
2021 Annual report



For the Protection of the Greater Bamboo Lemur

Our vision

To find a lasting balance between the needs of the lemurs and those of the local communities around them.

Nos values

To listen, understand and act while respecting Malagasy tradition and culture.

To support the populations in their efforts in favour of sustainable development.

To provide the lemurs a future in an appropriate habitat.

HELPSIMUS was founded in November 2009. Its mission is to protect the Greater Bamboo Lemur (*Prolemur Simus*) in Madagascar through the Bamboo Lemur Programme, which combines scientific monitoring of the species, protecting its habitat, supporting the development of the nearby villages and financing the education of local children.

The Greater Bamboo lemur is one of the most threatened lemurs of Madagascar. Spread widely all over the island in the past, it is now only found in the humid forests of the East where slightly more than a thousand individuals have been recorded.

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The President's Message

We have experienced a second year with Covid-19 in the background. Despite this complicated context, we have continued our activities, adapting as much as possible to the constraints inherent to the pandemic. In this way, by the end of the year, our activities had almost returned to normal.

The year 2021 was focused especially on the education of the children with the construction of 2 new school buildings and the opening of 3 new canteens. Today over 660 children and their teachers benefit from the school canteens in the programme's 5 schools!

Helpsimus now follows 23 groups of lemurs (+5 in 2021): 14 groups of greater bamboo lemurs, 4 groups of red-bellied lemurs, 2 groups of Ranomafana bamboo lemurs and 3 groups of Peyrieras' woolly lemurs. Almost 640 lemurs are in this way protected directly by Helpsimus.

The scientific programme has almost returned to its normal level with the hosting of 4 Malagasy students two of whom worked with an English student who is performing remote analysis of the videos recorded by our camera traps.

The development plan of the Miradia VOI (the first to be created) was updated: its action zone has doubled in size and more than an additional 200ha of forest fragments have been integrated into the conservation and restoration areas. The assessment of

the first three years of management of the Samivar VOI (the second to be created) is generally positive with a significant reduction in all the different threats to the greater bamboo lemurs. The contract with these 2 VOIs has been renewed for an additional 3 years.

"Despite this complicated context, we have continued our activities, adapting as much as possible to the constraints inherent to the pandemic."

Guarding of the paddy fields has been extended to the Samivar and Manirosa VOI with good results since none of the supervised paddy fields was attacked by the lemurs.

We have planted over 15,000 forest species plants and the 3 nurseries have produced over 22,000 plants for the 2022 forest restoration/reforesting campaign.

The fish farming programme and the programme for developing vegetable crops have seen a spectacular expansion:

- The number of participants in the fish farming programme has been multiplied by 5;
- The number of members of the development programme for vegetable crops has exceeded 800 individuals.

However, many difficulties persist,



especially relating to the low yield from the paddy fields due to their drying and the increase in the cost of raw materials and transport...

The long term conservation of the Greater Bamboo Lemur and its habitat rests on two major challenges on which we need to continue to concentrate our efforts in 2022: food safety of the populations and of course the education of children.

None of this would have been possible without the support, all the more precious during these difficult times, of our partners and donors to whom we are very grateful.

D elphine Roulet

KEY DATES

2021

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2021 |



3 new school canteens open

The 5 schools in the programme now have a school canteen. Over 600 children and their teachers benefit from these canteens.

2020 |



The 3rd VOI is created

The 3 VOI include 725 hectares of forest areas planted/converted to conservation and restoration zones (protection of the lemurs' habitat).

2019 |



Helpsimus starts a programme to protect the paddy fields

This is to find lasting solutions for protecting crops from attacks by the greater bamboo lemurs and thus to reduce conflicts.

2018 |



Helpsimus confirms the presence of Ring-tailed mongooses

Inventories show the presence of rich and varied flora and fauna on the programme's site.

2017 |



Helpsimus identifies 4 new species of lemurs within the area it studies

The programme site is host to at least 5 different species in addition to the greater bamboo lemurs.

2016 |



Helpsimus becomes the supporting organization for the creation of the 3 VOI planned for the site of the Bamboo Lemur Programme

The Miradia VOI is the first to be created. It covers the territory of 6 of the 11 groups of greater bamboo lemurs.

2015 |



Helpsimus organizes the 3rd international Technical Workshop on the Greater Bamboo Lemur

On this occasion, the population of the species is re-assessed at 1000 individuals in the wild, ¼ of which are directly protected by Helpsimus!

2012 |



The Greater Bamboo Lemur is removed from the list of the 25 most threatened primates in the world

Scientific monitoring of the groups started this year.

2010 |



Funding of the Bamboo Lemur Programme starts

Identification of the various groups of greater bamboo lemurs starts as well as recording of births.

2009 |



Foundation of the French Association for the Protection of the Greater Bamboo Lemur, called "Helpsimus"

Partners have to be found to finance the first activities onsite.



HELPSIMUS

Helpsimus is based close to the National Park of Ranomafana but in an unprotected zone, located at the heart of the agricultural land of several villages inhabited by the largest wild population of greater bamboo lemurs (almost 600 specimens of an overall total between 1200 and 1500 individuals).

"The aim of our Bamboo Lemur Programme is to find a balance between the needs of humans and those of the lemurs, so the local communities and wild fauna can cohabit in harmony."

To achieve this aim, we have developed a strategy consisting of:

1. Protecting the lemurs' habitat (thanks especially to the creation of the VOI¹);
2. Giving the local communities sufficient resources to protect the lemurs' habitat. This consists of improving the standard of living of the local population by supporting the security of the products from their harvests and increasing yield and by developing new Revenue Generating Activities.
3. Supporting the children's education.

The greater bamboo lemurs' habitat, comprising mostly of bamboo forests on which they feed almost exclusively, is badly damaged by "tavy" (slash-and-burn cultivating). Hence we are implementing a certain number of conservation activities to ensure the long-term survival of this species.

These are based around 3 main components:

- **Environmental component**

We identify the priority conservation areas on the programme site, improving knowledge about the eco-ethology of the species and working on resolving human/lemur conflicts.

¹ Village association to which the forestry administration transfers management of the natural resources located on its lands.

- **Socio-Economic component**

We are improving the standard of living of the local populations by helping to secure the products of their harvest and improving yields, developing new Revenue Generating Activities, building infrastructure and means of communication, and implementing better hygiene practices to improve the health of the communities.

