



Updates from the Field

Expanding Tree Nurseries for Income-Generating Crops



Our Restoration Ecology Team, joined by Peace Corps Agriculture Extension Volunteer Emma Starink, recently returned from an expedition to Ambodivoangy, where they worked with the local community to plant 620 cacao seeds, an important income-generating crop. Cacao, like other cash-crops, often grows better in the shade of endemic trees, and the income they bring in provides an incentive for the community to continue planting native trees and expanding the forest. "Overall it was a very memorable field expedition and I look forward to checking in on those cacao seeds in a few months' time," says Emma!

Providing Treatment During Malaria Season



The Health Team's Dr. Thomas Razafimanisa and nurse Daniel Francis Lovasoa headed out last month for an expedition to the remote villages of Ampasipotsy, Ranovao, and Menarano, accompanied by Rhonda Stein, an operations support volunteer. With malaria rampant at this time of year, it was critical that the team was able to reach villages less accessible from the main road to provide tests and treatment. Dr. Thomas and Lova saw approximately 254 patients across the three villages. "I cannot fully express my respect for the CVB Mobile Health Team members, and gratitude for their hard work," Rhonda says. "It means saving lives in those villages, plain and simple."

Making Conservation Education Accessible



Education Team member Samuele Onjaniaina and CVB technician Michel Randrianantenaina visited primary schools in the villages of Ambohimisafikely, Fotsialanana, and Anosy to conduct My Rainforest My World classes, which aim to provide students in more remote areas with comprehensive environmental education. This month's activities included a movie screening on Ranomafana National Park and a workshop on water, sanitation, and hygiene. Meanwhile, Odile Andrianirina Rafanambintsoa and Richard Ramarjaona visited the villages of Ampitambe, Ambalafasina, Andranomainty, and Tanambao Kelilalina to conduct agroecology training with Conservation Club community members there, who have started to grow cash-crops like peanuts and maize.

We'd like to extend our gratitude to all the volunteers who aid our teams in carrying out their conservation and community outreach missions in villages both near and far!

Photos courtesy of Emma Starink, Rhonda Stein, and Samuele Onjaniaina

Researcher Spotlight

Congratulations to three of our long-time CVB researchers on successfully defending their masters theses this month at the University of Fianarantsoa!

Charline Rasoanarimalala presented her research, titled "A comparative study of the eco-ethology and feeding behavior of *Varecia variegata* at two sites in Ranomafana National Park."

Eugénie Marie Rasoavololona presented "A study of the diets of insectivorous bats in Ranomafana, Vatovavy Region."

Fannya Rakotorahalaly presented on "*Bakerella* distribution in Talatakely, Ranomafana National Park."



Save the Date



Although Madagascar's rainy season means fewer visitors and researchers here at CVB, our Research, Education, Health, and Restoration Ecology Teams carry on! You can support these crucial conservation and community outreach programs on **March 27th, 2024**, through Stony Brook University's annual Giving Day. Keep an eye out on our [social media](#) for information on Early Giving opportunities and where to donate.

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