

Propagulia

MAY 2009

THE NEWSLETTER OF HONKO



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Change of name & Official status as vzw

HONKO has changed one letter in its' name: from now on HONKO will be known with a K instead of with a C. It has proven to give a better understanding of the name in our region of work in Madagascar.

From march 2009 HONKO has been recognised as a Belgian 'vereniging zonder winstoogmerk' or non-profit organization. The statutes with our mission and activities can be researched and downloaded on our new website (www.honko.org).

Thanks to this juridical status we hope to be able to find more and new ways towards funding our work. We are also applying for an account with the 'Koning Boudewijn Stichting' to be able to get tax reduction for gifts over 30 €. In the next newsletter we will update you of this evolution.



Creation of Honko website

Also in march we worked hard to create a website to inform people around the world about our ongoing activities in the South. The website will be a dynamic item. We created the first draft and uploaded the site in a hurry to be able to communicate already with our supporters when we returned back into the field.

Any suggestions or remarks are more than welcome: please email them to the email provided in this newsletter.

The site will give you the opportunity to download our newsletters, our upcoming brochures and our official statutes. We will try to expand our site periodically.

www.honko.org



Continuation of MIC development

In Ambondrolava the proposed Community Mangrove Information & Education Centre finally nears the completion of its first phase. Due to political instability and associated problems in supplies, the construction of the main building has taken three times as long as anticipated. But Honko goes forward. Together with finishing the main building, we will start with the development of informative walks and the further development of the associated nursery.



The first phase of the main building of the Community Mangrove Information & Education Centre near to its completion. In attendance of the return of the tourists to Madagascar, a new signpost has been erected along the national road. On the left picture you can notice some young mangrove trees growing in our nursery.

Pilot project of community mangrove nurseries

The success of any reforestation activity strongly depends on the motivation and participation of the local population. Therefore Honko initiated a pilot project in the adjacent village of Ambotsotsike, 4km from the MIC.

This projects implemented the set up of community (home-run) mangrove nurseries. These nurseries will provide villagers with an alternative livelihood. By actively involving these villagers in planting out their raised seedlings, we hope to create a sense of ownership and motivation to protect and conserve their mangrove forests.



First Capricorn Alliance meeting

In the earlier newsletter it was already mentioned that Honko together with the NGO Reefdoctor were elected as Secretary of the newly formed Alliance between all conservation & environmental organisations in SW Madagascar. The Alliance is actually a 'reincarnation' or follow-up of the previous Capricorn Alliance.

A first meeting was organised in Ankilibe, south of Tulear. Here the partners of the Alliance visited one of the project sites of one of its' members (ASE). We visited mangrove nurseries and a pilot construction program of durable pirogues. The aim is to minimise pressure on the dry forest by using eucalyptus from plantations. The boat to be also promises to be a bit larger than the traditional boat to encourage fishermen to go further out to sea.

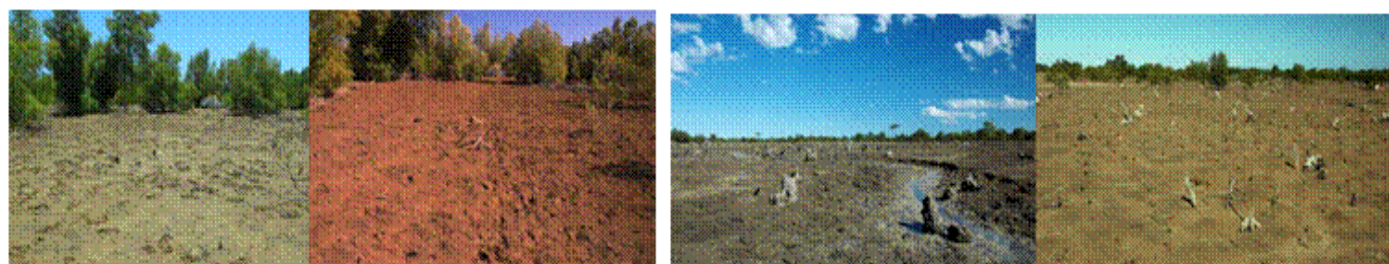
Community reforestation with ASE

Honko consulted the local NGO ASE (Association de Sauvegardement de l'Environnement) in their work towards mangrove restoration and conservation. ASE set up some mangrove nurseries after visiting and assisting with the International Mangrove Day last year. They also set up a nursery within the public school of Sarodrano.

In total 489 mangrove trees (*Ceriops tagal*, *Bruguiera gymnorhiza*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Avicennia marina*) were planted to extend the mangrove forest of Sarodrano towards the village itself. This plantation will act as a primer and research activity to establish the survival rates of different species. This will enable us next year to plant 'en masse' the most desirable species. The local community as well as the local primary school helped us transport the seedlings (heavy job!) and plant them out.



Follow up on replanted sites in Ambondrolava



5 months

3 months



CONTACT

Kastanjedreef 1, 2900 Schoten (Belgium)

BP 639, 601 Toliara (Madagascar)

Tel.: +261 32 5404276

Website: www.honko.org

Email: honkomad@yahoo.com

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