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Tenure and Natural Resource Management

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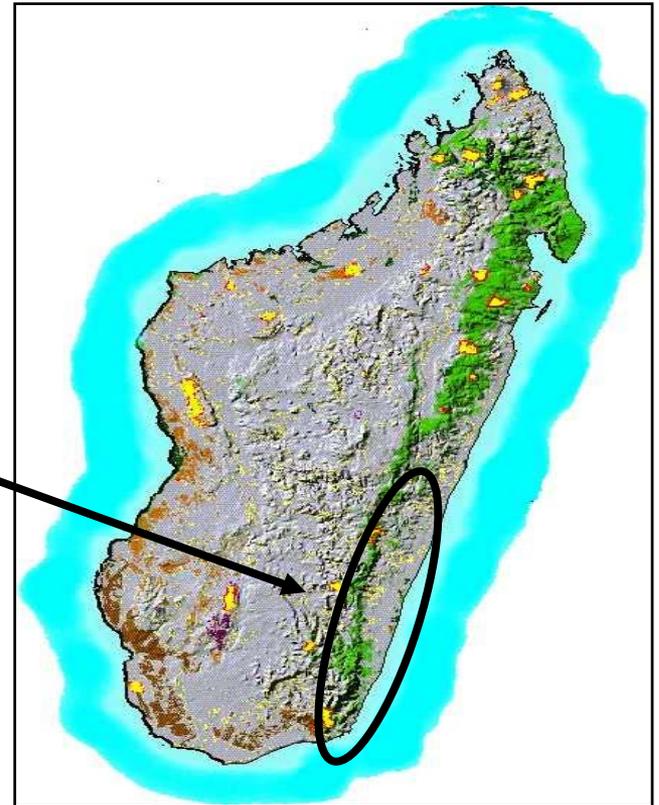
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Tenure and NRM Issues in Madagascar



**Fandriana –
Vondrozo
Forest
Corridor**

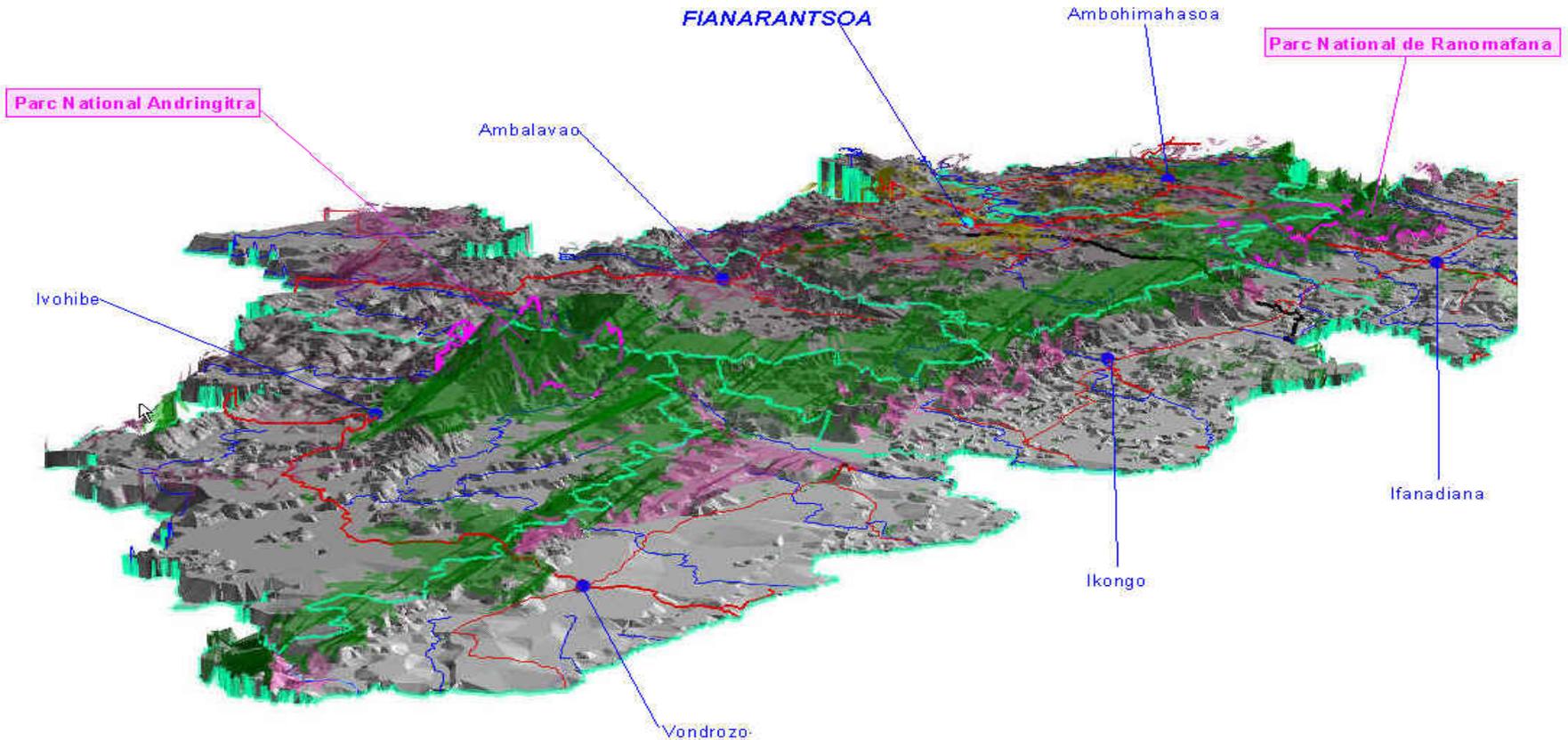




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The Fianarantsoa Madagascar Forest Corridor

