



Nr.5, June 13th 2005

## MWC – MADAGASCAR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

[www.mwc-info.net](http://www.mwc-info.net)

### ▪ PROJECT ANDREBA

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In April 2005 MWC Andreba already started to buy the equipment (e.g. papyrus and reed stems) for the planned construction of the camp in July, since the material needs to be dried before use. The plan for the encampment now looks as follows: construction of a 4-bed cabin in traditional Sihanaka style, a cooking and a separate toilet cabin as well as a roofed camping site for tents. Additionally the area will be surrounded with a wooden fence. We are confident we will be able to start the construction of the facilities in July as planned.

MWC Andreba also chose 3 fishermen living in Andreba with a profound knowledge of the fauna and flora of Lac Alaotra to be the future tourist guides. MWC will take over the education of the guides in biological conservation concerns, while the American Peace Corps Association will be asked for support in language and tourist social intercourse education.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2005 MWC had the opportunity to present their work to the Senator of the Region of Lac Alaotra (Mister RANDRIANARIMANANA Jérôme). He highly appreciated the effort of MWC in the Alaotra region and recommended to involve schools of this region to teach long term sensitivity towards a functional environment.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2005 the three presidents of the 'fokotany' (village) of Andreba, the VOI (community based association - responsible for the protection of the marshes of Andreba) and MWC Andreba, declared that according to the law of 1960, the domestication of protected animals, such as the Alaotran Gentle Lemur, is prohibited and that contraventions will be punished. The information was distributed among the people in Andreba with leaflets. To reach all villages around Lac Alaotra MWC took the opportunity to send out this declaration over a radio station in Ambatondrazaka ('Radio Relax') during three days. We realized that this is a good tool to reach many people in an efficient way since a lot of families own a radio or have access to a radio.

Two weeks ago MWC Andreba organized a 'bal populaire' - a dancing night - in Andreba to collect money for their projects. The party was a great success as many people and local authorities from Andreba and the surrounding villages joined in.

## ■ PROJECT TAMPINA

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Unfortunately we did not succeed to liberate our container (see Newsletter Nr.4) from the Malagasy customs in Tamatave. The customs for the container increased to more than 8000€ (state of 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2005), an amount we are not willing to pay for goods with a total merchandise value of roughly 750€.

We still would like to thank everybody who helped to get this container started from Hamburg in August 2004, especially the Malagasy embassy in Berlin and the Malagasy General Consulate in Zurich. Not to forget the generosity of all the people who wanted to provide a small 'brick' to rebuild the school for the children in Tampina. Many thanks also go to our Malagasy MWC members for their enduring efforts with the Malagasy bureaucracy.

Still, the villagers of Tampina will try to liberate the container by themselves. And if this should not work, MWC will hire a carpenter who will produce tables and benches for the school, in order to keep Project Tampina on track.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2005, a local section of MWC - MWC Tampina - was founded in the school of Tampina. MWC Tampina is a community-based association formed only from villagers from Tampina. They now are in charge of the supervision of project 'Tampina - Ecole pour Tous' (maintained and supported by MWC and The Jane Goodall Institute Switzerland).

In April 2005 MWC Tampina started the renovation of the school building: the doors and the crossbars of the roof were exchanged. The outer walls were painted and all the holes inside the building were stuffed to make it weatherproof (pictures will follow in the next Newsletter).

In Tampina MWC already achieved its first success: the government decided to employ two teachers from the school organization CISCO (circumscription scolaire) to teach the children in Tampina. The teachers will be paid by the government.

## ■ ASSOCIATION

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On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2005 a local section of MWC – MWC Schweiz – was founded in Zurich (Switzerland). The aim of MWC Schweiz is to support the work of the members of MWC in Madagascar which are responsible for the maintenance of the MWC projects. Since this local section is located in Switzerland, MWC Schweiz can recruit people who want to support MWC as a member of the association. The membership can consist only of financial support, but those who additionally want to actively help with MWC project organisation are more than welcome. You will soon find more information about MWC Schweiz on the official MWC website [www.mwc-info.net](http://www.mwc-info.net).

## ■ WEBSITE

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Because of the foundation of a new MWC section in Switzerland and a planned foundation of a MWC section in Germany, the structure of the website will be changed within the next few months. Until the end of 2005, MWC wants to present the whole website also in German as a third language.

We need your help! If you ever have been to Madagascar and would like to present a region or a location of this great island for our "travel and help" section, please feel free to contact us. We would really appreciate your contribution.



MWC Andreba, Andreba Gare



MWC Tampina, Tampina

Thank you for your interest in Madagascar and all its peculiarities! We are glad to keep you informed about ongoing projects in and on Madagascar.

Best wishes,  
MWC Team