

Project Update: October 2015

I. Development of alternative livelihood

The goal of the development of the alternative livelihood for the local communities is mainly to reduce the over-exploitation of the forest of the Park.

The first alternative livelihood project that we developed is the fish farming. We conducted the fish farming training in July 2015 over a period of 3 days in the village of Antananadava, Commune of Maromandia. A technician from the MPE (Malagasy Professionnels de l'Elevage) in Antananarivo provided the training. It is noted that MPE is linked to the Ministry of the Livestock provided the training. A total of 25 participants composed of 20 men and 5 women from different villages such as Antanandava, Maropapango and Ankitsika attended the fish farming training. The training included 2 days of theoretical training and 1 day of practical training. During the 2 days of theoretical training several topics were learnt including background information on fish farming; implementation of a fish farm; types of fishes; production of compost, worm farming; production and transportation of fingerling and collect of products. The practical training composed of the visit of existing fish farms belong to the participants. The participants asked questions during the training. At the end of the training they participants received certificates. Overall, the fish farming training went well and the participants were happy about this and found it very helpful as alternative livelihood. It was agreed that once the construction of the fish farms will be done, the villagers will be provided materials and young fishes to develop their fish farms. We provided food and training materials like copybooks and pens equipments during the training. Each participant received a training certificate at the end of the training.



Photo 1: Training materials



Photo 5: Trainer explained on the whiteboard how to prepare the water on the fish pool



Photo 6: Visit of fish farm



Photo 7: Participants with certificates

Two months after the training in September 2015, we visited some fish farms which are still under construction. Some participants agreed that they will establish an association to build a fish farm.

The second activity that we carried out was subsistence crop (yam) training in September 2015 during 3 days in the village of Antafiabe, Commune of Ambolobozo. The trainer is an agriculture technician based in Antsohihy. A total of 55 participants from different villages within the Commune of Ambolobozo attended the training. The majority of the participants had already knowledge about the crop so it was not difficult for the trainer to train them about the culture of the crop. In addition the training was in Sakalava language. The training included background information on the yam, methodology and period of the culture. All of the participants have already crop field for the cultivation. We ordered and purchased the yam roots which serve as seeds from the Malaikalina village which is about 250km far from the Park. Each participant received one big root and this root is divided in many portions. This big root is one crop field. We provided food and training materials like copybooks and pens equipments during the training. The culture period started October until November. We will conduct a crop field survey in December and January in order to monitor whether the villagers have grown the yam. We will provide training certificate to the participants.



Photo 8: Training materials



Photo 9: Participants



Photo 10: Trainer explained on the blackboard



Photo 11: Trainer showed how to prepare the seeds



Photo 12: Group photo of the participants

II. Awareness raising

The goal of the awareness raising is to increase the local communities' awareness about

the need and importance of the protection of the biodiversity within the park mainly the blue-eyed black lemur.

The first activity about the awareness raising was carried out during the 10th annual lemur festival called "Fetin'Akomba"" in Antafiabe village. The goal of this annual event is to increase the local population's awareness about the necessity of the protection of the biodiversity of the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park mainly the conservation of the blue-eyed black lemur. Lemur festival place took place in 24- 25th of September every year. During this event, we conducted 2 sessions of environmental quiz and one day of competitive games (fishing bottle game, bag race and throwing can game).The questions for the environmental quiz included information about the Park, knowledge of the blue-eyed black lemur, biodiversity of the Park and actions for the conservation of the endangered species within the Park. During the competitive game we also sensitized the public (both adults and children) about the necessity of the conservation of the endangered species within the Park, mainly the blue-eyed black lemur. Around 1000 audience attended the 2 environmental quiz during the 2 nights. The kids enjoyed the competitive game as this is the first time that a kind of game was carried out during the annual lemur festival.



Photo 13: Audience during the environmental quiz



Photo 14: Bag race