

Annual Report 2016 & Annual Work Plan 2017



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Acronyms

MKLF: Marat Karpeka Lemur Foundation

MNP: Madagascar National Parks

PLC: Park Local Committees

SGT: Sofia Guide Touristique

SOS: Save Our Species

A. 2016 activity annual report

2016 continued the successful trends of the previous year.

In general, the planned activities were achieved and we have done some extra activities.

The activities were achieved on time except for the 'SOS – Save Our Species' lemur project which was delayed and we had to ask for an extension which was granted.

The following activities marked 2016, including opening and operating of the camp in Anabohazo, arrival of the tourist operator to promote the ecotourism in Sahamalaza and release of a movie about the conservation activity in Ankarafa forest. The movie was produced by the Apenheul Zoo team.

During his trip in Europe, the AEECL Director made a European zoo tour to talk about AEECL projects and to raise funds.

We would like to thank all our financial members, partners, donors and friends and we continue to count on your support and cooperation.



I. Strengthening education, education and parenting support

In total, 78 teachers received a subsidy from the AEECL.

Teachers took their responsibilities seriously and the enrolment rate is stable. No complaints were received from the villagers regarding the teachers.

We held meetings in 8 villages about the teaching.

15 students received scholarship. One meeting was done with the school.



Photo 1 Subsidized teachers



Photo 2 Scholarship students

Strength

Objective achieved at 90%.

Teachers are motivated and involved the students in the environmental activities.

Parents relied on the teachers.

Teachers can be good partners to spread the awareness for protection of the biodiversity.

We got acknowledgment from the Minister of National Education because of our support to education.

The scholarship has increased the competition between students. As a result, everyone would like to receive a scholarship.

Weakness

In remote area, villagers could not pay teacher's salary.

More teachers wanted to have grant from the AEECL.

There was a reduction on the success rate within the schools surrounding the park because of the change in education system. This reduction was already predicted when the government changed the education system. The students need 4 or 5 years to adapt the new system according to the teachers.

The dropout rate is high for students living in remote areas compared to those living near the road.

Only few students can have the scholarship and the principals asked to grant more students.

Action in the future

Keep supporting the teachers.

Make regular meeting with teachers.

Continue teacher's assessment.

Organize a regular meeting with the scholarship students.

Need more action on the environmental activities for some schools.

II. Increase villager's awareness and reinforce communication campaign

1. Environmental events and awareness

The aim of the environmental events and awareness is to increase awareness about the conservation of the environment by bringing all actors together in one place.

We participated in and organized 4 activities relating to the environment and during each environmental event, awareness raising was done.

- i. The celebration of the local World Environment Day took place in Ankatafa from 8th to 10th July 2016. There were about 750 participants. Ankatafa is a village in part of Sahamalaza national park.
- ii. The celebration of the regional celebration took place in Beandrarezona district of Bealanana on 5th and 6th June 2016. About 1,000 people attended the event. During the local and regional environmental event the regional authorities and those who are involved in protecting the environment were always present.
- iii. The celebration of the local lemur festival took place in Antafiabe on the 24th and 25th September 2016.
- iv. The AEECL was present during the celebration of the World Lemur Festival in Antananarivo at the Tsimbazaza Park on 28th and 29th October 2016. Both the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and The Minister of the Environment, Ecology and Forest were present.



Photo 3 World environment day in Beandrarezona



Photo 4 Local lemur festival

Related to the 'SOS – Save Our Species' lemur project, a field guide working in Anabohazo gave a public presentation about their work during the celebration of the local lemur festival. We designed 100 t-shirts and 100 sarongs. These t-shirts were distributed to the school kids in Antafiabe and Ambinda villages. On the other hand, we did not yet distribute sarongs, only the AEECL staff got sarongs during the celebration of women's day in Antsohihy on 10th March 2017.



Photo 5 Presentation during lemur festival



Photo 6 distribution of SOS T-shirts

Strength

Objectives achieved.

The AEECL could attend all of the environment events.

People are interested in the environment event.

Weakness

The local lemur festival was badly organized. There were fewer participants than before.

If the environmental event is organized outside of Sahamalaza National Park, it is always difficult to attend the event.

