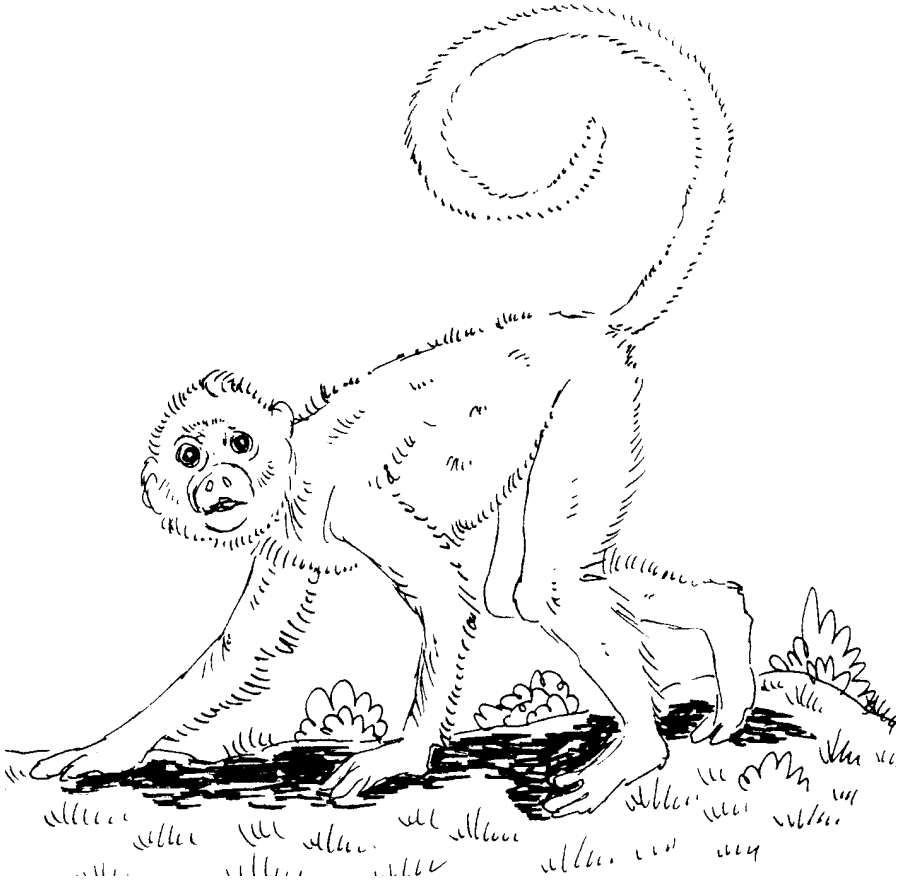


# Inkomba

The Lemur



Yaziwa na / Written by Andrew Larsen

Tafsiriwa na / Translated by Kassim Djafar and Cam

Houser

shiNdzواني, English

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Peace Corps Comoros

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Lijuwa kalisala, vwa mosi swafi. miri kayasi trendra,  
Yatrawa pia. Imiro kayassi shuka, vwa matsaha  
mengi. Zintru pia zina ntrontro. Ntrini deya hijiri  
Ndzuani?

The sun does not shine, there is too much smoke. The  
trees do not grow, they are all gone The rivers do not  
flow, there is too much trash. Everything is dirty.  
What happened to Anjouan?



Ntronro, mawe, na matsaha tu deziliyo. miri yayendre nkosa kayasonehana. Milima mizuri kayasina miri mengi yale tsena. Mtsanga wa baharini utrawa pia na matsaha tu deya baki. yandziro huveya npumu hayi umosi na umenyefu wayi hawa. Ntrini deya hijiri Ndzuanani?

There is only dirt, rocks, and trash. No plants can be seen anywhere. The beautiful mountains are no longer full of trees. The beaches are all gone and now only trash remains. It is hard to breath, smoke and pollution fill the air. What happened to Anjouan?



