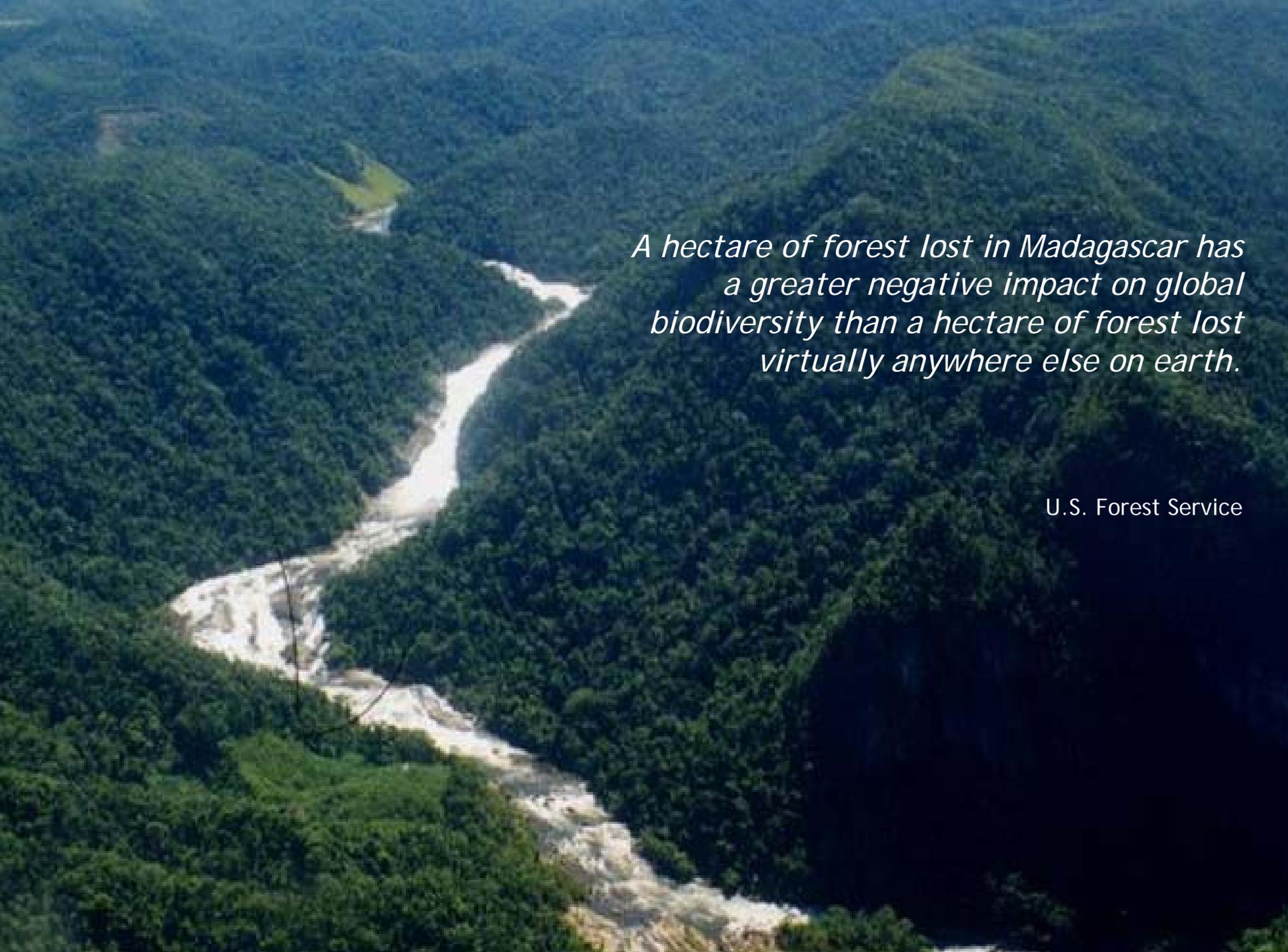


Nature, Health, Wealth, and Power

A Holistic, Comprehensive Approach
Madagascar

Lessons Learned
Lisa Gaylord, WCS
March 2011

An aerial photograph showing a wide, light-colored river or stream winding through a vast, dense green forest. The forest covers rolling hills and valleys, with the river cutting a path through the center. The water appears turbulent, possibly due to rapids or a rocky riverbed. The overall scene is a lush, natural landscape.