Action in the future

The organization of local lemur festival should be improved. The MNP, MN and AEECL should help the local organizer or take them over to save the image of the festival.

The AEECL should have a stand to exhibit its activities during each environmental event. Some staff from the field should participate to the national environment event such as the World Lemur Festival to help and also to see what people do during the event.



Photo 7 Environmental education in Ambinda



Photo 8 Environmental education in Ambolobo

III. Ecotourism

- i. We participated in the International Tourism Fair Madagascar (ITM) held in Antananarivo on 2nd to 4th June 2016.
More than 100 exhibitors were present including hotels, restaurants, craftspeople, industrialists, regional offices and leisure centres. The regional tourism office of Sofia region participated in this event and showed the various attractions and tourism facilities that the Sofia Region possesses.
Two members of the tourist guide of Sofia Guide Touristique Association (SGT) were present during this event. They distributed posters and flyers to show the potential of the region as well as information on the guides' services.
- ii. There was some improvement done at the tourist camp including the construction of tents shelters and upkeep of the garden.
- iii. A crew from the Apenheul Primate Park in the Netherlands visited Sahamalaza for a period of 4 days from the 22nd to 25th June 2016. The objectives of their visit were to make a film about the activities of the AEECL and to increase fundraising and promote ecotourism.



Photo 9 Apenheul Primate Park team



Photo 10 Tourist camp in Ankarafa

Strength

Objective achieved for the planned activities.

The Sofia Guide Touristique (SGT) is interested in the International Tourism Fair Madagascar.

The video was screening during the lemur festival held in Antafiabe. Those who saw the video like it.

Weakness

With regard to the ITM, the region is still less shown. Hotel operators from Sofia Region were not interested to participate. There are more than a dozen hotel operators but only Nosy Saba was present. It seems that Sofia region lose interest in the event which could make known their hotels internationally.

About the tourist camp, a new toilet block should be build. There is no tourist path within the forest.

The solar pump did not work.

The member of SGT is less active.

Action in the future

Reboost of the SGT.

Construction of tourist path.

Construction of another toilet block.

The regional tourist office in Antsohihy who is the first responsible should be more involved more and act as professional.

IV. Improvement of forest management and preservation

1. Reduction of anthropogenic activities within the Anabohazo forest

The camp is functional and open to all researchers who want to carry out research. Three field guides are now working there and they are now able to guide tourists or researchers. Also, they are capable of recording lemur data.

The pressure on the forest is identified. They are lemur trappings, logging and fire. Lemur trappings and logging were observed at the beginning of the project. Since the permanent presence of the guides, less pressure was observed at the end of the project except the fire that hit the forest.



Photo 11 Lemur survey



Photo 12 Taking waypoint of fire spot

Strength

Objective achieved at 80%.

The field guides were trained to follow lemurs.

Villagers help each other to support the activity.

Villagers help each other to build the road and to fight the fire in Anabohazo.

Weakness

The project was slightly disturbed because of a delay in financing.

The fire that occurred in September has substantially changed our project.

Action in the future

Keep on hiring the field guides.

Keep on doing something at the camp to make it alive.

Develop the ecotourism.

Provide more tools for villagers to fight the fire.

Need more awareness raising.
Organize a dialogue.

2. Firebreak

In order to stop the spread of fires, fire breaks were built around the Ankarafa forest from 6th to 8th August 2016. As usual, Mikajy Natiora invited the Boy Scouts to the event.

A total of 516 villagers from 19 different villages participated in the fire break activity. Several local authorities were present including both of the 1st and 2nd Deputy Mayor of Amboloboza and 8 heads of villages. The majority of the teachers subsidized by AEECL were also present.

The two heads of sectors represented the Madagascar National Parks (MNP), 8 AEECL staff, 13 scouts from Antananarivo and 2 members from Mikajy Natiora also participated to the fire break activity. We have established 4.5 km of firebreaks including 350m of new openings.



Photo 13 Creation of firebreaks



Photo 14 Some of the local authorities

Strength

Objective achieved.

All AEECL staff working in Ankarafa were present and participated to the activity.

