



## e-Newsletter December 2011

[Subscribe Zahana e-Newsletter](#)

[Zahana Homepage](#)

[Latest News](#)

[Do-it-yourself gift cards](#)

[GlobalGiving's](#) recommendation got Zahana invited as a [Global Action Atlas](#) participant hosted by the prestigious National Geographic Society. Please follow the link (so you get there with a click-through from us) to the [Global Action Atlas](#).

Zahana now has a [Facebook page](#) please "like" us if you are on fb.



Aloha Friends:

We hope you have happy and joyous Holiday Season and Happy 2012!

We wanted to send a shorter newsletter with links to our website for more information. The most exciting event in the past year was that 7 of our students passed the primary school exam. Something only possible after they had attended school for a minimum of 5 years.

### **The real measure of success**



Sometimes the success of our participatory approach is best illustrated with a project we don't do ourselves. Metal fences now surround all seven of Fiadanana's communal [water faucets](#) for over 2 years. Built with a solid concrete foundation, the fences are holding up well.

All metal fences were built and paid for by the community of [Fiadanana](#), because they saw a need for it, without asking Zahana for a financial contribution. This is a prime example of a community taking ownership of and responsibility for their own resources.

Some history: In 2006, the community built their communal water system with seven communal water faucets ([see website](#)) with support from Zahana. We thought (see photo below from 2006) [communal water faucets](#) could become a green oasis in the village, beautifying everything through colorful flowers and greenery, easily watered by the runoff.

Little did we know that the cows had no appreciation for esthetics, but a great hunger for juicy fresh green 'stuff'. To keep the cattle out, the community decided to use concrete and metal, keeping their seven communal water sources safe for years to come.



## Planting 15,000 trees

Zahana plans to plant 10 trees for each woman, child and man in our villages.

We will actively involve the villagers as re-foresters and



caretakers in this ambitious goal to plant some 15,000 trees over the next few years.



Drawing on our [gardeners'](#) years of experience growing seedlings and planting trees successfully, it is time to scale up our efforts and plant a forest. [More on our website.](#)

This is our latest [GlobalGiving Project](#)

## Our first students to pass the exam!



*“Getting a CEPE is a very big deal for everybody, nobody in their village ever got a CEPE so far”, our friend and Zahana Founder Dr. Ihanta told us on Skype. “8 of our students from our Fiadanana school took the exam. They had been preparing for weeks every day with their teacher. Seven of our students passed the exam, while from other village schools only 30% to 50% of the students were so lucky.”*

In Madagascar a CEPE is a Certificat d'etudes primaires élémentaires (or Certificate of Primary Studies). A nation-wide standardized test, it can be awarded after attending five years of primary education. [More on our website.](#)

With the help of Zahana, three of the boys from one family are now able to attend the secondary school in Bevato, a small town about a 2 hours walk from their village. [More](#)

## Ducks in a basket: a micro-credit project

A while back Zahana bought a dozen ducklings in a



basket. We gave the basket to our partner in the village in the hope the ducklings might build the foundation for an income-generating project: future eggs and



ducks. A lesson we learned is that it is better to try a new idea with an individual that is willing to be an innovator. If the project is successful, we can scale it up and involve more people or groups. [More](#)

Last but not least with the end of the (tax) year near, we hope you might consider Zahana in your giving as well. You may do so [on-line via GlobalGiving](#), or you may always send a good old check in the postal mail to Zahana ([see website for details](#)).

This year we have again our very own Zahana [do-it-yourself gift cards](#). In addition [GlobalGiving offers gift cards](#) that can be generated with a few clicks.

Ihanta, Jeannette and Markus

Contact Information: Project Zahana · PO Box 62223 · Honolulu HI 96839

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

