



Monday, April 30, 2007

## **Swearing-in ceremony of 28 new Peace Corps Volunteers in the Environment Sector**

On Wednesday May 2, 2007, 28 Peace Corps Volunteers in the Environment Sector have been sworn in by Peace Corps Director Ronald Tschetter, visiting Madagascar from Washington, D.C. from April 30 through May 4, 2007. The ceremony took place at the residence of U.S. Ambassador James D. McGee. With the addition of the new group, the volunteers in the Environment Sector will increase to 51. According to Leif Davenport, Associate Director of Peace Corps and Project Manager, Peace Corps Volunteers work throughout Madagascar. However, nearly two-thirds of Environment Volunteers work in sites located along the East coast, where the last remaining pockets of Malagasy rainforest are located. Each year about 25 Volunteers are requested. Half the group has forestry experience while the other half has agricultural work experience or knowledge. The Malagasy organizational partners for the volunteers are the Environment Ministry, including the Malagasy Forest Service and the Malagasy Park Service (ANGAP), International and national NGOs, and local communities. The primary role of Environmental Volunteers is to work with host country partners to identify already existing and successful forestry and agricultural practices and then teaching these practices to other people in their communities.

The Peace Corps has been in Madagascar since 1993. There are currently 133 volunteers throughout the country.