A hectare of forest lost in Madagascar has a greater negative impact on global biodiversity than a hectare of forest lost virtually anywhere else on earth.

U.S. Forest Service

Madagascar's Unique Biodiversity



Growing Population



Increasing Threats to Natural Resources Base



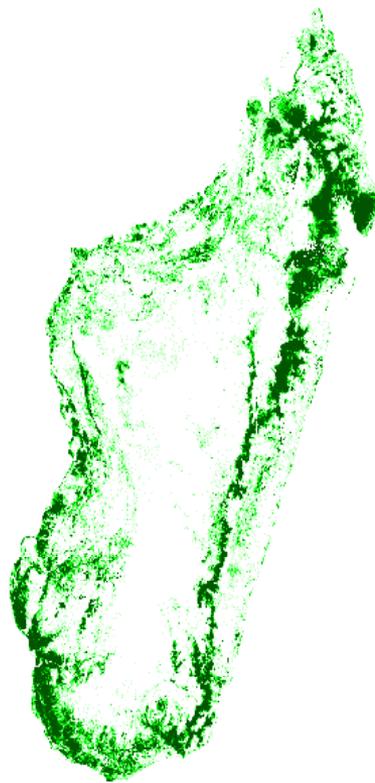
LOOKING BACK

**BASED ON 25 YEARS WORKING IN MADAGASCAR IN THE
AREAS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (NATURE),
HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (HEALTH),
ECONOMIC GROWTH (WEALTH)
AND GOVERNANCE (POWER)**

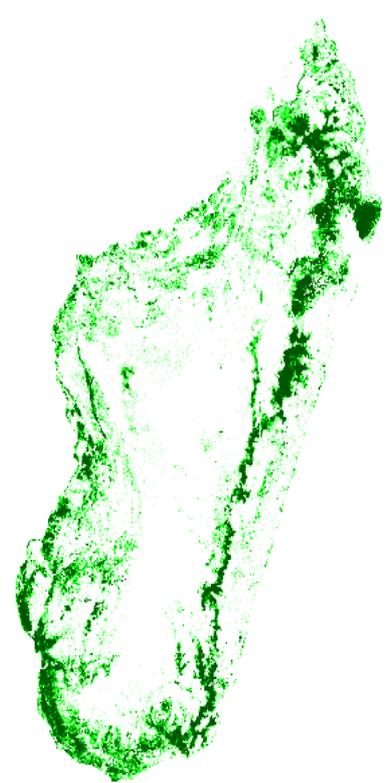
Forest cover lost during last 50 years



1950



1990



2000

Data provided by CI and WCS

25 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE Cautious Celebration

Deforestation has been slowed from
400,000 to ~50,000 ha per year

But...

> **2 million hectares** were lost as that rate
was being slowed

The remaining forests -- and the biodiversity
and human populations who depend on them
-- are increasingly vulnerable.

Today's challenges are even greater than
what we faced 25 years ago.