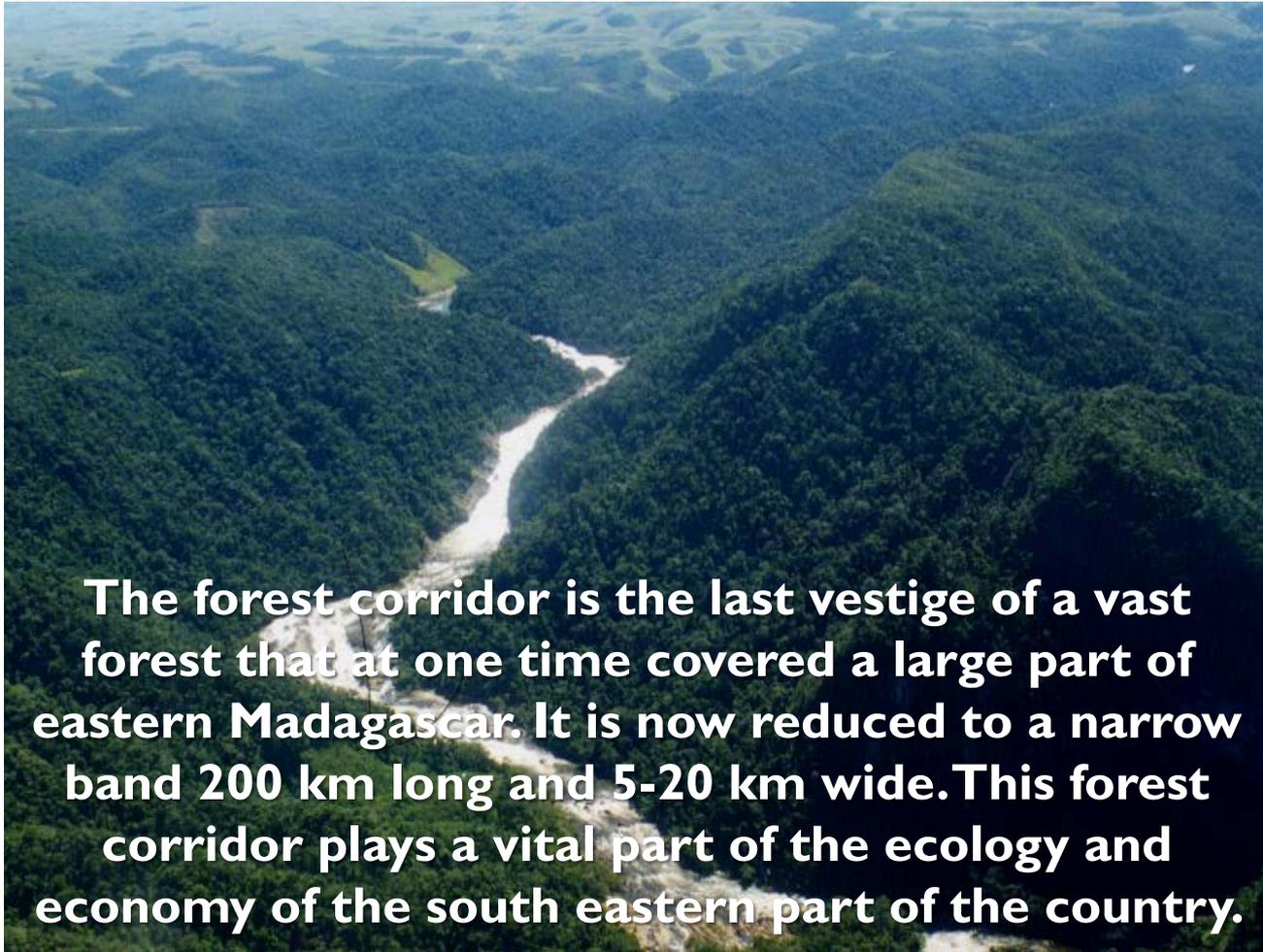




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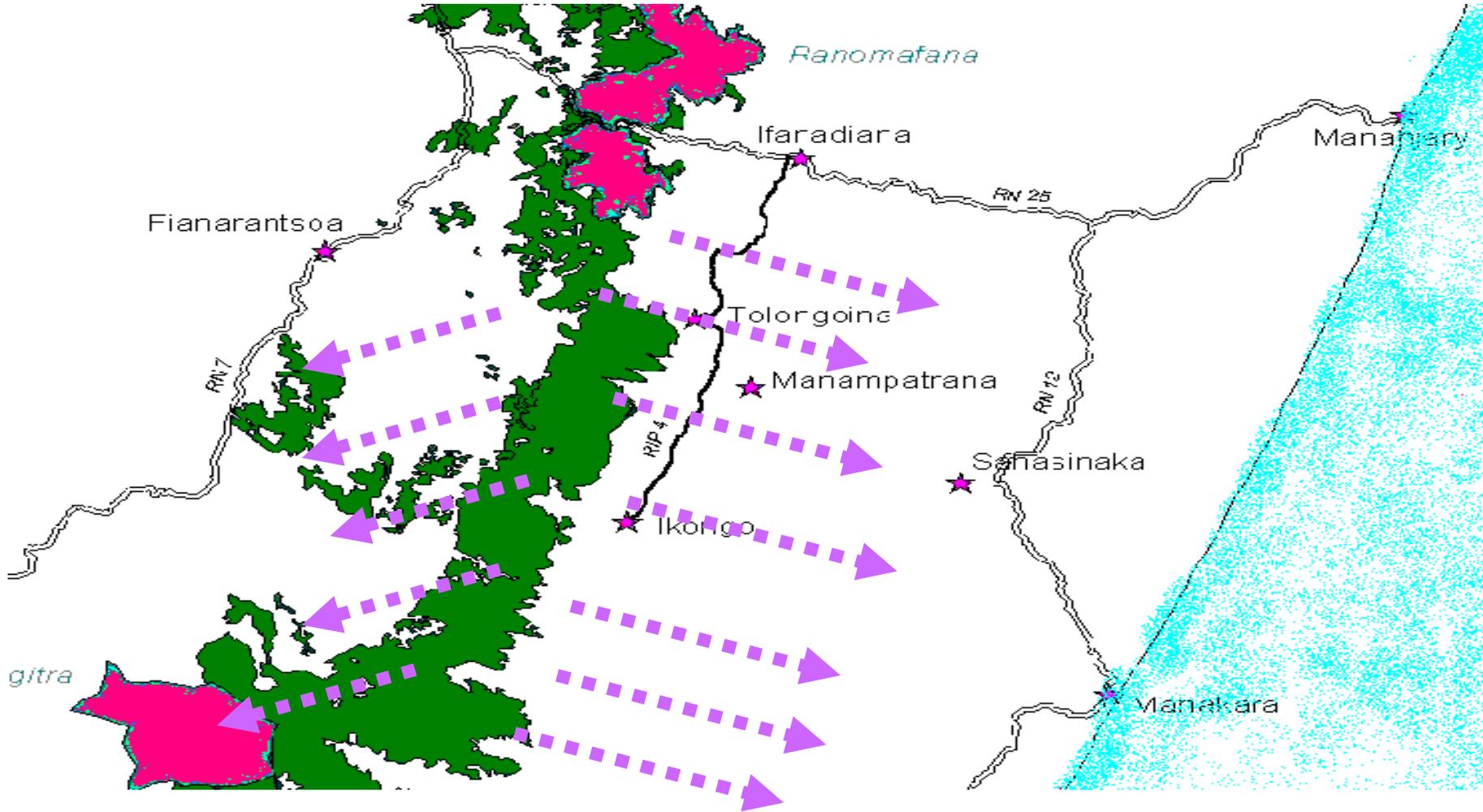
Fianarantsoa Forrest Corridor Overflight



The forest corridor is the last vestige of a vast forest that at one time covered a large part of eastern Madagascar. It is now reduced to a narrow band 200 km long and 5-20 km wide. This forest corridor plays a vital part of the ecology and economy of the south eastern part of the country.