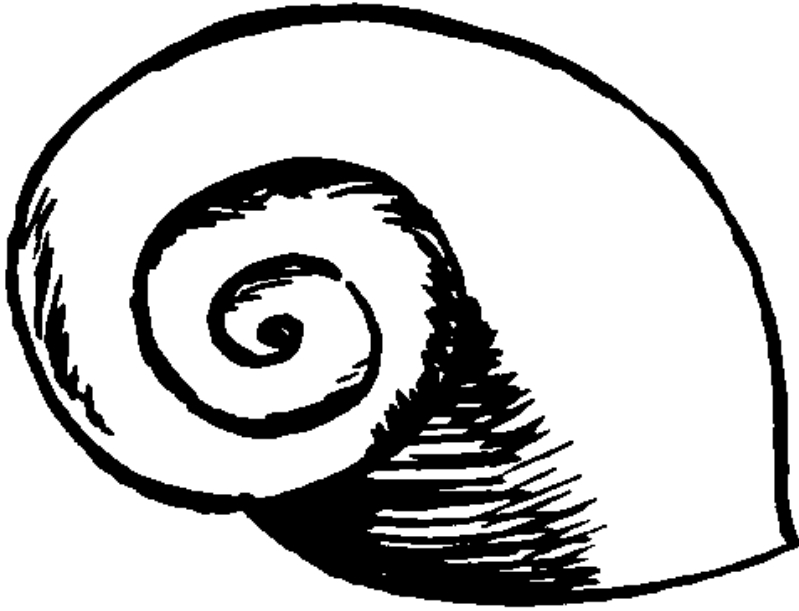
Mwamtsa shababi alawa Mutsamudu akotsaha ajuwe amba hali Ndzuanu ika halini. Mana ntrini Mutsamudu ilo amba ijaya na zuma, toli na sima. Mkini shisiwa shiparo huka namna yangina. Mkini zi nyunyi zako yeuha harimwa yamayingu. Mkini Ndzuanu ika wahanu vwema vwa huyenshi.

A young boy from Mutsamudu wanted to know if Anjouan was always like this. Why do you only see steel, tin, and cement in Mutsamudu? Maybe the island looked different once. Maybe birds used to fly in the sky. Perhaps Anjouan was a happy place to live.



Mwamtsa akia amba vuka mwenye mtrumuhi swafi  
aenshi harimwa ya magambe ya Numakele.  
Mwamtsa alawa Mutsamudu aendre aheya mlima  
mundra. Hahutumpa tumpa yamasadza mwisoni  
awaswili hari nyuba ya bwe ya mihanjabu uju mwa  
mlima.

The boy heard that an old, old, OLD man lived in the  
bare mountains of Numakeli. The boy left Mutsamudu  
and climbed the tallest mountain. Scrambled over  
the sharpest rocks and finally arrived at a strange  
solitary stone house on top of the mountain.



Zirongolwawo nahika umba mwenye mtrumuhu unu riyali arbayini ( 200 fc), lifururu la nkowa na zalimete saba atsohambia namna Ndzuanani yaja. Mwamtsa amilivi bako unu alafu amwadrisia yi hadisi. "Ko karibu uvulishiye mwana wangu na wami nitsohambia yi hadisi ya shisiwa sha Ndzuanani."

The rumor is if you pay the old man 200 francs, a snail shell and 7 matches he will tell you how Anjouan came to be. The boy pays the old man and he begins his story....

"Come listen close my child and I'll tell you a story about the island of Anjouan."





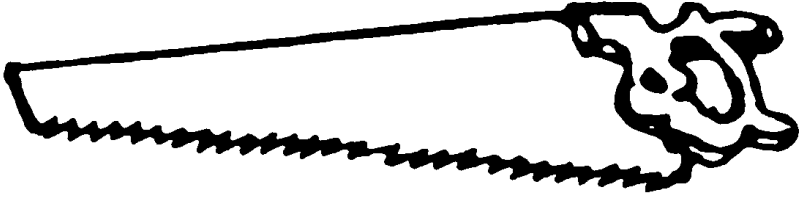
Hari mwa maha na maha yavira Ndzurangi ika ndzuzuri. Ika de wahanu vwema waparowona. Mrututu piya! Mimanga, milichi, mkarafu miundra na zangina. Miro mirahafu ya buruda. Na bahari zayaja na fi tsena rikana furaha. Nyunyi, ntremela, na nkomba zako yenshi mpaharoni! Zi nyunyi zika njewu tsena ndzuzuri. Zi ntremela zika nyengi. Zinkomba zakokura fetre tsena zako jiviwa.

A long time ago Anjouan was once a beautiful island. The most amazing place you've ever seen. Green everywhere! Tall trees of mango, lychee, cloves and more. Clean rivers with fresh water. The oceans were full of fish and we were happy. Birds, bats, lemurs all lived in the jungle! The birds were white and beautiful. The bats were numerous. The lemurs were full and happy.