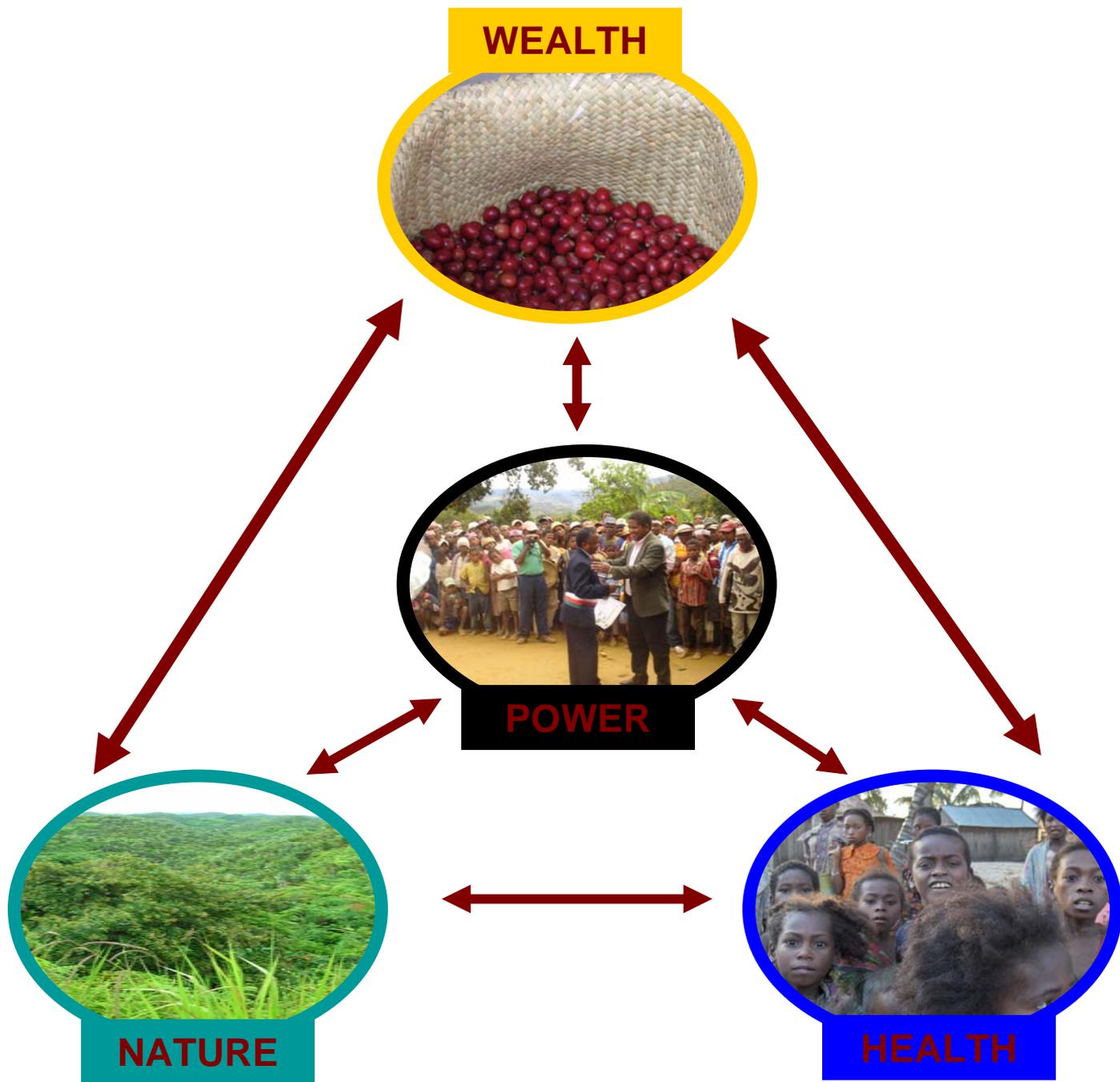




FROM THE OUTSET, PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS IN MADAGASCAR WAS VERTICALLY INTEGRATED

- (1) Linking **ecosystem and human health** in alignment with Madagascar's 1990 Environmental Charter
- (2) Focusing on **policy development and institution building**
- (3) Promoting a holistic field approach based on **Nature, Health, Wealth, and Power Framework**





The Conceptual Model

Priority **conservation zones** act as an anchor to bring together different sectors

