

## Project Update: September 2020

Over the past few months, our focus has been on the continued construction of the local outreach center. Due to COVID, the construction was delayed by several months, but the grand opening is scheduled for the end of October 2020. This will coincide with World Lemur Day and there will be a large celebration in Daraina. Currently, the building foundation and frame are complete (as pictured below) and the bathroom, floors, windows, and doors will be installed in the coming weeks. We have already been working in the primary and secondary schools in Daraina to improve environmental education in the region. In August and September 2020, the focus of our programme has been the importance of water: specifically, water security and pollution- both of which are issues in the Loky-Manambato region.



Additionally, we have been analysing our data to examine the effect of road networks, villages, and habitat fragmentation on golden-crowned sifaka spatial behaviour and habitat use. Our findings in respect to roads show that most sifaka groups are avoiding locations within their home range that are in close proximity to the national road (left). This is concerning because the national road, connecting northwest to northeast Madagascar, is currently a primitive dirt road. However, it is now in the process of being paved to improve transportation in the region. Our goal is for our findings to inform Malagasy infrastructure and road development plans by working with local conservation

NGOs, government officials, and construction teams to limit construction nearby lemur home ranges that are most impacted by human activity.

