



# Second Quarterly Report

April – June 2021



**Guy Randriatahina**  
**AEECL Programme Director**

# AEECL MEMBERS



## AEECL PARTNERS

PARTNER of



World Association of Zoos and Aquariums | WAZA United for Conservation



SAVE OUR SPECIES



MARAT KARPEKA LEMUR FOUNDATION

Turquoise



Aventures

PARC MERVEILLEUX BETTEMBOURG



WEST MIDLAND SAFARI & LEISURE PARK DISCOVER IT ALL



Wilhelma Zoologisch-Botanischer Garten Stuttgart



LINTON ZOO CONSERVATION PARK Cambridgeshire's Wildlife Breeding Centre



## Table of Contents

1. Participation in mangrove reforestation.....	1
2. Celebration of World Environment Day.....	1
3. Meeting with scholarship students in Maromandia .....	5
4. Meeting with the team .....	5
5. Development of the trail.....	7
6. Workshop on the implementation of action plan for the Madagascar Crab Heron .....	7
7. Visit of students from Athné Saint Joseph d’Antsohihy (ASJA) University .....	8

## List of Photos

Photo 1: Before the match.....	1
Photo 2 : Environmental quiz.....	2
Photo 3 : Entertainment      Photo 4 : Animation.....	2
Photo 5: Distribution of TS.....	3
Photo 6: The Governor of Sofia Region.....	3
Photo 7 : Student from Maromandia .....	4
Photo 8 : Our team .....	4
Photo 9 : AEECL scholarship students in Maromandia.....	5
Photo 10 : Meeting with staff in Antsohihy .....	6
Photo 11 : Meeting with staff in Ankarafa.....	6
Photo 12 : AEECL team working on road levelling      Photo 13 : Participants.....	7

## 1. Participation in mangrove reforestation

The Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development in the Sofia Region launched the regional opening of the mangrove reforestation on 20th May and he invited his partners to take part. The reforestation took place in the village of Ankingamolotro, rural commune of Ambodimandresy in Antsohihy District.

In total, 1,020,000 plants of *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* were planted. About 120 ha were covered by this reforestation.

Our team were present during the reforestation and we contributed to the funding request made by the Regional Director of Environment and Sustainable Development.

## 2. Celebration of World Environment Day

The Madagascar National Parks invited their partners to celebrate World Environment Day from 18th to 19th June in the village of Mahitsihazo.

Several regional and local authorities such as the Governor of the Sofia region, the Head of the Analalava District, the representative of the Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development, the 5 Mayors of commune including the Sahamalaza National Park, Prince Harana IV of Maromandia, the Head of village of Mahitsihazo and the village elders were present. The AEECL and the Mikajy Natiora who work in this area were also invited.

The AEECL team were led by the Programme Director. The AEECL team were composed of staff from Antsohihy and Ankarafa.

The programme of celebration included a football match, a quiz, reforestation of mangroves, presentation of certificates of merit to members of the Local Park Committee and a friendship meal.



Photo 1: Before the match

For the football match, the game between the team of Maromandia and Mahitsihazo ended in a draw. Both teams received a football.

As usual, there were entertainment and environmental awareness about Sahamalaza National Park such as quizzes. AEECL provided food for zebu and enlivened the awareness.



Photo 2 : Environmental quiz



Photo 3 : Entertainment



Photo 4 : Animation

The next day, the celebration continued with a speech by officials, reforestation of mangroves and the meal for those invited.

Mikajy Natiora (Madagascan based conservation organisation and partner of AEECL) distributed t-shirts to the authorities during the speech and to the villagers after the speech. In total, 150 t-shirts were distributed by the Mikajy Natiora association.



Photo 5: Distribution of TS



Photo 6: The Governor of Sofia Region

For the reforestation, three sites were chosen, one in the village of Marovato Sud and two in the fokontany of Mahitsihazo. It is mainly *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* (hônkovavy) are planted. The organizer chose this plant because of its ability to grow quickly compared to other mangrove species. The exact area covered by this reforestation is not yet identified but 5 bags containing mangrove seeds were made available to the participants. After the reforestation, the Madagascar National Parks handed out certificates to the Local Park Committees.

