



the ankeniheny- zahamena corridor madagascar



In 2003, the Government of Madagascar made an unprecedented commitment to triple the surface area of protected areas throughout the country in an effort to conserve its unique biodiversity and essential ecosystem services.

Implementing this commitment involved creating a new legal framework, selecting sites, establishing resource use rules and developing governance arrangements. The Ankeniheny-Zahamena Corridor (CAZ) is among the most advanced in its establishment as a protected area.

Covering approximately 425,000 hectares (approximately one million acres) along the eastern escarpment of Madagascar, CAZ is a region of rich biological diversity and home to hundreds of local Malagasy communities. The diverse forests provide essential ecosystem services upon which local people rely for their daily subsistence, but they are under pressure from slash-and-burn agriculture, illegal logging and other unsustainable practices.

Having received temporary protected status in 2005, CAZ is a legally recognized protected area, which ensures conservation of the area's unique species. Because the area is home to headwaters of important rivers that irrigate agricultural fields, provide hydroelectric power, and supply local people with water for household use, its conservation is an important strategy for ensuring water security in the region.

The forest also serves as a carbon sink. To mitigate the effects of climate change, CI and its partners are working to reduce deforestation and avoid further carbon emissions, as well as planting additional trees that can capture more carbon. The reforestation component of the work includes planting fruit trees and other multiple-use forest gardens. This is an approach to help local people adapt to the effects of climate change while improving their livelihoods.

Relying on key principles of good governance such as transparency, monitoring and clear rules, CI works with multiple partners to develop a co-management system that involves stakeholders at various levels and ensures that unique biodiversity and essential ecosystem services are protected.

The CAZ governance model is grounded on hundreds of local community associations that are responsible for managing small areas of the forest. This approach is how CI and its partners ensure that the benefits from conservation reach those most affected by it. For instance, the governance arrangement incorporates conservation measures that target cultural and spiritual sites. These measures aim to highlight the importance of these sites vis-à-vis local people's history and identity. In addition, CI has worked with partners to bring the economic value of CAZ to local people by developing tourism in the area. This work maximizes the recreational cultural benefits that CAZ provides while also developing the support activities that multiply those benefits through market activities.

CI has partnered with key organizations with development expertise to provide technical assistance to local farmer associations in an effort to improve food security. This assistance is helping to improve agricultural yield while ensuring markets for locally-produced products. CI has also developed a grants program that provides small sums of money to

community-level associations to develop income-generating projects. To date, over 135 projects have been supported through these grants at CAZ.

A community-level health-population-environment (HPE) program has established links among sound natural resource management, family planning and improved health services. Efforts to date have resulted in 800 health agents trained in HPE and 9,000 children less than 5 years old vaccinated. We are also undertaking a study to assess the impact of bushmeat consumption on disease transmission and human health.

Through establishing a protected area with a resilient co-management system that is able to integrate specific activities to address multiple ecosystem services, CI and its partners are developing a model that is being replicated throughout Madagascar and is generating important lessons for policymakers.



demonstrating how **healthy ecosystems benefit human well-being** in Madagascar

human well-being

- over 200 direct jobs
- 135 community projects
- increase in tourism revenue
- more than 2,000 ha (nearly 5,000 acres) irrigated



ecosystem services

- 285,000 tCO₂e sequestered on 600 ha (nearly 1,500 acres) over 30-year period
- sustained water supply



healthy ecosystems

- 425,000 ha (approximately one million acres) conserved
- 50 percent of Madagascar's species