

Dear friends of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

We have invested a little bit in our publicity lately, as you can see from our YouTube film below. Please feel free to share this film with as many people as possible!



I would like to thank all our friends and supporters that we met during the summer break. We are very happy and grateful for your good work!

Best wishes,
Mparany Rakotondrainy
Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

Fiderana, the reading girl

Please start reading this newsletter by watching the Vakoka Vakiteny film featuring 14 year old Fiderana. Here you will get to know a girl from very humble conditions in Antsirabe who goes to a public school that has had the chance to get books from Vakoka Vakiteny. In the film you will see how her mother and her brother also benefit from the books. Furthermore, you will see Mrs. Hanta in action, distributing books in Fiderana's school, and that the teachers see the real value of reading.



Please click here for the film with English subtitles on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbAEGUshUiQ&t=37s>

For the version with German subtitles, please click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LjiQmopt5Pc&t=25s> .

Mahazoarivo II is Fiderana's school, a public primary school from preschool to 5th grade. It has around 500 students from the rather poorer neighbourhoods in the city Antsirabe. The school has previously got books from Vakoka Vakiteny, so it was easy for Mrs. Hanta to ask the school to help us with making a film about our work. The book distribution that is shown was not acted, but filmed at the real event of the distribution of our last book, *Fano and all the trash in the ocean*.

The film was done in June. In August Mparany had the chance to come back to Mahazoarivo and talk with the famous actors and show them the film. It was a wonderful winter afternoon, and the students in Fiderana's class were excited to see themselves on the screen. Mparany distributed chocolate for them and gave them a pep-talk for their upcoming end-of-primary-school exams.



Fiderana's class and teacher, Mrs. Anita, are watching the Vakoka Vakiteny film. They thought it was great to see themselves and to know that people abroad now can see their situation and continue supporting the production of books

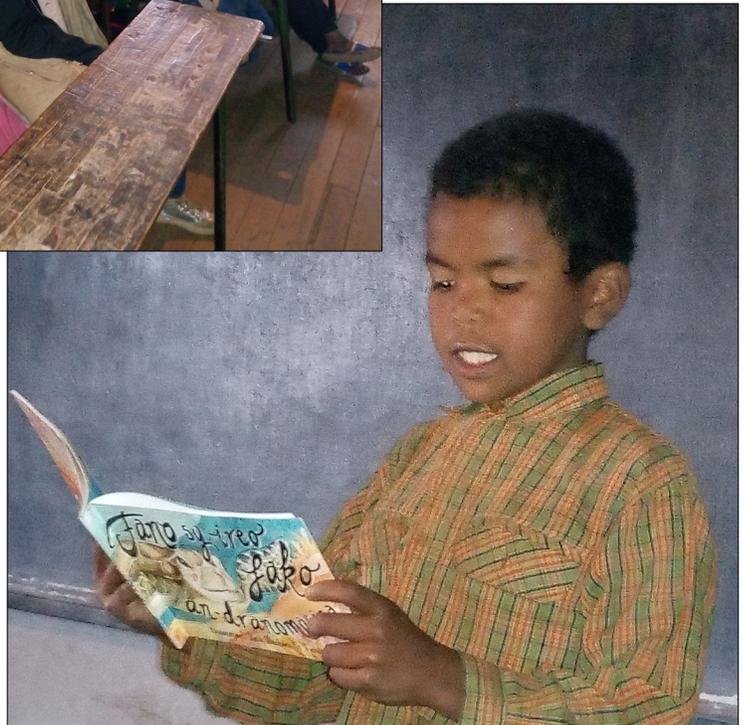


After Mparany had finished, a boy named Jimmy stood up and held a speech, thanking Vakoka Vakiteny for the books. He mentioned how great Hanta is and how much she is encouraging them to read books and use their mother tongue. He also mentioned the association in Germany, and through this newsletter we are able to extend his thanks to everyone of you reading this newsletter and supporting our work!

Jimmy, 12 years old, spontaneously held a speech in front of his classmates, his teacher, Hanta and Mparany

Other children also stood up and said words of thanks. They mentioned how the books help them in their Malagasy studies and how fun it is to read. Quite a few of them said the same as their teacher Mrs. Anita in the film: They really need an extra room for the library so that they do not have to use the preschool classroom to store the books and for library class.