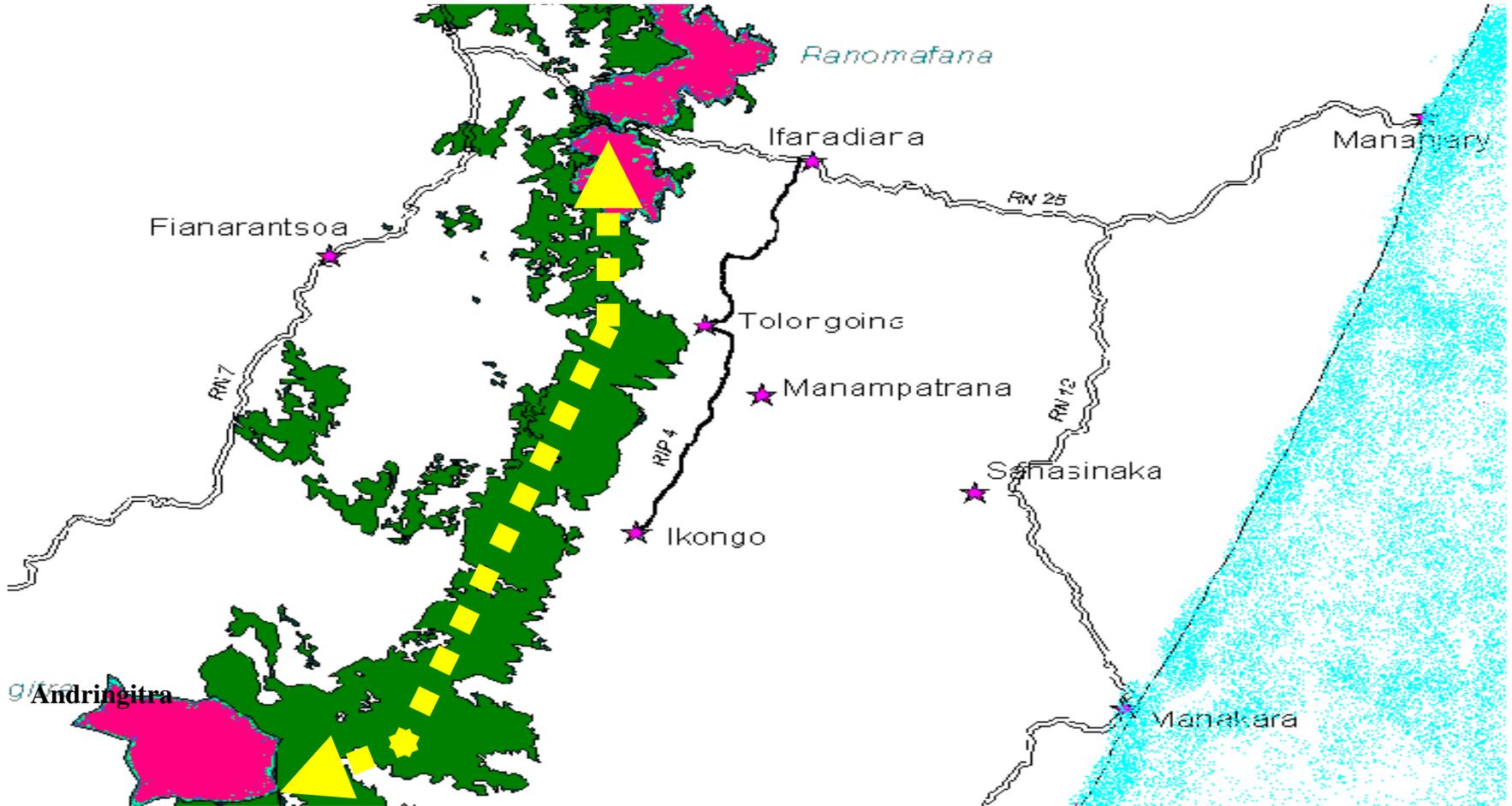
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The forest corridor is the «water tower» of the province – a source of water for irrigated rice cultivation, urban water supplies, and hydroelectric power



