

Findings

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Best Practices
Infobrief



Infobriefs reports on ongoing operational, economic and sector work carried out by the World Bank and its member governments in the Africa Region. It is published periodically by the Knowledge, Information and Technology Center on behalf of the Region.

Environment I Project (EPI) in Madagascar (1991-1995)

Objectives: To improve the environmental management capacity in Madagascar through the implementation of institutional development and emergency actions.

Project components included: (i) protection and management of biodiversity; (ii) community-based soil conservation and watershed management; (iii) mapping and remote sensing for improved natural resources management; (iv) improved land security through cadastral surveys; (v) environmental sensitization, education and training; and (vi) research and institution building and reinforcement, (e.g., for natural forest management).

Impacts on the ground:

The *Agence Nationale d'Actions Environnementales* (ANAE) assisted in securing finance for 600 demand-driven micro-projects involving direct assistance to more than 20,000 households.

The *Agence Nationale de Gestion des Aires Protégées* (ANGAP) helped set up Integrated Conservation Development Projects (ICDPs) in 20 protected areas.

A cadastral survey was conducted over nearly 200,000 hectares, and over 80,000 square km of protected areas were aero-photographed.

The *Office National de l'Environnement* (ONE) ensured communication support and training and was instrumental in formulating environmental policies tailored to various sectors (e.g., roads, and forest management) involving communities, and in improving the regulatory framework (e.g., decree on environmental impact assessments).

Lessons learned:

The EPI project approach was effective in developing demand-driven microprojects and in strengthening partnerships between the Government of Madagascar, national and international NGOs, and donors.

A stable political environment is critical to the project being effectively designed and implemented. The lack of this element at that point of time resulted in the project's slow and uneven take-off.

Local participation, integration of environmental concerns into national and local decision-making, and multi-donor input at the design stage increased the effectiveness of the project. The Environment II project under preparation seeks to incorporate such concerns more strategically at the design stage.

Key Documents on Environment

World Bank, **Toward Environmentally Sustainable Development in Sub-Saharan Africa**, 1995 and the Building Block Series, December 1995.

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