

Project Update: November 2017

Search for wild nest with villagers:

All of the nest searching was done by local villagers and assistants. Most nests were found after the first or second heavy rain of the season and most were found by following the tracks of females in the sandy soil.



Applicant with two local assistants

Due to a very late rainy season, the first rere nests were found by the local nest searchers on November 20th 2017 inside of Mahavavy's river at Ampanihy's fokontany, Township of Ambarimanga and district of Mijintso. It is found near of place called in Malagasy Jony, with geographic coordinates S 16° 30' 37''.80, E 46° 3' 36''.1.

They are Antandroy ethnic group who cannot eat turtle and their eggs because of usages and customs that is why we could found this rere nest. We could not carried out to collect the information about reproductive ecology, because all eggs had been laid more than three days previously, they were just for verification (link video below). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGwl_VH9bws&feature=youtu.be

Cause of bushfire, most of place of rere nest burnt.



Rere's eggs

Direct observation:

In fokontany Madirotoka, there is the lake Antsalova which had had more population of Madagascar big headed turtle with geographic coordinates S16° 18' 24'' .94; E45° 57' 6'' .85. A lot of local population said, inside of Lake Antsalova on eastern, *Erymnochelys madagascariensis* used to lay eggs there, but now they never lay in this place because of disturbance. This lake has a good population of birds because in middle of lake there is forest of Phragmites which provides an ecological niche. At the the moment forest on side eastern of Antsalova is burnt because of conversion of lake into banana fields.



Eastern forest of Lake Antsalova convert into Banana field.

We have seen two carapaces of Rere. One we saw in Ambarimaniga Township and one in fokontany of Ampanihy. Local population is used to use the carapace of Rere for plate, in order to drink the water and food from this carapace. Because, a lot of local population said there is a molecule in carapace of this animal which can help the antibody of ducks in order to counter contagious disease. Local people in Ambarimaninga Township exploits this animal, which means the human pressure is getting higher.



Carapace of Rere destined for plat of ducks.