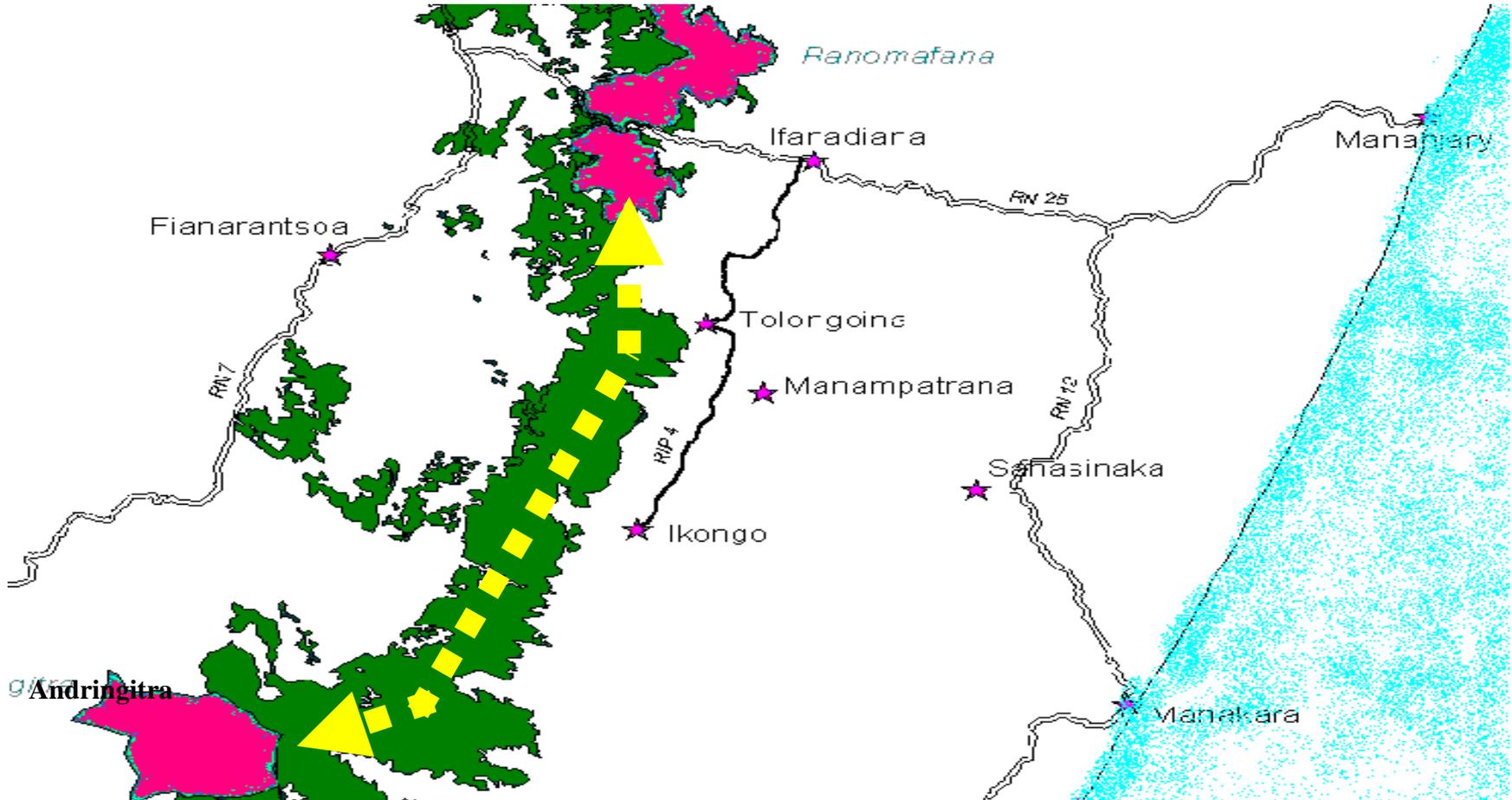
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The forest corridor is a biological corridor that contributes to the maintenance of biodiversity between two national parks but that also contributes to ancillary economic activities.



