We wish to provide a courtesy notification that on September 15, 2006, the Chief Executive Officer approved a modification to the Madagascar 609(g) program that will allow USAID to provide technical assistance to Madagascar’s national statistics institute ("INSTAT"). Providing the additional technical assistance does not require an increase in the overall amount of the 609(g) funds but uses the remaining funds under the existing interagency agreement between USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC"). The original agreement funded baseline data collection for the Madagascar Compact in the form of three national surveys. INSTAT was responsible for conducting the household and enterprise surveys, and subcontracted the agricultural productivity survey to Madagascar’s Ministry of Agriculture. As described in the Compact, INSTAT and the Ministry for Agriculture will play a key role in data collection during the Compact term.

Expanding the scope would allow USAID to continue to provide managerial and accounting technical assistance to INSTAT beyond the completion of the baseline surveys. USAID would use all of the remaining funds—currently estimated at approximately $120,000 -- left in the interagency agreement to carry out this work. Additional technical service will facilitate INSTAT’s ability to carry out the follow-up surveys included in the Compact and perform the requisite administrative functions of an Implementing Entity.

The courtesy notification is being sent to Congress on October 5, 2006.

Sincerely,

Frances McNaught
Vice President
Congressional and Public Affairs