



# handao! no. 2/09

newsletter of the program ho avy



ho avy ~ safeguarding biodiversity and people's livelihoods for a sustainable future

## contents:

1. how we've been growing
2. on the frontlines: negotiating land for the first community protected reserve in the Spiny Forest
3. planting trees & food together
4. inspirational exchanges
5. broadening our audience
6. expanding ho avy's networking partnerships
7. your support makes ho avy possible



handao means let's do it! in malagasy

### 1. we've been growing 'tsara'

ho avy's nursery has been growing beautifully ('tsara'): nearly 1000 saplings have been raised in less than a year, and 485 healthy trees have been transplanted and are growing within the area surrounding our nursery. Two cyclones passing through in March broke the extended drought, bringing much needed rain to the trees, which have literally been shooting up. The champions are the multipurpose 1. (photo above) ananambo, *Moringa oleifera*, tripling in size since January and flowering twice over the last year and, 2. satrasatra *Jatropha mahafaliensis*. FIMPAHARA, our Malagasy partners dedicated to conservation and forest restoration, continue measuring and monitoring tree growth and are getting geared up for another field season ~ it's time to collect more seeds to expand the nursery!

[http://picasaweb.google.com/martina.petru/Handao\\_2\\_newsletter?authkey=Gv1sRgCPDz\\_d7WjNS89AE#](http://picasaweb.google.com/martina.petru/Handao_2_newsletter?authkey=Gv1sRgCPDz_d7WjNS89AE#)

### 2. community protected forest

ho avy is currently organizing and coordinating the implementation of the first community protected forest sanctuary in SW Madagascar: an 80 ha Spiny Forest reserve, exclusively designated for conservation and restoration activities. FIMPAHARA and ho avy enthusiastically proposed this initiative and in collaboration with WWF are currently delineating the area. FIMPAHARA will oversee the forest sanctuary and facilitate forest recovery through sensitive ecological restoration.

With ho avy's assistance, FIMPAHARA, the Ranobe community and WWF are now discussing management rules, roles and responsibilities of all involved parties and will likely make the sanctuary official by the end of 2009!



### 3. planting trees and food together

in our efforts to coordinate conservation and restoration with the improvement of local livelihoods, we have reached an exciting agreement with FIMPAHARA - to engage in an integrated agroforestry polycultures and drip irrigation systems on 5 ha of underutilized cropland. This will increase yields and create economic incentives to sell surplus food products at local markets.



### sustainable agroforestry

is cultivating traditional crops with native trees for fuel, food and medicines. Some non-native fast growing trees will be also cultivated for wood and fruit production and ultimately will diversify harvests and generate numerous sustainable livelihood opportunities benefitting the local Malagasy communities and directly reducing deforestation.



## 4. inspire some...

ho avy's key to self-sufficiency is **creative learning** and we are bringing new examples of environmentally friendly food and resource production to SW Madagascar. With the help of local communities ho avy adapts these techniques to the local conditions and has already incredible results in our nursery and reforestation site.

Ho avy offers rural communities environmental education opportunities so they are able to recognize the true local ecological equity in a global context, while protecting it.

## ... to inspire all

ho avy's **demonstration tree nursery** and **forest sanctuary** speak for themselves, as a **successful replicable models to conserve and restore** a forest that is unprotected. This year ho avy will establish a **community supported sustainable resource and education center** to reach a broader audience, facilitate **conservation stewards training courses** and **mobilize restoration teams** in rural and urban SW Madagascar.



## incentives & accountability approach

offsetting the degradation of the world's most unique ecosystems is only possible by facilitating incentive based conservation and reforestation efforts that cultivate accountability. A **Conservation Incentive Agreement (CIA)** is a win-win scheme of functional long-lasting biodiversity conservation where local people are the forest stewards rewarded for conservation services in mutually beneficial agreements. A CIA will be part of ho avy's Spiny Forest protection program and will promote the next generation of Malagasy conservationists.



## 5. getting ho avy out there

a great accomplishment for ho avy's academic outreach program has been the completion of **Claude's** (photo left) **M.Sc.** studies at the University of Toliara in early May. Claude is the first student to graduate within the program ho avy and he is enthusiastically taking the lead on ho avy's **environmental education** and **information 'green classroom'** curriculum in two rural primary schools in the Ranobe region, advising 9 teachers. Claude is also an adept networker formalizing a partnership with GTZ in Toliara and their environmental education program. Congratulations Claude!

**Clement** (photo below) became ho avy's second M.Sc. candidate, studying in **environmental law and policy**.

## 6. welcoming new partnerships!



ho avy is continuously raising funds, networking and identifying future partners. We are pleased to have on board an effective facilitator and fundraising consultant, **Clara Ariza**. A perspective partnership has been growing with **Naturefund**, who has offered to support ho avy's tree nursery and reforestation program. Ho avy has been accepted as a partner of the **Committee for Renewable Energies** in SW Madagascar, consisting of over a dozen government and non-government organizations. We have established collaboration relationships with **Andrew Lees Trust**, **MADASOLEIL**, **Hazomanga** and **Permakultura (CS)**. Partnerships with **CI**, **WWF** and **HONKO** are being formalized.



## 7. thank you for supporting us!

your financial contributions and diverse generous support make ho avy's programs possible. We especially thank Rufford Small Grant Foundation, The Gardner-Pokempner Charitable Fund, Nadáni Hlávkových, Idea Wild, Attavena, Hedvábná Stezka, the Institute of Tropics and Subtropics at the Czech Agricultural University, students of the Faculty of Science at the University of South Bohemia, Kristina Lewis, Iris Kiefer, the University of Hamburg, Vahatra, Madagascar Biodiversity Center, the University of Toliara, CI, WWF, and GTZ Madagascar among others.

