

# Propagulia

JANUARY 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF HONCO



Mangrove Conservation  
& Education

## Contents

Happy New Year	1
Formation of local eco-guides	2
Education & restoration activities with local boy scouts	2
Partnership with WWF	3
Start of construction of MIC	3
Soirée 'Océan'	4
Creation of Alliance in the SW4	
Mangroves planted in 2008	4
Thank you to 2 of our private sponsors	5



*The team of HONCO wishes you  
a year full of growth and happiness !*



**NATURAL**

*and*

**PERSONAL**

### Formation of local eco-guides

HONCO has started with the development of a manual to help train local people to become eco-guides. The aim is to provide them with alternative livelihoods, so they become 'ambassadors' for the mangroves in the future, as their income will largely depend on the healthy state of these forests.

Our environmental education specialist Carola Zardo is utilizing her experience to develop a course and training program suitable for local communities. With the help of our Belgian volunteer Quentin, the first two guides are being trained in the village of Ambondrolava. They will become the first community eco-guides that will work at the Mangrove Information Centre.

HONCO also has started to share its' experience in curriculum development with other associations in the area. Communication is under way to develop together with the National Parks Board of Madagascar (ANGAP) and the Regional Bureau of Tourism (ORTU) a standardized platform to qualify trained guides, so tourists can be assured of the quality of the guides.



*HONCO developed a training manual for local people to become eco-guides*

### Education & restoration activities with local boy scouts

The local boy scouts and girl scouts from the district of Toliara have chosen this year the environment as theme. HONCO organized with the heads of the district and the region a trial plantation day in Ambondrolava.

A total of 73 scouts from four different groups between 12 and 17 years old, walked 12km with their leaders to come learn about mangroves and help restore them. A total of 1160 propagules were planted

and two areas were cleared of natural debris which obstructed natural regeneration.

This was a trial run, both for HONCO and the scouts. Our aim is to organize several days throughout the year where the young scouts can get out of town and learn and appreciate more about the nature surrounding them. They too can become 'green ambassadors' for the future.



*Conservation never starts too early. HONCO underlines the importance of integrating active outings in nature in the educational curriculum. Young people might grow an interest into the environment.*