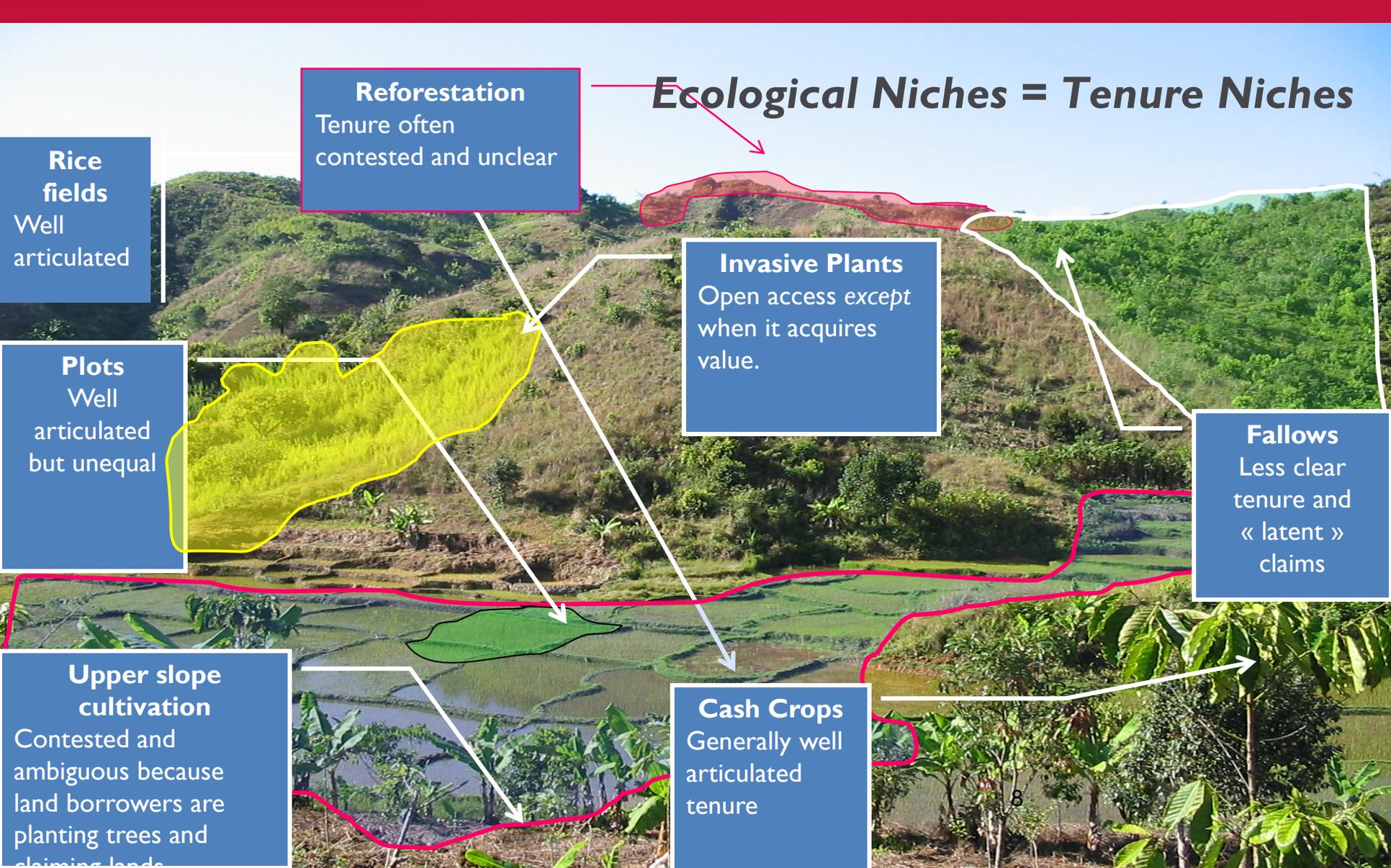
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The forest corridor is a source of economic value – ecotourism, secondary forest products, hydroelectric power, mineral resources, bioprospecting, ecoagriculture, zone carbon sink and source of payments for avoided deforestation...



