



MAKIRA REDD+ FOREST CONSERVATION MADAGASCAR

**Guarding the region's abundant biodiversity
and empowering communities**



A staggering one percent of the Earth's biodiversity is found in the Makira Forest, which faces threats of deforestation from unsustainable land management and farming. This project safeguards one of the largest remaining contiguous expanse of humid rainforest in Madagascar and supports a range of alternative sustainable livelihood practices for local communities.

The Context

The Makira Forest is one of the world's top five biodiversity hotspots, featuring the highest diversity of Madagascar's emblematic lemur species and the island's largest remaining low-to-mid elevation tropical rainforest. Unfortunately, slash-and-burn agriculture by small-scale farmers and illegal commercial exploitation of the hardwood stocks threaten this unique area with deforestation.

The Project

Managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in collaboration with Madagascar's Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Makira Forest Conservation project protects 360,060 hectares of dense primary forests located in the Makira Natural Park. The protected forests preserve biodiversity and sequester carbon, while the sale of carbon credits contributes to park management and provides a sustainable revenue source for local communities.

The Benefits

As well as contributing to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, this project empowers local communities. The WCS has overseen the establishment of 60 community-based ecological monitoring units, and the expansion of the ecotourism, cacao, raphia, vanilla and clove industries has created new, sustainable income streams for locals. Farmers are supported in managing their resources sustainably, improving community land stewardship and governance, while school environmental education programmes and the provision of rural healthcare further supports the region's sustainable development.

The project has deployed mobile health clinics providing 18 villages with access to trained medical teams of doctors, nurses and community health workers.



**1,368
people**

in isolated communities provided with health services and hygiene training



**101%
increase**

in annual household incomes since 2005, by establishing new, sustainable income streams



**2,148,104
tCO₂e**

reduced between 2005 and 2013, directly contributing to climate change mitigation



**360,060
ha**

of forest protected or restored, ensuring the protection of unique rainforest

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Makira Protected Forest Area Project | **VCS link:** http://www.vcsprojectdatabase.org/#/project_details/1215 | **VCS ID:** 1215

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