

Dear friends of **Vakoka Vakiteny**.



Finally, the environment book is being printed and Mrs. Hanta is overseeing it to ensure the quality. We are sure that this book is going to be very popular among youth, adults, teachers and students and will contribute to more awareness on environment. This is really needed as the nature is heavily threatened.

I have just returned from a trip to Madagascar where I had the privilege to see some of the most untouched Malagasy nature. But even in these very remote areas with amazing nature and an enormous biodiversity, we start seeing traces of human destruction. Many places, this wonderful nature has already been cut and burned within a surprisingly short period of time.

It is now that we need to make an effort for environmental protection - before it is too late!

Best wishes,

Mparany Rakotondrainy

Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

Vakoka Vakiteny gains popularity

Mrs. Hanta is doing a great job in spreading knowledge about Vakoka Vakiteny and our books among major social actors like schools, governmental offices, NGOs, youth clubs and libraries.

In and around Antsirabe, Vakoka Vakiteny is now a well-known name, and people contact Mrs. Hanta both for council regarding books and reading with and for children, and for getting access to the books.

Vakoka Vakiteny books are exhibited at different places, and children can come and read, like shown on the picture below.



Environment Book at the Print House

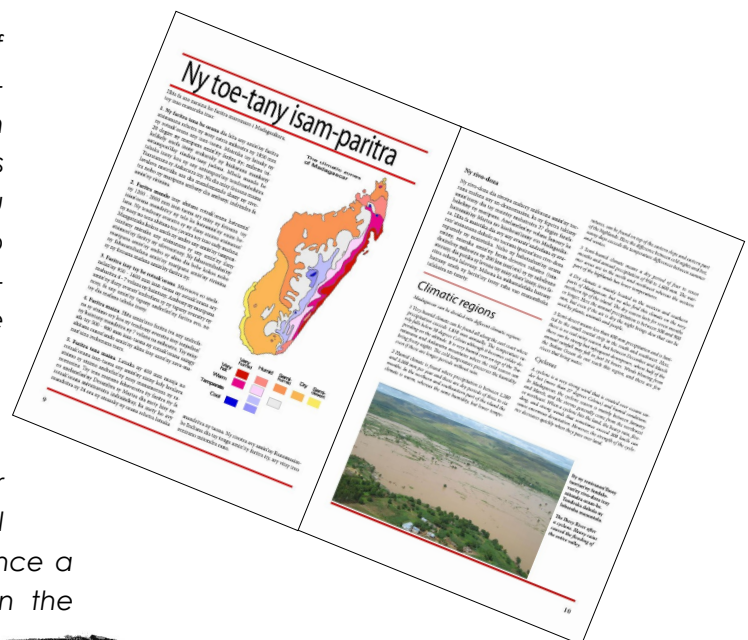
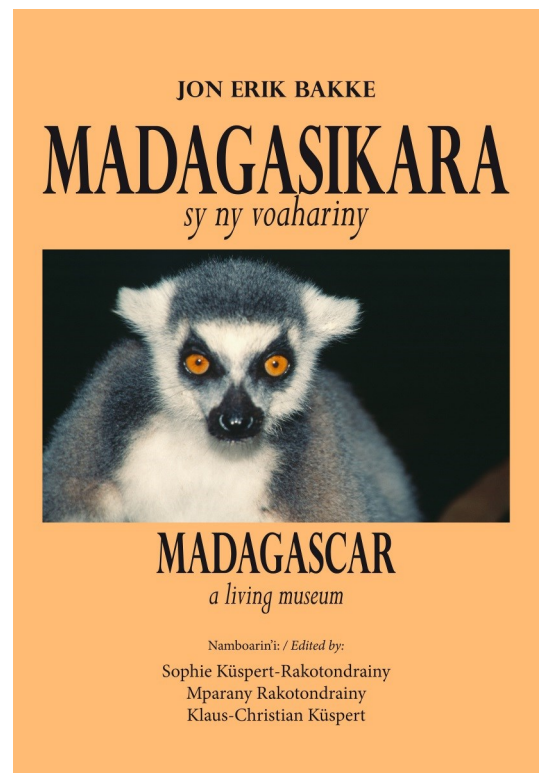
The bilingual book **Madagasikara sy ny voahariny** or **Madagascar - a living museum**, as it is named in English, is finally at the print house! The 100 pages book is about Madagascar's climate, vegetation, animals on the earth and in the water, rivers and mountains, people's arrival on the island, environmental threats, and a lot of other topics. So as you can imagine, it was not an easy task to revise and partly rewrite the text, update the information, add new pictures, translate it into English for the bilingual text, do the layout...

But now it is one step before publication. The below is an excerpt from the introduction:

Madagascar is an amazing island, full of both famous attractions as well as charming secrets. We hope that we can bring some of the enchantment of this island to you while you read. As you quickly will notice, Madagascar is no longer the paradise it once was, although the remaining fragments enable us to imagine its former beauty.

