

Project Update: June 2001

Interviews have been carried out in 16 villages in the periphery of Ranomafana National Park and at "hotelys" and restaurants in the area (the main commercial sink for the crayfish). The interviews focused on the level of crayfish exploitation, its importance in the local economy and any perceived changes in the availability of crayfish. The survey revisited sites first assessed in 1990 just before the Park was established.

The team has held meetings with all these villages' elders and/or King to explain the objectives of the project and has done an interview on local radio, as well as school visits. A leaflet for local distribution is in production. Study sites have been selected for mark-recapture studies and for experimental crayfish culturing.