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Submission Type:

Oral Session

Title:

Innovations to support community-based conservation in Madagascar

Main Topic :

Community Engagement, Local Knowledge, and Social-ecological Approaches for Tropical Conservation

Abstract:

In 2003, the Malagasy President declared that 10% of Madagascar Island would be designated as protected areas and managed primarily for conservation. Previously, the country's network of protected areas fell under IUCN Categories I, II, and IV, and were largely managed independently from the local community. However, many of the new protected areas created post-2003 were of IUCN types III, V, and VI, in which local communities played a central role.

At the start of the new millennium, conservation organizations in Madagascar, including Missouri Botanical Garden, had almost no experience working with communities to achieve conservation, necessitating rapid learning. Central elements to achieving such conservation include understanding the relationship between community and natural resources; developing science-based but pragmatic sustainable management plans for exploited natural resources; engaging community in both conservation planning and the implementation of these plans; maximizing benefits for the local community from hosting a protected area; and acknowledging the role of the community in achieving successful outcomes.

During the symposium, our presentation will focus on sharing what we have learned and achieved over the last two decades, particularly highlighting the most effective innovations in the community-based conservation approach we have undertaken.

Keywords:

Community-Based-Conservation, Local Knowledge, Protected Area

One sentence summary:

To achieve conservation includes understanding the relationship between community and natural

resources; developing science-based and pragmatic and consensual sustainable management plans for exploited natural resources

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No, I do not wish to apply / Not Eligible