



Madagascar Calling!

Welcome to the latest update on all our projects in beautiful Madagascar. In an action-packed year we have been helping to build medical facilities and beat TB. We have launched new cottage industries and ecotourist trails whilst also fighting to protect and re-plant Madagascar's threatened rainforest corridor. We built a primary school... and as part of our agricultural improvement programme may have helped to discover a new species!

Read on to find out how, with your help, we can continue to help the people of Madagascar to help themselves...

Silk Trail-Blazes On!



The village of Soatanana is a new tourist destination in the Amoron'i Mania region. Adventurous visitors wanting to discover local culture & village life have the opportunity to stay within the community. The women's cooperative 'Tambatra' provides meals, weaving demonstrations & lessons. This year Ny Tanintsika has received funding from the French Fund for Global Environment (FFEM/AFD) to promote community-based ecotourism in the village. This has been integrated with our existing project to improve hygiene & sanitation in the area. The 'Silk Trail' has become a pilot site for USAID's programme to promote hygiene. We are also partnering with the regional tourism office (ORTAM) to further develop this village as a tourist destination, as well as the marketing of silk products.

Our cooperative's silk products can be purchased at: www.fullcircletrade.com & www.rainforestsilks.org



Photo: Woman preparing materials for weaving basketry projects.

Fairtrade for the Fairer Sex



In 2006, FBM/NT catalysed the creation of the women's association 'Soamiray' in Ambohimahamasina to develop basketry into a sustainable & income-generating activity. Now Soamiray, who produces baskets, handbags, placemats, hats and other wicker items, is making products of better quality that are ready for the international market. The fair trade company Hazomanga is their main client. Over 70 women work in 11 workshops spread over different villages & with new funding from the French Embassy for a 2 year project, this is set to increase.

If you are interested in ordering any of these basketry products, please contact Hazomanga:

www.hazomanga.com
stephane@hazomanga.com

Community Rainforest Revival

Madagascar's magnificent natural resources are the pride of the Malagasy government & the people, but it takes active community-based resource management to protect the remaining rainforest 'corridor'. The rainforest provides for not only natural biodiversity, but also serves as a water stock for the surrounding communities & the south of the island. In collaboration with Conservation International, FBM/NT financed 18 mini- projects over the past year that were proposed by associations & forest-management groups in these communities; including income-generating activities, reforestation, awareness-raising & trainings. Achievements have been tremendous; villagers have seen improvements to their livelihoods as a result of rainforest protection. It only costs £200 to support a small conservation project, which can make all the difference for the Madagascar rainforest... FBM/NT welcomes all contributions.

Summer Student Invasion



Nine different groups of over one hundred students from the UK came to Madagascar during their summer holidays & worked with FBM/NT on small construction projects in rural communities. The associations of student volunteers all aimed to promote health and hygiene awareness in the districts of Ikongo & Ambalavao; SKIP continued the work they started in 2007, finishing 3 community nutrition centres, World Challenge repaired rural health clinics, while Outlook Expedition volunteers built a women's association crafts sales point near a National Park, as well as public latrines.



Clams for Yams



Feedback teamed up with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to conduct a study on local yam species & their various uses, by training up members of the local forest management associations in survey techniques & specimen collection. Yams are an important food for villagers near the rainforest corridor, as they are nutritious & can serve as a substitute for rice during the hungry season. In an exciting turn of events, the survey found an unidentified species of yam, as well as the rare *Dioscorea Tanalarum*. Following the survey, FBM & Kew are developing a project to promote the sustainable cultivation of yams in local communities, with the aim of conservation & improved food security.





Struggle against Tuberculosis

The campaign to stem the spread of tuberculosis continues. Because of cultural taboos & financial barriers to treatment, many villagers do not actively seek diagnosis or care at the local government health centres. Recognising these barriers, FBM/NT's programme to raise awareness and promote continued treatment addresses such issues as inability to pay for transport to get diagnostic testing. 126 health volunteers have been trained to recognise symptoms of TB & to accompany & monitor patients taking of medicines, to prevent a lapse in treatment & consequent resistance to the medication. Through a generous grant from The Besom, health volunteers have access to bicycles to fetch medicines from the health centres for rural patients.

Education for All

Members of the FBM/NT team, local officials, traditional leaders, villagers & schoolchildren attended an inauguration ceremony for a new primary school in Anivorano, Ambolomadinika commune. The ceremony included the traditional sacrifice of a zebu, a village feast & festivities that lasted the whole day. Anivorano previously had no primary school & pupils were unable to cross the river to attend classes in Ambolomadinika's overcrowded school during the rainy season. Built with a generous donation from Tara & Alex Nairn, the new primary school will allow children to attend classes year round in Anivorano.



Fundraise for more Champions of Champions!

More communities were declared "champions" this year as this innovating approach to promote local auto-development was expanded into new areas. Thirteen communities participated, setting objectives in the fields of health / environment / economic development & governance, with assistance from FBM/NT. An evaluation carried out by government services in each sector found that, in less than one year, the majority of objectives had been met & communities could proceed with festivities to celebrate the success. Community development committees are being encouraged to continue their efforts by setting new objectives for the following year. However, funds are desperately needed in order to continue support to these remote areas.



Inspired to Give?

Donating is a quick and easy process on the FBM website: www.feedbackmadagascar.org just click on *donate online*. If you are a UK taxpayer, all your donations will have the tax reclaimed through Gift Aid, making your gift even bigger. Interested in giving regularly? Payroll Giving is hassle-free and gives immediate tax relief so every £10 costs you only £8.00!

Want to help but feel you can't afford it? Please check out our fundraising page to see how you can raise money in ways that won't cost you a penny.

Our fundraising target is £10,000
... but every donation makes a big difference.
£5 pays for a development handbook to chart communities' progress.
£70 pays for training for a fire-prevention committee.
£5000 pays for a new school building as a prize to reward the community for achieving their objectives.
£10 000 pays for support & capacity-building for 13 'champion' communities.



Surfs Up! Quids In!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk is a shopping directory that features some of your favourite online stores, including Amazon, Interflora, Easyjet, Apple Store, iTunes, NEXT, Boots, M&S, British Airways, Debenhams, John Lewis, Dell, HMV and over 600 others. All you have to do is use the links on the www.easyfundraising.org.uk site whenever you shop online. At no extra cost to you, we'll receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple!

Fundraising has just got even easier... you can raise funds whilst surfing the net! By using www.easysearch.org.uk as your chosen search engine (powered by yahoo, ask.com and msn live search) every time you search for something online a small donation will be made to your chosen cause. For more info please see the fundraising section of our website.

Feedback Madagascar is a Scottish charity (no. SC023568) which has worked in Madagascar since 1993 in the field of development, healthcare, the environment and conservation. Feedback aims to alleviate poverty through an integrated approach which recognises the relationships between poverty, environmental degradation and poor health, and which encourages local people to identify their needs and their own solutions. Projects focus on promoting primary healthcare, particularly safe motherhood and reproductive health; improving the local stewardship of natural resources (especially the rainforest); improving education and promoting income-generating schemes. Feedback's work in Madagascar is carried out through Ny Tanintsika, a Malagasy non-governmental organisation (NGO) created with the assistance of Feedback staff and friends. Ny Tanintsika manages all our fieldwork and is run by our project staff.



We need your email power - We want your feedback and fundraising! Help us keep costs down so that more money goes to projects. Send us your email so that next time you can receive news by email, this also helps save paper and the environment. All correspondence, cheques etc. should go to our UK administrator Alison Cameron.

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