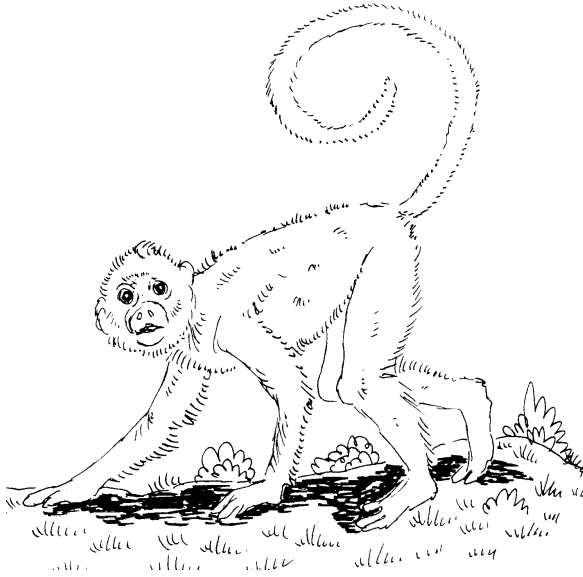
Nisinhana zuntru zengi zuzuri zaka harimwa milima.  
Tsika mwamtsa ttu uri de wawe, tsilawa Mutsamudu.  
Tsendre Nyumakeli pare nike tadjiri. Nakotsaha  
nitsahe mpesa zalawa hari mwa yi arudhwi na yimiro.

I remember how many amazing things there were in  
the mountains. I was just like you boy, I came from  
Mutsamudu. I went to Nyumakeli to become rich. I  
wanted to make money from the land and rivers.



Langilang ufanya mtruba mtru mweza mpesa.  
lazimwa nilimilye miri mengi. tsirenge mshari  
tsidukuwa miri mengi. Tsidukuwa mwganga  
wamanga. Udumbu montsi gwa mangavu.

Ylang ylang makes a man rich. I needed to clear  
many trees. I took my chainsaw and cut down many  
trees. I cut down a mighty mango tree. The tree  
came down in a thundering crash.



Wakati umwiri wawa vwa mwa nkomba mtiti aheya uju mwali koho labaki. Nkomba arogowa, "Usifikiri amba ntrini deyahijiri. ilaguwa na wami! Wami Nkomba na nisirongoleya yimiri mana vokawasina ulime. Umufanya ntrini mpaharo yangu?, Mwangamiza pia miri yakana wana fruit tsena mutabu ttu lang lang. Wami na wananyangu karitsojuwa raheya milang lang.

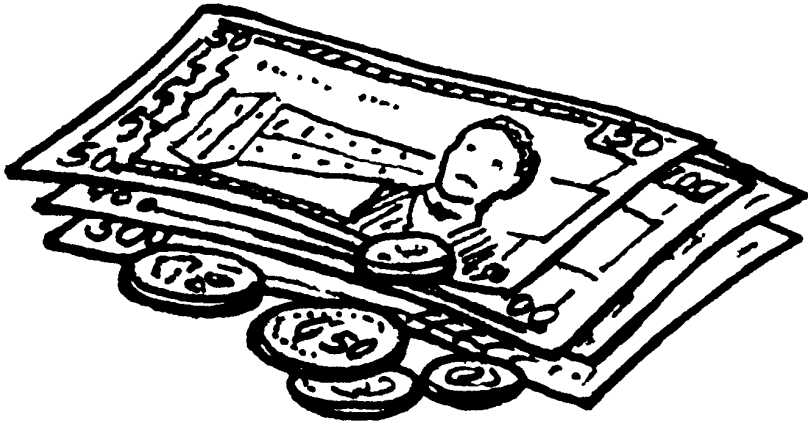
After the tree landed a small Lemur climbed up on the stump. What do you think happened?! It spoke to me!

"I am a Lemur and I speak for the trees because the trees have no tongues. What have you done with my forest?" said the Lemur, "You have cleared the fruit trees and only planted ylang ylang. I cannot climb the ylang ylang and neither can my brothers"



Tsidjibu yi Nkomba ya hasira yahe ile, "Kusishange mwana nkomba. Nisizunguha mpesa na yilangilang! Iyo ntrongo muhimu! Kila mtru astsaha ilangilang na mpesa."

I responded to the angry little lemur by saying, "Don't worry little lemur. I am making money and ylang ylang. It is the most important thing! Everyone needs ylang ylang and money."



Wakati deouwowo vula vuja mtru wabiyashara akotsaha anunuwe matra ya lang lang. Vonakia zi mpesa tsijiviwa swafi kabisa. Mpesa mpesa mpesa. Inkomba ilenge shitswa itrwa yendre zayo. Mana ntrini nihudumuwo yi miri wakati nilo amba nitso juwa nizunguhe mpesa zangu?

