

Project Update: April 2015

In this first trimester of 2015, natural disasters such as Tropical storm Chedzan, flooding and torrential rain have affected Madagascar and causing severe damage to several areas. Anyway, our public awareness was pursued by visiting schools at the village of Ranomafana (primary and secondary schools) near the Ranomafana National Park. The importance of fungi, especially its functions on ecosystems were explained with the pupils and their trainers. As inhabitant near the Park, they are convinced to take responsibility to the fungi conservation, but they want to have close collaboration with us.

During our field research, abundant fungi material was collected and photographed such as sporocarp, stip (presence or not of volva, rooting base, bulb, or attachment to a sclerotium substrata) and habitat data. The identification was realized with an expert, Emile RANDRIANJOHANY, a Malagasy mycologist, and also with web site focused on fungi like MycoDB <http://www.mycodb.fr/> and mushroom expert <http://www.mushroomexpert.com/>.



Left: Bird's Nest Fungi. Right: *Collybia marasmioides*.



Left: Fungi project is an opportunity for these young Malagasy to enhance their knowledge about Madagascar biodiversity value and to stir them to take responsibility to its conservation. Right: The trainers of Ranomafana secondary school are convinced about their role in fungi conservation as a trainer but also as inhabitant near the park.