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Ecological Niches = Tenure Niches

Reforestation
Tenure often contested and unclear

Rice fields
Well articulated

Plots
Well articulated but unequal

Invasive Plants
Open access except when it acquires value.

Fallows
Less clear tenure and « latent » claims

Upper slope cultivation
Contested and ambiguous because land borrowers are planting trees and claiming lands

Cash Crops
Generally well articulated tenure



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Overlapping Tenure Regimes

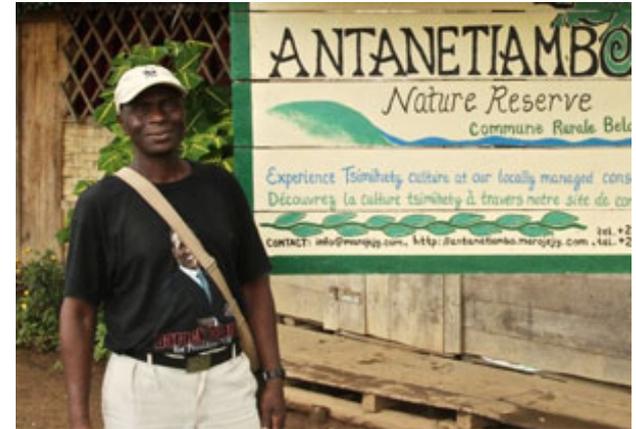
Statutory tenure

Forest belongs to the State, which allocates use rights (mining, logging, etc)

Customary tenure

Forest belongs to the clans or villages that initially delimited their boundaries

- agricultural production
- forest reserved as the “community land bank” with the idea that future generations will need to expand their agricultural holdings
- Differential rights between men and women
- In the meantime, local people harvest natural resources (medicinal plants, poles, firewood, etc.)



Photos: Tetra Tech





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General Tenure Dynamics of the Forest Corridor

- Territories formerly collectively managed; now free-for-all
- Individual property rights emerge leading to increased land fragmentation
- State lacks political will and institutional means and capacity to manage vast and remote landscapes



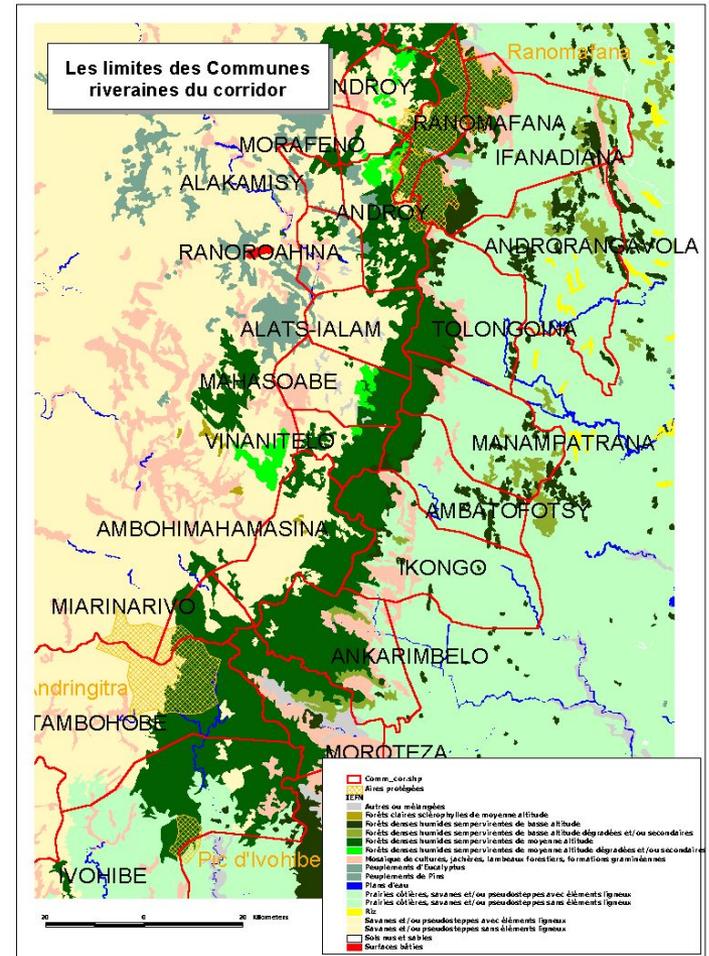


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Landscape Conservation Challenges to Build Security

- Building political will in fragile states
- Creating co-management regimes out of de facto open access
- Constructing new institutions for large-scale ecoregional conservation





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Co-management Strategy

Faced with evidence of massive pressures on the corridor, USAID's strategy was to engage the government and local communities in a strategy to “co-manage” the corridor.

The community agrees to :

cease unsustainable exploitation of forest resources (no new slash and burn agriculture)

and

protect / monitor the health of the corridor.

The GoM/Eaux et Forêts cede certain management rights to local communities who are allowed to :

exclude outsiders

Sustainably harvest forest products (in some areas)

Financially gain from the forest (e.g. eco-tourism ventures).

The arrangement is validated by a co-management contract.