At that moment a businessman came by and wanted to buy ylang ylang oil. The money made me very, very VERY happy. Money, money, money. The Lemur just shook his head and scurried away. Why would I save the trees when I could make money?



Tsitabu wawengi langilang. Tsena tsidukuwa ha uwengi yi miri. Mimanga mili bwavu mengi yawu. Uwengi wayi mpaharo yangamia pia. Nisihira wa djemazangu nawawo waja pia. Wawe najaou wadukuwa yi miri watabu pia Milang lang. Riundru ilambiki ndribwavu kwaparo yiwona. hahutsaha nkuni zahuvudza umoro mwengi swafi, ridukuwa miri mengi tsena. Hahudukuwa na huvuza. Hahudukuwa na huvuza. Ripara mpesa!

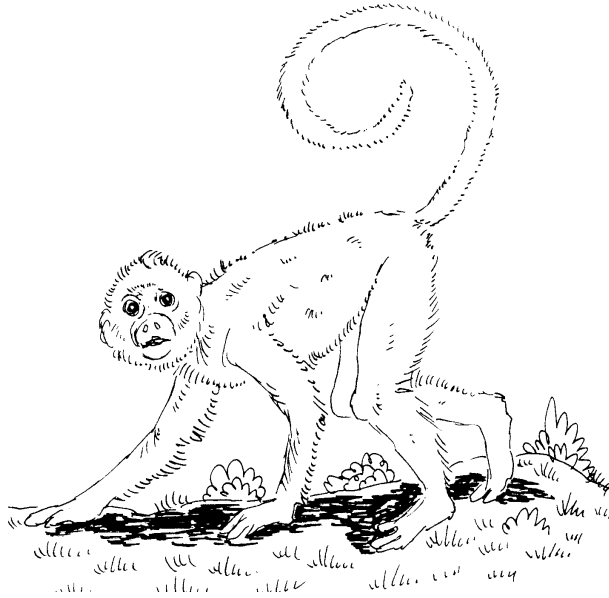
I planted more and more ylang ylang. Cutting down more and more trees. Big mango trees fell down. Entire parts of the forest were completely gone. I called my family and they all came. They also cut down trees and planted ylang ylang everywhere. We built the largest distillery you've ever seen! And to make the fires of the distillery burn hot, hot, hot we cut down more trees! Cut, burn, cut, burn. We were making money!



Tsifanya shombo shahudukuwa miri mengi mara moja. Tra! miri mitsanu yakodumba. Baanda ya yisuku yahandra yahurumia shombo shile mwenza shonga wa nkomba ule aregeya. Akodjililia hahulawa na nkeme.

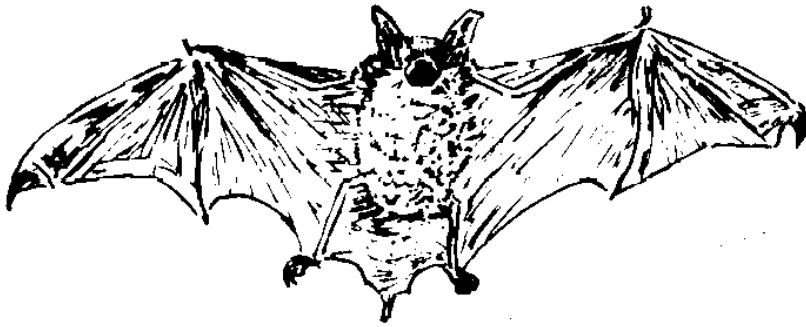
I invented a machine to cut down many trees at once. Whack! And five trees would fall. After the first day of using this machine that annoying Lemur returned. He was complaining and making all sorts of noise





Inkomba ishemeledza "Nisirongoleya yimiri, vokawasina ulime na wawe usidukuwa miri tsena kulamara. Ziya! Be wami nisirongoleya yizi ntremela. Kawasina shahula shahula tsena awu wahanu vwa huvumuwa. Walemewa tsena wa tukiwa. Wakoka wahila zimanga na mapwapwari. Avasani zisitrawa hahuzunguha nyumba mpia ala kawatsoregeya tsena."

