

## **Project Update: March 2001**

Our project now has a local name - Orana Tsara Tantara - which means 'well managed crayfish'. We have now recruited an extension officer, Lalaina Rakotoson, an environmental lawyer who has lived for ten years in the main town in the study area, and we have selected our study sites. We are planning to build a house for the project in Bevohajo, a village right on the border of Ranomafana National Park; about three hours walk from the road.

I will be based here with a student from the University of Tana, and another student from Fianarantsoa University will be based in Abodokimba, a village close to the town of Ranomafana where the National Parks Authority project attempting to cultivate crayfish is based. This student will be working very closely with this project. We are buying bikes and I will be able to regularly bicycle up to Abodokimba. Lalaina will be working with the villagers in both Bevohajo and Abodokimba, and other villages where crayfish harvesting is important, to discuss the project and regularly feed information back to them and discuss how it could be applied.