- **Educational component**

We are improving awareness among local communities, and we facilitate access to education for the children from villages located in the fokontany involved in the project.



Greater Bamboo Lemur © S. Meys

THE BAMBOO LEMUR PROGRAMME

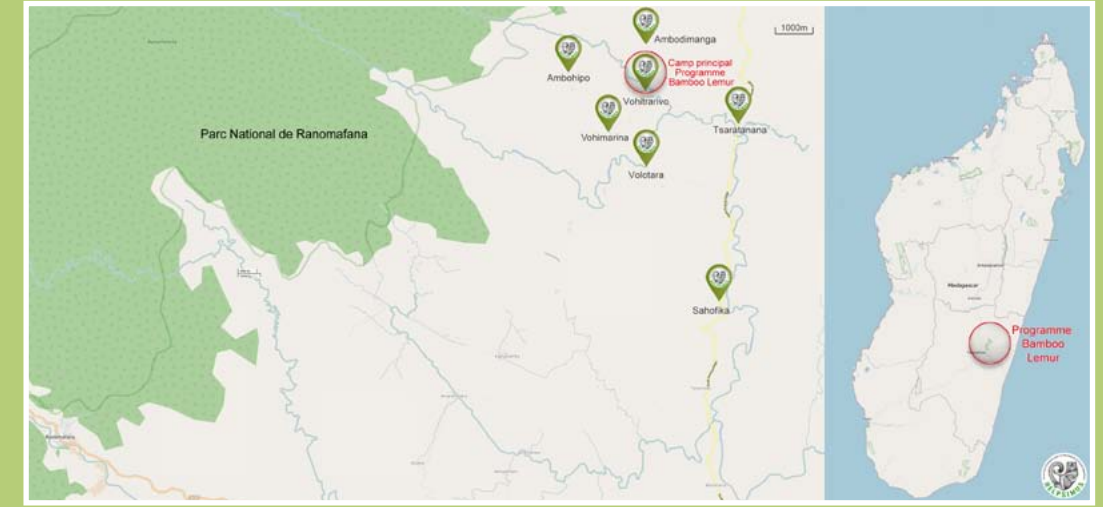
2021

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Location

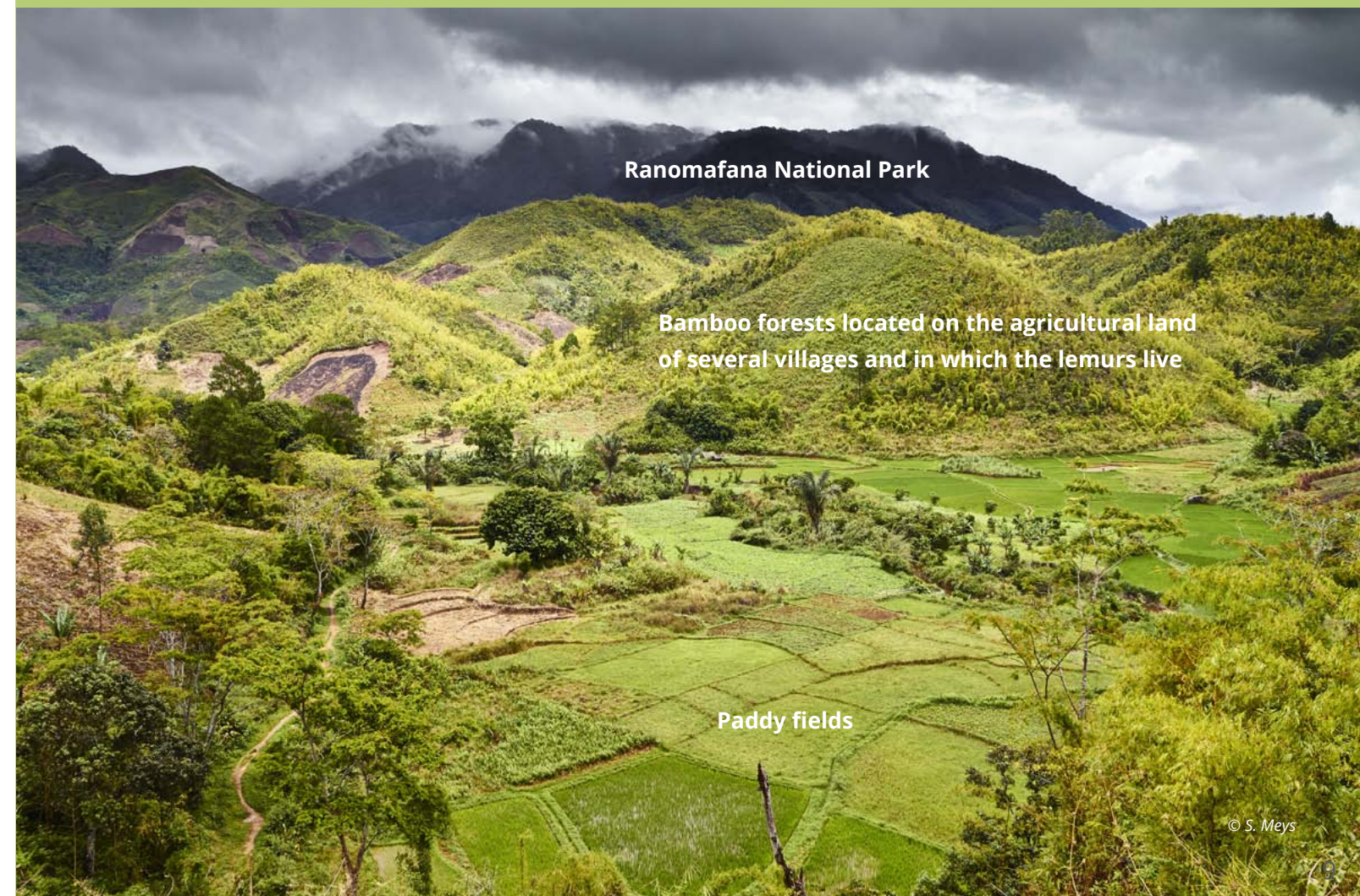
390km south-east of Antananarivo, 4km from the National Park of Ranomafana, in the rural area of Tsaratanana, in the province of Fianarantsoa.

The conservation activities are concentrated on the land of the "fokontany" of Vohitrarivo, Sahofika, Ambodimanga, Ambodigoavy and Ambohipo.



