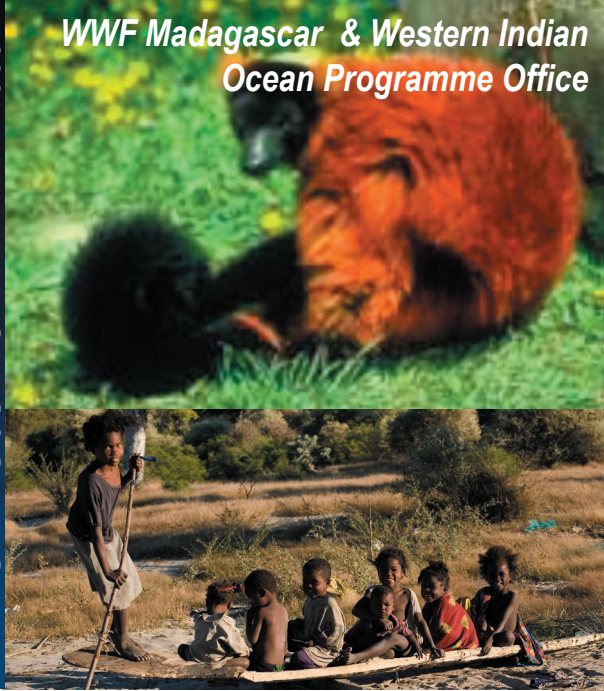




for a living planet



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Thus, on October 6th, a new meeting was held in Antananarivo. An agreement seemed to have been found. A "last chance" meeting is then scheduled to endorse the Government of National Unity and Transition and to appoint the heads of the institutions of the transition.

### ILLEGAL LOGGING

In spite of the commitments made by the forest administration to seriously tackle illegal logging, things have, unfortunately gotten worse in the last three months. In August, the environmental community and the Malagasy population were shocked by photos of slaughtered and dried lemurs. On top of losing their natural habitat to slash-and-burn agriculture, these animals are now facing heavy hunting for bushmeat, to feed loggers. A short but sad trend to serve lemur meat in exotic restaurants in the North was hopefully stopped by the imprisonment of 15 contract hunters. The IUCN Red List classifies all Malagasy lemurs as endangered.

In the meantime, illegal logging continues. In August, as announced in the last issue, Global Witness and the Environmental Investigation Agency conducted an assessment of the logging in the two national parks of Marojejy and Masoala as well as a review of the legal framework that governs precious wood exploitation in Madagascar. A presentation of the preliminary findings of this assessment raised the following weaknesses and illegalities:

### POLITICAL SITUATION

Following the suspension of bilateral aid from the international community and the possibility of tougher sanctions, Andry Rajoelina, Marc Ravalomanana, Albert Zafy and Didier Ratsiraka met in Maputo/ Mozambique in August 2009 and signed the Maputo Agreement on August 9th.

This agreement foresees the organisation of elections within a period of 15 months and the establishment of a 'Committee of Truth and Reconciliation' on the South African model. The agreement also states the establishment of a new transitional Government which includes an executive body (President of the Transition, vice president and government lead by a prime minister and three vice prime ministers) and a legislative body (high council and congress), a transitional high court, a national reconciliation committee, a committee for security, defence and economy, and a committee for the organisation and supervision of the elections.

After the second meeting in Maputo in early September, the President of the Transition, Andry Rajoelina, called for "the formation of a government of national unity". This again has been revoked by the other three movements.





- Confusions within the legal framework and instruments governing the forest sector and the sale of precious wood;
- Lack of surveillance and control of wood production, transport and storage;
- Lack of competency of the forest administration at regional levels;
- Abuse of small stakeholders by illegal collectors especially in the production and transport of wood;
- A situation of anarchy and lawlessness in the SAVA region concerning rosewood exploitation;
- Exporters exerting influence over the State and manipulating the local populations.

In the field, the investigation team noted that while logging activities seemed to have stopped in the Marojejy NP, about 200 trees were still felled daily in the Masoala PN. The wood is exported through the Port of Vohémar, a small port operation that does not have the adequate resources to ensure control of containers. Preliminary recommendations include:

- Promotion of development alternatives that generate revenues for local people; strengthening of rural development plans and awareness raising, at local level;
- Revision of the legal framework and cancellation of all notes and decrees allowing the exploitation and exportation of precious wood to start with; reinforcement of the forest agents of the Ministry and improvement of chain of custody, at national level;
- Raising awareness of consumers and buyers in recipient countries, working on international legislation and encouraging donors to support the forest sector reform and good governance, at international level.