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Contested Rights

	Land	Trees	Subsoil minerals	Water	Forest products
National authorities (Mining vs Forestry/Water ministries)					
Local authorities					
Local community (rich vs poor, landed vs newcomer)					
Projects/donors					
Miners (large scale vs artisanal)					
Loggers (large scale vs artisanal)					

This pleasantly simplistic dichotomy of interests (state/community), denies a far more complex stakeholder reality in which the corridor is a place of contestation over by various interest groups



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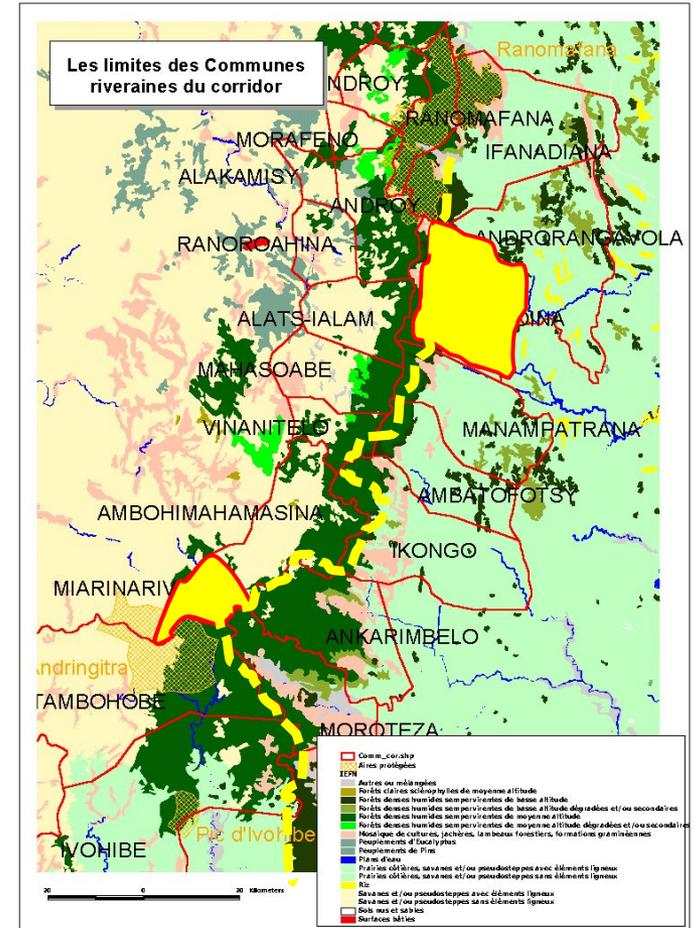


Co-Management Interventions Lead to Biodiversity Conservation

USAID and other conservation projects invested in the Fianarantsoa forest corridor for over 10 years--the Ecoregional approach led to:

Co-management (COBA) committees in many communities along the corridor: delimited community boundaries and established resource management contracts.

Small-scale development interventions implemented (improved water catchment, promotion of agricultural diversification, implemented a small credit scheme, opened an agricultural supply center).



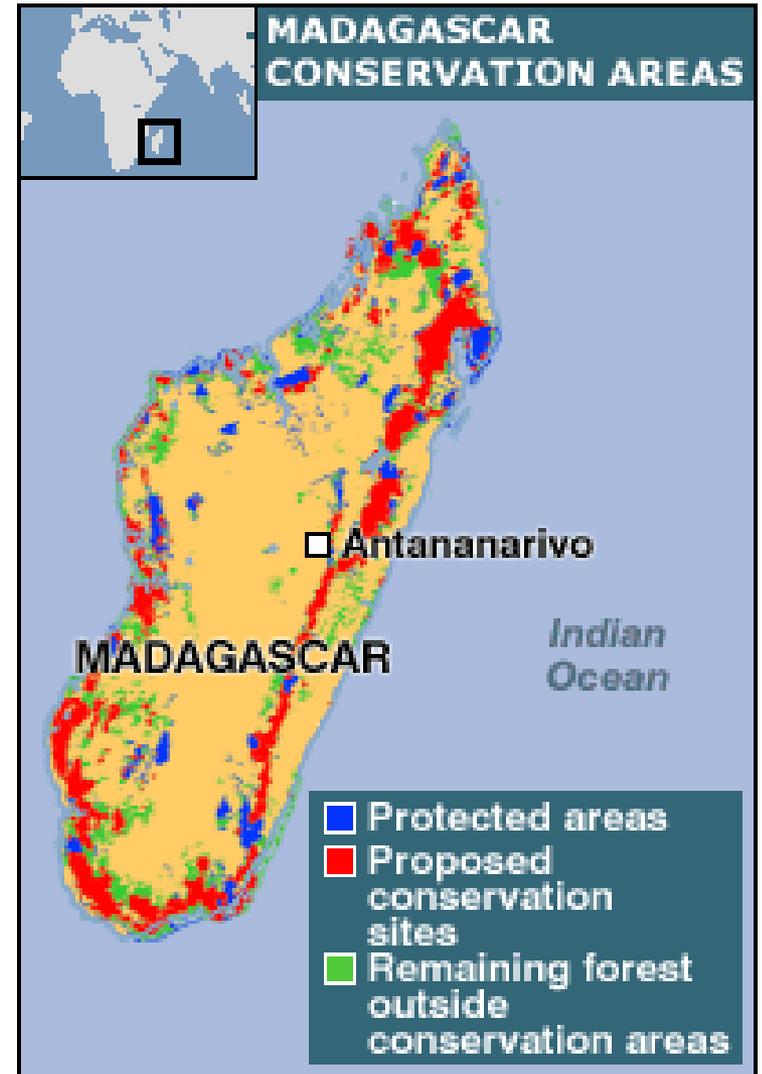


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Good Intentions Turn Sour...