The students receiving scholarships from AEECL were also present during the celebration and participated in the reforestation



Photo 7 : Student from Maromandia



Photo 8 : Our team

### 3. Meeting with scholarship students in Maromandia

We organized a meeting with the scholarship students in Maromandia on 18th June 2021. These students receive a scholarship from the AEECL which enables them to complete their schooling.

We usually organize the meeting in order to discuss with the students how they are making progress. We remind them that the aim of the scholarship is to support them first and also to encourage them to protect the environment. The scholarship is only given to deserving students.

The students said that the scholarship helps them enormously, especially in this time of crisis. Many students have not been able to pay their school fees because of the crisis. They are still willing to work hard to keep their scholarships.

We have taken pictures of each student to recognize them.

These students were present during the celebration of the World Environment Day and participated in the reforestation of mangroves.



Photo 9 : AEECL scholarship students in Maromandia

### 4. Meeting with the team

As there was a gap during the lock down, the Director of AEECL held an interview with the team in Antsohihy for those who work there and another one in Ankarafa. During these two meetings, the Director reminded them that the state of emergency is still to be followed even if the lock down is finished. Barrier measures must still be respected. He distributed Covid 19 awareness posters to the staff.





Photo 10 : Meeting with staff in Antsohihy



Photo 11 : Meeting with staff in Ankarafa

During this time of crisis, everyone continued to do their work.

In Antsohihy, our staff participated in local activities such as reforestation and meetings, and the security guards watched over the office.

In Ankarafa, our staff continued to make forest patrols. They noticed that there was a decrease in the woodcutting and it was mainly the people who collected honey that they observed.

They said that it has been difficult to live with the crisis. The price increases for basic needs has affected all of the teams.

## 5. Development of the trail

From 19th to 20th May, the Mayor of Amboloboza commune started to work on the track that leads to the park and the surrounding villages. This development of dirt road needs to be done every year to make it accessible. The work consists of levelling and filling holes caused by run-off water. The work is done by hand.

We offered a zebu for food to the participants and have representatives helping during the development of this track. According to our representatives, there were only a few participants, about 50 people in total.



Photo 12 : AEEL team working on road levelling



Photo 13 : Participants

After the road work which lasted 3 days, vehicles started to arrive in Ambinda village. While the track leading to the park is not yet accessible, more work parties will be organised later to develop this part which is not yet accessible, according to the Mayor.

## 6. Workshop on the implementation of action plan for the Madagascar Crab Heron

Asity Madagascar organized a workshop on 8th June in Antsohihy. The workshop focused on the work done by the Asity team on the Madagascar white crab heron around the Loza River.

The Governor of the Sofia region, the Ramsar Focal Point, the Regional Director of Environment of Sustainable Development, the Regional Director of Fisheries, Tourism, representatives of Local Based Community, Madagasikara voakajy, the representative of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the Peregrine Fund, the Agha Khan, World Wildlife Fund in Sofia region and AEEL were present at the workshop.

According to the speaker, the *Ardeola idea* exists in the Loza River in about ten individuals while there are about 150 to 200 individuals in Sofia Lake and 10 to 20 individuals in Matsaborimena Lake. In Matsaborimena Lake, they should have some but they did not know the exact number.

The possibility of a rational management of this site and the promotion of the sustainable management of the biological resource of the Loza River was discussed during the workshop.

## **7. Visit of students from Athné Saint Joseph d'Antsohihy (ASJA) University**

Three undergraduate students from the ASJA University in Antsohihy visited the Ankarafa Forest. These students got the permission from the Madagascar National Parks to visit the park to learn about tourism activities in the park. They stayed at the camp for 3 days from 2nd June to 4th June.

Many thanks for your continued support of the AEECL.

