



Thanks to you, our SAVA Conservation Project is growing and accomplishing great things!

Madagascar is the only place on earth where lemurs exist in the wild. About 80% of Madagascar's flora and fauna is endemic, which means that it exists nowhere else on the planet. Currently, only about 10% of the Madagascar's natural forests remain standing.

The Duke SAVA Conservation team realizes that we can't save lemurs and wildlife without helping the people of Madagascar in tandem. Madagascar is one of the poorest countries on the planet, there are many factors affecting families finding enough food to eat each day. To help combat these issues, the Duke SAVA Conservation team works on several fronts to help the people of Madagascar.

In the rural eastern part of the country, forests are often cut down and burned to plant hill rice or manioc.



After a year, or two, this patch of agriculture must be abandoned and the family must move on to another patch of forest and land, as the soil fertility is quickly exhausted.



The Duke SAVA conservation team works with local farmers in the SAVA region of Madagascar to promote yams as an alternative crop to the traditional slash and burn rice. Trainings on cultivation are carried out in selected villages, and plant propagules distributed.



Forests are also cut down to provide firewood or charcoal for cooking. With 80% of Madagascar's total population cooking on wood or charcoal, the pressure on forests, especially near urban areas, is intense.



Women cook all day in their unventilated kitchens with babies slung over their backs breathing in smoke for hours a day. Women and children suffer significantly increased rates of respiratory diseases when they are exposed day after day to open pit cooking fires in kitchen areas.



With a population of 24 million and growing at 3% each year (one of the fastest growing populations

In a partnership with a Belgian NGO, Graine de Vie, the Duke SAVA Conservation project supports 3 tree nurseries, from which a total of 30,000 to 45,000 trees are planted out per year.



The SAVA Conservation Team works with ADES (a Swiss NGO) to make fuel efficient stoves available to families in the SAVA region, at a reasonable price. The fuel efficient stoves, also known as rocket stoves, use about 50% less wood or charcoal than an open cooking fire. This dramatically reduces the need to cut forests to use as firewood and decreases disease-causing particulates in the air. We have distributed 554 stoves in the past 6 months.



In a collaboration with British NGO Marie Stopes, Duke SAVA Conservation supports

in the world) on an island with already strained resources, it is difficult to keep everyone's bellies full.



family planning in the region, with a focus on the zone around Marojeje National Park.



In the last 6 months, SAVA Conservation sponsored 5 village visits (66 women total) by the Marie Stopes team of nurses and sometimes doctors as well. The Marie Stopes team provides women with reproductive choices in the form of birth control, and also provides counseling on reproductive health. After the primary visits, the women will have access to follow up appointments and ongoing care.

Our hope for 2016 is that the Duke SAVA Conservation Project will be able to dramatically expand our outreach and numbers of families served.

Thanks to you, we are able to not only help families every day, but also to protect the forests and lemurs of the SAVA region, for the generations to come.

Thank you!
