

Project Update: November 2013

Deeper socio-economic surveys reveal that in the village of Amiable only one man is considered as a fisherman but we can find more in Ampombofofo probably because the village is close to the sea. People take crabs from the mangrove forest and hunting is not a major source of food for the villagers. Though we were informed that some people from outside the villages (including foreigners) come to hunt birds such as Madagascar green pigeon (*Treron australis*), Madagascar button couail (*Turnix nigricollis*), crested coua (*Coua cristata*), and Madagascar turtle dove (*Streptopelia picturata*), helmeted Guinea fowl (*Numida meleagris*), and these species of birds are recognised as “delicious”.

The villages of Anjiabe and Ampombofofo face the issue of climate change and villagers claim that the dryness of the villages is worse each year so that as an alternative source of income villagers have developed the amount of charcoal production and charcoal production is now becoming among the primary activities of the villagers.

We were informed that representatives of Ministry of Forest and Environment came there to establish a community association called VOI, which is a local community association in order to protect their environment by themselves. The community was then trained on a system to cut trees called in Malagasy language LAMONTY. This system consist on cutting in some way some branches of this tree to make that this tree is not going to be dead but going to regenerate faster again. Now some villagers use this system. Though, they also affirm that Madiro` (Fabaceae-*Tamarinday* genus),`Lombiry` (Sphaerosepalaceae-*Dialyceras* genus) are the best trees for making charcoal and some villagers prefer to use these trees because charcoal made with these trees is more expensive, enabling them to earn more money to support their family.

Interviews with elders of villages answered that the cause of the dryness in the village is the non-respect of taboos called in Malagasy language Fady by younger generation. We have recorded some of the daily Fady or taboos such as to pollute water, to kill lemurs (lemurs are considered as similar to human), chameleons, gecko or snakes except if they have come into your house (gecko and snake are considered to be the evil spirit). As it can be remarked the taboos that exist in the village have a great importance to the ‘protection’ of the wildlife and environment and the existing Fady of this area can be considered as a direct retention of the forest still exists there.