The students Nadia, Ravaka, Heritiana and Nomena were inspired by Jimmy and also stood up to say a few words of thanks to Vakoka Vakiteny



The day ended with Jimmy volunteering to read aloud from Fano.

Celebration of the Mother Tongue

In May, the celebration of the Mother Tongue event was held in Antsirabe. It was done in the town hall with public attendance. Several schools participated, and one of the main activities was a competition of reading aloud in Malagasy. Fiderana, the girl from the film, participated together with her school, and she won the first price in her age class! We have no doubt that she was able to achieve this because she has read Vakoka Vakiteny books and finds it fun and useful to read. She is now an inspiration for other children and youth in Antsirabe, and shows that even if you come from a home with no books and parents who are barely able to read and write, you can be good at school and achieve something great.

Mrs. Hanta represented Vakoka Vakiteny at the event and was able to inform about our work. She distributed books to the winners of the competition, and everyone was very eager to hear about our work.



This picture shows Fiderana (in the middle with the red NIKE shirt), surrounded by her friends and classmates at her school.

Upcoming event

At a big event called «Vitrine de Vakinankaratra» held in the city centre of Antsirabe, Hanta is as every year going to have a stand and show books from Vakoka Vakiteny. The event is held on 12th and 13th September.

Vakoha Vakiteny invited to celebrate

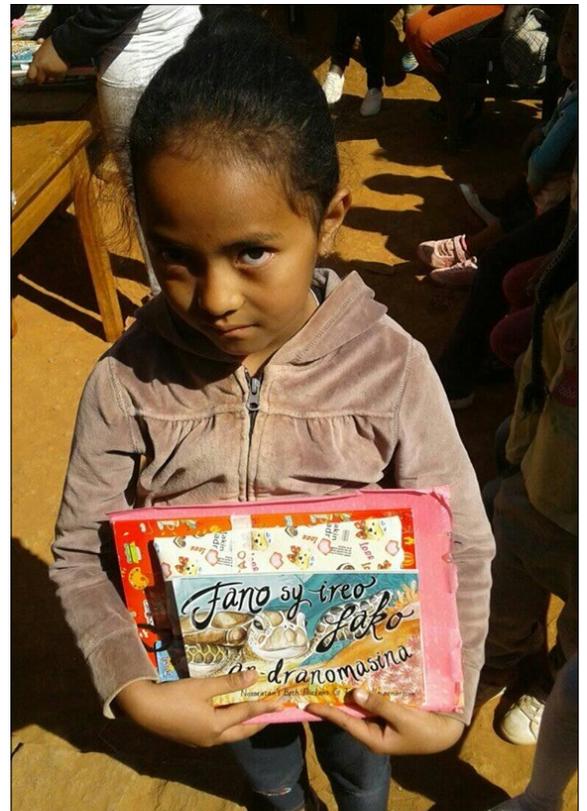
The teachers and students of the school Messange Bleues, who has acted as test readers for several of our books, invited Mrs. Hanta to join them in the end-of-term celebration in July. All the students from the different annexes had gathered, and Mrs. Hanta used the chance to give them the Fano book.



Mrs. Saholy (standing in front) is addressing the students at the end of the school year and encouraging them to continue reading during the holidays. Mrs. Hanta stands behind her.

Below: A teacher is talking to the students about Fano, particularly focusing on the students in the lower grades such as the girl on the right.

(All photos in this article: Saholy Raobelina)