The Lemur yelled, " I speak for the trees, for they have no tongues and you continue to cut them down. Stop! But I also speak for the bats. And they have no more fruit to eat or a place to rest. They are tired and sad. They used to eat the mangos and papayas. So they are flying away to find a new home and never come back"



Wakati ule tsiwono pia zi ntremela zisitrawa Ndzuani. tsajuwa vwahanu zakoyendra. Tsikana hamu mwashiteku be biyanshara iyo biyanshara lazimwa itrendre.

At that moment I saw ALL the bats flying away from Anjouan. I did not know where they would go. I felt sad for a bit BUT business is business and business must grow.



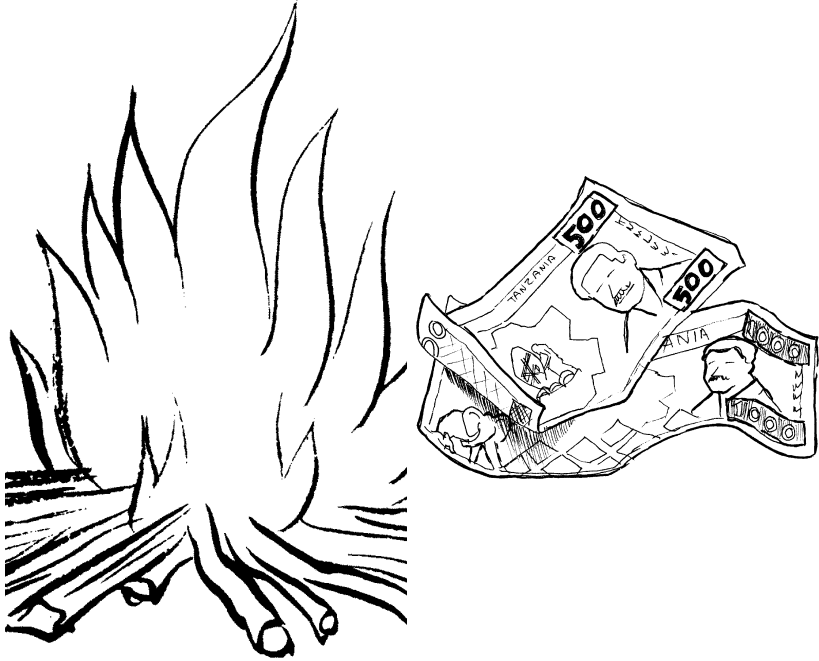
Wami tsakotsaha na taanbisha awu na zihodza zi ntremela be nakotsaha zi ntrongo zike ndribwavu. mavare malibwavu, mashirika malibwavu, lambiki ndribwavu, Zombo zi libwavu na mpesa nyegi.

I didn't mean the bats harm but I needed it bigger. Bigger roads. Bigger Factories. Bigger Distilleries. Bigger Machines. Bigger Money.



Wantru wengi na wengi wakofanya hazi na wami. Riwundru ma shirika ya hufanya mishari. Yi mishari na yizombo zifanya hazi njema hahuhuwusa pia yi miri. Ridukuwa pia kula mwiri waka amba tsi lang lang. Kavwaka tsena mifanasi, mipwapwari, awu shuntru shangina sha hula. Be rizidi hukantra yemiri ata mpaka yakomo.

More and more people worked for me. WE built factories to make more chainsaws. The chainsaws and my machine did a fantastic job of clearing the forests. We cut down every tree that was not ylang ylang. There were no more jackfruit, papayas or anything to eat. But we kept cutting till they were all gone.



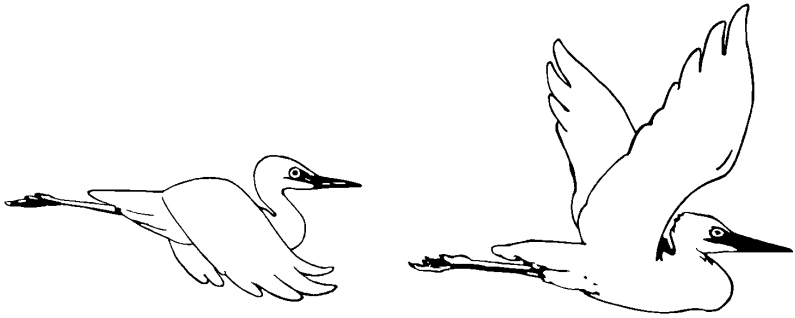
Hahuka rivuzilye umoro fetre randrisa hudukuwa yi milang lang uwuyo wuyo. hudukuwa nawuduku , mpesa ha mpesa.