Although signs of hope showed as conservation NGOs met the newly appointed Minister of the Environment and Forests in September and a new Task Force was set up and summoned to “clean” the situation in SAVA, we were all again shocked as an interministerial order allowing the exportation of 25 containers of raw and semi-processed precious wood was issued on September 21, 2009. In the past, similar orders have opened the door to new and illegal cutting of trees such as the order of January 2009. Moreover, as there have been no forest exploitation authorization granted since 2000 and no major cyclone or other natural disaster that would have justified a permit for collecting dead wood. That means that all the stocked wood was illegally felled while the order legalizes the sale thereof. In addition, the order requests the payment of an amount of 72,000,000 Ar (about Euro 28,000) per container that will go the State Treasury and to a new fund ADEF (Action contre la Dégradation de l'Environnement et des Forêts). They respectively do not conform to forest legislation (all forest fines are to go the National Forest Fund) and have no legal framework justifying its existence in the case of ADEF. As estimated by the Association of Forest Engineers, the country may have lost some USD 60 billion during the last seven months due to illegal logging. In a joint [communiqué](#), WWF, WCS (World Conservation Society) and CI (Conservation International) raised their voices against this inter-ministerial order on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. WWF also posted an article on this in the [international press](#). This environmental crisis did however bring about a strong revival of the Malagasy environmental civil society through the emergence of a new alliance, the Voahary Gasy, a gathering of some 30 NGOs who have come together to fight for improved environmental governance.



This is very encouraging as we strongly believe civil society has to play a stronger role in natural resources management decision-making at all levels.

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## ANOTHER ECOLOGICAL DISASTER ?

August 26, MS Gulser Ana, a Turkish ship, sank three kilometres off the coast at Faux Cap with a cargo of 39,000 tonnes of phosphates. A local newspaper reported that the ship had tipped a portion of the phosphates as well as 383 cubic metres of fuel and 7,000 litres of water containing fecal matter and oil into the sea.



ITOPF (London), assisted by a specialist from Le Floch Dépollution, trained local communities on the cleaning up of the beach. They began the work on September 3, under the constant supervision of OLEP.

Late September, the Minister of Fisheries organizes a meeting with several organizations and governmental agencies: Fisheries Departments, Ministry of Transport, Port Authority, ONE (Office National pour l'Environnement), ASH (Autorité Sanitaire Halieutique), CNRE (Centre National de Recherche pour l'Environnement), CNRO (Centre National de Recherche Océanographique), IH.SM (Institut Halieutique et des Sciences Marines), Voarisoa, CI, WCS, Ministry of Environment, and WWF. The assembly decided to send a committee down South to assess the risk and impacts of the shipwreck. WWF participated with an amount of 10'000'000 Ariary.

A preliminary report presented by the committee on October 9<sup>th</sup> gave a first insight into the situation. A beach stretch of about 70 km length is polluted by oil vapour. This causes diseases such as diarrhoea, allergies, respiratory problems, intoxication or conjunctivitis among the local population. The livelihoods of more than 2000 fishermen are directly affected by the closing of fishing grounds. The villagers currently cleaning up the beach are working too slow. Recontamination of the beach through rain and spring tides is a risk. The experts did not notice any visual trace of phosphate but observed an algal bloom due to high phosphate concentration. A WCS mammal expert reported that normally a maximum of three whales beach in this area every year, but during this wreck period 12 whales have beached in the area and were eaten when apparently not too much contaminated.

The final report on the ecological impacts is expected for October 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact: Harifidy O. Ralison ([HORalison@wwf.mg](mailto:HORalison@wwf.mg))



## SOME NEWS OF OUR PROGRAMME

### New Funding Opportunities

#### Implementing Climate Adaptation Strategies in the World's Most Outstanding Natural Place

**Donor:** European Commission (ENRTP, Lot 2: Climate change in non-ENPI countries)

**Budget:** 500.000 EUR

**Duration:** 48 months

**Status:** Concept submitted by WWF International, in partnership with WWF Madagascar & West Indian Ocean, World Wildlife Fund - Colombia Programme Office, Special Administrative Unit for the System of National Natural Parks of Colombia, CorpoNarinho (Colombia), Conservation International Colombia, Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas Foundation, Conservation International (USA).

