

I believe I wrote on this topic before. Thanks again to Air Madagascar and their inefficiencies I am stuck in Tana again. I was supposed to leave on a flight on Thursday. Today is Friday. I arrived at the airport with two other WCS employees. I had excess baggage, of course, which always causes temporary confusion and threats of not allowing my bags on board. But in the past, these were always idle threats. By the time the woman at the counter was finished giving everyone blank looks and staring at the computer screen, it was only 30 minutes to departure. The other two employees hovering around her finally announced that only one of the three in our party could get on the flight due to the weight of items already on the airplane. I did not have priority as one of the WCS guys had a mission in Maroantsetra where other people were waiting for him. I have people waiting for me, but I am the one organizing the mission so I am expendable in such a situation. In sum, Air Mad denied seats to 6 ticket-holding passengers because of the overload. Now all 6 of us have *priority* on the next flight, which is Saturday. The flight is booked, thus, 6 more people will be booted on Saturday's flight and on and on. The problem is they ship freight on the passenger flights. Why not, oh, this is such a radical idea, why not have *separate* flights for freight? Hmm. Then the planes won't be overloaded. What a concept. I've had to ship 4 boxes by Air Mad freight and I was warned it could take weeks for it to arrive in Maroantsetra. Here is another brilliant thing the airline did: flights right now are booked solid until December for Maroantsetra. There are 3 flights per week, but starting the end of October, the number of flights per week is being reduced to 2. Didn't I say this is Brilliant? I don't have an MBA but I believe I could manage the airline better than current management.

If I was the president of Air Madagascar, I would set things straight so that people aren't stranded in Tana. The pollution is horrendous and after 2+ weeks here I am so ready to start field work again. Not even the fact that there is endless internet access, chocolate mousse and ice cream can satiate my desire to leave Tana!

