

handao! no. 1/09

newsletter of the program ho avy



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handao means **let's do it!** in Malagasy

1. at a glance

ho avy means **future** in Malagasy and safeguarding biodiversity and people's livelihoods for future sustainability is the focus of this grassroots program in southwestern Madagascar. Ho avy is a collaborative effort between a Czech-based civic association '**ho avy**' o.s. and the USA-based organization **New Latitude** (www.newlatitude.org), which receives 501(c)(3) non-profit status as a project of IHCenTer (<http://ihcenter.org>). Ho avy's Malagasy counterpart is **FIMPAHARA**, a rural community association which is dedicated to the propagation and reforestation of native plants.

& more: www.hoavy.org

2. fresh from the field

ho avy's return to Ranobe (our pilot field site), was welcomed warmly and felt genuinely touching: "Welcome back home!" we could hear around the village. Delightful was the first view of our very well maintained nursery/sanctuary that has been managed by **FIMPAHARA** over the last 10 months; truly prosperous despite the serious drought this year. FIMPAHARA has taken a dedicated lead in the sanctuary and we celebrated this wonderful progress by handing out laminated ID cards, which were accepted with grace. FIMPAHARA members confidently confirmed their ongoing motivation: "**We have reached so far, and we want to keep going**". The forest is lush, green and beautiful, baobabs are flowering, chameleons and birds are abundant...



more: http://picasaweb.google.com/martina.petr/handao_I_Jan_09?authkey=dV9PE9_nLHM#

3. hamboly hazo! ... expanding!

- this season **FIMPAHARA** took **spontaneous action** in tree and vegetable planting and monitoring:
- **342** native trees of **28** species grow happily in the sanctuary, 2 species are used as **food** and 10 species have **medicinal values**
- **325** trees of **15** species are kept in the nursery ready for **transplanting**
- **additional 526** seeds of **13** species were planted in nursery beds in 2009: nearly **1000 new trees** are growing in the sanctuary in **less than one year**



www.hoavy.org mad.hoavy@gmail.com

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4. compost is the key!

in the arid sands of southwest Madagascar, soils can be easily and greatly improved by composting. Building up on last year's successful trial with soil improvements, **FIMPAHARA** took charge and expanded the composting operations.

The trimmings from rice straw and the ever available zebo (cow) dung, turned an area of (1.5 x 1.5 m) into a live compost site, ready for improving soils and food production!

promising a vision of success

Like the baobabs, **FIMPAHARA** continuously grows and is expressing great enthusiasm, and independent approaches to taking the lead on **ho avy's** alternative and participatory education program. Collecting seeds, growing plants and maintaining the nursery/sanctuary has been adopted and become part of **FIMPAHARA's** daily life. **FIMPAHARA** has expressed great interest in long-term collective projects with **ho avy**.



5. towards our goals

ho avy is investing our energies in:

- **empowering** communities especially women and children, for their **future**:
- **implementing** creative learning and training courses in agro-forestry, organic gardening and permaculture
- **growing** more food plants
- setting up **water cleaning** and **sanitation stations**
- **developing** alternative sources of cooking energy with solar ovens and biofuel
- **incentive** micro-business livelihoods, e.g. selling surplus vegetables, biofuel
- **promoting** advocacy at the local and national level
- **raise next generation** of qualified researchers and natural resource managers, starting with **ho avy's** first alumni: **Claude Manarina** (left on the photo below).

6. new prospective partnerships

- discussions with **Conservation International** revealed great mutual interest in partnership through CI's Conservation Stewards Program
- **WWF** proposed possible formal jurisdiction and forest management at **ho avy/FIMPAHARA's** representative site in the village of Ranobe
- **HONCO**, a local mangrove restoration project is keen on sharing education, nursery, restoration, and sustainability approaches...

more collaborations to come soon...

7. thanks to our supporters!

generous support and financial contributions makes **ho avy's** program possible. Special thanks go out to Rufford Small Grant Foundation, The Arnold Family Fund, the Petrů family, The Gardner-Pokempner Charitable Fund and Danuše Šamanová. Idea Wild provided with in-kind operational equipment; and our many thanks go to our recent field facilitators: Fred and Lachezar among many others.

