



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE AEECL PRESIDENT

What a very different year 2020 turned out to be from the one we had planned and hoped for. COVID 19 has had a huge effect on our work. That said we have fared better than we had feared in March 2020. However, before we move on to the challenges that we have met and reports of continuing our positive work, we should reflect that for many there has been great sadness and loss. Our team was devastated by the death of Anick, our housekeeper in Antsohihy, during the pandemic. Our thoughts are still with her family and friends.



Financially we feared that zoos would not have the funds to support our important conservation efforts in 2020 but we were pleased that the reverse was true, and we have remained financially strong as you will see in the Treasurers report included. The Board met twice during the year and held the Annual General Meeting in September, all on ZOOM. Currently there are 35 member zoos with another 7 collections making regular donations.

In the field the pandemic has curtailed activities, as Guy Randriatahina, AEECL Programme Director will report in more detail below. Obviously, no research work could be carried out, or tourist visits to the camp, but our support for and interaction with the communities surrounding the Ankarafa forest continued. Schooling is highly valued and our 50% salary support for 78 teachers proved critical as the government failed to pay the teachers.

As would be expected in times of hardship, pressure on the forest increased with the removal of timber and probably the poaching of lemurs. Patrols were increased and arrests made by the authorities. At the end of the year we have met our key objective, providing protection to the lemurs and other important wildlife of Ankarafa. We know that without your support this forest would not exist, this is real conservation!

Once again thank you for your continued support in these difficult times.

Best regards

Gary

Gary Batters
AEECL President

Table of Contents

I. AREA OF INTERVENTION	5
II. EDUCATION SUPPORT	6
III. REFORESTATION	7
1. For the Sofia region.....	7
2. For the Analamanga region.....	8
IV. PRESSURE IN ANKARAFA FOREST	8
V. LEMUR FESTIVAL.....	9
VI. CELEBRATION OF WORLD WOMEN'S DAY IN ANTISOHIHY	10
VIII. RESCUE ACTION.....	13
IX. COURTESY VISIT	14
X. END OF YEAR GIFT FOR OUR EMPLOYEES	14
XI. AEECL TRUCK SPONSORSHIP SIGN	15
XII. TRUST TUSK/LEMUR LOVE RANGER GRANT	15
XIII. AEECL 2020 FINANCIAL ANNUAL REPORT	15

List of Photos

Photo 1 Teacher's payment	6
Photo 2 Distribution of scholarship for student.....	6
Photo 3 Meeting with community teachers	7
Photo 4 AEECL team & Photo 5 Reforestation	8
Photo 6 Participants & Photo 7 AEECL team.....	8
Photo 8 Dalbergia sp & Photo 9 Bridelia perrilleana.....	9
Photo 10 Breonia sp & Photo 11 Rest of tree	9
Photo 12 Opening ceremony & Photo 13 Visit of stand	10
Photo 14 Group performance	10
Photo 15 Face painting & Photo 16 Speech	11
Photo 17 Carnival.....	11
Photo 18 Food preparation & Photo 19 Meal.....	12
Photo 20 Sands & Photo 21 Rocks	12
Photo 22 Door & Photo 23 Windows.....	12
Photo 24 Bricks.....	13
Photo 25 Floods & Photo 26 Houses in water	13
Photo 27 Rescuing & Photo 28 Victims of floods.....	14
Photo 29 Donation & Photo 30 Team in Ankarafo	14
Photo 31 New AEECL truck sign.....	15

AEECL MEMBERS



Bristol Zoological Society
Saving Wildlife Together



RESERVE
ZOOLOGIQUE
DE CALVIAC



Domaine de
PESCHÉRAY



BEAUVAL
NATURE
pour la Conserva-
tion et la Recherche



AEECL PARTNERS

PARTNER of



World Association of Zoos
and Aquariums | WAZA



Wilhelma
Zoologisch-Botanischer Garten
Stuttgart



AEECL DONORS

INTRODUCTION

The blue eye black lemur has a very restricted distribution. The Sahamalaza National Park is currently its main habitat. This species is seriously threatened due to anthropic pressure. Although it is in a park, some local communities continue to practice illegal activities inside the park.

AEECL has set up a long-term conservation project to protect this species. It promotes research and at the same time supports communities through development projects.

The aim is to protect lemurs, reduce the pressures on them and also to improve the living conditions of the local human population.

This report illustrates the activities that AEECL has undertaken from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.