The Bamboo Lemur Programme is a tripartite project.

It brings together local Malagasy stakeholders (villagers, agents of the National Park of Ranomafana) and Helpsimus who together define the list of priority actions.



Ranomafana National Park

Bamboo forests located on the agricultural land of several villages and in which the lemurs live

Paddy fields



THE FOKONTANY

The Bamboo Lemur Programme works with 5 fokontany.

This is the smallest administrative unit in Madagascar that generally groups together several villages. We also work with the Municipality of Tsaratanana which controls these 5 fokontany.

Fokontany of Vohitrarivo



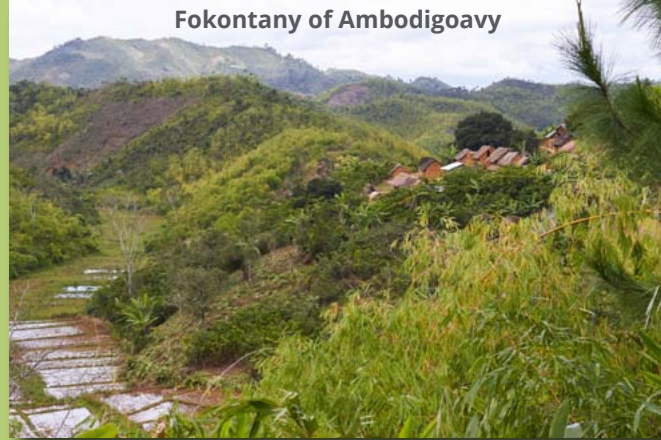
The programme's main camp, around 20 minutes' walk from the village. The territory of Groups I, I', I'' II, II' and III.

Fokontany of Sahofika



The most isolated village which hosts our secondary camp. Territory of Groups V, VI, VII and VII'.

Fokontany of Ambodigoavy



3rd Helpsimus camp and territory of Groups VIII and IX.

Fokontany of Ambodimanga



Territory of Group IV.

Fokontany of Ambohipo



Territory of Group II.

THE VILLAGERS

The villagers are farmworkers that mainly grow rice, sugar cane, potatoes, manioc, coffee, beans. They are extremely poor and entirely dependent on their land where the greater bamboo lemurs live. They use bamboo daily as a construction material.





THE GREATER BAMBOO LEMURS

At the end of December 2021, the site of the Bamboo Lemur Programme hosted a population of almost 600 greater bamboo lemurs divided into 14 groups.

In 2021 the Group 2 divided again into two during the reproducing season of the greater bamboo lemurs. At that time it comprised over 80 individuals.

The population of greater bamboo lemurs protected by Helpsimus has multiplied by 2.5 since 2014¹.

Groups 1" and 2" composed of about 40 individuals have not been monitored regularly since their separations respectively from Groups 1 and 2.

At least 58 births were registered in 2021.

This year, however, it was not possible to account for all of them. The increase in the numbers of groups/ sub-groups and of individuals makes monitoring the overall population of greater bamboo lemurs and especially the counting of animals more complicated.

As frustrating as this can be for us, this is good news for the greater bamboo lemurs whose numbers have been increasing continually since the programme started.

Two new guides will be hired in 2022 to reinforce monitoring of the animals and especially to start following Groups 1" and 2".

The table on the opposite page gives the detailed composition of the 14 groups of greater bamboo lemurs followed by Helpsimus.



Greater Bamboo lemurs © S. Meys

THE GREATER BAMBOO LEMURS

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Group	Number of individuals (December 2021)	Number of guides	Comments
1	41 (including 5 newborns)	2	
1'	39 (including 4 newborns)	2	The group sometimes divides into two sub-groups of 29 and 10 individuals.
1"	About 40 (including at least 2 newborns)	-	In 2020, our team leader verified the animals' location once a week.
2	47 (including 5 newborns)	2	
2'	50 (including 3 newborns)	2	
2"	About 40	-	No monitoring since it separated from group 2.
3	42 (including 3 newborns)	2	
4	27 (including 4 newborns)	2	
5	66 (including 4 newborns)	4 (2/day)	The group divides into 2 sub-groups of 31 and 35 individuals.
6	61 (including 13 newborns)	2	
7	33 (including 2 newborns)	2	
7'	34 (including 2 newborns)	-	
8	38 (including 6 newborns)	2	
9	31 (including 5 newborns)	2	
TOTAL	589 (including 58 newborns)	24	



Greater Bamboo lemur © F. Perroux

¹ 2014 is the year when prospection in search of new groups stopped.



THE OTHER LEMURS

The Helpsimus site hosts 5 other species of lemurs: the Red-Bellied Lemur, the Ranomafana Bamboo Lemur, the Peyrieras' Woolly Lemur, Dwarf lemurs and Mouse lemurs.

In 2021, we started monitoring 4 additional groups of lemurs: 1 group of Ranomafana bamboo lemurs at Volotara and 3 groups of red-bellied lemurs at Volotara and Sahofika.

Two additional guides were hired in 2021 at Volotara to monitor the Ranomafana bamboo lemurs and the red-bellied lemurs.

In all, a total of 23 groups of 4 species of lemurs are monitored. Hence almost 640 lemurs are directly protected by Helpsimus.

Here is the composition of the different groups monitored by Helpsimus:

Species	Number of groups monitored	Number of individuals (December 2021)	Number of Guides	Comments
Red-bellied Lemur	4	19 (including 4 newborns)	3	A 5 th group is regularly observed at Volotara. The female red-bellied lemur monitored since 2017 at Sahofika had an infant in 2021 (for the 3 rd year in a row).
Ranomafana Bamboo Lemur	2	17 (including 3 newborns)	3	
Peyrieras' Woolly Lemur	3	14 (including 3 newborns)	4	
TOTAL	9	50	10	



Red-bellied Lemur © S. Meys

THE OTHER LEMURS ON THE SITE

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Ranomafana Bamboo Lemur © S. Meys



Peyrieras' Woolly Lemurs © S. Meys



Environmental component

- Identifying the priority conservation areas and finding a balance between the needs of the lemurs and those of the local communities, while improving knowledge about the eco-ethology of the species and by working on resolving conflicts between humans and the lemurs.-



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT

Covid 19 – the current situation in Madagascar

- The state of emergency was raised in September 2021.
- The borders were reopened on November 6, but sanitary requirements for entry into the country remained strict.
- Over 60,000 cases of contamination with COVID-19 (of which almost 1400 deaths) have been recorded in Madagascar since the start of the pandemic.

