

Project Update: March 2016

Project title: Advancing the conservation of the blue-eyed black lemur: Research, Awareness raising and development of alternative livelihoods

I. Development of alternative livelihood

Yam cultivation monitoring:

The monitoring of the yam cultivation was conducted in January 2016. Among the 55 villagers who benefited the yam cultivation training, cultivation of 33 villagers from different villages were monitored during our field trip. In general the villagers prepared well their crops and they cultivated during the cultivation period that the trainer recommended. The rain was abundant during the rainy season so the seeds grew well. The villagers were very happy.



Photo 1: Young yam after 3 months of cultivation

Distribution of the young fishes

The distribution of the young fishes took place in February 2016. The young fishes were purchased in Antananarivo and distributed in Ankitsika village. The young fishes were purchased from a farm technician; he accompanied the team during the transportation of the young fishes. The transport of the young fishes was done with care because the travel lasted one day and during the transport the water was changed 3 times and an oxygen bottle was used during the travel. It is noted that during the fish farming, the participants agreed between them that they will build an association to build a fish farm. A total of 775 young fishes were brought, these young fishes were distributed to 4 different fish farms. Despite that young fishes were transported carefully during the travel, about 80 of them were found died on arrival at the village. The young fish's mortality was due to the long travel. In addition it was hot during the transportation. During the distribution the farm technician who has experiences in fish farming provided useful information to the villagers how to get a

good fish production. The villagers were very happy because finally they received the young fishes after the training which was held in July 2015.



Photo 2: During the transportation of the young fishes



Photo 3: Died young fishes



Photo 4: During the transfer of young fishes to the fish farm

II. Awareness raising

Education Tour

The education tour took place in December over a period of 1 week. Our goal is to increase the local communities' awareness about the importance of the conservation of the biodiversity of the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park and the protection of the forest. Four (4) different villages surrounding the park were visited during the education tour. We conducted environmental quizzes and PowerPoint presentation on the lemurs of the park during the education tours. The questions for the quiz comprised information on the blue-eyed black lemur, the forest and the threats of the park. We distributed small prizes like school supply and toys to the participants who got the right answers of the questions. In total, 841 persons comprising children, youth adults from the 4 villages attended the events. The distribution of the audience per village is as follows:

Village	Number of audience
Antanandava	75 persons
Mahitsihazo	480 persons
Ankitsika	48 persons
Marovato Sud	240 persons
Total	841 persons

As planned at the schedule, Maromandia is the fifth village visited due to the weather we were not able to conduct our activity in this village. There was a heavy rain so we could not use our equipments such as generator, projector, PA system in outdoor.



Photo 5 : PowerPoint presentation in Antanandava village



Photo 6: Audience in Mahitsihazo village



Photo 7: Answering the environmental quiz