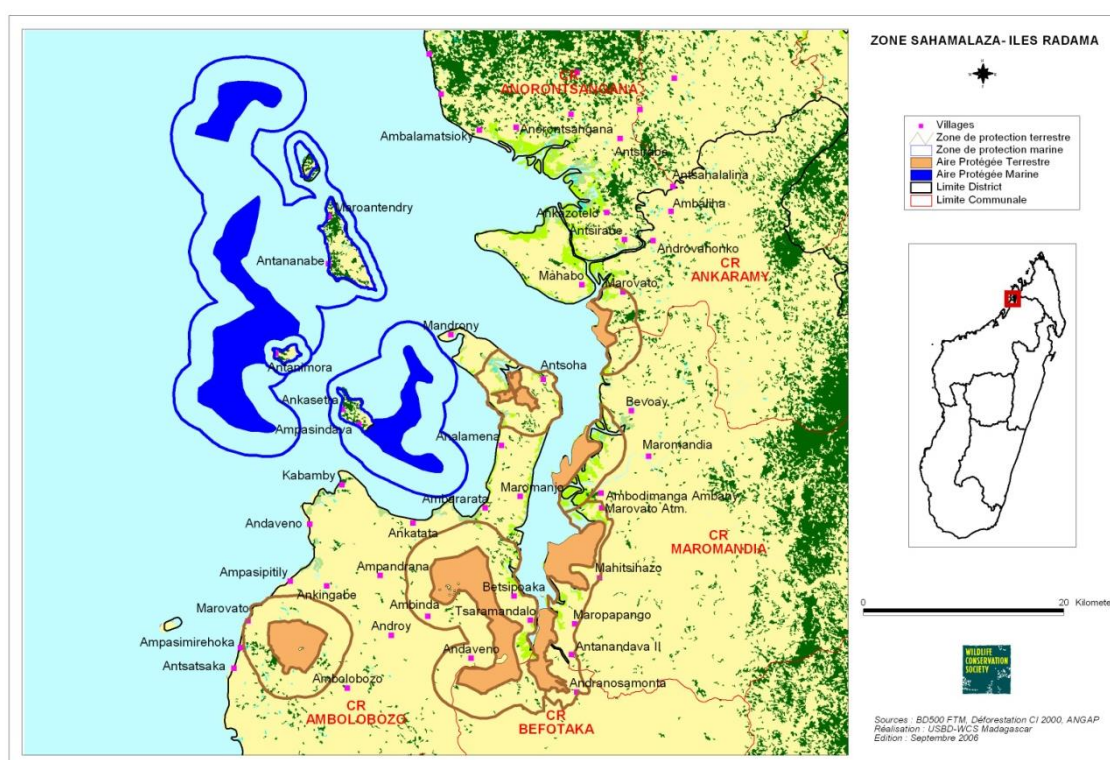
The activities are focused on 4 areas:

- Education,
- Awareness raising on environmental protection,
- Research: construction of the research camp
- Social activity.

I. AREA OF INTERVENTION

AEECL has been working for a long time in the Sahamalaza peninsula. It is one of the founding members of the Sahamalaza Nosy Radama National Park.

The Sahamalaza National Park on the Radama Islands is located between latitude 14°04' S to 14°37' S and longitude 47°52' E to 48°04' E. It is located in the northwestern part of Madagascar, 70% of which is in the Analalava district, Sofia region, Mahajanga province and 30% in the Ambanja district, Diana region, Antsiranana province. The park is both marine and coastal, and terrestrial, the major part of which is the peninsula located in the commune of Ambolobozo. The park is therefore mainly surrounded by the sea except in its south-eastern part which connects it to the mainland. The park comprises 5 communes including the rural commune of Ambolobozo, Befotaka, Maromandia, Ankaramibe and Anorontsangana.



Map 1 Location of Sahamalaza National Park

II. EDUCATION SUPPORT

In March, AEECL started distributing the community teacher's grant and the scholarship for students at Maromandia High School to stabilize the education system. Educational and Administration leaders found this act very encouraging as many community teachers have not received anything from their salary since September 2019. The grant offered by AEECL allows teachers to cover expenses and meet the needs of their families during these difficult times.

The grant continued until the end of the school year. The number of community teachers who benefited from this subsidy is still 78 and they spread over the three communes, including the commune of Maromandia, Befotaka and Ambolobofo.