This project aims at increasing the resilience of coastal ecosystems to maintain provision of environmental goods and services and disaster risk reduction to benefit local communities in the face of future climate conditions. In Madagascar, the planned action shall focus in the Northwest region of Diana.



#### Projet d'appui à la bonne gouvernance et gestion durable de la biodiversité de l'écorégion des forêts d'épineux du sud de Madagascar par la mise en place d'un service de surveillance aérienne en avion Ultra Léger Motorisé (ULM)

**Donor:** European Commission (ENRTP, Lot 3: Forests)

**Budget:** 900.000 EUR

**Duration:** 60 months

**Status:** Concept submitted by Aviations Sans Frontières – Belgique

This project aims at addressing the problem of loss of forest cover by using a monitoring device in order to achieve effective and efficient management of protected areas and include forest management communities in the monitoring of forest cover and intervention to solve problems when they arise.

#### Stabilizing Rural Populations through the Identification of Systems for Sustainable Management and Local Governance of Lands in Southern Madagascar (SLM)

**Donor:** US Global Change Research Program/US National Science Foundation (START)

**Budget:** 45.000 USD

**Duration:** 1 year

**Status:** Proposal submitted to donor

Mapping vulnerability and identifying human responses to anticipated climatic change in Southern Madagascar and testing the feasibility of carbon - enriched soils for sustainable land management to adapt to current increasing temperatures and droughts.

This project will evaluate how and where climate change will have the most severe impacts on communities, food security and ecosystem services in the South of Madagascar. This work also has an applied research element, which aims to understand barriers that will affect food security for small scaled farmers during climate change and to test the feasibility of a new agricultural method (biochar) to improve fertility as well as improve soil moisture and carbon retention as an adaptation mechanism to current temperature increases and droughts in the South.

A system of monitoring and knowledge management for sustainable land management and adaptation strategies will be developed and used to gather and disseminate information and experiences nation-wide.

#### Promotion de la société civile environnementale à Madagascar à travers la mise en réseau et le renforcement des capacités

**Donor:** European Commission

**Budget:** 475.000 EUR

**Duration:** 3 years

**Status:** Proposal submitted to donor

Support to the set-up of an environmental civil society platform and capacity building of 4 partner NGOs.

The aim of this project is to establish a network of environmental actors of the civil society in Madagascar and to build the capacity of its members so that they can improve their work to reduce poverty through the promotion of good governance of natural resources at the level of the environmental and sector-based policies and through an increased capacity to implement actions promoting sustainable livelihoods with communities and local authorities.

#### Améliorer le bien-être et la sécurisation alimentaire des populations des zones forestières: Centre Est et Sud Est de Madagascar

**Donor :** European Commission

**Budget :** 1.663.737 EUR

**Duration:** 3 years

**Status:** Proposal submitted to donor

Promotion of SRI (Système de Riziculture Intensive) next to neighboring populations of WWF priority conversation areas: Amoron i Mania, Haute Matsiatra, Vatovavy Fitovinany, Ihorombe, Atsimo Atsinanana, Anosy.

The project will support the main agricultural sectors identified in the sites or areas. The interventions will aim at a successful and responsible management of resources. The objective remains the improvement of living conditions of the rural population (increase of agricultural production and fight against starvation) in the six target areas.



#### Sustaining Life: Empowering Civil Society for Improved Livelihoods and Effective Natural Resources Management in Madagascar

**Donor:** Sida/ WWF-SE

**Budget:** 118.750 EUR

**Duration:** 3 years

**Status:** Proposal submitted to donor

Supporting natural resources management and local livelihoods through the strengthening of local associations and NGOs, capacity building of local community associations in Fandriana-Marolambo and Ivohibe areas of Menabe and Melaky. The projects aim to improve the standard of living of rural people, analyze the consequences of companies and people activities and decision-makers interests in nature resource management. In addition this work will aim to develop a deeper understanding of complex poverty, development of civil society, environmental and ecosystem services.





### Amélioration de l'accès à l'eau potable, à l'hygiène et à l'assainissement de la population défavorisée d'Antananarivo - Projet « Rano Soa sy Fidiovana »

**Donor :** European Commission

**Budget :** 667.000 EUR

**Duration:** 18 months

**Status:** Proposal submitted to donor by Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), in partnership with WWF MWIOPO, Plateforme Diorano WASH, CARE International and WaterAid Madagascar.