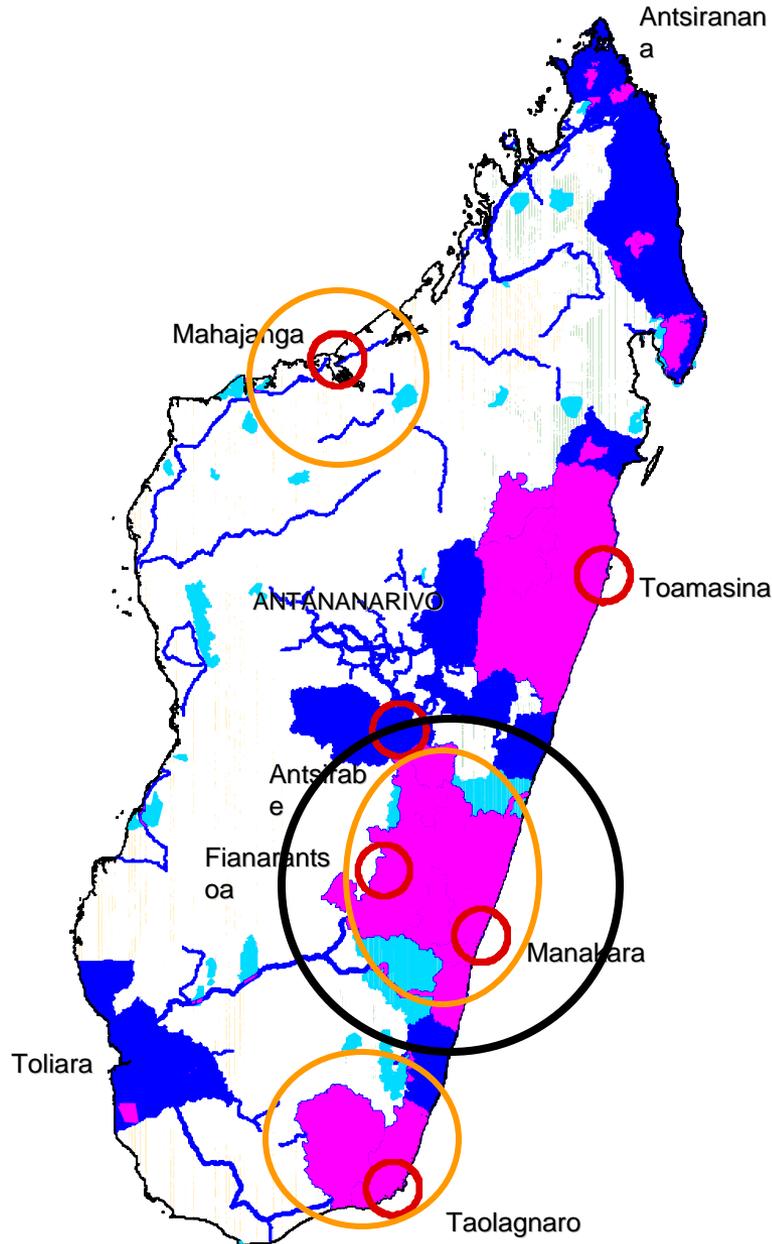
Access to **family planning and health services** as needed for a more productive and happy workforce

Economic development through sustainable agriculture, value added and income generating activities

Governance to support sustainable development; **civil society** strengthened across all sectors