Photo 1 Teacher's payment



Photo 2 Distribution of scholarship for student

Meeting with teachers subsidized by AEECL

Before the end of the year 2020, we also met with the teachers and talked about the year 2020. The year 2020 has been a very difficult year, but many students have moved on to their higher degree. However, the government's decision on free enrolment or 0 ariary in all public schools was not well seen by the teachers. In fact, the government took this decision to help parents and will subsidize teachers in compensation. Since the decree was issued, the number of children attending school has increased by 50%. There was even an overcrowding of pupils in some villages. However, no subsidy is received by the teachers. As a result, teachers have to fend for themselves for school supplies such as chalk and notebooks. Many of them are unable to provide these items.



Photo 3 Meeting with community teachers

Two secondary schools have been built in Sahamalaza. One in the village of Mahitsihazo in the commune of Maromandia and another in Ambinda in the commune of Amboloboza. The Head of Educational administration area asked us if AEECL could pay the salaries of the teachers, we said that given the current situation, AEECL could not contribute to their salaries.

III. REFORESTATION

1. For the Sofia region

The reforestation launch for the Sofia region took place on 19th January 2020 in the village of Andrafialava in the municipality of Ambodimandresy located about 45km from Antsohihy. The Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development organized the reforestation. Some regional authorities such as the regional prefect, the mayor of Antsohihy, the mayor of Ambodimandresy, some heads of civil and military services from Antsohihy and local authorities represented by village chiefs, villagers from Andrafialava and the surrounding population were present during the reforestation. Many NGOs working in Antsohihy including AEECL were present.

The objective of the reforestation is to make the Sofia region green and to stop the bush fires that have devastated the Sofia region.

The reforestation is carried out on a savannah. A total of 11,000 trees were reforested on an area of 8 ha. The saplings consisted of acacia, khaia, bonara, Ceiba pentadra and Morenga produced by the Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development itself.



Photo 4 AEECL team



Photo 5 Reforestation

2. For the Analamanga region

To achieve the presidential vision of greening Madagascar, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized on 28th February 2020, a reforestation event in Imerintsiasosika, near the capital of Madagascar Antananarivo. All foreign NGOs based in Madagascar were invited to participate in this essential reforestation work. In total, 30 foreign NGOs were present, including AEECL. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was represented by its Secretary General, Mr Tahirimiakadaza Ratsimandao. Before the reforestation started, he gave a brief speech of welcome and thanks. In total, 1500 seedlings were reforested.



Photo 6 Participants



Photo 7 AEECL team

IV. PRESSURE IN ANKARAFA FOREST

More and more people are entering the forest of Ankarafo. An increase in illegal logging has been observed by our team since March 2020. Cutting in the forest has become more and more frequent throughout November and December. Approximately one hundred trees in the woods are cut. The cut trees are used to make planks. They cut down Manary (*Dalbergia* sp), Sandahy (*Albizia* sp), Valotra (*Breonia* sp), Kitata (*Bridelia pervilleana*) and Piro (*Brachylaena ramiflora*).



Photo 8 Dalbergia sp



Photo 9 Bridelia pervilleana

As well as these trees they have also cut the Kindro (*Dypsis lutescens*) or palm tree which is an endemic tree species. It seems that they cut this tree to eat the kernel while they are in the forest. It is also likely that these loggers have taken lemurs because our patrollers found traps in the forest. Whenever our patrollers observe the loggers, they try to talk to them but they refuse to talk and play with their axes to intimidate the patrollers. Our patrol team remove the cut trees to camp or destroy them. However one night, the loggers came to the camp and stole the confiscated trees. This is obviously a threatening situation to the team and the loggers have become aggressive.

Several reports and complaints about the logging have been sent to the Madagascar National Parks who manage the park. We are hopeful for some arrests and the situation coming under control soon.



Photo 10 Breonia sp



Photo 11 Rest of tree

V. LEMUR FESTIVAL

Due to the constraint of the COVID 19 pandemic, we had to cancel the large lemur festival that we used to organize with local associations in Sahamalaza National Park.

On 30th October 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development called all its partners to organize the lemur festival in each region. For the Sofia region, the celebration took place in Antsohihy and was led by the Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development.

The theme was "Lemurs and their habitats: a heritage to preserve" and the festival lasted one day. The day started with a speech by the mayor of the city and the regional director of Environment and Sustainable

Development. Most of the organizations working in the environment were present and had exhibition stands to present their activities. We had a screening of a documentary film.