It consists on the implementation of the above mentioned project involving 1) non-state actors: NGOs (CARE, WaterAid, WWF), Civil society organizations composed of various platforms for dialogue and development, 2) local authorities ( Fokontany, Villages) and 3) the water company JIRAMA (Jiro sy Rano Malagasy) as well as 4) private sector operators (masons and local hardware stores) to increase a sustainable access to drinking water at an affordable cost, in conjunction with improved sanitation and hygiene on the basis of a principle of cost recovery and sustainability of the infrastructures.

### Water Treatment and Desalinization in the Deep South of Madagascar

**Donor:** Solarspar/ WWF-CH

**Budget:** 250.000 CHF

**Duration:** 3 years

**Status:** Concept approved by donor

Putting in place water treatment and desalinization in the littoral villages of the west coast south of Toliara

### Oil for Development

**Donor:** NORAD/ WWF-NO

**Budget:** 6 934 865 NOK

**Duration:** 3 years

**Status:** Proposal submitted to donor

Developing fully integrate environmental and societal concerns in petroleum resources development

## New Projects

**Project number:** MG0905.03

**Title:** Efficient electric lighting in Madagascar as part of the Smart Energy Network Initiative

**Start date:** 14 September 2009

**Planned end date:** 14 December 2009

**Donor:** WWF-CH

**Summary:** Promoting the adoption of low energy consumption lamps through a subsidy and a reliable supply chain of lamps in Madagascar

**Project number:** MG0934.02

**Title:** Translation of PHE (Population Health Environment) Manual

**Start date:** 15 August 2009

**Planned end date:** 30 June 2010

**Donor:** USAID

**Summary:** The previous project started in November 2008 to build the synergy of stakeholders while fighting against poverty and lack of efficiency of conservation works. However, from January until



now, Madagascar met with deep political crisis that conducted to the suspension of some financial support from the international community. From Mid August 2009 to June 30 2010, PHE Madagascar will contribute to the spread of PHE approach at international level, through the translation of the PHE Manual into a French version

**Project number:** MG0937

**Title:** Promotion of Sustainable Production of Agrifuels in Madagascar

**Start date:** 1 August 2009

**Planned end date:** 11 December 2011

**Donor:** UNDP

**Summary:** The project contributes to the establishment of a favourable environment for a sustainable development of agrifuels in Madagascar. It will focus on: ➤ The operationalisation of a platform working on a framework which should govern the agrifuel sector in Madagascar; ➤ The promotion of a Study guide on the environmental and social impact of the agrifuel sector; ➤ The organizing of a network of NGOs and civil society organizations for the monitoring of the agrifuel investments on the national territory.

**Project number:** MG0938

**Title:** Climate Change in Diana Region

**Start date:** 1 October 2009

**Planned end date:** 1 October 2012

**Donor:** John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

**Summary:** This project offers an opportunity to develop, refine and apply adaptation procedures that mitigate the impacts of climate change on the ground, in the Diana Region, a highly important marine and coastal priority area in the Western Indian Ocean. and thus a model for other high conservation-value areas in Madagascar. It allows to scale up approaches on climate change by building comprehensive adaptation policies and strategies to strengthen regional development plan and national adaptation programme.

## Staffing

Since late June 2009, Bodo Rasendrasoa took over the management of Human Resources and Operations.

Ana Carina Santos Franco, from Portugal, has been working as Grants Coordinator since August 2009.

Alison Clausen, from Australia, joined the team in September, working as Climate Change Programme Officer.

Martina Lippuner, from Switzerland, will also join the team as Communications Manager as of October, 1st 2009.



Bodo



Ana Carina



Martina



Alison

## Training

11 of our colleagues attended a leadership training provided by Better Futures in mid-September.