COMPLEMENTARY INTERVENTION ZONES



Forest cover

Env/RD Intervention Zones

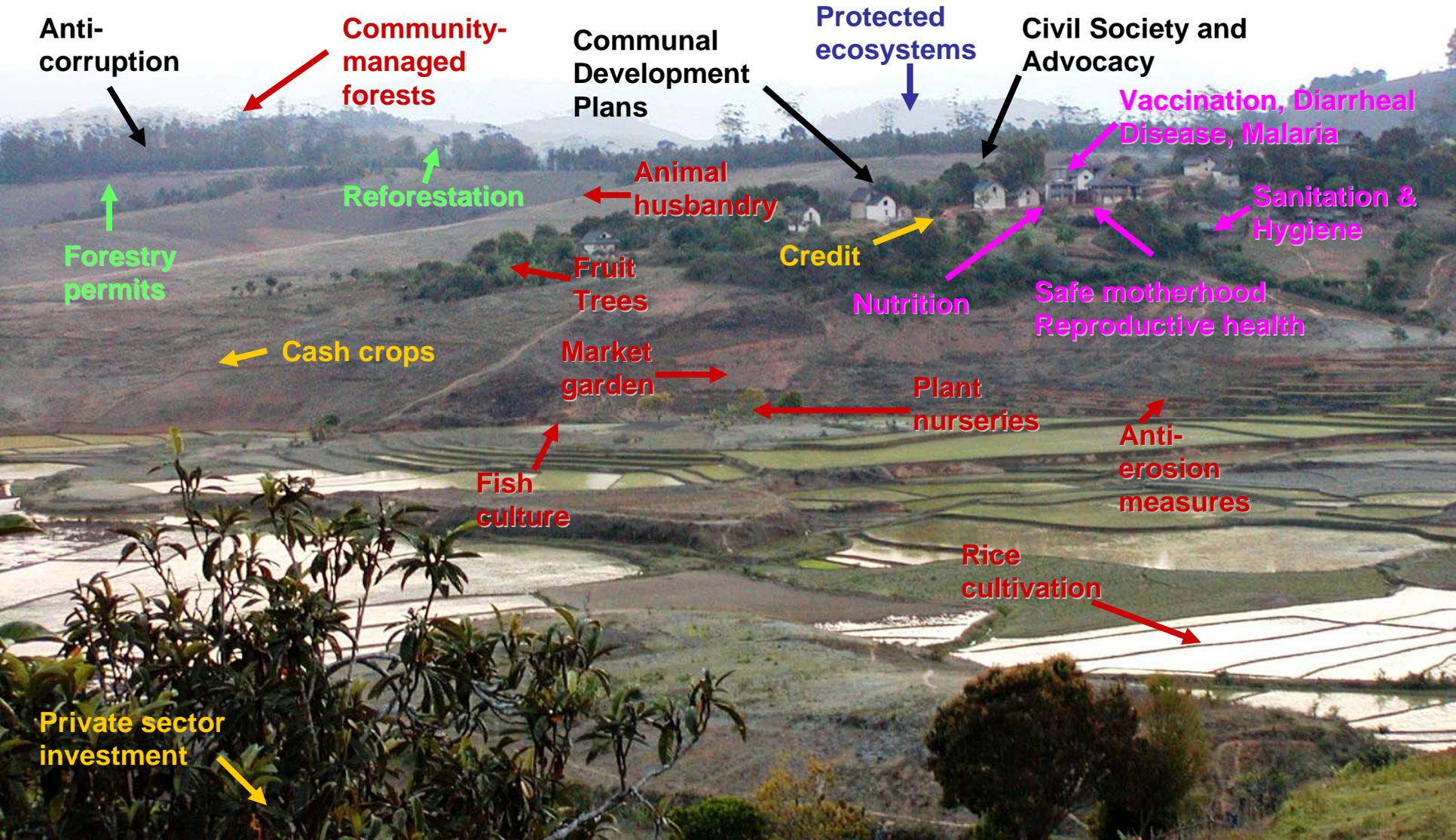
Ag/Trade Intervention Zones

HPN Intervention Zones

DG Intervention Zones



Holistic Approach at Landscape Level

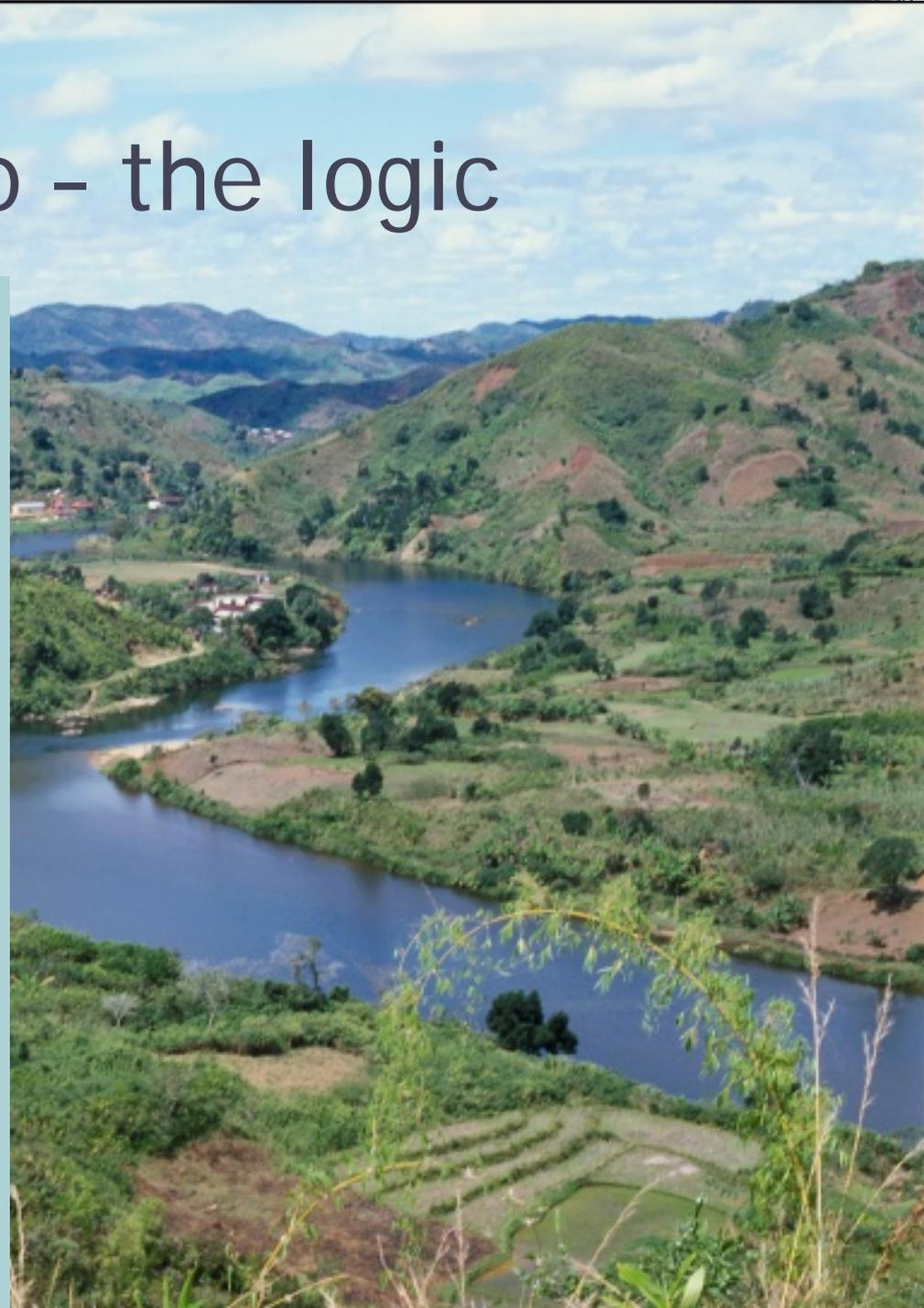


Scaling up - the logic

At the local/regional level, investments in economic infrastructures (transport, markets, credit) were expected to exert a systematic influence on the local economy.

At the national level, a favorable policy framework and planning process was to positively influence a scaling up of interventions through country owned regional and communal development plans

Together – with other multi-lateral and bi-lateral support – this would extend the USG interventions over space and time.



Scaling down - the reality



In the absence of effective policies and necessary economic infrastructures, programs were confronted by significant constraints to their effectiveness.

