

Project Update: February 2014

I. Environmental Education:

The first part of the environmental education activity was conducted in September 2013 during the lemur festival in the village of Antafiabe. This event is organised by the local conservation association within the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park every year since 2005. The goal of this annual festival is to increase the local population's awareness of the biodiversity. During the festival villagers from villages surrounding the Park participated in devising song and dances and in sports events. In total, 30 handbooks were distributed to the teachers from 18 villages within the Park. Before the distribution of handbooks, t-shirts and posters, instruction was given on the use of the environmental handbooks and we also organised a session of awareness rising about the need of the protection of the blue-eyed black lemur and the cost of the deforestation. One hundred t-shirts and 100 posters were distributed during the festival. This number was insufficient for all villagers, and so they were distributed to the local stakeholders within the Park including head of villages, head of ZAP (Zone Administrative et Pédagogique), local guides, and teachers and to the children who participated to the quiz and songs.

The second part of the conservation activity was carried out in November 2013 during the official inauguration of a new primary school funded by the AEECL in Amboloboza village. The activity consisted of sensitising pupils and doing carnival. In total, 200 masks were distributed to the pupils of the primary school of Amboloboza village, they wear the masks during the carnival.

II. Lemur and Forest Habitat Survey:

The survey was conducted in October 2013 at the forest of Anabohazo. Five species of lemur were recorded during the survey including the blue-eyed black lemur (*Eulemur flavifrons*), the Sahamalaza sportive lemur (*Lepilemur sahamalazensis*), the northern dwarf lemur (*Mirza zaza*), the fat-tailed dwarf lemur (*Cheirogaleus medius*) and Sambirano mouse lemur (*Microcebus sambiranensis*). This is first time that this species is discovered in the area.

Regarding the habitat survey, within 20 plots of 20 m x 20 m, around 100 species of tree were identified. All tree species found in forest edge were found in the forest core. Mean height of tree in the forest edge and core is almost the same 8.5 m, maximum height 20 m and minimum height 4 m. These heights are calculated from trees having DBH > 5 cm.

III. Capacity Building:

In collaboration with the MNP (Madagascar National Parks), 20 PLCs (Park Local Committees) were trained in November 2013. They were trained about the Parks regulations and use of research equipment's including GPS, data collection during the patrol.



Top: Primary School teachers wearing the t-shirt and bringing poster and handbook.
Bottom: Pupils wearing the mask during the carnival.



Habitat description in Anabohazo forest