They developed a new lead sentence for WWF MWIOP: *“Be a passionate and proud team creatively supporting and inspiring people to conserve the biodiversity of Madagascar and WIO region whilst being attentive to the aspirations of cultural values of local institutions.”* In addition, 3 top teams of WWF MWIOP were formed in this leadership training: the Senior Management Team (SMT), the Programme Coordination Team (PCT) and the Conservation Think Tank (CTT)

## SOME STORIES FROM OUR PROJECTS

### Dolphins Rescued by the Local Community

Maromena (South of Toliara), Northern Marine Reserve Tsitinginy - 1st September 2009. About 75 dolphins were found trapped in the lagoon, behind the reef, at low tide. The current movements in the lagoon have tricked the dolphins which were unable to access the channel through which they should have been released. Sensing their imminent grounding, dolphins leaped desperately and emitted sounds of distress (“crying” said the fishermen), trying to reach the open sea.

Fishermen, returned directly to the village of Maromena to alert the local community, including members of the Management Committee of the Marine Reserve Tsitinginy. Immediately, many fishermen came to the rescue and freed the Dolphins out of the lagoon.

After one hour of rescue, all the dolphins have been evacuated out of the lagoon and reached the open sea.



Viktor Nikiforov - WWF-Russia

It should be noted that the Marine Reserve Tsitinginy was created, with support from WWF, by the local community.

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### Festival for Marine Conservation

North Salary, South West of Madagascar - September 2009. Big events were held to officially mark the closure of fisheries stocks. *“Let’s work together to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources, guarantee for the livelihood of future generations in the Soariake area”* was the leitmotif of the ceremony. Fishermen, fish dealers, collectors, local and regional authorities, hoteliers, local committee of management of reserves, WWF and other NGOs were all involved to demonstrate the importance of safeguarding the marine and coastal ecosystem.



Thus, residents of six villages of fishermen in the Soariake area, who themselves have proposed and created these fishing grounds, enjoyed three days of celebration, meeting, exchange and conviviality. Various tournaments and competitions were organized to involve everyone. Men competed on canoe, ladies on football, while a Q&A session (focused mainly on marine environment) delighted children.

Thus, residents of six villages of fishermen in the Soariake area, who themselves have proposed and created these fishing grounds, enjoyed three days of celebration, meeting, exchange and conviviality. Various tournaments and competitions were organized to involve everyone. Men competed on canoe, ladies on football, while a Q&A session (focused mainly on marine environment) delighted children.

All this was enhanced by cultural events (poetry competition, theater, beauty contests in traditional dress, film and photos on marine reserves and traditional music and dance). A traditional evening Vezo called “Zion-demboke” closed the festivities.



According to estimates, 75% of the population were mobilized. This event allowed the WWF team, assess the impact of efforts during the first year of intervention and cooperation in this area. Indeed, through poetry and traditional songs, there has been positive perceptions from the local communities vis-à-vis the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems.

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### A Successful Awareness Raising

The active participation of villagers in the establishment of mangrove nursery has been successful in the pilot sites of Ambondrolava and Ambotsibotsike, district of Toliara II. Each of the ten households in Ambotsibotsike looked after 50 seedlings of *Avicennia sp.* for 3 months. The survival rate of these seedlings is estimated at 97%.

The strategy of one of our partners (Honko Association) for the protection and restoration of degraded mangrove forests and other vulnerable parts of

the coast, is to raise awareness of neighbouring villagers with support from WWF. Thus, the international day of mangroves on July 26, 2009 was an opportunity for local communities to present their contribution to conservation. Volunteers including students from the University of Toliara and the Institute of Fisheries and Marine Sciences (IH.SM), some representatives of the government’s support to fishing communities in Southwest, and main organizers like Honko Association and WWF, helped to plant 500 seedlings of *Avicennia sp.* in Ambotsibotsike and 2000 propagules of *Ceriops sp.* in Ambondrolava to this day.

To involve everyone in the village, this day was also marked by a lunch in Ambondrolava, and cultural events and entertainment such as traditional songs and games. Activities of mangrove restoration in the pilot sites are progressing well and local communities actively participate and support these efforts. Honko Association and WWF now plan to expand these activities in other sites.

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Viktor Nikiforov - WWF-Russia





## Local Communities and Reforestation

The project aims to contribute to a sustainable supply in fuel wood for the town of Toliara by reforesting formerly cleared sites. The goal is to reduce human pressure on natural forests.

About twenty nursery sites have been set up in 6 villages distributed in the areas that supply the town of Toliara in wood charcoal.



Following the experience of the 2008/2009 reforestation campaign, the reforesters in the Atsimo Andrefana region, have been conscious of the need to create groups to achieve the reforestation works. Supported by technicians of WWF in the frame of the SEESO project, villagers took more responsibility and participated in the nursery works for the preparation of the 2009/2010 campaign.

