

# Ambodigavo Village Womens Cooperative Sewing & Tailoring for Income Generation Workshop MADAGASCAR

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*Final Report*  
Antanetiambo Nature Reserve  
Association des Partenaires Ecotouristiques



November 2008: Tailoring workshop instructor Mr. Firmin with Rachel and the ladies of the Ambodigavo *Fikambanam-behivavy* Womens Cooperative, each proudly wearing one of the outfits she learned to tailor herself.

Thank you all for your kind support of the Ambodigavo womens association sewing and tailoring for income generation workshop! The 30 ladies of the Ambodigavo village womens cooperative finished their third and final week of their seminar in mid-November. In the three weeks of classes, our ladies were taught fundamental sewing skills and technique for custom tailoring two “*complet*” outfits, including a women’s suit (in demand in this part of Madagascar). The Ambodigavo ladies are so proud of all they have accomplished!

The Ambodigavo grandmothers, mothers and daughters who participated in the tailoring seminar proudly wore one of their newly-sewn outfits at a closing ceremony in the village on November 20<sup>th</sup>, attended by the Mayor, village elders, Antanetiambo Nature Reserve staff, and a local journalist. It looks like our project may make a Malagasy national news story!



Some of the sewing cooperative's manual sewing machines, including the two purchased with donor funds for use in the sewing & tailoring workshop.

We are confident that the Ambodigavo cooperative women will continue to use the skills they have acquired not only to create clothing for their families, but also to generate a source of supplemental income as word gets out and they start to be commissioned as tailors in the surrounding villages. Olivianne, Martine and Vivianne, three of the leaders of the Ambodigavo cooperative, have told me they dream of opening up their own boutique some day.

We hope the success of the Ambodigavo ladies will motivate other women in our region of Madagascar to collaborate and learn skills that could help improve their families' standards of living.



**Above:** First attempts at embroidery using thread and felt donated by Kris Norvig and Annandale friends.

**Right:** Child's dress sewn by Olivianne (lower right) using donated material from Teresa.





Congratulations to Ambodigavo cooperative member Emilienne on her new baby girl, born one week after mother and grandmother finished the tailoring workshop! (In these photos Emilienne and Maman'i Emilienne are both wearing suits they tailored themselves and baby is dressed in clothes and hat donated by Michelle Cox).