And then to keep the fires burning we started to cut down the ylang ylang trees themselves! Cut, burn, cut, burn. Money, Money, Money



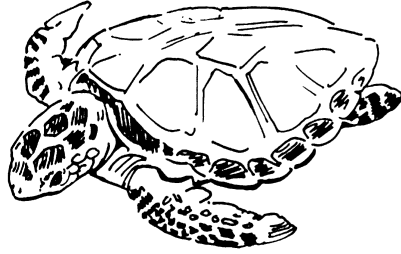
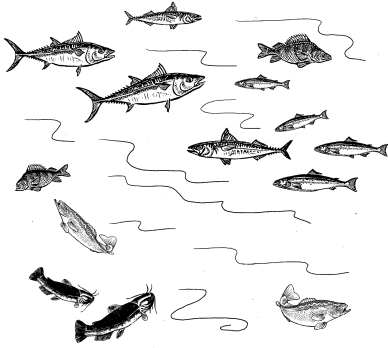
Mayingu yaka uju mwa lishirika laho yarendreha  
madu tsena yajaya na mosi. wakokia lifijo yayi miri ya  
lang lang yatahaniwawo.

The sky was grey and dark from the factory and fire  
smoke. You could hear the sounds of crashing ylang  
ylang trees.



Inkomba shile shiregeya shija shinireme nkeme tsena. "Maskini nyunyi zangu zina ntronro tsena kazisi ntrahafu wala njewu be zirendreha ndzidu. umosi mwengi ulawawo hari mwa ya magari na zizombo zaho ziwafanya wawade. Miro yajaya namtsaha. Zinyunyi kayakana dago hunu tsena. Ilazimu walawe." Wawo waili wangaliya binguni wawone wanyunyi wasiyoha mwenze.

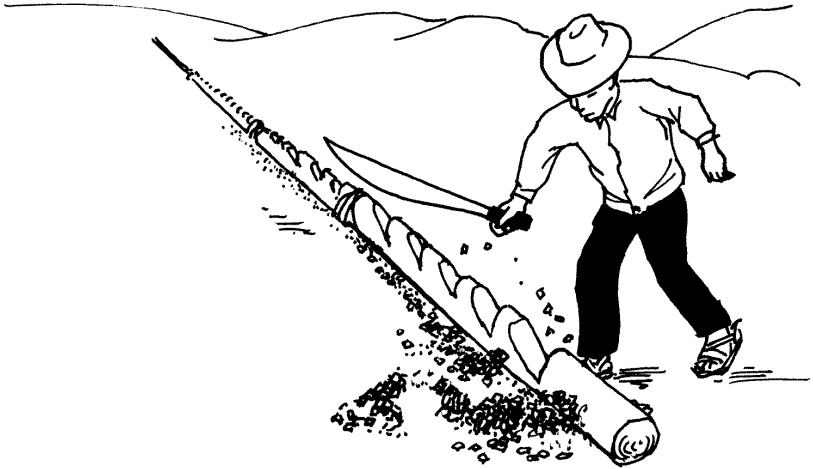
And that little Lemur came back and shouted at me again. "My poor birds are all dirty and no longer clean and white, your factory smoke and exhaust from cars and machines have made them sick. The rivers are full of trash. The birds no longer have a home here. They must leave." They both looked at the sky as the birds flew away.



Kawwatsi zi bahari ndzuzuri tsena, urenge mitsanga uhundru zi nyumba zaho. Wamo fanya matembezi karibu nabaharini mtru kapara nahika tsi matsaha na mipira zalawa hari mwa wantru wahazi waho. Ibahari ina ntrontro. Zi nkasa, nayi zi nyunyi, na zifi zangu na wannyangu wantrubaba (komba) lazimwa pia walawe. Kawajiviwa tsena walemewa lazimwa wapare makazi mavia.

"There are no more beaches, you've take the sand to build your houses. When you walk near the ocean you trip over all the trash and plastic from the workers. The ocean is dirty. My turtles, birds, fish, and lemur brothers all must leave. They are sad and tired and need to find a new home"

