



The Adventure Company – BVCO -ADES Solar Stove & Fuel Efficient Stoves Programme Morondava, Madagascar

April 2008 Update - Words by Ellie La Trobe-Bateman,
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THE ADVENTURE COMPANY



Association pour le Développement de l'Énergie Solaire
Suisse - Madagascar

The Adventure Company (TAC) currently contributes £2 for every client that travels with them on their Worldwide and Family programmes towards a solar stove and fuel efficient stove programme in Madagascar. This programme in Morondava, in the West of Madagascar would not be able to go ahead without this funding for 2008.

This is possible through the ongoing partnership of Blue Ventures Carbon Offset (BVCO) – www.bvco.org.uk and Association pour le Développement de l'Énergie Solaire (ADES) – www.adesolaire.org. This report updates TAC and travelers with TAC on the status of the project as of April 2008.

Update December 2007

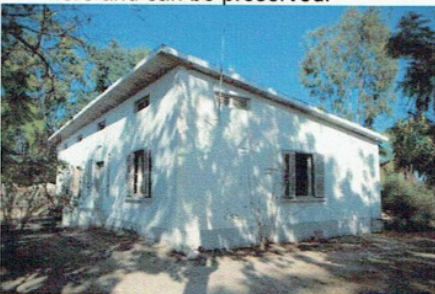
Summary

TAC will be funding the distribution of 200 solar ovens, 50 yoyo cookers and 50 solar parabolic stoves to help compensate some of their traveler's carbon footprints, along with helping provide economic, environmental and social benefits to the community of Morondava

The project is based in the capital of the Menabe region, Tuléar province in the West of Madagascar and has a population of approximately 60'000 and lies around 300 km north of Tuléar and around 720 km from the capital of Madagascar, Antananarivo.

The town is poorly developed with bad infrastructure. Further examination of the area shows it to be a very suitable city for a stove programme and suitable for sponsorship from a tourism organisation – not only because of the sunny weather but for the following reasons:

- It a tourist hotspot, boosting the avenue of the baobabs.
- With a little guidance enormous economic development is poss.
- Agriculture productivity can be increased.
- There are still some forests that exist here and can be preserved.



The Morondava Stove Centre

This is the first phase of the programme and although stoves have not just started to be delivered, the majority of the

preparation for this has been conducted; staff have been employed and trained, a stove centre has been found and invested in, support have been found, and education & awareness raising activities has started.



The Avenue of the Baobab, nearby

Morondava Stove Centre

The establishment of the initial centre for construction and distribution of the stoves is now close to completion. It is located centrally which is very important to increase effect of awareness raising etc.

At the end of 2008 it will be able to be wholly owned by the programme – making it more secure for the long term. It is at the highest point of Morondava making it risk free from flooding, which does occur in this region. The building is made of stone and originates from the 60s and is in good condition. It is a suitable area for demonstration along with construction.

People & work programme

The new director of the Morondava centre is selected already his name is Eugene Tsiazonaly he currently is preparing the centre and recruiting the stove makers and distributors. Eugene has 20 years experience working as a teacher in Morondava and is specialised in environmental education and ecology. His connections with the local community

and his knowledge of local environmental issues make him an invaluable member of the team.

It is estimated that 60% of the work time of the centre will be dedicated to stove construction, and 40% for the training programme.

Support of the programme

The support for the programme goes from strength to strength. It now has the support not only of the local heads of government, but of the local schools. ADES are working closely with children of all ages to increase awareness of fuel efficient and solar cooking and the relationship to the environment. Awareness activities at schools have already begun, facilitated through the strong links that Eugene the Director has.



Demonstration at local school

Current finances

To date funding from TAC has been used in the following ways; £1100 towards the rent of the stove centre building, £1500 to remote management, £800 to local awareness raising, and £950 to local management and staff costs; bringing the total contribution of TAC to £4350 for quarter 1 of this project.



Blue Ventures Carbon Offset

Energy Efficient Stoves Programmes - Madagascar & South Africa

The last 3 months of BVCO have been a period of project refinement and continual improvement. Blue Ventures volunteers traveling to Madagascar continue to support the BVCO-ADES project in SW Madagascar. All other travelers and offsetters are contributing to the South Africa programme. The South Africa programme has now been officially 'signed off' and accredited by TICOS and emission reduction estimates have been verified. The Adventure Company continues its support of the Morondava project in Madagascar.

Ellie La Trobe-Bateman & Justin Hellings - www.bvco.org.uk

Update April - July 2008

New South Africa Programme

BVCO collaboration with SunFire Solutions South Africa, an exciting new programme that has been in development to provide stoves to communities in South Africa since April 2008, has now received official accreditation from the Travel Industry's Carbon Offsetting Scheme TICOS:

http://www.ticos.co.uk/projects/project_id/tp057.htm.

In addition to receiving funding directly from BVCO, the programme will now be able to receive funding from other travel companies.

