



Second Quarterly Report

April - June 2019



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AEEL MEMBERS



Bristol Zoological Society
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1. Road Repair

Following the meeting that was held in Antafiabe and Ambinda, the road repair work took place on April 15th and 16th, and about 159 people from six villages participated. The roads are in a bad state, causing issues for access to the surrounding villages. The second stage of work was held on May 24th and 25th. The number of participants was reduced slightly compared to the previous works, five villages helped out including the village of Ambinda with 17 people, 30 people from Antafiabe, 51 people from the village of Andaveno, 10 people from Betsimipoaka and 17 people from the village of Ampanito. After these two events, 15 km of dust road was repaired by the villagers.



Photo 1 : Unloading of equipment



Photo 2 : Participants



Photo 3 : Cutting back foliage



Photo 4 : Levelling road

2. Purchase of a solar pump

Water at the tourist camp has not been working for quite a while and the team have had to carry water from the well up to the base camp which is very tiring and time consuming. Therefore, it was decided that we needed a solar pump to supply the tourist camp in Ankarafa. We contacted the manager of Sq Vision, a company that specializes in renewable energy. The Director of AEECL went to Nosy Be on May 18th to see the solar pump equipment on site before buying. The sales manager presented several models to us but the decision was made to purchase the pump Lorentz PS2 600. This is a submersible solar pump that can provide water at a rate of 1.5 m³ of water per hour and which is appropriate to the needs in the tourist camp.

The order has been made and once the pump has been delivered to Nosy Be it will be collected and installed.

3. Conference on the Northern giant mouse lemur research (*Mirza zaza*)

On May 31st Naina Rabemanjara, a student from the University of Antananarivo organized a conference in Antsohihy. He has carried out research on the Northern giant mouse lemur (*Mirza zaza*) in Ankarafa over a period of one year. He received a grant from the Edge Fellowship at the Zoological Society of London. The title of his project was 'Identifying the ecological needs of *Mirza zaza* in Sahamalaza National Park'. He studied the population density, parasite load and diet composition of this lemur species, and conducted human surveys and environmental education. The project aims to determine aspects of basic biology relevant to management, including abundance and the effects of habitat fragmentation on long-term viability on the Northern giant mouse lemur. Those who have worked with him on this project were invited during the conference. They included the representative of the Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development (DREER), the research guides who worked with him and three teachers from the University of Antananarivo.



Photo 5 : Naina Rabemanjara's presentation



Photo 6 : DREER's representative

The conference took place at the AEECL Head Quarters and the AEECL Director gave a presentation to the participants on his activities and AEECL involvement and support on the research.

4. Progress of the construction of the research camp in Ankarafa

Construction has currently been put on hold with regards to the research camp building as the next stage requires iron and cement materials to continue the build. Unfortunately, even though the road leading to Ankarafa has been partially fixed by local villagers, it is still not suitable to transport those materials to the construction site. However, although no building can currently take place the workers have been extremely busy making bricks – since April they have made 3000!



Photo 7: Soil sieving



Photo 8 : soil piles after sieving



Photo 9 : Finished Bricks

5. Workshop on Reforestation

For two days from 2nd to 3rd July, a workshop on reforestation took place at the GIZ office in Ambatobe Antananarivo. The workshop was organized by GIZ (a German organisation that works to shape a future worth living around the world) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. 50 organizations working in the field of the environment attended the workshop. The objective of this workshop was to work together to find a solution to achieve a successful reforestation programme.

The results will be applied in Malagasy territory in order to reach the National reforestation plan which aims for 40,000 ha of trees planted per year. The final version of the workshop plan will be communicated to participants by the end of August 2019.

During the workshop, there was a presentation from the company OMNIVERDI. They specialise in different techniques to encourage successful reforestation and their focus is on the production of long-rooted seedlings. The advantage of this kind of planting is that it is possible to plant every year and because plant roots have been developed to about 1m before planting in the ground, the plant can establish quickly and survive better. It is an organization that has worked in Brazil for 18 years.



Photo 10: Working group



Photo 11: presentation

6. AEECL Boat Assessment

The annual boat assessment was made on May 24th, 2019. The APMF representative in Antsohihy made the visit. This visit is necessary to continue having a navigation license for the boat. According to the report, our boat was authorized to navigate but the following points were recommended: replacement of the battery, two anchors are needed and a fire extinguisher should be on board. These should all be put in place before the next inspection.

7. Boat Skipper Cards

Our two boat skippers, Andry and Yvess carry skipper's cards following the training that was organized by the Maritime and Waterway Harbour Agency (APMF) in Nosy Be during 2015. These cards should be renewed every three years so they have now expired.



Photo 12: Andry and Yvess – AEECL Boat Skippers

A request was made on 1st September, 2018 to the APMF to renew their cards. Nothing was heard at all from the APMF so during a visit by the Programme Director to Nosy Be on 18th May this year, he went into the APMF office and found the cards were ready. The next renewal of the cards will be in five years.

8. Film shooting

The French TV team TFI came to Sahamalaza National Park from April 28th to April 30th to make a short report on the blue-eyed black lemur (*Eulemur flavifrons*). Brice Lefaux, Director of Mulhouse Zoo in France and Treasurer of the AEECL was present during the filming. The team filmed the school in the Antafiabe village and in Ankarafa they were able to see and film the blue-eyed black lemur and the activities at the research camp. The report was broadcast on French TV.

9. Work Day Celebration

During the annual work day on May 1st, AEECL employees in Antsohihy and the football team 'Akomba misôma' in Andogona cleaned the office yard and fixed the road leading to the AEECL office in Andogona. The AEECL have supported the football team and encouraged them to get involved in the lemur festivals and in return they help us with labour when needed.

Many thanks for your continued support of the AEECL.

