



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

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In order to promote global biodiversity and sustainable land use, Community Conservation catalyzes, facilitates and empowers local people to manage and conserve natural resources within the social, cultural and economic context of their communities.

CC Update
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Communities are Becoming Motivated in Madagascar

Community Conservation Director Rob Horwich made a second trip to southwest Madagascar to work with the newly formed Cultures & Conservation (C&C) as well as Mark Fenn and ANGAP, the Madagascar Park Service. The trip was to further a number of goals focused on the dry spiny forests of southwest Madagascar and the lemurs that inhabit those dry forests with an emphasis on the ring tailed lemur and Verreaux's sifaka. Community Conservation's goals are to strengthen the community groups that have been working, help build and strengthen C&C and other NGOs working with communities and in general to stimulate community co-management in Madagascar. While our focus is on community co-management, Madagascar's main mammals are the lemurs; so emphasizing community co-management will support the government's main push to triple its protected areas, utilizing communities and community protected areas which in turn will protect many of the endemic primates, the lemurs. Our work in SW Madagascar is supporting the program that WWF and ANGAP have begun and at the same time encouraging regional change through community conservation as happened in Assam, India and Belize.

Horwich and Fenn attended an important meeting in Betsioky in

which 20 community groups participated to share their experiences and learn about community co-management from each other. This meeting is crucial in motivating community groups and allowing them to



Community Meeting at Betsioky

see that they are part of a community movement to create empowered community groups to manage and protect the lands where they live. Members from the communities surrounding the Onilahy River area that Community Conservation and C&C are focused on, attended this historical meeting.

Following the community meeting Horwich and C&C member and University of Tulear researcher, Tsi-bara Mbohoahy camped at Ranomay a village that has recently joined C&C's community efforts. The area, which is further east from Tulear along the Onilahy River, is situated

on Lake Ranomay which has formed and depends on overflow of the river as well as hot springs that bubble up along the lake's bank. The area also has a viable population of ring tailed lemurs living along the river's gallery forests extending up into the cliffs between the river and the lake. Horwich and Tsi-bara sighted four large groups. The area also has a dry forest inhabited by Verreaux's sifakas which were not visited. On the last morning, the duo attended a Ranomay community meeting on the role the community will play in co-managing the area.

Later, at Tulear, Tsi-bara and Horwich visited and talked with villagers about carrying out a study

of the ring tailed lemurs at Tulear south. The goal is twofold: to study lemurs in one of the driest dwarf forests in their range and to involve a number of local community families in the project to promote environmental awareness similar to successes in Assam villager studies of the golden langur.

After Madagascar's Independence Day, Horwich traveled with Fenn to Morondava to plan a 3-day training session for members of ANGAP and Fanamby, a national NGO that will be co-managing the Menabe-Antimena Protected Area north of Morondava. The session led by Fenn and supported by Horwich was at

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ACT LOCALLY: You, too, can become a community conservationist in your area!

tended by 15 members of the two groups and the goal was to come up with some practical actions to begin the co-management of the area. The workshop was held at a small ecotourism camp run by Fanamby an hour north of Morondava. On the way to the camp the group passed through the famous Alley of the Baobabs.

Horwich initiated the workshop with an introduction to Community Conservation projects. Then Fenn ran a series of hands on exercises using some of Community Conservation's ideas involving stakeholders, evaluation and community training. A forest walk through the baboab dry forest for a role playing exercise was a change of pace where participants played roles as woodcutters, forest patrollers and members of the OPCI (community legal organization). After an exchange between the wood cutters and the forest patrollers, the group retired to the camp and another discussion occurred between the OPCI members and the "guilty" wood cutters. In the final late afternoon the group took a late walk to view the major mangrove forest at sunset. Participants stayed in small tourist bungalows with outhouse fa-

cilities and evening lighting from solar panels. Meals were prepared by

community co-management that Madagascar was pursuing and ways that Community Conservation might be involved in training.



Alley of the Baobabs.

Fanamby staff.

Horwich and Fenn then traveled to the capital, Antananarivo. This was the only time Horwich had a case of culture shock from the busy traffic and music venues visited. Over the next three days they met with Serge Rajaobelina, secretary General of Fanamby, Madame Laurette Hermine Rasoavahiny, Directeur, Promotion du Système des Aires Protégées, Ministère l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêts and later Madame Nani Ratsifandrihamanana, Director of the Madagascar WWF office. Discussions involved how to further the

Community Conservation is encouraged from the recent trip and will focus on a number of future goals. They will seek to strengthen C&C and other NGOs working with communities. They will begin to work with the communities around Tulear south and Ranomay. They will begin a community research project in Tulear south studying four troops of ring tailed lemurs with future community research on the ring tails as well as the Verreaux's sifakas at Ranomay.