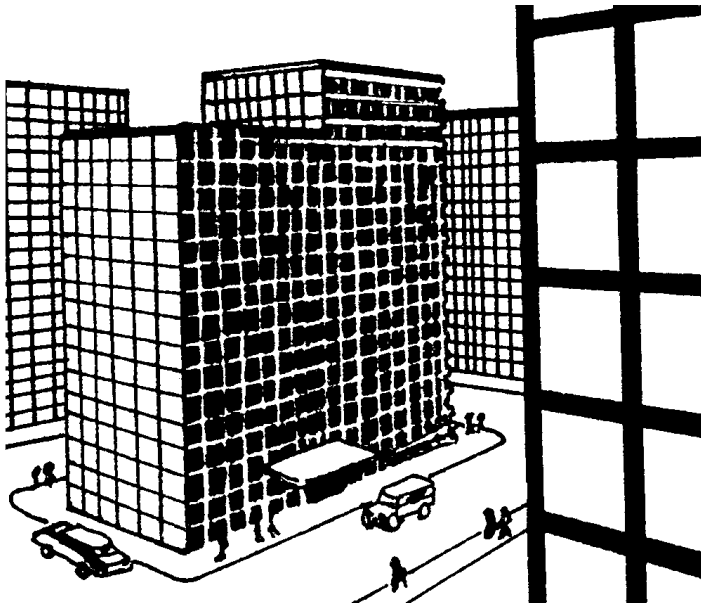




Tsikatsija hasira swafi nayi shonga sha mwana nkomba. Tsimwabia amba tsina haki ni zunguhe mpesa halilo na vendza na natamani. Namna pia nitsahawo! Nakwendra namvutse hoho shonga sha nkomba shile. wakati de uwowo rikia ji moja. mwiri udumbu montsi ufanya tra!" mlang lang wamwiso ukawudukulwa. kavwaka tsena mwiri. Tsiyidukuwa pia vimiri. Ndzuani ibaki ntruru.

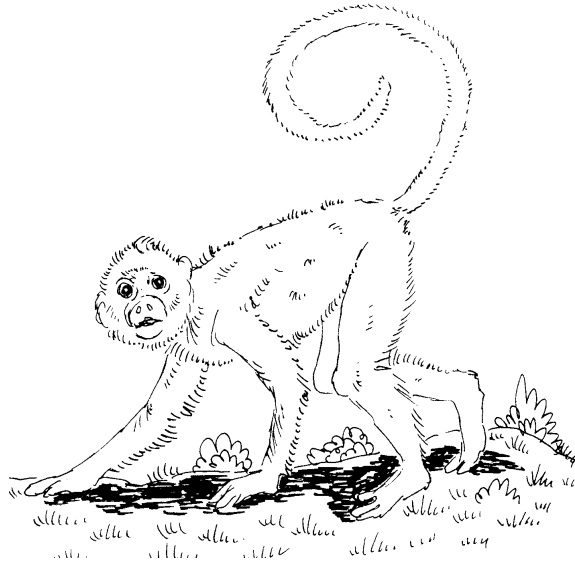
I got very mad at the little Lemur. I told him I have a right to make as much money as I want. And how ever I want! I was going to throw out that annoying lemur.

At that moment we both heard a single sound. A tree fell to the ground and made a loud "whack!" The last ylang ylang tree had been cut down. No more trees. I had cut them All. Aniouan was empty.



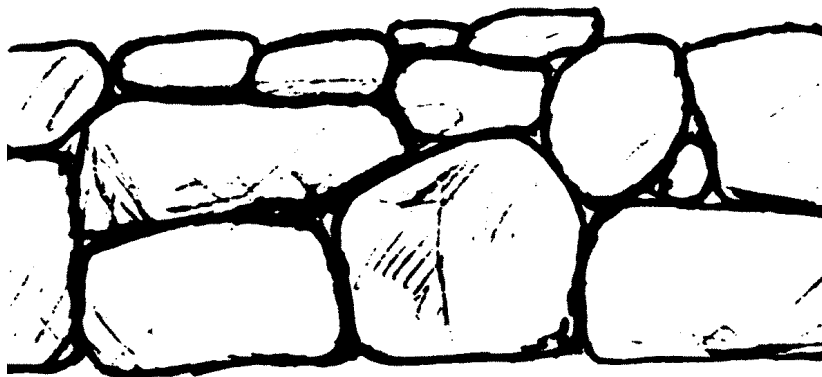
Pia wa djemazangu na wafanya hazi wangu walawa. Wayendre pia Mutsamudu hahutsaha wapare hazi hari mwa miji milibwavu. kavwatsi milang lang tsena. Ya mashirika yabaya pia. Zi mbingu na zivandre pia zimenyeha kavwasi shitsomeyawo. Yimilima yangamia pia. Tsibaki weke wami na wana wa nkomba harimwa yi ntsa yamlima.

All of my family and workers left. They went to Mutsamudu and tried to find work in the big town. No more ylang ylang. The factories all closed. The earth and sky were so very, very, VERY polluted that nothing would grow. The mountains crumbled from erosion. I was left alone on the mountain top with the little Lemur.