There were fewer participants because the festival was organized in a hurry and the time allocated for public awareness was not sufficient.



Photo 12 Opening ceremony



Photo 13 Visit of stand



Photo 14 Group performance

VI. CELEBRATION OF WORLD WOMEN'S DAY IN ANTISOHIHY

As in all cities, Antsohihy celebrated World Women's Day on 8th March 2020. The theme chosen was: "I come from the equality of generations: defend the rights of women".

The celebration started with a carnival that ended at the venue of the ceremony. Many associations and institutions participated in the carnival.

In order to maintain solidarity and socio-professional inclusion with other existing associations and institutions in the Sofia region, AEECL participated in the celebration of this World Women's Day.

As the staff is small, Holy, one of our staff in Antsohihy became aware of the need to involve more people around the AEECL office in Andogona. In total, 20 women from the neighbourhood joined the AEECL team. Some of them wore AEECL uniforms while others wore T-shirts with lemurs. Before the carnival, some of them drew a lemur on their face to stand out.



Photo 15 Face painting



Photo 16 Speech



Photo 17 Carnival

In her speech, the women's representative paid tribute to all Malagasy women who, despite the obstacles, had worked hard to make progress on a daily basis. There are still great challenges to be met, including the fight against violence against women in all its forms, respect for the rights of young girls and the improvement of health conditions for mothers and children, she stressed.

The efforts of the participants who represented AEECL did enhance the reputation of AEECL. They waved a banner, drew their faces and sang on behalf of AEECL. They were happy to represent AEECL. To thank them, we organized a friendship meal at the AEECL office in Antsohihy, prepared and served by the men. The participation of woman from the local communities is positive because, first of all, it improves the socialization between the villages and the AEECL team, and secondly, these people can help us during activities that require quite a lot of labour.



Photo 18 Food preparation



Photo 19 Meal

VII. CONSTRUCTION OF RESEARCH CAMP

Work on the construction of the research camp resumed in October 2020. The activities consisted of demolishing the old building and continuing to make bricks.

10 workers and 1 cook have been recruited to do the work. They started on October 1st and finished on December 19th 2020. During this time, 2400 bricks were produced, rocks were collected and gravel was accumulated.

The doors and windows for the new building were also being installed.



Photo 20 Sand used for building work



Photo 21 Rocks cleared



Photo 22 New door on research building



Photo 23 Window shutters on new building



Photo 24 Bricks made by the construction team.

VIII. RESCUE ACTION

During 4 days in middle of January, heavy rain fell almost everywhere in Madagascar. This bad weather caused flooding. The water flooded the house, the fields and the road. Following this flood, the governor of Antsohihy, General Lylison de Rolland, asked us to help evacuate those who were trapped by the flood. We mobilized our team to do the rescue. On 21st January 2020, we pulled the boat towards Tanetilava, which is located on National Road 6 about 170 km south of Antsohihy. Our skippers Andry and Yvess were present.

When we arrived, the village was already submerged in water. People had to climb into trees or onto roofs to stay safe. The water height was estimated to be at 3 m.



Photo 25 Floods



Photo 26 Houses under water

As soon as we arrived, the rescue began. It was coordinated by the Governor. In total, we evacuated 150 people and placed them in dry and safe places. The rescue action lasted 4 days.

Despite the rescue efforts, the situation was disheartening. At least a dozen deaths were confirmed, roads were damaged and cut off, fields and rice paddies were silted up, crops were devastated and livestock were swept away by the floods.

As soon as the water level dropped and people were safe, we took the boat back to Antsohihy.



Photo 27 Rescuing villagers



Photo 28 Victims of the floods

IX. COURTESY VISIT

The rural commune of Amboloboza has a new mayor. His name is Tsarazara. He is a former Amboloboza ZAP chief and has worked closely with AEECL in the field of education.

We congratulated the new mayor on his new position and told him that we were ready to work with him as we did when he was Head of Education Administration area before.

The mayor knows AEECL and its project well. He would like to have better collaboration not only for the protection of lemurs but also for the development of the commune, which is often forgotten by the leaders.

The improvement of the road leading to Amboloboza was the first point he wanted to make and asked the AEECL assistant to carry it out, but because of the Covid pandemic, we were not able to help.

X. END OF YEAR GIFT FOR OUR EMPLOYEES

To mark the end of what has been a difficult year, we gave each of our team a gift basket. Each basket contains 1 liter of oil, 1 kg of sugar, a can of condensed milk, some pastas and some sweets.



