



# First Quarterly Report

January – March 2019



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AEECL Programme Director

## AEECL MEMBERS



## AEECL PARTNERS



## AEECL DONORS



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## 1. Construction of the new Research Camp

From January to March 2019 the workers built the walls of the new building at the Research Camp in Ankarafa. There were five workers involved with building these walls and an architect from the UK visited Ankarafa on 8<sup>th</sup> January to teach and to show the workers how to raise the walls with interlocking stabilised soil blocks. The architect stayed for seven days to oversee the training.

It was not difficult for the workers to follow the guidelines issued by the architect and by the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the walls were raised all around up to 12 bricks high and have since been raised higher so construction is moving along well.



Photo 2: Construction of the building wall



Photo 1 : Construction of the building wall

## 2. Meeting with the IUCN 'Save Our Species' (SOS) Lemur Initiative Grantees

The SOS Lemur Initiative donor visited a few SOS funded projects in Madagascar in January, accompanied by Russell Mittermeier, Chair of the Primate Specialist Group and Van Merm Remco, Species Conservation Grants Coordinator for the Global Species & Key Biodiversity Areas Programme. SOS grantees were invited to attend a networking meeting with them at the Carlton Hotel on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, in the afternoon. AEECL received an SOS grant in 2016 so our Programme Director Guy Randriatahina was present at the meeting.

Each participant gave a brief presentation about their SOS lemur project and highlighted the achievements made through the grant.

The donor learnt more about the different projects during the meeting and encouraged the grantees to continue their work on lemur conservation.



Photo 3: Meeting with SOS donor and other grantees.



### 3. Regional Reforestation

The regional reforestation for the Sofia Region was carried out on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the village of Ambodimanganibora, within the Commune of Ambodimandresy.

The local authorities and stakeholders including the Head of Sofia region, the Prefect of Sofia region, the Regional Director of Environment and Sustainable Development and the two Mayors of Antsahabe and Ambodimandresy participated in the reforestation as well as many institutions and NGOs working in the Sofia region. The AEECL was present and were represented by six people.



Photo 4: Banner for the reforestation



Photo 5: Opening speeches

During his speech, the Regional Director of Environment and Sustainable development noted that the area to be reforested was actually designated a former special reserve but due to massive deforestation, the forest had sadly disappeared. The objective of reforestation is to plant within the deforested area to bring back the forests and link forest fragments together.

In total, the reforestation work saw 5000 trees composed of seven different species planted within a surface area of three hectares.



Photo 6 : The AEECL team planting trees





**Photo 7 : Volunteers hard at work planting trees**



**Photo 8 : Representatives from AEECL at the reforestation event**

#### **4. Participation in the Regional Celebration of International Women's Day.**

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in Antsohihy, various women, including workers, political, leading educators and community went to the streets to take part in a carnival to celebrate this day. The town was very lively because of all the song and dance. It was also a campaign that showed a greater progress towards gender equality in Madagascar. Women working with the AEECL and the wives of employees also joined these women's groups. They took a banner with the AEECL logo on and wore uniforms to distinguish them from other organizations.



**Photo 9: AEECL team during the carnival**



## **5. Meeting On The Road Leveling**

A meeting was held in the village of Ambinda on 7<sup>th</sup> March to discuss about the dust road leveling from National road 6 to the village of Ambinda and through to the forest of Ankarafa.

In total, 50 people including the Head of Village, teachers and villagers were present. During this meeting, the participants agreed to fix the dust road on 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> April and 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Depending on the number of participants, four groups will be formed. The following materials are needed for the work: 4 wheelbarrows, 4 picks, 4 bars, 4 heavy hammers. The AEECL will buy these materials and will buy 3 zebus as food of participants during the work. Feedback on the road leveling will be in the next Quarterly Report.

## **6. Construction Of The School In The Village Of Antafiabe**

The construction of the school in the village of Antafiabe restarted on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019 after a break for three months. The workers put on the roof, fitted the interior, covered the surface and painted it all. The work was completed on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.



**Photo 10 : Construction Progress**



**Photo 11 : Further Construction**



**Photo 12 : The Finished School**

The new school is painted in blue and dark blue which is the same as the previous school that the AEECL built in 2017. Once the school building was completed, the villagers asked to use the classroom straight away.

This is the 3rd school that the AEECL has built for the local communities since 2012.



**Photo 13 : The Finished School**



## 7. Programme Director's European Visit

Guy Randriatahina, Programme Director, attended the AEECL Annual General meeting that was held at Mulhouse Zoo, France in March 2019. There was also an AEECL planning meeting held the following day with the AEECL Board and members.

After the AGM at Mulhouse Zoo, Guy went on to visit other zoo members of the AEECL and provided talks about all the different projects and met with some friends of zoos such as "Ami de zoo de Mulhouse" (Friends of Mulhouse Zoo) and "Ami de zoo de Lyon" (Friends of Zoo de Lyon).



**Photo 14 : Turquoise Aventures present AEECL with a cheque for funds raised**



**Photo 15 : AEECL AGM at Mulhouse Zoo**

During the meeting, the charity Turquoise Aventures very kindly presented the AEECL President, Gary Batters with a cheque for funds raised to support the educational work of the AEECL out in the Sahamalaza National Park in Madagascar.

For the trip in Europe, Guy visited four zoos in France including Zoo de Mulhouse, Zoo de Lyon, Zoo de Besancon, Parc Animalier Sainte Croix; one zoo in Germany, the Saarbrucken zoo and five zoos in the Czech Republic. The zoos in the Czech Republic comprised of Ostrava zoo, Zlin zoo, Olomouc zoo, Hodonin zoo and Jihlava zoo.

This was a very interesting trip as Guy had lots of opportunities to visit different zoos and was able to share AEECL's activities in Madagascar with a wide audience.



**Photo 16 : Guy meeting staff & guests after his talk at Parc Animalier Sainte Croix**

This trip was not only a journey of meeting people and discovery but a real adventure for Guy, he learnt a lot about the works of zoos and animal care. He was well received by people everywhere he went. People were very interested when he talked about the in situ projects in the Sahamalaza National Park and the role of the AEECL within the community and in the forests protecting and saving lemurs.



Photo 17 : Guy's visit to Saarbrücken Zoo

Many thanks for your continued support of the AEECL.