The coordination during the establishment of the firebreak was good.

Many local authorities were present.

Weakness

There were fewer participants than year before. Villagers were confused by the change in the schedule.

Zebus for the participants were not only difficult to find but also their prices increased. Nowadays, there are more and more butchers and people came to Amboloboza to buy zebus. This increases the price of zebus because there is an imbalance between the offer and the demand.

Action in the future

The schedule should not change once it is set.

Working with other association is important so that more activities can be done at the same time. We will keep working with Mikajy Natiora for the awareness raising.

Need for early research of zebus

V. Forest monitoring by the member of the Park Local Committees

More than 1000 grids visited by the 6 members of the Park Local Committees (PLC). The main pressure was logging.

They recorded 263 cut trees and 2673 m² of burnt area. No hunting was observed.

Strength

Objective achieved,

The Ankarafa forest is better controlled.

Weakness

In the afternoon, the members PLC are less active and we could not control what they were doing.

They could take any waypoints during the patrol as they do not have GPS.

Action in the future

Make more visits in the area where the pressure is high.

Provide them with cameras and GPS.

VI. Water supply

Construction of water well for village is planned.

We hired wellman from Antsohihy and Antananarivo to make the wells. Two water wells were built. They were in Ambinda and in Andrekareka. Three wells repaired, 2 in Antafiabe village and one in Kapany village.



Photo 15 Building well



Photo 16 Well in Ankatafa

Strength

Objective achieved.

2 new wells built and 3 old wells repaired.

Weakness

The pump easily broke. Villagers did not want the pump. They preferred manual well and use a bucket.

Some people told that the water well got dry (it was in November)

Action In the future

Build a well without the pump. They will use a rope and bucket to draw water. Therefore, the well will be open to let full bucket out and secure with a lid.

VII. Management of Rolling stock

It is about the car and the boat. With the car, we did the usual maintenance.

For the boat, a new engine was bought at Polyma, a boat building company in Antananarivo.

The boat repair took place in Antsohihy.

Action In the future

We need to insure the boat and passengers.

Also, the boat should be towed by a trailer so it does not damage the boat and be kept in Antsohihy.



Photo 17 Boat repair



Photo 18 Repaired boat

VIII. Improvement and embellishment of tourist camp

Two tent shelters were completed. These shelters are made with the same materials as the others tent shelters. The floor is made by dry branches of raffia tree and leaves of ravalala tree for the roof. These tent shelters are large compared to the others, they measure 4m x 3.5m while the others were 2m x 3m. In total there are 7 shelters at the tourist camp.

The team planted 15 oranges trees and 400 young trees of native trees.

The garden was expanded. There are tomatoes, egg plants, chilli, papaya, banana tree, orange trees and pumpkin at the camp.



Photo 19 Tent shelters at the tourist camp



Photo 20 Orange tree

Strength

Achieved

Weakness

Due to the lack of rain, only 25% of the plants survived.

There are mealy bugs which attacked the plant and José did not find any solution against them.

Action In the future

Manage and maintain the infrastructure at the camp

Maintain of the vegetable garden

Find solution to fight against garden pests.



Photo 21 Maintenance of vegetable garden



Photo 22 Pumpkin

IX. Road construction to Anabohazo forest

To facilitate access to the Anabohazo forest, the road to the new research camp at Anabohazo was established in September 2015 but it was not yet accessible for cars thus it was re-fixed again by the villagers in 2016. It is also part of the AEECL SOS lemur project. The four field assistants who work at the new camp in Anabohazo were present and coordinated the work. The number of participants went up to 228 villagers from 11 different villages.

The 2nd Deputy Mayor and President's council of the commune, the Head of the village of Ambinda and 4 other Heads from different villages were present during the road construction.



Photo 23 Creation of path to Anabohazo

X. School meal

This activity is not planned in annual work plant 2016.

We organized the school meal in 3 villages. About 500 kids get fed during the first day of the school meal.



Photo 24 Food preparation



Photo 25 Kids having their meal

Strength

Objective achieved at 35%.

Teachers and women at the village help us to organize the school meal.

Weakness

In some village, the number of children is higher than they tell us.

