



# Fourth Quarterly Report

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## AEECL MEMBERS



## AEECL PARTNERS



## AEECL DONORS



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## Acronyms

**MNP: Madagascar National Park**

**GD: General Director**

**DREDD: Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development**



## 1. Reforestation of Mangroves

The mangrove reforestation event took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> October in Mahitsihazo. The Madagascar national Parks (MNP) with the collaboration of the Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development (DREDD) organized this reforestation event. Some of the local stakeholders and authorities were present including the Member of Parliament for the District of Analalava and the General Director of Environment and Sustainable Development, Prince Harana IV, the Chief from the District of Analalava, Director of Reforestation and Management of Forest Landscapes, General Director of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, General Director of Water, Energy and Hydrocarbon, the Gendarmerie, the MNP team from Antananarivo, the Coordinator of Erosive Control Programme and Mayors from the local area. Many villagers surrounding the Sahamalaza National Park also came during the reforestation.

Two species of mangroves were reforested including 80% of *Ceriops tagal* and 20% for *Rhizophora mucronata* (20%).



**Photo 1 : Transporting propagules**



**Photo 2 : Explanation of reforestation technique**

The propagules were collected by the villagers a few days before the reforestation day and they stored them in bags. Prior to the reforestation, the General Director of Environment and Sustainable Development explained briefly the reforestation technique to participants. Approximately 250 ha of surface was reforested.



**Photo 3 : During reforestation**



**Photo 4 : Propagules planted**



After the reforestation, the organizers thanked the participants and offered a banquet to them. Some authorities gave speeches, the Park Director welcomed the authorities and introduced them to the local participants. He said that the next reforestation will be held in February and asked the participants to bring more people next time. The General Director presented the apologies of the Minister and noted that about 80,000,000 trees will be reforested and about 3,600,000 of mangroves will be reforested around Madagascar. Mangroves and sea foods are vital. He also encouraged villagers to reforest and to protect mangroves. The Member of Parliament present said that it is important to protect the environment because we depend on it and he also said that the Park and Forest Managers should punish the poachers and loggers. He added that a festival celebrating mangroves should be organized the same as the lemur festival.

## **2. Participation in the establishment of a regional tree nursery**

The objective of the National Reforestation Policy is to plant 80,000,000 trees around Madagascar. To achieve this objective, the Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development (DREDD) in Antsohihy are going to produce 1,000,000 young seedlings. Therefore DREDD asked their partners within the region to realize this goal.

Mr Arsonina Bera is the new Regional Director of DREDD for the Sofia region. The Director of the AEECL met him on 8<sup>th</sup> November for a courtesy visit, and discussed with him the activities of the AEECL. AEECL are contributing 1,500,000 Malagasy ariary for the project "pépinière vitrine Antsohihy" (Antsohihy Showcase Nursery) is around €370. According to DREDD, 300,000 plants were grown.



**Photo 5 : Tree nurseries**





**Photo 6 : Tree nurseries**

### **3. School Canteen**

During the last firebreak, two villages including Amboloboza and Antsatsaka brought the largest number of people to help. Therefore, these villages were chosen for the school meals for the children in order to thank them.



**Photo 7 :  
Preparing food**



The school canteen was held in Amboloboza on 27<sup>th</sup> October and in Antsatsaka on 7<sup>th</sup> December. The school canteen helps children to go to school and to motivate the villagers for the protection of the environment. In total 270 meals were prepared during the two school meal events.

The menu included rice and meat with beans which is the same as previous school canteens. This time we gave them soya milk. Teachers and women helped the AEECL team during the canteen preparation.



**Photo 8 : Rice ready to serve**



**Photo 9 : School canteen in Antsatsaka**





**Photo 10 : School canteen in Ambolobo**

#### **4. Visit to the school in Ambodimanga village**

We carried out an unexpected school visit in Ambodimanga village in order to monitor and evaluate the teachers' performance and to meet with pupils. There are 6 teachers in this village and 3 of them have their wages subsidized by the AEECL. All the teachers were present and worked well during our visit. The pupils seem motivated despite the poor state of the school infrastructure which really needs to be improved as can be seen from the photos.

The teachers who do not receive grants from the AEECL asked us to support them too because they do not receive anything from the parents of the students.



**Photo 11 : Inside the classroom**





Photo 12 : Inside the classroom



Photo 13 : Kindergarten school





**Photo 14 : Doing school work**

## 5. Fire in Ankarafa

The forest of Ankarafa is on the edge of the park on the way to Marovato. Unfortunately a fire broke out on 31<sup>st</sup> October. The fire was located only about 1.5 km from the AEECL research camp. The team was warned by the smoke and went there to check the fire. They informed the MNP and went to Marovato to get villagers to help put out the fire but none of them could come as they were attending a funeral.



**Photo 15 :  
Firebreak to help  
stop the fire from  
spreading**

It took two days for them to extinguish the fire because it was very windy and they did not have the appropriate equipment to fight the fire. About 7 hectares of forest were burnt, many crawling animals died but no lemurs were injured.

According to our team, the fire would be deliberate because the "tavy" that was close to the fire did not burn.



**Photo 16 : Burnt area**

## **6. Construction of the Research Camp**

The recent progress of the construction included installation of the V-shaped pillars and the installation of the roof and the concreting of the rooms.

The water supply system is repaired and is working well.



**Photo 17 :  
Concreting the  
floor**





**Photo 18 : Securing poles with threaded rod**



**Photo 19 : Paving the floor**



**Photo 20 : Completed room**

The next work to be undertaken consists of putting in the doors and windows and finishing the showers. The floor of the shower and toilet are not yet paved because some equipment will be installed under the floor. The toilets will be compostable toilets.

## **7. Repairing the Guide's dormitory**

The dormitory for the AEECL Guides was in a very poor condition as shown in the photo below. This really needed urgent repair so on 14<sup>th</sup> October we bought new wall materials and replaced the old walls.



**Photo 21 : Old dormitory**



**Photo 22 : Wall repaired**



## 8. Establishment of a new Governor for the Sofia Region

The rite of the establishment of the new Governor for the Sofia region took place on October 14th. Two ministries, Members of parliament and many regional authorities were present during the event. The Director of the AEECL was also invited during this ceremony.

A carnival was organized and many associations and people came to this carnival and the new Governor joined in with the carnival. The Governor was welcomed warmly by the people.



**Photo 23 : Crowds gather before the carnival**



**Photo 24 : During the carnival**

In his speech, the new Governor noted that his priority will be to guarantee the security and stability within the region. He was also ready to work with the people who want to develop the region.



**Photo 25 : Banner saying that the Sofia Region are happy to have a new Governor**



**Photo 26 : The new Governor**

Many thanks for your continued support of the AEECL.