Inkomba yanguliza maowe ifanya fuvu. Yangiha kalima moja hari mwa bwe moja. Ikana hamu tsena alawa mpole mpole. Hata anilishi weke wangu. Inkomba yendre hari mwa shanza sha ndrege hahu nunuwa biye ya huyendra bushini.

The Lemur piled up some rocks into a small mound He wrote a word on one. He was sad and moved slowly. Then he left me alone too- all to myself. The Lemur went to the airport and bought a plane ticket to Madagascar.



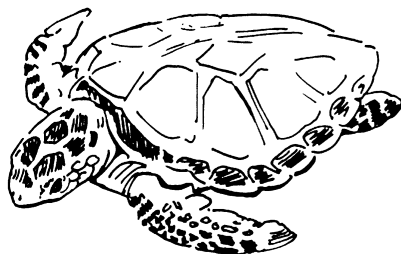
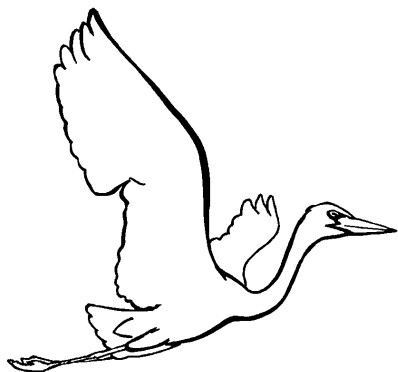
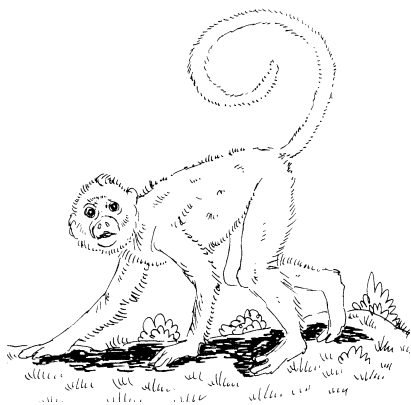
Klima alangiha hari mwa libwe lika " wawe".  
Tsakojuwa mana yayo. Ika tsuku hale. Be avasani  
tsiyelewa. Nahika vwa mtru akofikiria yi Ndzuan halio  
yaka, itsobaki dewuyo. Be utsojuwa wuyibadili. Itsaha  
mtru umoja ttu afanye madilisho mema.

The word he wrote on the rock was "YOU". I did not know what it meant. IT was a long time ago. But now I understand. Unless someone cares about what Anjouan once was, it will stay the same. But YOU can change it. It only takes one person, it only takes YOU to make a difference.



Bako amalidz yi hadisi yapatana na Ndzuan na mwanamtsa akajiviwa swafi. Bako amvutsia mwanamtsa mkoba tsena arongowa "Sika!" Umoni vuka wana mbia namna nyengi.

The old man finished his story about Anjouan and the young boy was amazed. The old man tossed a bag to the young boy and said "Catch!" Inside were seeds of so many different types.



Bako amvongoneya, "Iyo deyi zimbia za mviso. Zi hafadhu. Zihudumu. tabu zimbia nahuhifadhu yi miri. Labda, mkini Inkomba na wadzani wahe wa mpaharoni watsoregeya."

"It is the last of the seeds" whispered the old man, "take care of them. Treat them with care. Plant the seeds and protect the trees from saws. And maybe, just maybe, the Lemur and all his forest friends will come back"

## Reading Questions - Masuala ya husoma

1: What was Ndzurangi like before the man started his ylang ylang business?

1: Ndzurangi de namna jeje kabla mtrubaba ule andriza hazi ya langilang yahe?

2: What kind of person is the man?

2: Mtrubaba ule namna jeje?

3: Why does the lemur speak for the trees?

3: Mana ntrini Inkomba asirongoleya yimiri?

4: What do you think the boy will do after hearing the story?

4: Usifikiri mwana mtrubaba ule atsofanya ntrini baada akiya ihadisi?

**Samahani, nahika uwono nkosa, awu  
usitsaha shiyo shangina, awu una fikira  
la hwangiha shiyo... tafadhwali  
unambie harimwa:  
pcvcwhcomoros@gmail.com**

**If you see any mistakes, want another  
book, or want helping writing your  
own book please contact me at:  
pcvcwhcomoros@gmail.com**

**Marahaba ivo wasoma!**

**Thanks for reading!**

**Cam - Bako Mkoni**