Photo 29 Donation



Photo 30 Team in Ankarafa

Table 1: global balance of the year 2020

Current account	
Current account au 01/01/2020:	41825,42 €
Incomes 2020	63 406,73€
Expenses 2020	56 730,47€
Current account au 31/12/2019 :	48 501,67€

1/ Incomes in 2020:

Incomes were generated by membership annual fee, members' donation and specific grants.

1.1/ The annual membership fee was 2000€, most of members paid

- The number of members in 2020 is 26.
- We received 52 500 € in 2020 through membership fees instead of 62 500€ in 2019.

Members 2020	Amount
Apenheul	2 000,00 €
Beauval	2 000,00 €
Besançon	2 000,00 €
Bristol	2 000,00 €
Calviac	2 900,00 €
Colchester	2 000,00 €
Curraghs Wildlife Park	2 000,00 €
Domaine de Pescheray	2 000,00 €
Dudley Zoo	2 000,00 €
The Fenn Bell Inn	2 000,00 €
Fundacion Instituto Del Tropico (Valencia Bioparc)	2 000,00 €
Heidelberg	3 000,00 €
La Palmyre	2 000,00 €
Lyon	2 000,00 €
Montpellier	2 000,00 €
Mulhouse	3 000,00 €
Opole	2 000,00 €
Ostrava	2 000,00 €
Parc animalier de Sainte-Croix	2 000,00 €
Rheine	3 000,00 €
Romagne - La Vallée des Singes	2 000,00 €
Sarrebruck	2 000,00 €
Servion	2 000,00 €
Shaldon Wildlife Trust	600,00 €
Tierpark Berlin	2 000,00 €
TOTAL	52 500,00 €

1.2/ The members' donations and grants represented 9 720.03 € .

It is noticeable that Lemur Love sent funds to help with the Covid-19 crisis and support the forest patrols. The funds were received in December and transferred in early January 2021.

Donation	Amount
Andreas Pauly	200,00 €
Linton	1 065,00 €
Lemur Love	2 400,21 €
Dudley Zoo	1 605,22 €
Marcela Galova	400,00 €
Ostrava 1cz for nature	947,30 €
MKLF	3 102,30 €
TOTAL	9 720,03 €

2/ Expenses in 2020:

The expenses were minimum in 2020. The covid -19 and the subsequent lock down at Madagascar avoid building and investments. Except the last wire for the Antafiabe school construction by MKLF, no other expenses have been done via fund transfer in 2020.

Funds were used for the support of the AEECL Staff at Madagascar. We kept on paying salaries even if there were no guiding or the research camp were close.

The teachers and students received their grants.

Expenses	Amount
Annual Work Plan	40 000,00 €
Guy Salary	13 200,00 €
Bank expenses	88,50 €
website	71,50 €
Insurance of AEECL	267,57 €
MKLF	3 103,00 €
TOTAL	56 730,57 €

3/ Conclusion

- 2020 show a stable but limited budget due to covid-19.
- The biggest success is that almost all the members succeeded to help the Association. All members must be thanked warmly for that as it is securing 2021 activities.
- The Work Plan is concentrated on forest protection.

Date : 22/07/2021

Certified by: Brice Lefaux

2020 Summary

In summary, we could not run some of our activities such as the construction of firebreaks that we used to do. However, the Madagascar National Parks did and according to our team on the ground, they paid people to do it.

One of the lemur festivals did not take place to avoid the gathering of people.

We could not organize school meals.

It seems that the cancellation of some activities and the fact that we could not go to the park more often increased the anthropogenic pressures in the park. During the last quarter of the year, logging in the Ankarafa forest increased significantly. So, we gave a directive to our team to increase their regular monitoring in the forest.

We have not been able to go to the field regularly because of the Covid 19 pandemic restriction but we still financially supported our employees and community teachers. The community teachers thanked AEECL for the continuation of the grant despite this crisis. Our team is also happy because they got paid in full during the lockdown.

During the lockdown, I was in communication with the team to inform about the activity progress and to keep informed about their health status and safety.

Unfortunately, two of our staff did contract Covid 19. Very sadly one of them did not survive.



The Lemur Conservation Association
www.aeecl.org
Registered Office: Parc Zoologique et Botanique de Mulhouse
51 rue du Jardin Zoologique
68100 Mulhouse – FRANCE
Enquiries: sarah.lee@zsea.org