

Project Update: July 2014

I. Education and outreach:

We conducted 2 days of activities in April 2014 at Antsohihy, a city close to the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park. The main objective of the event is to involve youth taking responsibility for the environment protection.

We collaborated with a public high school in Antsohihy for this event. During the first day we gave a PowerPoint presentations, the topics are "what is the biodiversity?", "mangrove" and "pollution" to the students from the high school. About 80 students attended the presentation. The students were very interested about the topics, so they took note during the presentation and asked questions at the end of the presentation.



Pupils answered the quiz during the World Environmental Day

The next day, one cleanup of the Antsohihy city was carried out. A total of 70 students were involved to the clean-up. We provided materials of the cleanup and t-shirts for the students. The students were very motivated during the cleanup and aware about the necessity of environmental protection. We thanked the students and their teachers by offering them refreshment after the cleanup.

We broadcasted messages about the blue-eyed black lemur at the Radio Andrea FM 91.4 which is based in Antsohihy in April 2014. The message was broadcasted through interview, information on the ecology of the lemur; its threats and the need of the protection of forest and the lemur were discussed during the interview. The interview took place during the cleanup day and then broadcasted few hours later.

We also contributed to the World Environmental Day event at the Commune of Befotaka in June 2014. We organised an environmental quiz and offered prizes for the pupils who provided the answers. The questions were related to the blue-eyed black lemur species and the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park. We also offered t-shirts to the local authorities at the opening ceremony.

II. Lemur survey:

During the survey which was conducted in March 2014 at the forest of Anabohazo, seven groups of the blue-eyed black lemur were observed. The group size ranged from three to eight individuals. The animals are still wild so they flee once we observed them closely. A pilot study at least 20 days is needed to habituate prior the data collection. During the data collection illegal anthropogenic activities were observed within the park including selective logging and clearance for slash and burn agriculture. An old animal trap was also found on the ground with hair belonging to a female blue-eyed black lemur.

During the forest patrol by the Park Local Committees and our survey we found some trees cut down within the park which are already changed to beams. We took photos and reported the incident to the MNP (Madagascar National Park) which is the park. Few days after, a joint mission with gendarmes was organised by the MNP and they arrested seven people who are involved to the selective logging. This people were jailed afterwards.



Clean-up day in Antsohihy city with the students from the public high school Primary School teachers wearing the T-shirt and bringing poster and handbook



Top: Tree cutting down in Anabohazo forest. Bottom: Interview with the Radio Andrea.