The guides

The team of guides today comprises 34 people from the villages of Vohitrarivo, Vohimarina, Ambohipo, Ambodimanga, Volotara, Ambodigoavy and Sahofika.

Their duties are defined as follows:

- Following the groups: locating the animals and determining their territory (using GPS), counting them (regularly updating the inventories), recording threats (presence of dogs or traps) and raids by the lemurs on crops.
- Fending off lemurs from the crops.
- Accompanying the scientific teams and eco-volunteers.
- Participating in inventories.

Like every year, the guides have received new uniforms (t-shirts, trousers, sandals, boots, jackets, rainwear, backpacks, and watches).



The Team of Guides from Sahofika © A. Randrianarijaona

Each team is also gradually being equipped with a set of binoculars and a GPS. Several teams also have a camera.



The Team of Guides from Vohitrarivo © A. Randrianarijaona

Guarding the Paddy Fields

Guarding was implemented in 2019. The principle is simple: guards take turn 24h/24 to monitor the paddy fields as soon as the rice is mature and until it is harvested.



Guarding the paddy fields © D. Rouillet

Two annual rice harvests are guarded:

- the “off-season” harvest which runs from October to February;
- the “high season” harvest which runs from April to June. This is the most important of the year, when all the paddy fields are cultivated.

However, not all farmers start cultivating at the same time, so there is a lag in the harvests. In addition to guarding, the areas around the paddy fields are cleared in order to improve visibility for the guards and footbridges are also installed along the lemurs’ path.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT

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Two footbridges were built in 2021 on the territory of Groups 1 and 2. They are regularly used by the animals and allow the guards to push them away from the crops without either blocking their path or separating the group.



Footbridge on the territory of Group 2 © HELPSIMUS



Footbridge on the territory of Group 1 © HELPSIMUS

The system of guarding which was started in the Miradia VOI was extended to the two other VOI during 2021. The team of guards has been heavily reinforced as it now consists of 40 individuals.

This increase is explained by:

- The extension of guarding to the two other VOI of our area of activity,
- The success of the system from which more farmers wanted to benefit.



Changing of guarding teams © D. Rouillet

During the “high season campaign” 66 farmers benefited from the system. Although some complained about the guardians being late, most were satisfied with the results. In fact, none of the guarded paddy fields were attacked, confirming the system’s efficiency.

An assistant in the terrain reinforced the team of guards for a month to take various readings.



Monitoring the guarding © HELPSIMUS

Among his activities, he monitored the guarding at Volotara, noting the movement of groups 8 and 9, the number and location of attacks as well as the location of the guards.

In the space of two weeks, the guards put off 24 attacks. The map obtained from these data gives a

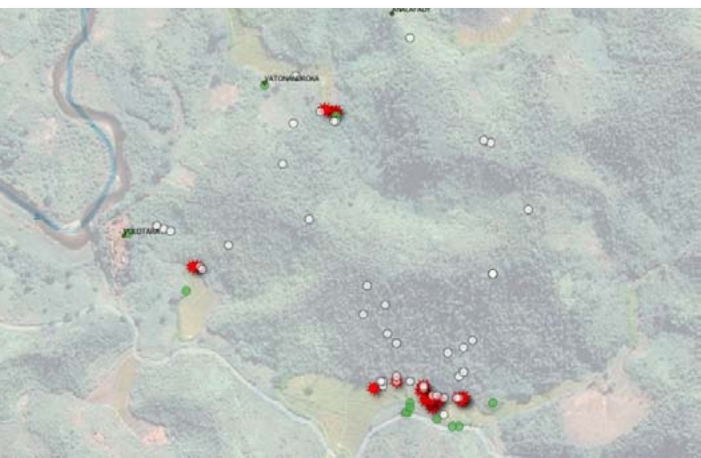


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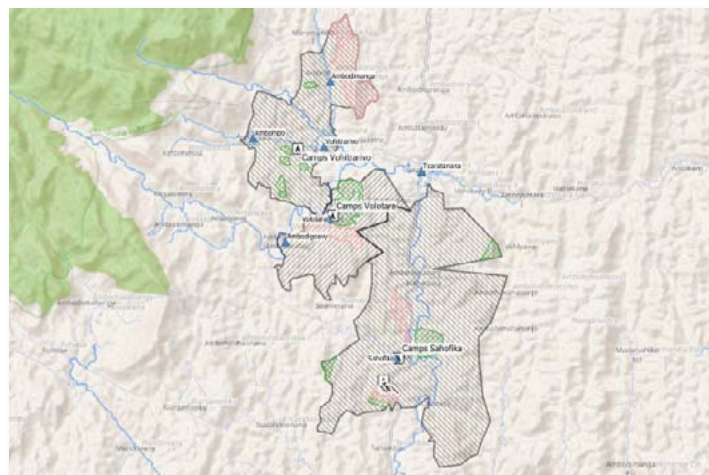
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good view of how the guarding works:



White dots: location of the animals. Green dots: location of the guards. Red dots: location of the attacks. © HELPSIMUS

also supports the Annual Work Plans (AWP) of the VOIs.



Demarcation of the VOI, the conservation (green) and restoration (pink) zones © HELPSIMUS

of conservation and restoration areas (compared to 425 ha in 2020).

VOI	1 st development plan (ha)	2 nd development plan (ha)
Miradia		
Conservation zones	25.31	28.9
Restoration zones	399.43	605.4
TOTAL	424.75	634.3

Table: Area of the conservation and restoration zones in the Miradia VOI before and after the development plan was updated.



Assessment meeting of the VOI © HELPSIMUS

The VOI

Helpsimus is the supporting organization for the creation of the VOIs¹ and consequently the project coordinator. We are assisted locally by the NGO Impact Madagascar.

To repeat, the creation of these VOIs is a vital step for the Bamboo Lemur Programme, since it provides a first level of protection, not only for the greater bamboo lemurs but also and above all for their habitat. The VOIs also give responsibility to the villagers and consolidate their commitment to protect this lemur. Three VOIs are required to cover Helpsimus's area of activity which covers an area of almost 3800 ha.