Most importantly TICOS have verified the carbon reduction estimates which will be reviewed on an annual basis. You can fund this project by either [sponsoring a stove](#), offsetting your [flight](#), [lifestyle](#), [business](#), or [other travel](#) through the bvco.org.uk website.

Sponsor a stove online now...



£20 will help sponsor a stove like those above for a year. This will make the cost affordable to those in South Africa that need them the most, and help reduce carbon by 1.5 tonnes per year, verified by TICOS

Madagascar Notes from the field

In March 2008, BVCO saw a change of site coordinator in Andavadoaka. Jean Niriko, a resident of Andavadoaka, has been appointed the BVCO coordinator in the Velondriake area. Jean is responsible for the distribution and auditing of efficient and solar stoves for the BVCO carbon offset programme in Madagascar.



Stove demonstration in the Northern region of the Velondriake group

Expansion

BVCO has greatly expanded its activities within villages belonging to the Velondriake network of protected areas over recent months. By March it had started supplying solar stoves and efficient wood burning stoves to four villages including Andavadoaka. Since then it has greatly increased the number of stoves sold in these villages and started to supply three further villages including the isolated island of Andragombala, which has been suffering from severe deforestation for fuel wood.

In total, over 150 stoves have been distributed by BVCO amongst more than 100 households, and another 85 stoves have been ordered. When

delivery of these stoves has been complete it is estimated that at least 10% of households in Velondriake will own a stove supplied by BVCO.



ADES staff demonstrate

The increase in the number of stoves distributed by BVCO has forced multiple changes of workspace in only a few months. A change of venue to a small hut exclusively for the use of BVCO was rapidly eclipsed by a move to a 48 square metre workshop which also serves as the project's stock room and office. The workshop is necessary partly because BVCO is now receiving all models of solar stove in kit form and constructing them in Andavadoaka.

This expansion has not been plain sailing. Working in such a remote environment, the challenge was never going to be a matter of simply selling stoves. Until BVCO began to operate in Velondriake, the Vezo families in this area had been cooking almost exclusively on wood fires consisting of three stones to support a pot and three sticks pushed in to the fire between the stones. Changing from a traditional three stone fire to a solar stove represents a massive cultural and behavioural change.



Demonstration of a box solar oven

Demonstrations

BVCO's key tool in aiding this cultural change has been organising cooking demonstrations. Almost every week, BVCO visits villages in order to deliver stoves that have been previously ordered, to collect payments and to demonstrate the use of solar stoves. These demonstrations are always popular, sometimes attracting large crowds. By cooking the staple foods of the region in solar stoves, the community demos show that there is a cheaper, safer, cleaner and more sustainable way to make a midday meal. As BVCO staff has gained experience, demonstrations have been planned where both a midday meal and evening meal are cooked. Evening meals can be kept warm in solar ovens long after the sun has lost its power to heat the stove.



Mme Chantal of ADES demonstrates a solar stove

While many local people understand the benefits of the solar stoves, those who buy stoves still need help in order to use them regularly. This is a straightforward matter of awareness raising. For example, some users have mistakenly thought that they needed to wait for summer to use their stove, despite seeing them successfully demonstrated in mid-Winter. Others have chosen to treat their stove like an heirloom, or used it as a linen chest.

Another challenge has been the subject of payment collection. Living

on a largely subsistence fishing-based economy with no power supply and no shops rarely exposes community members to financial systems such as instalment payment plans, the payment system favoured for local stove purchases. Despite being very heavily subsidised (a family in Velondriake typically pays only 20% of the production cost of each stove) the stoves are still a significant investment. This is deliberate. By assigning a value to the stove the households are aware of the true value and therefore do not view the stoves as disposable. This means that most stove buyers need to pay in instalments but these buyers tend to have very little experience of saving money. BVCO has now learned to ensure the timing of trips to villages falls just after the most profitable part of the month (octopus gleaming at spring tide) in order to maximise the chance of buyers not having spent all their disposable income!



More demonstrations

Morondava Project continues

The Adventure Company - www.adventurecompany.co.uk has continued to support the BVCO-ADES project in Morondava over recent months.



The 30th May 2008 marked the opening of ADES' third stove centre in Madagascar, in the western city of Morondava. After 8 months' preparation the new centre was opened in the presence of local

dignitaries and project staff. Sales of the solar cooker have been encouraging in the first few weeks. Sales of the stoves made in the first week exceeded 200.



Solar cooked food enjoyed at the Morondava opening

If your organisation is interested in sponsoring a specific stove distribution project like the Adventure Company's Morondava programme, please get in touch with Richard on 020 8341 9819 or email offset@bvco.org.uk.



Celebrations in Morondava

Contact & further information

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www.bvco.org.uk
www.blueventures.org
www.adesolaire.org
www.sunfire.co.za
www.adventurecompany.co.uk



Interested in a solar box oven?

Thank you for you ongoing support and interest