Role Playing Woodcutters



Mark Fenn addressing one of the subgroups during a "hands-on" exercise.

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INDIA: Community Federation Formed Around Kakoijana Reserve Forest in Assam, India

After working with the communities surrounding Kakoijana Reserve Forest in Assam since 1998, Natures Foster has helped them to create "Pateswari Sonali Bandar aru Seuj Sangrakhan Federation" to protect the forests and wildlife in March this year. The federation formed at the school in Khoragaon with representatives from over 18 communities surrounding Kakoijana. The name of the federation in Assamese means Pateswari Golden Langur and Green Conservation Federation. Pateswari is the goddess the villagers have worshiped for a long time. The federation met again in April to finalize the objectives and rules of the federation. They have maintained joint patrolling of Kakoijana with villagers from many villages as well as members of the forest department and members from Natures Foster. Local youths also began night patrols since woodcutters began illegal activities at night since they couldn't cut during the day. Some woodcutters from one of the local villages were fined by the community 10000Rs (\$250US) in addition to the Assam Forest Department Fine of 2000Rs.

When the Golden Langur Project began in 1998, the forest looked hopelessly deforested. Yet Natures Foster persisted because of the population of

golden langurs they had discovered living there in 1996. The community work has succeeded, culminating in the federation. According to data taken by Natures Foster, since 1998 the forest has regenerated, communities are improving economically and the population of langurs has grown from 100 to over 400 in 2008.



Community Researcher with Arnab Bose and Raju Das, Natures Foster Scientists

INDIA: Community Conservation Receives \$28,820 USFWS Grant for Ecotourism Centers

Community Conservation has received its second grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Asian Elephant Conservation Program to support two eco-tourism centers in Koila Moila and Ultapani. Both potential museum locations are within a major part of the Asian elephant range in NE India that extends from West Bengal across Assam extending into Arunachal Pradesh and Burma.

Elephants are found in both potential tourist sites. They are com-

monly found in Kalamati which local NGO New Horizons has targeted as a tourism site and visit Ultapani often sometimes causing minor damage to crops within the village. Additionally, Ultapani is within what has been designated as the Ripu-Chirrang Elephant Reserve. Both these areas have become recent targets for increased forest protection. The Assam Forest Department is establishing an office in Koila Moila and young men from Ultapani have established an unpaid volunteer protection force in Chirrang Reserve Forest and have been patrolling the forest for the past six months against illegal logging and other illegal activities. Thus, establishing the areas as ecotourism destinations with community involvement and ownership will further encourage the two communities of Koila Moila and Ultapani who have formed conservation groups that are maintaining active programs for protection of the forests and wildlife including the population of Asian elephants and the Golden Langur.

The need for these centers came out of several ecotourism activities over the past few years in the Golden Langur Conservation Project area, including a six-day Ecotourism Festival by New Horizons and the Bodo-land Territorial Council to promote Kalamati, a natural area within the Manas Reserve Forest that attracted over 9,000 visitors.

Join us as we work in villages around the world to promote community-based conservation of wildlife and rare habitat.



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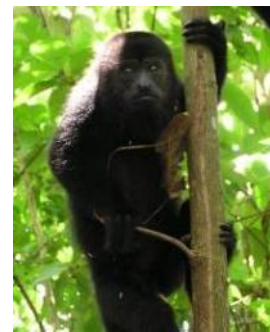
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***CC Launches Kickapoo Community Sanctuary:
 First Model Project receives DNR funding***

Community Conservation has launched the *Kickapoo Community Sanctuary*, a watershed-wide effort to promote good land stewardship and voluntary protection of lands to conserve this wonderful river. Using lessons learned from our almost 25 years working with local communities, including the amazingly successful Community Baboon Sanctuary in Belize that helped launch our organization in the 1980's, CC hopes to work with individuals and community organizations using voluntary tools to enhance protection of the Kickapoo watershed. The Sanctuary will promote family farms, sustainable farming, voluntary preservation of natural areas, and economic development through land use planning. For more information about this project or to sign on as a citizen or organization partner, please go to our website at communityconservation.org/KickapooCommunitySanctuary.htm.

As one of our first steps, CC has begun the

Kickapoo Initiative project on the lower Kickapoo River below Gays Mills. This area is a rich complex of wetlands and high



Kickapoo River wetlands near Gays Mills.

quality woodlands and prairies intermixed with farms and forest ownerships. We have just received \$7500 from the WI DNR River Planning Grant program to work with interested landowners in this area on ecological surveys of their land as well as assess landowner interest in sustainable land management (farming, forestry, etc.) and voluntary protection of their land. This project was sparked by landowners interested in learning more about their lands and what types of farming and forestry management could help sustain and protect this beautiful river.