

CLP Career Placement Update

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1. What activities have you accomplished across your Career Placement? (100-200 words) Through the period of this internship, I have focused on advancing environmental education and literacy initiatives, aiming to empower communities and foster sustainable behaviors. Key activities included: Literacy Program: Delivered tailored instruction to 120 participants, equipping both adults and children with essential reading, writing, and arithmetic skills. Home-based individual support sessions reinforced their learning progress. Environmental Education: Facilitated participatory outdoor sessions for children at the Mangabe Reserve, enabling hands-on exploration of local biodiversity through interactive games and guided observations. Ecological Practices: Collaborated with community members on practical projects, such as composting, reforestation, waste management, and road repairs, fostering collective ownership of conservation efforts. Learning Guide Development: Initiated the creation of an environmental education guide to streamline and enhance future teaching activities, in Mangabe Reserve and more widely. These efforts have strengthened community engagement and equipped participants with tools to contribute meaningfully to conservation and sustainable living.
2. What are the results and impacts of these activities for conservation? (100-200 words) The initiatives have generated tangible outcomes for both conservation and community development. Key impacts include: Environmental Conservation: A shift in community attitudes toward resource preservation, with 30% of the population adopting composting practices. Ultimately, and we will continue monitoring – this shift will result in higher and better yields for communities and reduce their dependence on extracting forest products. Similarly, the planting of eucalyptus trees will contribute to providing fuelwood in the future, hence reducing the need to collect trees from the forest and improving forest cover in the area.

- **Enhanced Literacy:** Participants now possess basic literacy and numeracy skills, with many successfully passing exams and some obtaining or updating national identification documents. They are now more likely to participate in decision-making in their villages instead of staying on the margin because they could not read or write the decisions.
- **Behavioral Changes:** Increased community involvement in conservation projects and collective actions has been observed, fostering a stronger commitment to sustainable practices.

These achievements demonstrate the program's success in building local capacity and advancing environmental stewardship.

3. What **skills** and **knowledge** you have learnt? (100-200 words)

My internship has been an enriching learning experience, equipping me with:

- **Environmental Education Techniques:** Proficiency in delivering participatory and interactive learning experiences tailored to diverse audiences, emphasizing biodiversity and ecological sustainability.
- **Literacy Program Development:** Expertise in designing adaptable curricula for varied learning levels and providing personalized educational support.
- **Project Management:** Skills in coordinating community activities, problem-solving, and implementing sustainable initiatives.
- **Cultural Sensitivity and Engagement:** Insights into fostering inclusivity and adapting to local cultural dynamics, enhancing program effectiveness.
- **Leadership and adaptive management:** Insights into maintaining the project team and the participants motivated even during difficult situations, such as illnesses in the field, insufficient human resources, cyclones, etc.

These experiences have honed my ability to drive community-focused conservation and sustainable development initiatives. The internship achieved what I expected as a way to put into action the theories I have learned at the university on social development in Madagascar. I keep hopeful for the future and recognize the need for more of us to be out there in the field.

4. What have you learnt about working for your **host organisation**? (100-200 words)

Collaborating with my host organization, Madagasikara Voakajy (MV), has provided valuable lessons in:

- **Community-Centric Approaches:** Understanding the importance of engaging with local communities to tailor programs that address their unique challenges.
- **Leadership:** Listening to the feedbacks from the team in the field and taking decisions that would improve our performance and impacts.
- **Adaptability:** Developing flexible strategies to navigate feedback and evolving circumstances. I particularly appreciate that as the number of participants in our initiative increased, MV decided to recruit another intern to support us in the field.
- **Impact Assessment:** Recognizing the significance of continuous evaluation to refine and enhance project outcomes.
- **Team Dynamics:** Appreciating the role of teamwork and effective communication in achieving shared goals.

These insights have deepened my understanding of integrated approaches to conservation and community development.

5. Have you been in contact with any **alumni** from the CLP network? (100-200 words)

Currently, I have not yet had the opportunity to establish direct contact with alumni from the CLP (Conservation Leadership Programme) network. Although I am part of the discussion groups created to facilitate exchanges, I have not yet initiated any conversations with them. However, I recognize the value these interactions could bring. CLP alumni often have valuable experience and unique perspectives on conservation projects and the challenges of sustainable development.

Through these exchanges, I could not only expand my knowledge of conservation practices but also benefit from practical advice and inspiration based on their successes and lessons learned. I plan to actively participate in discussions in the near future to establish connections, ask questions, and possibly collaborate on ideas or initiatives related to my current activities. This could also help me better integrate into the network and develop enriching professional relationships.