Expanding Tree Nurseries for Income-Generating Crops

Our Restoration Ecology Team, joined by Peace Corps Agriculture Extension Volunteer Varela Starink, recently returned from an expedition to Ambodivoangy, where they worked with the local community to plant cacao seedlings, an important income-generating crop. After these seedlings sprouted, the team distributed them to interested farmers in the area. "This was very beneficial to the field expedition and the farmers,” says Emma. "We're planning on doing this on an ongoing basis in the future!” she adds.

Providing Treatment During Malaria Season

The Health Team’s Dr. Thomas Razafimanisa and nurse Daniel Francis traveled 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 for the team to be able to reach villages less accessible from the main road in order to provide 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 these villages, plain and simple.”

Making Conservation Education Accessible

Education Team member Samuelo 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 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 Rajano and Richard Ramarjaona visited the villages of Ampitambe, Ambalafasina, Andranomainty, and Tanambao Kelilalina to conduct agroecology training with Conservation Club community members, 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 our conservation and community outreach programs in villages both near and far!

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 ecology and feeding behavior of Varecia variegata at two sites in Ranomafana National Park.” Eugénie Marie Rasoavololona presented “A study of the feeding behavior of insectivorous bats in Ranomafana, Vatovavy Region.” Fannya Rakotorahalahy presented “Studies 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.