



Communiqué

de l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis

de presse

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“Celebrating a Decade of US-Malagasy Partnerships in Fianarantsoa” June 5 – 6, 2008

U.S. Ambassador Niels Marquardt is leading an American/Malagasy delegation to Fianarantsoa in celebration of more than a decade of U.S.-Malagasy partnership in and around the city of Fianarantsoa. This event, organized by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), their local partner Eco-Regional Initiative (ERI) and U.S. Peace Corps, focuses on linkage between nature, health, wealth and good governance. The highlight of the celebration will be the establishment of a pavilion emphasizing the ongoing cooperation and coordination between the U.S. Mission to Madagascar, the Government of Madagascar, and local partner organizations. The pavilion will be composed of booths hosted by USAID, its partners, and U.S. Peace Corps focusing on their programs and projects in the regions surrounding Fianarantsoa.

Since 1991, USAID through its Biodiversity Program has worked on a national level with the Malagasy Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests in support of the Malagasy National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP.) In 1997, USAID expanded its program to the regions of Vatovavy Fitovinany and Haute Matsiatra providing direct assistance in the creation of the Ranomafana National Park and interventions focused on the central Ranomafana–Andringitra forest corridor. These project interventions also target areas where the forest corridor is at risk due to slash-and-burn agriculture. USAID and its partners have worked to implement an eco-regional approach to conservation and development which hinges on the establishment of governance structures to facilitate the coordination of multiple Malagasy government ministries and agencies, donors and private sector investments.

The celebration also comprises several other U.S. mission and Malagasy government sponsored events, including an award ceremony for the U.S. mission-sponsored Business Plan Training and Competition, recognition of World Environment Day, a journalism training program specifically designed for local journalists, a visit with local scholars participating in the Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program, and the viewing of films produced by U.S. mission funded programs and partners.