

## **Project Update: June 2013**

### Scientific research:

In January 2013, we have made a field trip to Isalo. Unfortunately, due to the extreme insecurity by bandits in the south, it is forbidden to do a field work in the night also our results are not consistent because *Scaphiophryne gottlebei* is mainly nocturnal. Furthermore, we do not have any explanation but may be to the climate change, the rain in the region was very rare and we think that our results will be biased for these two species which are dependent on the atmospheric conditions. In February 2013, due to Cyclone Haruna, we were obliged to stop our activity.

As we are not satisfied of our scientific results, we decide to return in Isalo in September and October 2013 and waiting for the first rainy seasons as actually, this region is secured because of policy effort.

### Social activity:

Concerning the social aspect of our project, we gather populations' opinion on the protection of these species and sensitise them on the importance of the protection of the environment. Also, we gathered four main suggestions which are:

- Training on population on reforestation strategy.
- Reforestation of the buffer zone in order that they will have some firewood for the future.
- Finding another alternative energy in order to stop extraction of forest inside and in the buffer zone of the park.
- Ameliorate the livelihood of the people especially through agriculture and farm.

Our next plans are:

- August 2013: training on reforestation and reforestation of the buffer zone which will be in collaboration with the Madagascar National Parks and Silo National des Graines Forestières Madagascar for forest seeds and seedlings. During this period, we would like to re-sensitise local people and distribute flyers concerning the species.
- Concerning the agriculture, we will train them on the composting activity. Also, we hope that the bio-fertilizer can ameliorate their yield and the environment. As Isalo is an ecotourism region, we would like to convince hostels to take their bio-products. As we saw that some family practices a chicken farming, we will provide them also a training to develop and improve their farm in order to avoid hunting inside the park.

### Concerning the flyers:

This is the first flyers which will explain to local population the amphibian diversity in their regions as they said.

1<sup>st</sup> page: explanation of the biology and ecology of these species.

2<sup>nd</sup> page: questions about why and how to protect these species, what could be the benefits on its conservation and what to do if they find them especially *Scaphiophryne gottlebei*.

