

Project Update: January 2014

A Biological study has been done and it consists of baseline biodiversity surveys to determine the comprehensive species lists for the target groups and the resources use.

The study was able to identify that the sites are very important for Bird Watch. Added to the precedent list of birds species we have been identify these following birds species and most of these birds have been found around the villages in the early morning from 5 am to 7 am: Madagascar coucal (*Centropus toulou*), Madagascar Bee-eater (*Merops superciliosus*), Madagascar Hoopoe (*Upupa marginata*), Madagascar Bulbul (*Hypsipetes madagascariensis*), Madagascar turtle dove (*Streptopelia picturata*), Sakalava Weaver (*Ploceus sakalava*), Common Newtonia (*Newtonia Brunneicauda*), Crested Coua (*Coua Cristata*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Hook-billed Vanga (*Vanga curvirostris*), Crested Drongo (*Dicrurus forficatus*), Chabert's Vanga (*Leptopterus viridis*), Sickle-Billed Vanga (*Falculea palliata*), Common Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), Madagascar Kestrel (*Falco newtoni*).

We were also able to record these following species of reptiles: *Furcifer oustaleti*, *Furcifer pardalis*, Langaha madagascariensis which is very rare, *Mimophis Mahfalensis*, *Dromicodryas quadrilineatus*.

We have also done a study of the lemurs in the site of Ampombofofo and Anjiabe. The villages are still having numerous lemurs especially crowned lemurs (*Eulemur coronatus*) and it was not difficult to found them. They are not far from the villages and we were informing that these Lemurs are coming to the villages to eat mangoes. The suitable time for Lemurs activity is from 5 pm to 7 pm.

The study on the plants of the area reveal that the forest of the village of Anjiabe and Ampombofofo are also rich in different species of "**Big Trees**" such as: *Apocynaceae* Pachypodium, Manary (Fabaceae – *Dalbergia* genus), Mantaly (Combretaceae – *Terminalia* genus), Madiro (Fabaceae – *Tamarindus* genus), Lombiry (*Sphaerosepalaceae* – *Dyalyceras* genus), *Mokotra (strichnos Spinoza)*.

We have done a study of the Mangrove which is located in Ratabirano and Ambavarano. These sites are not only a mangrove sites but also a sacred place where villagers make "*Joro*" or make a vow for example to ask for rain from their ancestor. We have been even invited to assist this ceremony.

The mangrove transect length was about 100 m. The description of mangrove is 12-14 m long, and DBH is between 7 cm to 1.76 m. The site is dominated by Mosotry (*Avicennia marina*), Honko Lahy (*Rhizophora mucronata*), Farafaka (*Sonneratia alba*), Tsitologniny (*Bruguera gymnorisa*), Honko vavy (*Ceriops stagal*).

We have always been accompanied by representatives of villagers to guide us and to take part on the research even though we had already have Louis-Phillip D'Arvisenet as professional guide and biological researcher. This is allowed us to know the villagers capacity on guiding visitors and to train them to become a local guide and to identify biodiversity species.



Anjiabe camp



Madagascar bulbul drinking nearby
Ampombofofo village



Mangrove survey