	540,000ha

**CHALLENGE 3 >****DEVELOP THE ENVIRONMENTAL REFLEX AT ALL LEVELS****Current Reality**

As of 2006, pollution (air, water, soil) is reaching an alarming proportion in Madagascar. Prevention and precaution mechanisms were initiated in the country through environmental impact and assessment studies, for the protection of sensitive zones (decree MECIE N° 99/954 on 15/12/99 and its riders). The environmental dimension must be mainstreamed into the development actions at all levels and into the sectoral, regional, and communal plans and policies, and into the business plans of companies. Currently all 22 region development plans include a part on the environment. Also, in keeping with land management, the biggest cities have town master-plans which integrate the environmental dimension. Environmental education and communication hold an important place in these plans.

**Goals**

We will mainstream the environment into all sectoral plans and develop a strong and effective environmental reflex.

**Strategies**

1. Explore ways that the government (national, regional and local) with the help of the private sector can assist in environmental protection and ensure that the highest global standards are met.
2. Strengthen the framework for preventing environmental damage (including pollution) caused by businesses, miners, farmers, fishermen, and tourism.
3. Contribute to the protection of sensitive zones through comprehensive environmental assessment.
4. Internalize the environmental stake into sectoral, regional, and communal policies.
5. Implement the Education Policy Relative to the Environment [Politique de l'Education Relative à l'Environnement (PERE)].



PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	PROJECT LEADER
1. Ensure the implementation of international conventions relative to the Environment which are ratified by Madagascar, such as the Kyoto Accords	Minister responsible for Environment
2. Develop the Code of the Environment	Minister responsible for Environment
3. Develop a policy for mining companies and logging companies for biodiversity offsets and other mechanisms and incentives for environmental protection	Minister responsible for Environment
4. Reduce pollution in industrial zones located in urban, rural, and port areas	Minister responsible for Environment
5. Develop the value chains in potential business sectors to ensure that biodiversity is linked to the economy, and that economic pursuits are done in accord with environmental commitments.	Minister responsible for Environment
6. Establish an Eco-tourism policy, charter, code that states the vision, the commitment, the values and the approach for the promotion and implementation of eco tourism throughout the country	Minister responsible for Environment
7. Establish "wilderness zones" for eco-tourism	Minister responsible for Environment
8. Promote and create investment standards to maintain quality	Minister responsible for Environment
9. Develop, coordinate, share and promote important environmental information. This will include conducting information and dialogue sessions on environmental concerns for the diverse stakeholders (pupils, academics, environmental teams, farmers associations, communes, regions, mining companies and other businesses)	Minister responsible for Environment

10. Promote the compatibility of investment with the environment [compatibilité des investissements avec l'environnement (MECIE)] and the environmental management system [système de management environnemental (SME)] in the sectors of mining, transportation, fishery, agriculture, tourism, industry...	Minister responsible for Environment
11. Promote strategic environmental assessment [évaluation environnementale stratégique (EES)]	Minister responsible for Environment
12. Assist communes in developing and controlling PCDs	Minister responsible for Environment
13. Support the formulation and implementation of Urban Development Plans [plans de développement urbain (PDU)] and Regional Development Plans [Plan Régional de Développement (PRD)] which mainstream the environmental dimension with all aspects of development	Minister responsible for Environment

INDICATORS	2005	2012
Rate of processed complaint files	75%	95%
Rate of MECIE subject investment:	30%	70%
Number of regional plans mainstreaming the environmental prescriptions	9	22
Environmental Curriculum in primary, secondary, tertiary schools, and vocational schools: adopted	5%	90%

## CHALLENGE 4 > STRENGTHEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

### Current Reality

Over the past decade, the degradation of natural resources has been accentuated through the retreat of the forest and environmental administration which has experienced no significant evolution either in the means they have or in their intervention methods. A consequence is that the forest administration, which has become easy to bypass, has not been able to enact its mission and has watched on the sidelines as the forests have been abused.

Therefore, since 2005 the Government has begun to implement some profound changes within the sector such as the accountability of all stakeholders involved in the management of natural resources, the enforcement of laws, and the strengthening of forest and environment controls. While the Government has articulated a firm and strong vision, the capacity to enforce that vision through coordination and more resources must be further developed.

### Goals

1. To strengthen the institutions responsible for environmental management - the Ministry and environmental protection agencies - to ensure a professional policy making and regulatory framework and to provide technical support to the development and implementation of sector strategies.
2. As a specific goal - As of 2006 the number of forest and environmental offenses are in the order of 440 per year. The target in implementing various changes at the sector level consists in reducing the offense number of 440 to no more than 100 in 2.

### Strategies

1. Build human, material, infrastructure capacities in the Ministry to ensure it can effectively pursue its mission.
2. Strengthen forest and environmental regulation, enforcement and control.
3. Implement sustainable forest management techniques and forest plantations in appropriate areas to satisfy the demand for forestry products and tree seedlings and other measures to support forestation.
4. Improve the forest revenue system and reform tax laws to ensure a taxation on negative consequences that contribute to pollution and degradation.
5. Provide for the planning, monitoring, evaluation of all activities of the Ministry, and ensure better coordination, management, dissemination, and use of research, data and best-practices at the national, regional and local levels.



PRIORITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	PROJECT LEADER
1. Provide for better and more comprehensive environmental regulation and control	Minister responsible for Environment
2. Strengthen forestry policing, control, and regulatory framework	Minister responsible for Environment
3. Broaden the watch and information scheme initiated by OSFE	Minister responsible for Environment
4. Build capacity among stakeholders in forest and environment management	Minister responsible for Environment
5. Set up an autonomous structure providing for forest and environmental operations	Minister responsible for Environment
6. Set up and empower forest commissions at the regional level	Minister responsible for Environment
7. Strengthen Environmental units and teams to monitor and assess	Minister responsible for Environment
8. Develop, distribute, and provide for the training on forest and environment legislation and regulation	Minister responsible for Environment
9. Set up framework conditions and tax incentives that promote responsible forest management	Minister responsible for Environment
10. Carry out marketing and forest products under concession	Minister responsible for Environment
11. Provide for the coordination of environment and forest activities consistent with the policy orientations of the country	Minister responsible for Environment

12. Set up E- Governance of MINENVEF	Minister responsible for Environment
13. Set up Databases	Minister responsible for Environment
14. Carry out the monitoring & evaluation of projects, programs and activities	Minister responsible for Environment

INDICATORS	2005	2012
Forest control units which are set up	4	23
System for tracking forest products : adopted	5%	90%
Rate of forest and environment revenues compared with the operating and capital budget of the Ministry	2.4%	5,5%
E-Governance of Ministry	0%	100%