Instead, they **scaled down** to the local level where they could effectively manage all the inputs

Programs were also affected by a changing balance in the funding levels available for **nature, health, wealth and power** activities

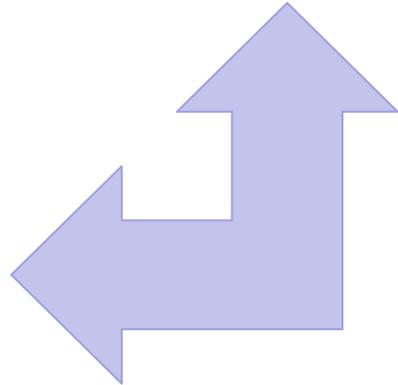
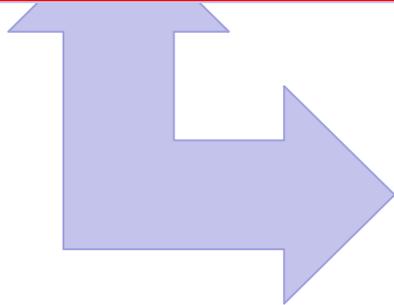
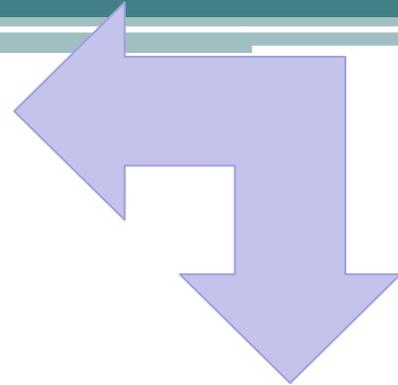
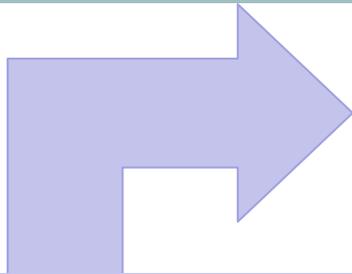
**ENVIRONMENT
(Nature)**

**HEALTH/FP
(Health)**

**Humanitarian
assistance food
security**

**ECONOMIC
GROWTH /
AGRIC DEVT
(Wealth)**

**GOVERNANCE
(Power)**



Other Elements that Impeded Progress

- Periodic political crises that seriously set back economic development
- Governments swept in and out requiring whole structures top to bottom to be re-started
- Impact of interventions undermined by not-good-enough governance
- Rampant and systemic corruption
- Exceedingly weak civil society, which reduced demands for accountability
- Increased illegal exploitation of natural resources



The Bottom Line :

Despite the notable successes in all areas of intervention:

- **2 million hectares of forest have been lost; Deforestation has slowed but continues at > 0.5% per year;**
- **Improvements to livelihoods, especially in rural communities, have been modest at best.**
- **Population growth continues at 3% per year.**

In 1990, Madagascar had about 11 million ha of forest and 11 million very poor people.

Today the country has about 9 million ha of forest and 20 million still very poor people.

LOOKING FORWARD

BUILDING ON
25 YEARS OF LESSONS LEARNED
FROM MADAGASCAR

Field Level Foundation for Sustainable Change

- Common long term vision and congruent land use management plans across local, regional and national levels that are mutually supportive of different sectorial objectives
- Technical approaches that are evidence based and grounded in the best available scientific, social, and culture understanding
- Move beyond the artificial distinction between environment and economic growth/development to develop a more ambitious, coherent and comprehensive plans
- Building good governance is painstaking and time consuming – but fundamental to lasting results and a strong civil society who can hold the government accountable

Recommendations for a Holistic Approach

- Maintain **balance** between funding levels for NATURE (biodiversity conservation), HEALTH (Global Health Initiative), WEALTH (Feed the Future), and POWER (governance) at the country and/or land/seascape level
- Provide **incentives** for holistic and comprehensive program interventions (and not merely parallel programs)
- Recognize that achieving sustainable progress is a **slow** and painstaking process. Programs should be funded in a context of **10 or 20 year horizon**, rather than annual or 5 year timeframe.
- Ensure **appropriate strategies** for working in countries with strong US interests (e.g. biodiversity, security, humanitarian concerns), but the host governments are fragile and unlikely to play an effective role in implementation.

Thank You



Photo credit: Mohamad Sy-ar