



Department of National Environment Policy for Sustainable Development

Mrs Andritsaina Bao, Director of Development of the Ecological Partnership
Antsahavola
Antananarivo, Madagascar 101
www.ecologie.gov.mg

Dear High School scientists,

More than 80 percent of Madagascar forests have been eliminated. Deforestation of the land has been occurring on the island since the late 1950s. In addition to the deforestation, we are beginning to see a rapid decline in the number of endemic species which include the fauna such as lemurs, chameleons and fossa. There are many species of flora disappearing from the island such as the baobab tree and the Madagascar periwinkle plant which contains chemical components used to treat leukemia. Madagascar has suffered environmental degradation over a significant part of its land mass. In order to have a healthy ecosystem we must consider that we too as humans must fit into nature and without it, we would face many struggles. I have a strong belief in the youth which is why I have requested that you and your class collaborate with my country to help ensure the future of not only the unique biodiversity in Madagascar but to ensure a prosperous future of the culture and people who call this wonderland their home.

Task: You and your group will complete the following objectives:

- Obtain a 1-inch x 1-inch square. This is the total area of land you are allowed to reserve as national park land using a provided map of Madagascar on 11-inch x 17-inch paper. (Your square may be cut into multiple pieces if you provide appropriate justification).
- Establish a national park (or parks) in Madagascar based on analysis of available data and your own additional research.
- When you are finished you will present your National Park proposal to the class (see rubric)

Sincerely,

Mrs Andritsaina Bao
Director of Development of the Ecological Partnership



“Recognize that the world is hungry for action, not words, act with courage and vision” – Nelson Mandela