



# Blue Ventures Carbon Offset

## Energy Efficient Stoves Programmes - Madagascar & South Africa

The last 3 months of BVCO have been a period of project refinement and continual improvement. Blue Ventures volunteers traveling to Madagascar continue to support the BVCO-ADES project in SW Madagascar. All other travelers and offsetters are contributing to the South Africa programme. The South Africa programme has now been officially 'signed off' and accredited by TICOS and emission reduction estimates have been verified. The Adventure Company continues its support of the Morondava project in Madagascar.

Ellie La Trobe-Bateman & Justin Hellings - [www.bvco.org.uk](http://www.bvco.org.uk)

**Update April - July 2008**

### New South Africa Programme

BVCO collaboration with SunFire Solutions South Africa, an exciting new programme that has been in development to provide stoves to communities in South Africa since April 2008, has now received official accreditation from the Travel Industry's Carbon Offsetting Scheme TICOS:

[http://www.ticos.co.uk/projects/project\\_id/tp057.htm](http://www.ticos.co.uk/projects/project_id/tp057.htm).

In addition to receiving funding directly from BVCO, the programme will now be able to receive funding from other travel companies.

Most importantly TICOS have verified the carbon reduction estimates which will be reviewed on an annual basis. You can fund this project by either [sponsoring a stove](#), offsetting your [flight](#), [lifestyle](#), [business](#), or [other travel](#) through the [bvco.org.uk](http://bvco.org.uk) website.

### Sponsor a stove online now...



*£20 will help sponsor a stove like those above for a year. This will make the cost affordable to those in South Africa that need them the most, and help reduce carbon by 1.5 tonnes per year, verified by TICOS*

### Madagascar Notes from the field

In March 2008, BVCO saw a change of site coordinator in Andavadoaka. Jean Niriko, a resident of Andavadoaka, has been appointed the BVCO coordinator in the Velondriake area. Jean is responsible for the distribution and auditing of efficient and solar stoves for the BVCO carbon offset programme in Madagascar.



*Stove demonstration in the Northern region of the Velondriake group*

### Expansion

BVCO has greatly expanded its activities within villages belonging to the Velondriake network of protected areas over recent months. By March it had started supplying solar stoves and efficient wood burning stoves to four villages including Andavadoaka. Since then it has greatly increased the number of stoves sold in these villages and started to supply three further villages including the isolated island of Andragombala, which has been suffering from severe deforestation for fuel wood.

In total, over 150 stoves have been distributed by BVCO amongst more than 100 households, and another 85 stoves have been ordered. When

delivery of these stoves has been complete it is estimated that at least 10% of households in Velondriake will own a stove supplied by BVCO.



*ADES staff demonstrate*

The increase in the number of stoves distributed by BVCO has forced multiple changes of workspace in only a few months. A change of venue to a small hut exclusively for the use of BVCO was rapidly eclipsed by a move to a 48 square metre workshop which also serves as the project's stock room and office. The workshop is necessary partly because BVCO is now receiving all models of solar stove in kit form and constructing them in Andavadoaka.

This expansion has not been plain sailing. Working in such a remote environment, the challenge was never going to be a matter of simply selling stoves. Until BVCO began to operate in Velondriake, the Vezo families in this area had been cooking almost exclusively on wood fires consisting of three stones to support a pot and three sticks pushed in to the fire between the stones. Changing from a traditional three stone fire to a solar stove represents a massive cultural and behavioural change.



*Demonstration of a box solar oven*

**Demonstrations**

BVCO's key tool in aiding this cultural change has been organising cooking demonstrations. Almost every week, BVCO visits villages in order to deliver stoves that have been previously ordered, to collect payments and to demonstrate the use of solar stoves. These demonstrations are always popular, sometimes attracting large crowds. By cooking the staple foods of the region in solar stoves, the community demos show that there is a cheaper, safer, cleaner and more sustainable way to make a midday meal. As BVCO staff has gained experience, demonstrations have been planned where both a midday meal and evening meal are cooked. Evening meals can be kept warm in solar ovens long after the sun has lost its power to heat the stove.



*Mme Chantal of ADES demonstrates a solar stove*

While many local people understand the benefits of the solar stoves, those who buy stoves still need help in order to use them regularly. This is a straightforward matter of awareness raising. For example, some users have mistakenly thought that they needed to wait for summer to use their stove, despite seeing them successfully demonstrated in mid-Winter. Others have chosen to treat their stove like an heirloom, or used it as a linen chest.

Another challenge has been the subject of payment collection. Living

on a largely subsistence fishing-based economy with no power supply and no shops rarely exposes community members to financial systems such as instalment payment plans, the payment system favoured for local stove purchases. Despite being very heavily subsidised (a family in Velondriake typically pays only 20% of the production cost of each stove) the stoves are still a significant investment. This is deliberate. By assigning a value to the stove the households are aware of the true value and therefore do not view the stoves as disposable. This means that most stove buyers need to pay in instalments but these buyers tend to have very little experience of saving money. BVCO has now learned to ensure the timing of trips to villages falls just after the most profitable part of the month (octopus gleaning at spring tide) in order to maximise the chance of buyers not having spent all their disposable income!



*More demonstrations*

**Morondava Project continues**

The Adventure Company - [www.adventurecompany.co.uk](http://www.adventurecompany.co.uk) has continued to support the BVCO-ADES project in Morondava over recent months.



The 30th May 2008 marked the opening of ADES' third stove centre in Madagascar, in the western city of Morondava. After 8 months' preparation the new centre was opened in the presence of local

dignitaries and project staff. Sales of the solar cooker have been encouraging in the first few weeks. Sales of the stoves made in the first week exceeded 200.



*Solar cooked food enjoyed at the Morondava opening*

If your organisation is interested in sponsoring a specific stove distribution project like the Adventure Company's Morondava programme, please get in touch with Richard on 020 8341 9819 or email [offset@bvco.org.uk](mailto:offset@bvco.org.uk).



*Celebrations in Morondava*

**Contact & further information**

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- [www.adventurecompany.co.uk](http://www.adventurecompany.co.uk)



*Interested in a solar box oven?*

**Thank you for you ongoing support and interest**