**Project Summary**

**Project Background**
Despite political stability since 2003, Madagascar’s economic development has not been sufficient to improve living standards. Poverty levels remained unacceptably high especially in the rural areas. EC support to Madagascar was concentrated in two priority areas, namely transport infrastructure and rural development. This was accompanied by projects in health, education, private sector development and structural adjustment:

**Mission Objectives**
The evaluation focused on the EC country strategy for Madagascar the effects of the EU development policy and its implementation during the two previous programming cycles 7th/8th and the 9th EDF. Performance was evaluated on the basis of the key EC evaluation criteria, taking into account the coherence of actions undertaken in the different sectors and regions. Results provided the beneficiary country and the relevant services of the EC with an overall independent evaluation, valuable both for the implementation of the current strategy, and for future programming regarding priority sectors (sectoral budget support).

**Mission Activities**
The evaluation consisted of three main phases: desk research, field work and the Final Report.
- evaluation methodology developed, based on 13 review questions of the ToR,
- intensive desk research (county strategy, intervention logic, implementation),
- priority of objectives impact diagram,
- comprehensives programme of field visits incl. interviews with beneficiaries,
- evaluation on the basis of key evaluation criteria, incl. the coherence of actions undertaken in different sectors and regions,
- recommendation for future programming, especially sectors of intervention.

**Implementation Features**
The evaluation focussed on transport and infrastructure, rural development and food security, and macroeconomic support. In addition, issues of “good governance”, public finances, regional integration and trade promotion have also been examined. An existing evaluation of the health sector, already conducted in 2004, was also incorporated. Beside the standard EC evaluation criteria, emphases was placed on the dialogue with Government and beneficiaries, and the coordination with other development partners, particularly EC Member States.

**Services Provided**
- Evaluation methodology combining the standard EC criteria and a set of strategic evaluation questions
- Desk and field research on performance and concept level
- Team structure to cover several technical sector and strategi/conceptual issues
- Recommendations for future interventions (sectors, regions).