



Adult Southern Woolly lemur, *Avahi meridionalis*



AZAFADY
people community environment

ACP VAOVAO

Quarterly Newsletter for Azafady Conservation Programme

Southern Woolly Lemur, *Avahi meridionalis*

February 2011

For more information:

Reports from July-September and October-December 2010 schemes will soon be available online at <http://www.madagascar.co.uk/getinvolved/conservation.htm>. The data is pouring in thanks to all of the volunteers and all of their hard work!

The Southern Woolly lemur has recently been described as a separate species only found in Andohahela and Sainte Luce. According to the IUCN, it is Data Deficient meaning there has not been enough research to determine an accurate conservation status. For this reason, the species has become a priority for the ACP. Volunteers have been conducting nocturnal transects to collect data allowing us to determine densities. Density and distribution are two important factors considered when determining the conservation status of a species. Volunteers have also started collecting behavioural data on this species which is proving to be a bit more challenging than collecting behavioural data on the mostly diurnal red-collared brown lemurs but is possible and very interesting indeed.

Dypsis and Beccariophoenix Updates

Dypsis saintelucei and *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* are both Critically Endangered palms found in the littoral fragments around Sainte Luce and are a high priority for the ACP. Volunteers from the October to December 2010 scheme worked very closely with these palms. Dypsis mapping is almost complete in both fragments while Beccariophoenix mapping is still ongoing. We have found many more juveniles of both palms than expected. This really highlights the significance of the fragments and the importance of monitoring the mapped individuals on a regular basis. As of January 2011, we have started preparing for Dypsis replanting by pot packing in the nursery in Ambandrika (about 1000 down, only 4000 pots left to fill!). The next steps include collecting seeds and seedlings, reforestation (which also includes planting a fire-break) and education about the palms. This project will run over the next 2 years.



Alright Oct-Dec 2010 volunteers, pop quiz. Can you tell the Dypsis from the Beccariophoenix? The answer is at the bottom of the newsletter.

Below: Dypsis seeds



We also recently learned that the IUCN has upgraded *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* seeds from Appendix I to Appendix II which affords the species more protection from the plant trade.

Community Conservation: Ongoing and future projects



Top: Volunteers building a fuel-efficient stove

Bottom: Children in S9 for a practical Environmental Education lesson

In addition to continuing our fuel-efficient stove building and environmental education lessons, the ACP is turning an exciting page in our Community Conservation program. The October-December 2010 volunteers informally surveyed members of the Sainte Luce community to determine perceptions of Azafady and of the protection. The information from these surveys were used during a Community Information Session on February 17, 2011; updates and photos will follow on Facebook. This year ACP volunteers are also starting 'Conservation through English' lessons. People of all ages from the Sainte Luce community can attend the classes which, in addition to teaching English, will contain a conservation message. In order to attend, participants must help ACP volunteers with fuel-efficient stove material preparation or with pot packing in the Sainte Luce nursery. We hope this will help the community feel ownership of the conservation initiatives our volunteers work so hard to establish as well as help us have a closer relationship with individual community members. Classes will begin late February 2011.



These are some of my favourite action shots of the October-December 2010 volunteers. Left to right: nocturnal herp sweep group taking a break to photograph a very bizarre frog; a red-collared brown lemur behavioural data collection where a very curious juvenile female came down from the canopy to get a closer look; the primary school children in Ambandrika running from Sam (Monsieur Fosa) during a game of 'Amin'ny firy Monsieur Fosa' (What time is it Mister Fosa?).

The Beccariophoenix is on the left, Dypsis is on the right

Questions or comments? Please contact our London office at info@azafady.org or +44 (0)20 8960 6629.