For the 2009/2010 reforestation campaign, one million plants will be produced, representing a planting surface of about 1000 ha shared in various villages. Taking into account these quantitative goals, everyone has to work together.

This initiative and system allow meeting the objectives, for the production of plants for 1000ha of land to be reforested. According to this scale, five years from now, with a production of 4000 t of charcoal per year by the created plantation forest, thousands of hectares of natural forests would be saved.

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## Junction of Two Protected Areas: Onilahy and Antsirafaly

In the area of Amoron'i Onilahy, the sustainable management of natural resources projects and the mining exploration projects started almost at the same time. The initiative of creating a protected harmonious landscape coincided with the administration's attribution of mining permits to individual or company explorers. Almost 30 people were in possession of mining permits in these areas.

Dualities arose with various arguments to uphold them: conservation and extractive activities, common interests and individual interests. This was shown on the field by the overlapping of the mining squares with the important territories for the conservation of biodiversity. Flagrantly, a big mining square of the DYNATEC company (Ambatovy) came between the Onilahy block and the area of Antsirafaly, while the logic of conservation wants its habitats to be adjoining and representative. We had to take action! To literally gain ground on the mining sector!

A strategy has been set to come out of the crisis and to displace the mining squares. A consultant has been recruited to analyze the situation from an independent view: the issue, the risks and the circumstances. Then a "win – win" solution was proposed to DYNATEC, who accepted to give up freely the corridor area between Amoron'i Onilahy and Antsirafaly

A joint visit was organized to check and to see firsthand the new limits and the corner points according to the present coordinates. The joint team then proceeded to the marking of the intermediate points and to the formalization of the agreement in principle of DYNATEC by preparing the statements on the displacing of the mining square part.

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## COMMUNIQUE

Since the beginning of the current political crisis, we the undersigned International Conservation NGOs working in Madagascar, have continuously voiced our concerns about the increase in open and organized plundering of precious wood, bushmeat hunting (particularly lemurs), smuggling of rare species and the proliferation of destructive practices in natural forests and marine ecosystems, that include World Heritage Sites and Protected Areas.

Acknowledging the importance of continual support to protected areas management, forest control and sustainable livelihoods for those communities most depending on natural resources, we have continuously advocated for maintaining funding by donors for the Madagascar Environment Program. In this regard, we have sent letters along with strong communications and held high level meetings with financial partners, including the US Government and the World Bank President. Thanks to our perseverance and commitment, on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009, the World Bank agreed to "develop, jointly with partners, a coordinated approach to meeting the conservation and development objectives of the Environment Program 3".

We now strongly fear this positive progress advocating for continued financial resources could be jeopardized by the inter-ministerial order no. 38244/2009 issued on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009, granting an exceptional authorization to export raw and semi-processed precious wood. This order counters the efforts to ensure good environmental governance and a transparent chain of custody system for forest products. We also firmly believe this order goes against the commitments made by the transition Government since the beginning of this crisis to seriously address illegal logging. Nor does it conform with Madagascar's commitment to achieve the Durban Vision to triple its protected areas and protect its forests to combat climate change, as stated in the speech by the President of the Haute Autorité de Transition for the recent UN High Level Summit on Climate Change.

On the contrary, the interministerial order 38244/2009 will only open the way for further plundering of Madagascar's extremely precious natural resources. It legalises the sale of illegally cut and collected wood onto the market; allows for the potential embezzlement of funds in the name of environmental protection; and constitutes a legal incentive for further corruption in the forestry sector. We are strongly concerned that the measures proposed will only benefit a small group of people while contributing to further poverty and powerlessness of the people who depend on these natural resources.

We therefore call upon the Government to immediately revoke the above mentioned order, stop all exportation of precious wood from Madagascar, release publicly the report on illegal logging by independent international organization, Global Witness; and urgently take the legal and political actions, to effectively stop illegal logging and plundering of flora and fauna in the country.

We hereby confirm our commitment to work for the sustainable development of Madagascar, through the conservation of its biodiversity and the promotion of the well-being of those who are stewards of this natural heritage.

Antananarivo, 02 October 2009

World Wide Fund for Nature –(WWF)  
Conservation International - (CI)  
Wildlife Conservation Society – (WCS)