[...]

We hope that you will gain a greater insight into environmental issues and will understand the fragility of what was once a natural paradise but which is now on the verge of extinction.



Mparany has just come back from Madagascar where the printing process finally has started. We hope to be able to bring the first copies to Germany and Norway in the summer, so that you all can see why we have been so busy over the last years.

Again, we would like to thank those who contributed generously to the print of this book. Without the support, this and all the other Vakoka Vakiteny book projects, would never have been possible.



Association for School and Children's Books in Madagascar

KNOWLEDGE AND THE JOY OF READING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN MADAGASCAR



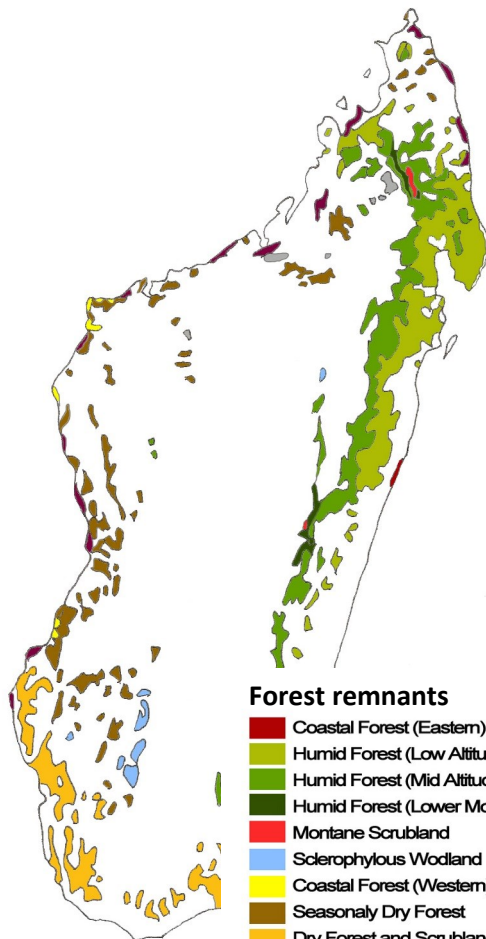
Clockwise from the top:

Madagaskar Schul- und Kinderbücher e.V., Germany

Mrs. Evy Brun, Norway

**Albert-Schweitzer-Gymnasium
Gernsbach, Germany**

**Eine-Welt-Verein Keniahilfe,
Bühl, Germany**



Forest remnants

- Coastal Forest (Eastern)
- Humid Forest (Low Altitude)
- Humid Forest (Mid Altitude)
- Humid Forest (Lower Montane)
- Montane Scrubland
- Sclerophyllous Wodland
- Coastal Forest (Western)
- Seasonally Dry Forest
- Dry Forest and Scrubland
- Mangrove
- Marshland



Book fair in Antsirabe

In the end of April, Mrs. Hanta again participated in a book fair. The Vakoka Vakiteny stand was voted the most popular stand by the end of the fair, and 170 people had sat down to read books - both adults and children.

One of the major TV channels in Madagascar, Télé VIVA, aired a 10 minute interview with Mrs. Hanta about Vakoka Vakiteny and the importance of reading books.



A great surprise was that a youth group made a scetch on the stage, which looked familiar to Mrs. Hanta. When she asked them where they had got the story, they told about a book that had been distributed to their school, which told the story about a boy called Takoboka. They loved the story so much that they decided to make it into a scetch!

Mrs. Hanta then got the chance to explain to the audience that Takoboka is one of the Vakoka Vakiteny books, and people came to read it at the Vakoka Vakiteny stand, where they also learned about the other Vakoka Vakiteny books.



Picture above:

**Mrs. Hanta is interviewed
by Télé VIVA**

Picture on the left:

Role play about Takoboka

Picture below:

**Children reading at the
Vakoka Vakiteny stand**



How to make children read?

Mrs. Hanta, representing Vakoka Vakiteny, was invited to a training regarding reading in the digital age. They discussed about how to awaken the fascination for books among youth who are used to television, computer and smart phones.

The training was organized by the Institut Français de Madagascar (IFM), and Mrs. Hanta was able to extend her network and make Vakoka Vakiteny known in a bigger circle of people and organizations working with similar issues.



Mrs. Hanta (in the middle) at the training

About *Vakoka Vakiteny*



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Manager/ Editor



Sophie Kuspert-
Rakotondrainy
Public Relations/
Editor



Hanta
Rakotondrainy
Book distribution/
Trainings

Vakoka Vakiteny has since 2008

- ... published 13 titles
- ... distributed 22 000 books
- ... encouraged thousands of children to read
- ... introduced reading in hundreds of schools
- ... strengthened the Malagasy language
- ... promoted Malagasy authors and artists
- ... participated in many cultural events
- ... supported the Malagasy natural environment through books and campaigns

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