



First Quarterly Report

January – March 2021



Forest of Ankarafa

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Saving Wildlife Together



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Table of Contents

1. Official opening of the regional reforestation campaign	2
2. International Wetlands Day.....	3
3. Joint mission.....	3
4. Activity at the camp	4
5. Participation in the Celebration of World Women's Day	6
6. Payment of teachers	7
7. Measures to avoid the spread of covid 19	7
8. Meeting with the Mayor.....	9

List of Photos

Photo 1: Banner	2
Photo 2: Authorities	3
Photo 3: Loggers and taskforce team.....	4
Photo 4: Forest monitoring	5
Photo 5: Grass clearing	5
Photo 6: AEECL's friends	6
Photo 7: Reforestation	6

Acronyms

MNP: Madagascar National Park

DREDD: Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development

1. Official opening of the regional reforestation campaign

As part of the official launch of the regional reforestation campaign 2020-2021, the Governor of the Sofia Region invited the regional public and private departments and services, NGOs and associations, economic operators and deans to participate in the regional reforestation that took place on January 22nd, 2021 in in the district of Befandriana, municipality Morafeno fokontany Ankazambo.

To achieve this campaign, the Regional Directorate of Environment and Sustainable Development (DREDD) made a fund request to their partners. The AEECL gave money and sent staff including Holy and Andry to assist the reforestation. According to our delegation, 17,000 trees were planted.



Photo 1: Banner



Photo 2: Authorities

2. International Wetlands Day

We were invited by DREDD in Antsohihy to celebrate International Wetlands Day in Bealanana on 6th February 2021. They invited us to participate financially and to attend the celebration. We contributed but we were not present on the actual to attend the celebration because the team were not available. Guy was in Antananarivo and Holy was unfortunately unwell.

3. Joint mission

To put an end to the cutting of trees in the forest of Ankarafo, the MNP organized a mixed brigade task force on 25th February 2021. This mission included an MNP employee, two gendarmes and a forester. The Mayor of Ambolobozo commune, four CLPs working in Ankarafo and an AEECL delegation also working in Ankarafo were present and assisted the Mixed Bridging team. The team were based in the premises of the AEECL in Ankarafo.



Photo 3: Loggers and taskforce team

As soon as the taskforce arrived they were able to arrest three people for the logging offences. The next day, they arrested another two other people. Some loggers fled during the arrest and they are now wanted by the authorities. The mission team will go back to Ankarafa at the end of May. Some of these loggers cut down trees and others cleared the land within the park. A few days later, these people were referred to the Court of Analalava to face prosecution.

4. Activity at the camp

In Ankarafa, the team continued to monitor the forest and clean the camp. Studying the forest and the lemurs are ongoing.

After the task team operation, the situation was back to normal and there have been no sign of loggers in the forest.



Photo 4: Forest monitoring



Photo 5: Grass clearing

5. Participation in the Celebration of World Women's Day

This year the celebration of World Women's Day took a different form to previous years due to the restrictions linked to the Covid 19 pandemic. On 8th March 2021, in Antsohihy, the organizers chose to carry out an ecological activity and the woman participants of the celebration took part in a reforestation event so there was no carnival like usual. The AEECL and its friends participated in the reforestation which took place in the village of Anahidrano 23km from Antsohihy. As usual after reforestation, a meal was offered to the participants to thank them.



Photo 6: AEECL's friends



Photo 7: Reforestation

6. Payment of teachers

The payment of teachers' salaries took place without any issues caused by the pandemic. For those in Maromandia the payment is made on March 9th while for those in Amboloboza they received their salaries on March 17th 2021.

During the process of the payment the teachers informed us that they did not receive the subvention that the government has promised last year. However, they are still trying to provide an education for the children in their school.

In Maromandia, teachers told us there was a compromise, they asked student's parents to pay their participation and teachers will repay this when they get the subvention from the government.

7. Measures to avoid the spread of covid 19

We held a meeting with the team in Ankarafa on March 19th 2021 and we discussed the precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of Covid 19 and the safety of AEECL staff and local communities. We set out the following risk assessment.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Spread of Covid 19	The staff, their families and visitors	Talk about the covid 19 control measures and social distancing		Guy	April	Done
		Put in place hand washing facilities		Guy	April	Done
			Print posters and signage and erect them in visible locations. Purchase of masks and hydro alcoholic gel. Provide more hand washing facilities	Guy	April	
			Employees should be reminded to wash their hands regularly. Mask wearing is obligatory at the workplace	Managers (Antsohihy and Ankarafa)	April	
			Visitors without mask are not	Managers (Antsohihy	Anytime	

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
			permitted at the camp	and Ankarafa)		
			If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, small or a high temperature in the workplace, they will be sent home and advised to follow the stay at home guidance.	Manager (Antsohihy and Ankarafa)	Anytime	
			Put everyone under quarantine during 10 days after each day off	Manager (Antsohihy and Ankarafa)		
			Put in place arrangements to deep clean if someone develops symptoms of coronavirus at work.	Manager (Antsohihy and Ankarafa)		
			Where practicable a record of visitors will be held for 10 days to allow contact tracing if required.	Manager (Antsohihy and Ankarafa)	Anytime	
			Managers shall check to ensure that appropriate procedures are being followed and that facilities provided are maintained.	Manager (Antsohihy and Ankarafa)	Anytime	

The actions we have taken are limited to the response that will be able to do locally.

When covid 19 is notified in the village, permission is required before attending a funeral ceremony.

If the transmission barriers gestures are not respected, participation in family or group activities will be prohibited.

Money transfer will be used in case access to the camp is not possible.

8. Meeting with the Mayor

The Mayor of Ambolobozo came to see us in Ankarafa on March 15th 2021. He spoke about the projects that the municipality would like to carry out. He asked if AEECL can help him build a school and wells. He planned to work on the dirt road which leads to Ambolobozo by June and he hoped to have support from the AEECL.

Many thanks for your continued support of the AEECL.