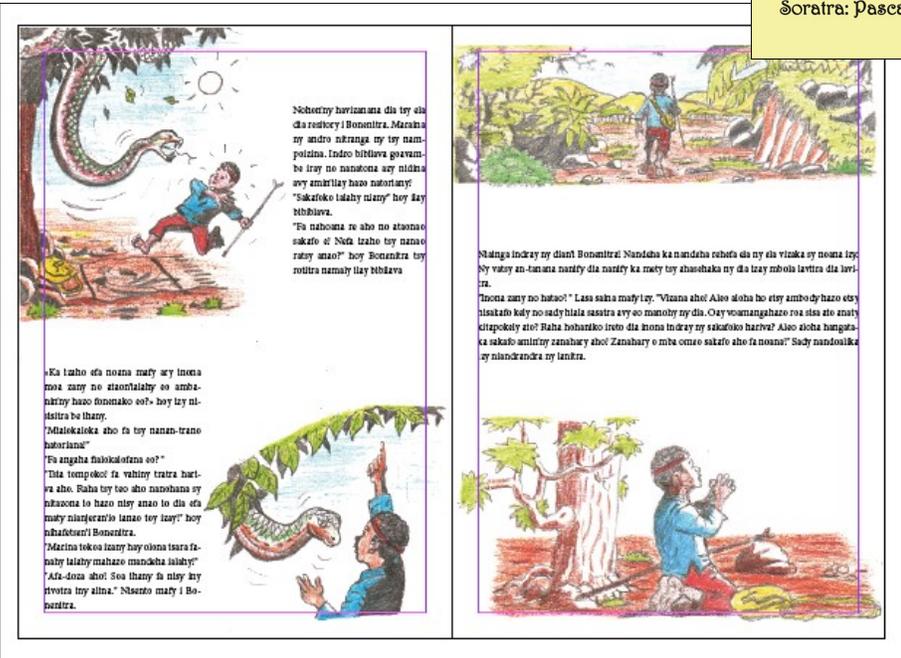
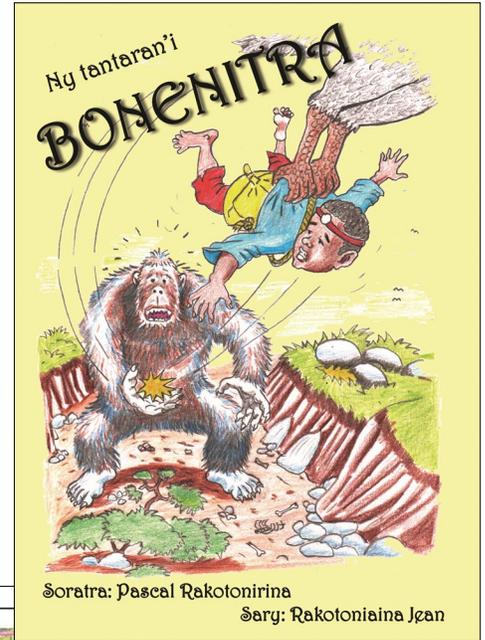


Bonenitra, the Brave prince

The book introduced in Newsletter 2018-1 is now almost ready to be printed, The layout is finished, as is the negotiation with the print house. The manuscript has been edited, but is currently undergoing proof reading from different professionals to insure that there are no mistakes.

In case you missed it, here comes again a short synopsis of the story:

The prince Bonenitra sets out on a very dangerous trip to save his father's life. The only medicine that can cure the king needs to contain three hairs from the head of a gigantic monster. On the way to the monster, Bonenitra encounters many dangers, but manages to escape. Finally, he finds the monster and tries to pick the hairs, but in that moment the monster awakes...



The manuscript during editing. As you can see, the illustrator, Rakotonirina Jean has drawn Bonenitra in a traditional Malagasy style.

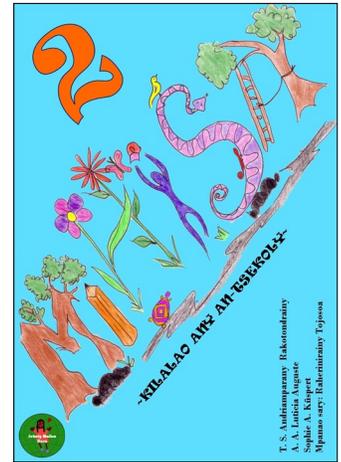
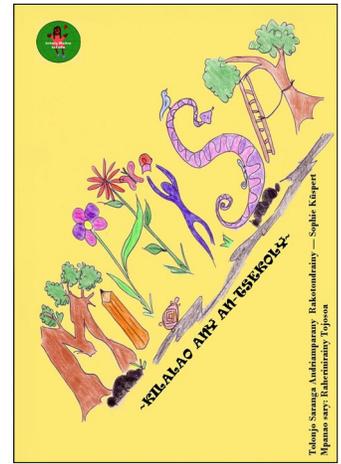
Let Malagasy children play

Our first school book was a teacher's guide with games to play together with children in elementary school. The first volume of these small booklets was made in 2007, before Vakoka Vakiteny was officially born. It soon became extremely popular among the teachers in the Green Schools Bara, the education project Mparany was coordinating at that time. The usual teaching method even for small children, contains writing on the blackboard and asking the students to copy it. However,

after some training, the teachers saw how important playing is in school. They learned that playing does not only give the children a chance to relax and therefore enhance their concentration later on, but they can actually learn a lot related to the curriculum through games.