The first VOI was created in 2016. It is the MIARADIA VOI which covers the territory (or some of the territory) of 8 of the 14 groups of greater bamboo lemurs. The second VOI was created in 2018. This is the SAMIVAR VOI which covers the territory of 4 other groups of greater bamboo lemurs.

The third VOI was made official in 2020. It is the MANIROSA VOI which covers the territory of the last two groups of greater bamboo lemurs. Helpsimus

¹Village association to which the forestry administration transfers management of the natural resources

Forest patrollers ensure that the members of the VOI comply with the rules in terms of clearing. The team of patrollers consists of 49 people:

- 15 patrollers for the Miradia VOI;
- 19 patrollers for the Samivar VOI;
- 15 patrollers have been hired for the Manirisoa VOI.

Patrols take place twice a month and their results are noted in a tracking notebook. The patrollers are trained by our Malagasy partner, IMPACT Madagascar which then verifies their work.

In 2021, 1152 patrols were carried out by the patrollers. An individual from Sahofika was prosecuted for burning 3ha of forest in one of the conservation areas of the Samivar VOI. The area and zoning of the VOIs are not fixed and can evolve depending on the inventories of flora and fauna and the movement of the lemurs (hence the importance of monitoring).

The development plan for the Miradia VOI was updated in 2021. Its size is now 930ha (compared to 540ha before the update) of which almost 635ha

Now, our area of activity extends over about 3800ha (compared to 3500ha before the development plan was updated) of which almost 934ha are conservation and restoration areas (compared to about 725ha in 2020).

The first 3 years managing the Samivar VOI were assessed in 2021 and its development plan was updated:

- The number of members has increased, amounting to 186 now (compared to 138 when the VOI was first created);
- Over 1000 patrols have been carried out by the 19 patrollers of the VOI who are responsible for verifying clearing (in 3 years);
- The number of "tavy" (consisting of clearing and then burning an area of vegetation) has significantly decreased since the VOI were set up. However, 4ha of forest were burned during the past year: 3ha in one of the conservation zones and 1ha in one of the restoration zones (close to the forest fragment where the ecotourism is being developed);
- The bamboo forests are becoming more dense in the restoration areas;
- The lemur populations are increasing;
- Some forest fragments are joining together;
- The threats to the lemurs are reducing;
- Living conditions in the partner villages of Helpsimus have improved.

On the strength of these results, the management contract with the Miradia and Samivar VOI have of course been renewed for an additional 3 years.



Signing of the contract with the Samivar VOI © S. Meys

An official ceremony bringing together all the stakeholders was held in December 2021. The VOIs now bring together 546 members, a number that is increasing: 160 members for the Miradia VOI, 186 members for the Samivar VOI and 200 members for the Manirisoa VOI.

Lastly, we have equipped the meeting room of the Samivar VOI ("maison de vie") with appropriate furniture.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT



Official ceremony for the renewal of the transfer of natural resources to the Miaradia and Samivar VOI © S. Meys



Signing the Contract with the Miaradia VOI © S. Meys

Restoration of the Forest

The aims of the forest restoration programme are:

- To restore the most damaged parts of the forest fragments present on the site of the Bamboo Lemur Programme;
- To create corridors between the forest fragments to ensure continuity of the lemurs' habitat.

The restoration areas represent almost 80% of the forests present on the site of the Bamboo Lemur Programme.

The 2021 forest restoration programme started in February with the organization of several days for raising awareness in 5 villages. In 2021, it was

extended to the Manirisoa VOI which had been made official at the end of 2020.

Almost 500 people attended these awareness days which took place from 20 to 24 February 2021. A total of 2148 different forest species were planted in the 3 VOIs.



Participants in the days for reforesting and restoring the forest © IMPACT Madagascar

We noted the important mobilisation of everyone participating in these days for raising awareness, including people who are not part of the VOIs.



One of the 3 nurseries of the reforesting and forest restoration programme © IMPACT Madagascar

In 2021, 7800 plants of forest species were planted (3000 in the VOI Miaradia, 2500 in the Samivar VOI and 2300 in the Manirisoa VOI).

A total of 1.56ha of forest was restored: 0.6ha in the

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Miaradia VOI, 0.5ha in the Samivar VOI and 0.46ha in the Manirisoa VOI

Our nurseries produced 7089 plants of 20 forest species.

The Research Programme

Two Malagasy students have performed an eco-ethological study of the Peyrieras' Woolly Lemurs at Vohitrarivo and at Volotara over 2.5 months (May to mid-July 2021).



Studying the Woolly Lemurs © HELPSIMUS

Over a hundred videos were recorded by the camera traps and are currently being studied by the English student from Nottingham Trent University, who is also working on this project.

<https://vimeo.com/606275400>



Woolly Lemur © HELPSIMUS



Setting up a camera trap at Volotara © HELPSIMUS



Peyrieras' Woolly Lemur Study © HELPSIMUS



Peyrieras' Woolly Lemur Study © HELPSIMUS

The study of the Ring-tailed Mongoose continued at Sahofika. Over a period of 2 months (mid-March to mid-May 2021), over 600 videos were recorded



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT

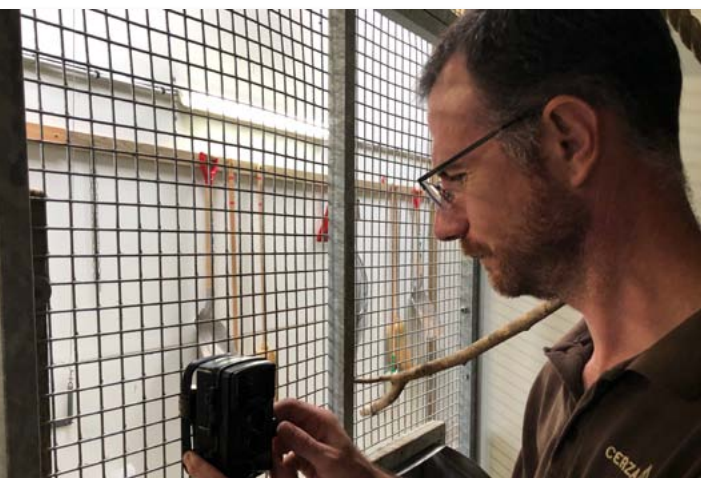
by the camera traps used by the Malagasy student, of which almost a hundred had 1 or 2 ring-tailed mongooses



Ring-tailed Mongoose © HELPSIMUS

Analysis of the videos provided preliminary information on the animals' rhythm of activity. A study, using the same equipment, of the rhythm of activity of the animals of the CERZA has also started.

