

Partnership with WWF Sweden through WWF Madagascar

At the end of December 2008 a 'Convention de Collaboration' has been signed between WWF and HONCO. This agreement falls under 'the Toliara Land and Seascape Program' from WWF.

HONCO will provide technical expertise and management to help WWF restoring the degraded mangrove areas within the Bay of Ranobe. HONCO and WWF will work together to develop an awareness and education campaign to help safeguard these unique ecosystems in the future.



Start of construction of Community Mangrove Information Centre (CMIC)

After the well known, but frustrating, "tropical administration" (endless meetings, discussions, pointless waiting, and lots of follow-ups), HONCO was finally granted nearly 5 hectares and all the necessary permits towards the development of a Community Mangrove Information Centre on communal grounds of Belalanda. A lease has been agreed upon where HONCO will manage and develop the CMIC until local people have been trained to manage it themselves along with the future Community Protected Mangrove Reserve HONCO is working towards. The CMIC Sustainable living and resource management will be promoted and taught at. The local communities will also be able to hold meetings in the centre, as well as newly formed associations will be monitored through the CMIC.

Last but not least the MIC will also serve as an educational platform for visiting students and researchers, as well as an information centre for visiting tourists. The local commune will definitely benefit from the presence from the CMIC.



The different phases of the construction of the MIC in Ambondrolava. The centre will be based 1km of the RN9 12km from Tuléar. The centre looks out onto the reed wetlands and mangrove forests.

Soirée 'Océan'

On the 12th December HONCO helped organise an environmental evening together with the local Association des Merveilleux and the English NGO ReefDoctor in the garden of hotel Chez Alain. The general aim of this evening was to promote the rich biodiversity around Toliara through a mixture of performance by Pepito the clown, the environmental spectacle "Ocean", a photographic slide show presented by Benjamin (HONCO) and lots of music from local artists. Although we were all hoping on a larger audience and greater success, 40 people present made a



Pepito 'Stephan' catalyzing show.

cosy and enjoyable evening for all. As this was the three association's first attempt at an entertainment and fundraising evening it was a learning experience with room for improvement and expansion for the next time.



Director Benjamin dressed up as 'Mangrove Man' to entertain the attendants of the evening

Creation of New Alliance in the SW of Madagascar — HONCO as secretary

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Tourism, under the Support Program of the United Nations Development Program (GEF/UNDP) within the Third Environmental Framework, took the initiative to organise a Workshop to start better aligning the methods and activities towards the conservation of the biodiversity and the durable utilisation of the resources within the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems in the SW Region of Madagascar. due to a lack of direction and perspective.

The participants of this meeting have agreed upon the creation of an ALLIANCE to improve and share acquired knowledge, to exchange experiences, to protect the interest of the partners, harmonise activities and have a communal vision and approach.

Mangroves planted in 2008

	<i>Rhizophora mucronata</i>	<i>Ceriops tagal</i>	<i>Bruguiera gymnorrhiza</i>	<i>Avicennia marina</i>	<i>Sonneratia alba</i>
10-03-08		150			
10-04-08		676		25	
28-06-08	200		10		
26-07-08		700	100		
24-08-08	85	340	35		
16-09-08	90	100	10		
19-09-08	140	322	8		
27-11-08		300			
6-12-08	20	1300	30		
TOTAL	535	3888	193	25	4641

Many thanks to all our participants !



Thank you to one of our private sponsors

HONCO apologizes to one of its private sponsors for not mentioning in the previous newsletter. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following persons for their generous contributions to our project:

Mrs. Daniel & Mr. Philippe De Ridder

Ms. Jeanine & Luc De Ridder

Our project is only possible because of these generous donations. HONCO is working on an adoption program, so people in the North can sponsor the growing up of a mangrove tree and secure the future of the forest, as well as providing alternative livelihood for the local people.

Getting to know HONCO a little better ...



Myria Flore Horthancya RASOAVOLOLONJANAHARY is our principal researcher. Her role is to investigate the vegetation dynamics of the different mangrove forests in the SW of Madagascar. During her internship with HONCO, she is preparing a PhD in Biodiversity and Environment. Myria has already gained a broad range of experience in scientific mapping and methodologies as well as interacting with local communities.

Myria Flore Horthancya RASOAVOLOLONJANAHARY on her way planting mangrove propagules



**Mangrove Conservation
& Education**

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