The year after the first Mihisa was printed, we did a second volume with more games. The first volume had included some games that need equipment like scissor, paper, glue and other materials. Some of the teachers reported that they could not do the games due to lack of any materials in the schools where they were teaching. So the second volume focused on games where you need nothing, or a blackboard and chalk only. Again, the booklet became a success.

We have repeatedly got requests from teachers to give them Mihisa books, but all books were already distributed a long time ago. We therefore would like to reprint both volumes so that more teachers can benefit from learning games to play with their students.



German French class gets to know us

On Friday 28 June, Sophie and Mparany had the pleasure to inform about Vakoka Vakiteny to three French classes at the Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium in Gernsbach. The students and their teachers were very interested and asked a lot of questions.



Mparany presents Vakoka Vakiteny for the students

They were surprised that Malagasy children usually don't have any books in school and that they need to copy down everything they learn from the blackboard. It was also new to them that the children have to learn all the content of the lessons in a language that is not their mother tongue.

The Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium has been collecting support for the print of Vakoka Vakiteny books for many years, so it was great to be able to visit the school again.

Happy Birthday, Association!

The Association for School and Children's Books in Madagascar «Madagaskar Schul – und Kinderbücher e.V. which generously supports the work of Vakoka Vakiteny as its only partner, celebrated its 10th anniversary this summer. The annual meeting and celebration was held in Herrenwies in the Black Forest in Germany on 29th June. One of the most active members of the association, Mr. Hansjörg Willig, invited to a beautifully restored former church from the 18th century.



Mparany speaks at the public event in the former church in Herrenwies

(All photos in this article: Hubert Kienzler)

After the annual meeting we had a public event where Mparany and Sophie from Vakoka Vakiteny informed about the work, showed pictures, books and the information film. Quite a lot of people from the surroundings of Herrenwies came to listen to us, and the association's chair person, Dr. Klaus-Christian

**Chairperson of the association,
Dr. Klaus-Christian Küspert shows
the newest book, *Fano and the
trash in the ocean*, to the
audience**





Sophie also informed about the work of Vakoka Vakiteny and what it means for children, schools, parents and teachers

After the presentation, the association again received a check over 2500 € from the Eine-Welt-Keniahilfe for the work of Vakoka Vakiteny, handed over by the chairperson, Mr. Willig. We are extremely grateful for this dedicated support for our work!

The evening ended with food and drinks in the warm summer air. It was a joy to meet everyone again, and also to see some new faces. Thank you all very much!

Küspert was very satisfied with the publicity this created around the association. A journalist from the local newspaper, «Badische Neuste Nachrichten» was also present and her article was published four days later.

We are extremely grateful for the support from the association, and we are happy that they again were able to elect a competent and enthusiastic board. Particularly nice was that several members of the association Eine-Welt-Keniahilfe found their way to the presentation. This association is cooperating closely with the Association for School and Children's Books in Madagascar and has previously several times very generously supported our work.



The chairperson of the Association Eine-Welt-Verein Keniahilfe e.V. , Mr. Hansjörg Willig presents the check over 2,500 € to the chairperson of the Madagascar Schul- und Kinderbücher e.V. Dr. Klaus-Christian Küspert



The members of the association together with Vakoka Vakiteny

Upper row from left to right: Mparany Rakotondrainy, Christel Schelshorn, Marion Kienzler, Clemens Däschle, Hellmut Bauer, Franziska Kienzler, Sybille Däschle, Kai Koch

Middle row from left to right: Sophie Küspert-Rakotondrainy, Klaus-Christian Küspert, Alma Küspert, Hansjörg Willig, Sonja Küspert, Hubert Kienzler, Elham Matin, Anna-Lena Kienzler

In the front: Anna Sophia, Markus and Jakob Küspert-Rakotondrainy

About *Vakoka Vakiteny*



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Rakotondrainy
Manager/ Editor



Sophie Küspert-
Rakotondrainy
Public Relations/
Editor



Hanta
Rakotondrainy
Book distribution/
Trainings

Vakoka Vakiteny has since 2008

- ... published 15 titles
- ... distributed 27,500 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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