<https://vimeo.com/561873523>



Studying the rhythm of activity of the CERZA's mongooses © D. Rouillet

At Volotara, a Malagasy student studied the Group 8 of the greater bamboo lemurs and the new group of red-bellied lemurs for 2 and a half months (end of July to mid-October 2021): evaluation of the animals' habituation, description of their habitat, determination of their territory and the composition of the groups.

He also used camera traps to study the rhythm of activity of the red-bellied lemurs: over 200 videos are being analysed.

<https://vimeo.com/639570966>



Red-bellied lemurs © S. Meys

The Mouse Lemur Project

The aim of this project is to collect the hairs of this nocturnal lemur to carry out genetic analyses in order to identify the species present in the Sahofika forest fragment.



Setting up camera traps in front of mouse lemurs' nests © HELPSIMUS

The nests with entrances monitored 24h/24 by camera traps were set up in the forest. If the mouse lemurs use them, it will be possible to collect hairs without capturing any animals.

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The Other Animal Species

The inventory of animals started in 2017 and accelerated in 2018 with the use of camera traps.

Groups	Number of species	Comments
Amphibians	23 including <i>Mantidactylus ambony</i> , a recently described species (Scherz and col., 2020)	According to a preliminary inventory in the Miradia VOI (Nov-Dec 2020)
Reptiles	15	According to a preliminary inventory in the Miradia VOI (Nov-Dec 2020)
Birds	48	The presence of 2 other species was confirmed in our area of activity thanks to photos taken by our guides while monitoring the greater bamboo lemurs: the Madagascar Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>) at Vohitrarivo and the Madagascar Blue-pigeon (<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>) at Volotara. Monitoring of the Madagascar Long-eared Owl (<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>) started in 2019. In 2021, the female monitored by the tourist guides at Sahofika had two owlets while a male had been observed in the forest fragment a few months earlier.
Other Mammals	At least about ten species	Monitoring of the Ring-tailed Mongoose (<i>Galidia elegans</i>) in 2018.



Madagascar Nightjar (*Caprimulgus madagascariensis*) © HELPSIMUS



Madagascar Blue-pigeon (*Alectroenas madagascariensis*) © HELPSIMUS



Madagascar Long-eared Owl (*Asio madagascariensis*) © S. Meys

Educational Component

- Developing activities to raise awareness among local communities and facilitate access to education for the children of the partner villages in the programme. -





EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

We work with 5 schools (Sahofika, Vohitrarivo, Ambodigoavy, Ambodimanga and Ambohipo) **located on the 5 fokontany involved in the project.**

We pay half of the indemnities of 16 teachers (+2 in 2021) and have distributed over 600 school kits this year.



Distribution of school kits at Ambodimanga © HELPSIMUS

In 2021, Mary our educator organized and held about forty educational workshops (hand washing, collage, reading...) for over 200 children in the various schools and Helpsimus base camps.



Collage workshop © HELPSIMUS

In July-August, about fifteen tours were organized to meet the lemurs in the forest, attended by around fifty children from Sahofika.

Finally, she also prepared a song and dance show with a small group of children from Sahofika for the renewal ceremony for the transfer of management of natural resources to the Miaradia and Samivar VOI. The children performed a song by Pomme (a French singer) called "Les animaux sont nos amis" (Animals are our friends).

<https://vimeo.com/661613614>

We have finished our second book entitled "Le Refuge de Noro" (Noro's Refuge) which tells the story of a family of red-bellied lemurs. The children were able to discover this new booklet in July.



Reading workshop at Sahofika © HELPSIMUS

We also published 2 new issues of our journal "Les P'tits Simus" which is a support for correspondence between the Malagasy children and 3 French schools.

Unfortunately, our scholarship student Romain, who we have continued to support, did not pass his BEPC. He has decided not to continue his schooling.

The Simus Festival was not held this year due to the pandemic.

We have erected a new solid building to house 2 classrooms at the Ambohipo School. This project was financed by the Fondation Air France.

EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT



Ambohipo School Building © D. Rouillet



Ambohipo School © D. Rouillet



Ambohipo School © D. Rouillet

the material collected, as well as a donor who agreed to finance the transport of the goods to Madagascar. Then we had to deliver the material to the programme site and finally to organize the distribution of what had been collected, which was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Donations delivered to the Ambodigoavy school © HELPSIMUS



Distribution at the Sahofika school © HELPSIMUS

Distribution of Donated Goods

It will have taken 5(!) years to bring to Madagascar all the material collected by the French schools and several members and volunteers of Helpsimus.

First we found a storage area to centralise all

This project was successful thanks to a great chain of solidarity:

- The children in France, especially the pupils of Mervent and the Saho Vidua association,
- Roissy Capwest, OCTO (and its staff) and the Jane Goodall Institute France which managed the logistics and facilitated the search for finance,
- Etech-La Référence du Digital which organized the transport and paid for it,



EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

- Floriane who made the decisive encounters more favourable,
- The volunteers who helped to pack the material (Maryline, Aurélien, David, Lucie, Erwan, Justine, Jennifer, Lucille, Martin, Laura, Laetitia, Yohan, Simon and François).

A total of 4200kg of various types of materials (7000 school textbooks and other books, school supplies, toys, clothes) were distributed to the schools of the Bamboo Lemur Programme.

Cupboard-bookshelves were made to allow the donated books to be put away.



Bookshelves at Ambodimanga © HELPSIMUS

Reconstruction of the School at Vohitrarivo

In the context of a partnership with the Rotary Club Paris-Est, we started the complete reconstruction of the school of Vohitrarivo.



New building at the school of Vohitrarivo © HELPSIMUS

We finished the construction of a new solid building

comprising 2 classrooms and we also built separate toilets for the boys and girls with a handwashing station.



New classroom at the Vohitrarivo school © S. Meys

We have also started to erect 2 solid buildings (4 classrooms) which will be finished in 2022. Four classrooms were decorated with wall frescoes painted by Menabe (Ambohipo and Ambodimanga schools).



Ménabé painting a fresco @ HELPSIMUS



Detail of a fresco by Ménabé © HELPSIMUS

EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

The School Canteens

2020-2021 School Year:

The school canteens of Sahofika and Ambodigoavy, financed entirely by Helpsimus distributed almost 25000 meals to 340 children during the lean period between from November 2020 to March 2021.