The price of rice is not stable.

The village is not accessible during the rainy season

Action in the future

The school meal will continue and only organize during the dry season before the school holidays.

XI. Visit in Nosy Sakatia

Following to the request of Mr Theunyck, owner of a land in Nosy Sakatia in Nosy Be, the AEECL Director went to Nosy Sakatia to assess the feasibility of an introduction of lemur species on his property.

Mr Theunyck would like to offer spaces for lemurs but not doing this project as profitable. The area is suitable for lemurs, there are several tree species that serve as habitat and food for the lemur. Anthropogenic pressure can also be controlled. It will be a real refuge for the lemurs. However, we suggest that studies and precautions be taken before committing to work in this islet.



Photo 26 Sakatia Island

XII. Solar system

A team of Solarsense from the United Kingdom visited the Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park to upgrade and to provide solar panels to the camps and to the villagers. They arrived on 11th November and stayed 5 days at the tourist camp in Ankarafa.



Photo 27 Solar panels



Photo 28 Cable connection

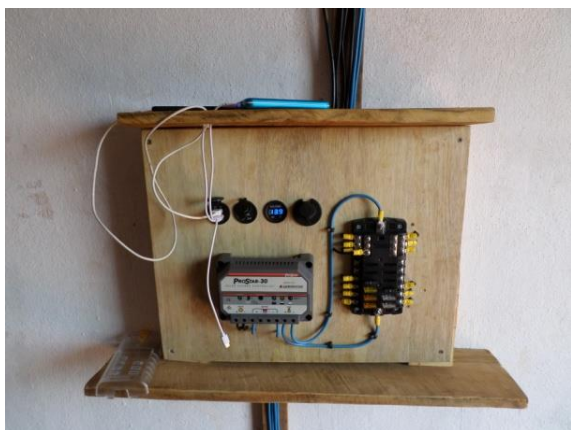


Photo 29 Sockets and fuse box



Photo 30 Solar energy system for the villagers

At the research camp, the Solarsense team improved the facility that is already in place. They installed lights in the kitchen and at the rooms of the research assistants. They also installed USB sockets for devices using the same connection.

Strength

At the 2 camps, it is possible now to load electronic devices with a USB plug and cigarette lighter. It is also possible to use materials that operate with 220 volt power using a converter. It is also possible to have light at night.

Weakness

Due to the limited stay in Sahamalaza, the team could not go to Anabohazo. However, they have left the necessary materials to have energy. These materials include 6 flexible solar panels, a regulator and cables.

The solar mini-charger for the village is not distributed yet.

Action in the future

Set the solar energy for the Anabohazo camp.

Choose the village which can have the solar energy.

XIII. Staffing

Every year we organize a staff meeting at the beginning and at the end of year, the objective is to assess personal work progress and to understand the interpersonal relationships.

During the meeting, the AEECL Director thanked all employees for their effort during the previous year and hoped the best for the New Year.

Professional negligence and some problem of relationship between staff working in Ankarafa were noticed. Professional negligence included the non-respect of the working time and days off schedule. We added one day more for the days off for everyone. The employees have 4 days off instead of 3 days off before. Therefore, we agreed that everyone has to work every day and has to respect the leave schedule if not there will be a sanction.

During the assessment at the end of year, we noticed that the leave schedule was respected and there was no more interpersonal conflict.

There was distribution of some basic necessities such as cooking oils, concentrated milk, sugars and various toys for their children to motivate and to support staff facing the considerable increase in prices of the staple goods.

Given the rise in prices of commodities, the staff asked for a pay raise.



Photo 31 Staff meeting in Ankarafa



Photo 32 Staple goods and toys

B. Annual Work Plan 2017

For 2017, the goal remains the same. It means protect the lemurs by supporting the local populations. Therefore, the usual annual activities will be undertaken. These activities include improvement and strengthening on education, forest preservation and awareness raising.

There will be an improvement in the organization of the local festival.

About the education, we are planning to engage more schools in the environmental protection.

In addition, much effort will be done on the ecotourism. About 50 tourists will come to visit the Ankarafa forest. The infrastructure at the camp will be improved.

