

Saving our future

While my family and I were on the road to Tsiroanomandidy to attend a meeting in September 2012, we saw a light shining from a hill. As we were getting closer, it became clear that this light was in fact a bushfire, burning a large area, letting the soil completely vulnerable to erosion and spreading a suffocating, black smoke.



When we get back to Antananarivo, we could still see some bushfires on the road so we decided to ask the local people about the reasons of these bushfires. Unfortunately, not all of them wanted to answer to our question. Some of them ran away when we tried to talk and the few people who remained would not answer to our questions. It was quite frustrating to think that no one would talk to us, however, I could see in their eyes that they knew that doing a bushfire was forbidden, but I was also quite sure that they did not understand WHY it is so. In fact, bushfire is a traditional practice for the Malagasy people so it is normal that people continue to do it unless they are aware of the side effects of bushfires.



The case of the people along the national road number one is just an example of the alarming situation in Madagascar in terms of environment's destruction. It also shows the inefficiency of the method to protect the environment. Actually, these people had been taught to stop

burning the soil only because it is against the law but never did they have any explanation about the bad impact of bushfire on their life, their children's future and the environment.

Therefore, until there is huge sensitization campaign concerning the side effects of bushfire, people will never understand why they should stop doing it.

The goal is to find a balance between human activities and protecting our environment so that the human being can live in a safe environment forever. However finding this sustainable balance is going to be hard and long work because every year, hectares of hill and forest are burned not only in Madagascar but in all over the world as well, destroying the soil, killing hundreds of endemic animal and vegetal species and polluting the air. I believe that it is a duty for all people in the twenty-one century to protect the environment by doing small change and effort at a time in order to make this world a better place not only for us but also for our future generations.