Canteen at the Sahofika school © S. Meys

2021-2022 School Year:

In November 2021 we opened 3 new school canteens at the schools of Ambohipo, Ambodimanga and Vohitrarivo in the context of a partnership with the Fondation d'entreprise Bel.

Each canteen has a kitchen equipped with improved ovens, pots, kitchen utensils, plates, cutlery, goblets and an attic in which food can be stored.



The kitchen at Ambohipo © D. Rouillet

The meals are prepared by women from our partner villages. 13 take turns every day in the 5 canteens. They are all paid by Helpsimus.



A cook © S. Meys



The kitchen at Ambohipo © HELPSIMUS



The kitchen at Ambohipo © D. Rouillet



EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

The children eat their meals in the classrooms. The canteens are managed by a head who we recruited when the 3 new canteens opened. She is part of the NGO Impact Madagascar which helps us with the entire management of the project: vegetable plots, supply, training the cooks, preparation of the menus...



The canteen of the Ambodimanga school © S. Meys

The children's meal is comprised of rice accompanied every day by a different food such as green beans, carrots, beans, courgettes, potatoes, butter beans, pasta, petsai (Chinese cabbage), lentils, fish, yams and ravimboatavo.



The kitchen at Ambohipo © D. Rouillet

The children have access to more varied food at the canteen than at home where they eat almost no vegetables. Many of them do not eat much in the

morning for breakfast (essentially manioc), especially during the lean period.



The canteen of the Vohitrarivo school © S. Meys

We have created 5 school vegetable plots (1 in each school; 2 in 2020 and 3 in 2020). Of 122 accumulated canteen days, the 5 vegetable plots provided 16 days of vegetables (approx. 13%), which is still very little. Each vegetable plot is managed by a gardener who is trained and supervised by the agronomists from Impact Madagascar. The rest of the vegetables are bought at the market of Tsaratanana.



Vegetable plot of the Vohitrarivo school © IMPACT Madagascar

We buy the rice from a wholesaler because the local farmers who benefit from our agricultural programme (training in the Improved Paddy Field System (IPS)) do not produce enough rice to be able

EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

to sell it.

Improvements works on the irrigation which will start in the coming weeks/months will help to increase the yield of the paddy fields. Our partner farmers will in this way be able to sell some of their harvest to the canteens. Even if the children's meals are more varied at the school canteen, they are not yet varied enough.



Storage granary © HELPSIMUS

In the coming weeks, we want to work on improving the children's menus. Currently it is a little too rich in carbohydrates and provides too little fat. This imbalance partly comes from the fact that the current menus were developed based on the children's taste more than based on their nutritional needs.

The canteens are usually open only during the lean period, from November to the Easter holidays. However, we are studying budget solutions that would allow us to open the canteens year-round to avoid some children deserting school after the Easter holidays.

Each school in our programme now has a canteen. A total of 662 children and their 22 teachers benefit from the 5 school canteens we manage. We distributed 17,784 meals during the first 6 weeks of

operation, the Sahofika and Ambodigoavy schools restarted a few days before the 3 others were opened.

The aim of this programme of school canteens is double-sided: to ensure the children's presence at school and to develop the local economy around the management of the school canteens.



The canteen of the Sahofika school © S. Meys

Meeting with the Education Minister

Our local co-ordinator met the National Education Minister and discussed current projects with her.



Meeting the Education Minister © HELPSIMUS

Socio-Economic Component

- Improving the quality of life of the local populations, developing new Revenue Generating Activities, building infrastructure and means of communication, encouraging better hygiene practices and thus promoting better health in the communities. -



SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT

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Our collaboration with the NGO IMPACT Madagascar continues with the following aims:

- Improving existing agricultural production systems,
- Developing new revenue generating activities.

The participants benefit from training, in addition to donations of equipment, raw material as well as constant support from our agronomists.

The Improved Paddy Field System

We continued to support the families that benefit from the Improved Paddy Field System (IPS).

A total of 151 families are registered for this programme. They have all been trained in the IPS.

However, the table opposite (Table 1) shows that few of them practiced the IPS systematically during 2021.

All the same, they increased in number in 2021 (participation doubled for the high season campaign between 2020 and 2021) to reach an exceptional rate of 97.3% of participation for the off season campaign 2021-2022.

Results from the 2020-2021 off season campaign	Results from the 2021 high season campaign	Information on the 2020 off season campaign
53 participants (35% of the beneficiaries). Area cultivated with the IPS: 3.2ha. 62% of the participants were assessed: - Average yield 2.13 T/ha. - Destination of harvests: 89% for personal consumption and 11% for sale. - 21% of the participants sold some of their harvest generating a total profit of 290,000 Ar.	30 participants (19.9% of the beneficiaries). Area cultivated with the IPS: approx. 2ha. 43% of the participants were assessed: - Average yield 1.42 T/ha. - 100% of the harvests were used for personal consumption.	147 participants (97.3%). Area cultivated with the IPS: 9.75ha.

Tab. 1/Ar = Ariary



IPS © IMPACT MADAGASCAR



IPS © IMPACT MADAGASCAR



IPS monitored by the agronomists © IMPACT MADAGASCAR

The table below (Table 2) compares the high seasons of 2020 and 2021 by VOI/VOI :

VOI	Results from the 2020 high season campaign	Results from the 2021 high season campaign
MIARADIA	No. of participants: 10 (of 66 registered = approx. 15%) IPS area cultivated: 0.55ha Average yield: 3.85 T/ha	No. of participants: 16 (of 95 registered = approx. 16.8%) IPS area cultivated: 0.95 ha Average yield: 1.51 T/ha
SAMIVAR	No. of participants: 10 (of 66 registered = approx. 15%) IPS area cultivated: 0.55ha Average yield: 3.85 T/ha	No. of participants: 8 (of 40 registered = 20%) IPS area cultivated: 0.46 ha Average yield: 1.43 T/ha
MANIRISOA	No. of participants: 2 (of 14 registered = approx. 14.3%) IPS area cultivated: 0.49ha Average yield: 1.51 T/ha	No. of participants: 6 (of 16 registered = approx. 37.5%) IPS area cultivated: 0.56 ha Average yield: 1.32 T/ha

Table 2

The yields from the paddy fields have fallen significantly despite the IPS: for example, at Vohitrarivo yields were reduced by 2.5 between 2020 and 2021 for the high season campaign.