In September 2003, President Ravalomanana surprises the world and shocks many in Madagascar by announcing, at the World Parks Congress (Durban, South Africa) that he will put **6.2 million additional hectares of forest under protected area status.**





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The rush for the Forest Corridor

Confusion and Concern

In local communities, many fear that the corridor will become a new national park and they will lose their rights

Rush to Occupy the Corridor

Small farmers move into the corridor “before the government gets it all” to clear the fields and establish rights; miners seek to establish claims while permits are still available

Within a year, ‘exploratory’ mining permits covered vast areas of the corridor

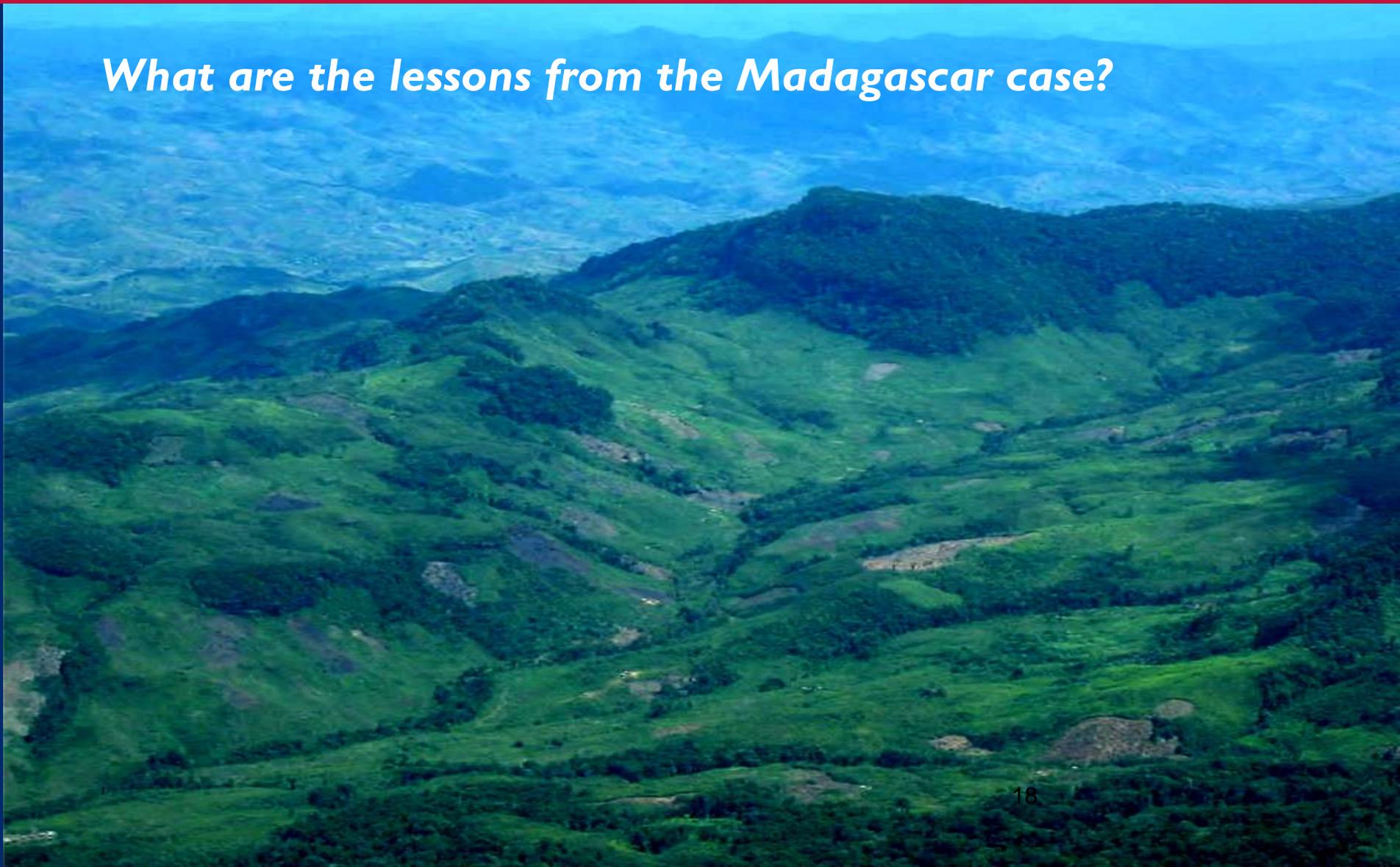




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What are the lessons from the Madagascar case?





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Strategies to Increase Tenure Security and Improve NRM

- Use a tenure lens in assessments to increase awareness of risks among diverse stakeholders
- Use existing customary structures to engage with statutory systems on resource decisions
- Negotiate equal access and management rights that improve tenure security
- Recognize the micro-tenure regimes within a landscape as a tool to reduce conflict
- Recognize the dangers of a PA expansion or expansive policies that may restrict access to land