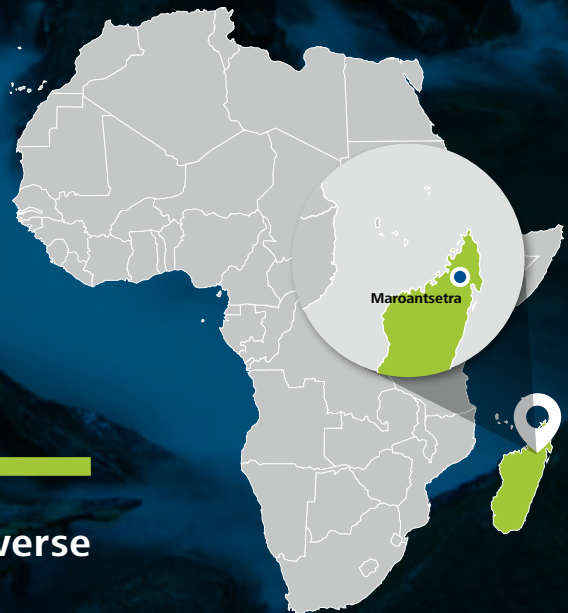




MAKIRA REFORESTATION MADAGASCAR

Protecting one of the world's most biodiverse
region from deforestation



A staggering one percent of the Earth's biodiversity is found in the Makira forests, which is currently under heavy threat 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 considered one of the top five biodiversity hotspots in the world. It contains the largest remaining low-to-mid elevation tropical rainforest in the country and has the highest diversity of Madagascar's emblematic lemur species. Unfortunately, slash burn agriculture by small-scale farmers and the illegal commercial exploitation of the forest's hardwood places this unique area under the threat of deforestation.

The Project

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Makira Forest conservation project encompasses 360,000 hectares of dense primary forest The Makira Natural Park, managed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The protected forest preserves biodiversity and sequesters greenhouse gas emissions. The sale of carbon credits through REDD+ funds park management and provides alternative revenues for the local communities living in the project area.

The Benefits

In addition to being extremely important for conservation and climate change mitigation, this project empowers local communities. WCS has overseen the establishment of 60 community-based ecological monitoring units and the expansion of ecotourism, cacao, raphia, vanilla, and clove industries has created new income streams for locals. Farmers are supported to manage their natural resources sustainably, improving community land stewardship and governance. Environmental education programs in schools and the provision of healthcare services to rural communities further support the development of the Makira area.

"The project has deployed mobile health clinics providing 18 villages in Makira 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 due to the establishment of new sustainable income streams.



1.7 million
tCO₂e

reduced since 2005, directly contributing to the mitigation of climate change.



6,400
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 Project | VCS link: http://www.vcsprojectdatabase.org/#/project_details/1215 | VCS ID: 1215

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