Other challenging activity of this year is a construction of a new school in Ambinda.

Objective 1 : Strengthening education

| Excepted outcomes | Activities | Timeline | | | | Attribution |
|--|--|----------|----|----|----|------------------|
| | | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | |
| A school will be built towards the end of 2017 | Organization of meeting with the villagers | | | | | AAECL |
| | Visit the place where the school will be built | | | | | AAECL |
| | Description of the tasks of the villagers | | | | | AAECL |
| | Finding of building contractor | | | | | AAECL |
| | School building | | | | | AAECL |
| | Furnishing | | | | | AAECL |
| | Toilet building | | | | | AAECL |
| 78 community teachers will be assiduous during the school year 2017-2018 | Renewal of contract | | | | | AAECL |
| | Distribution of the grant | | | | | AAECL |
| | Teachers assessment | | | | | AAECL |
| The enrollment rate increases by 10% and the drop-out rate is reduced by 50% | Meeting with the school kids' parents | | | | | AAECL |
| | School visit | | | | | AAECL |
| | Organisation school meal | | | | | AAECL, Turquoise |
| High school students are assiduous | Distribution of scholarship | | | | | AAECL |

Objective 2: Improvement of forest management and preservation

| Excepted outcomes | Activities | Timeline | | | | Attribution |
|---|--|----------|----|----|----|-------------|
| | | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | |
| Forest fire decreased at 50% during this year | Creation of firebreaks | | | | | AAECL |
| | Invitation of local authorities to participate in the creation of firebreaks | | | | | AAECL |
| | Villagers awareness 2 months prior to the creation of the firebreaks | | | | | AAECL |
| | Invitation of all 78 subsidized teachers | | | | | AAECL |
| | Organization of a local dialogue | | | | | AAECL |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|-------------|
| Anthropogenic pressures decrease by 50% until the end of the year | Hiring of 6 members of Park Local committees (PLC) | | | | | AEECL |
| | Regular patrol by PLC | | | | | AEECL |
| | Motivation of PLC (Distribution of GPS and t-shirt) | | | | | AEECL, MKLF |
| | Environmental awareness raising | | | | | AEECL |
| | Organization of 2 environmental events | | | | | AEECL, MNP |

Objective 3: get more people for the lemur festival

| Excepted outcomes | Activities | Timeline | | | | Attribution |
|---|---|----------|----|----|----|----------------|
| | | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | Q1 | |
| Number of participant will raise up to 50% during the celebration of the lemur festival in Sahamalaza | Assistance of the local organizers | | | | | AEECL, MNP, MN |
| | Strong advertisement prior the lemur festival | | | | | AEECL, MNP, MN |
| | Organization of attractive activity | | | | | AEECL, MNP, MN |
| | School kids football matches | | | | | AEECL, MNP, MN |
| | Improvement transportation and visitors accommodation | | | | | AEECL, MNP, MN |
| | School visit for awareness | | | | | AEECL, MNP, MN |

Objective 4: Improvement of tourist infrastructures

| Excepted outcomes | Activities | Time | | | | Attribution |
|---|---|------|----|----|----|----------------------|
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | |
| Tourist camp is upgraded and welcomed 50 tourists this year | Improvement of tourist infrastructures | | | | | Apenheul zoo MKLF |
| | Guide training | | | | | AEECL |
| | Collaboration with the tourist agents | | | | | Apenheul zoo |
| | Design of signage and informative plaques | | | | | MKLF |

Objective 5: Improvement of camp facilities in Anabohazo forest

| Excepted outcomes | Activities | Time | | | | Attribution |
|--|--|------|----|----|----|-------------|
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | |
| 01 building with 4 rooms built this year | Construction of building with 4 rooms and toilet | | | | | AEECL |

Objective 6: Improvement of reforestation campaign

| Excepted outcomes | Activities | Time | | | | Attribution |
|-------------------------|--|------|----|----|----|-------------|
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | |
| 90% of young trees grow | Meeting with nurserymen | | | | | AEECL |
| | Construction of tree nursery station | | | | | AEECL |
| | Improvement of planted tree following up | | | | | Nurserymen |