These results (low rate of participation of those registered and low yields) are explained by:

- The paddy fields drying up because of the late arrival of the rainy season;
- The recurring lack of water during the development phases of the rice.

Many paddy fields are no longer even cultivable and have been transformed to grow beans.

Drought has been very present for 2-3 years. However improvement works for irrigation will start up again in the coming weeks thanks to funds we have just received.

This work which consists of renovating/building irrigation canals is essential for better management of water in the crops and especially in the paddy fields.

Growing Beans

This new programme was started in 2021 in 15 villages and benefits 391 families.



Paddy fields © S. Meys



SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT

All those registered were trained by the agronomists from Impact Madagascar who also accompanied all the participants.



Field of beans © IMPACT MADAGASCAR

6.76 hectares are cultivated for an average yield of 0.59T/ha. Almost 4 tonnes of beans were harvested. Most of the production (94%) was sold in the villages and at the markets of Tsaratanana and Ifanadiana. The rest (6%) was consumed directly by the beneficiaries. The total amount of the sale was 18,877,900 Ar, which represents an average profit per beneficiary of 49,000 Ar.

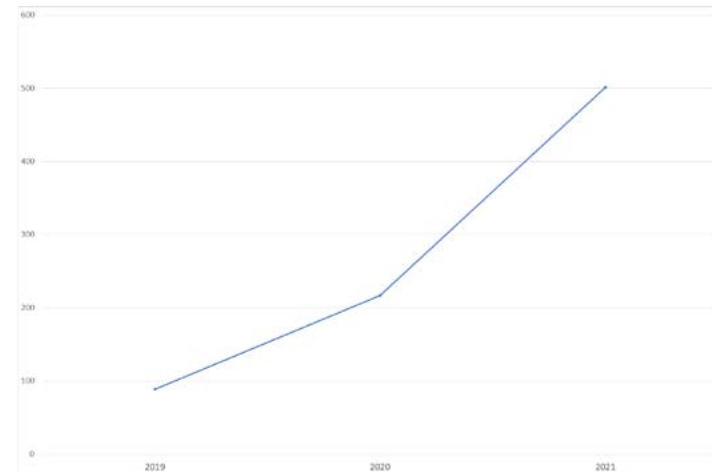
Vegetable Crops

This programme has seen spectacular growth in the past 2 years. In 2021, we registered 824 subscribers from 13 villages. 548 beneficiaries were trained in growing vegetables.

Among them, 501 participated in this programme in 2021. They all benefitted from assistance from the IMPACT Madagascar teams. They also received seeds (about 3000 sachets were distributed) as well as equipment (180 watering cans and 52 pulverisers).

13 vegetable species were grown in 2021: anamalaho, anamamy, angivy, carrot, cucumber, courgette, cabbage, green bean, petsai, ramirebaka, lettuce, tissâme and tomato.

It should be noted that “leafy” vegetables (anamalaho, anamamy, petsai, cabbage, tissâme, lettuce and ramirebaka) represent over 70% of the vegetable species cultivated.



Number of participants in vegetable cultivation



Distribution of seeds © IMPACT MADAGASCAR



Distribution of equipment for vegetable cultivation © IMPACT MADAGASCAR

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Vegetable growing © IMPACT MADAGASCAR

68% of the harvests were directly consumed by the participants (compared to 31.5% in 2020) and 31% were sold (mostly at the village level).

The total profits earned from the sale: 4,268,600 Ar. Average profit/beneficiary: 15,870 Ar. (compared to 35,450 Ar. in 2020). The profits fell by over a half in 2021 due to the fact that the beneficiaries sold half as much and that prices were low at the markets at the time of selling.

Fish Farming

The fish farming project was started in 2018 at Vohitrarivo with 13 families.

Many members of the VOI, who saw the encouraging results obtained at Vohitrarivo, asked for the project to be extended to 5 villages. Today it involves 64 participants (5 times more than in 2020).

After assessing the fish basins, the participants were trained and accompanied by the agronomists. Over 6000 fry were distributed.



Vegetable growing © IMPACT MADAGASCAR

Among the beneficiaries to be assessed, 58% of them sold some of their harvest (compared to approx. 70% in 2020). The areas cultivated extend over 7.82ha (compared to 3ha in 2020).



Fish farming © IMPACT MADAGASCAR



Training in vegetable cultivation © IMPACT MADAGASCAR

Three beneficiaries were assessed. They received 275 fry which generated 4500 fry obtained from reproduction. The survival fish rate is 98% and the average weight of the fish is 650g. 86% of the fish



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were sold generating revenue of 101,000 Ar.

The profits earned from the sale of rice, beans, vegetable products and fish allowed families to buy basic necessities, equipment and also to pay school fees of their children and medical fees.

Reforestation

The reforestation campaign was launched at the same time as the forest restoration campaign.

Over 7200 saplings for domestic use were planted in 2021. These are essentially fast growing trees, including the *Acacia mangium*, a species that is also used by the lemurs (rest, shade).

In 2021, 169 individuals from 14 villages participated in the community reforestation programme and reforested nearly 1.9ha. Our agronomists from IMPACT Madagascar supervise the individual reforestation 98 plots every 2 months, where the survival rate of the plants is over 90%.

This day is the occasion for the children to take part in reforestation and in forest restoration activities in the context of the campaign "1 child, 1 tree" organized jointly by the national Education Ministry and the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development. Over 300 pupils thus planted more than 500 plants of fast growing species during the day.



"1 child 1 tree" campaign © IMPACT Madagascar

In total, more than 1000 individuals participated in reforestation activities in 2021 and about 15,000 acacia plants were produced in our 3 nurseries.



Sahofika Nursery © S. Meys



Reforestation during the Schools Day © IMPACT MADAGASCAR

We also provided plants for the pupils of the 5 schools of the programme for the Schools Day which took place at the same time as the campaign launch.

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The Eco-Tourism Project

The eco-tourism project for day tours has developed at Sahofika on the territory for Group 5 of greater bamboo lemurs, where a group of red-bellied lemurs and a female Madagascar long-eared owl also lives. Unfortunately, the opening of the site had to be postponed yet again to 2022 because of the pandemic.



The tourist guides © S. Meys

In 2021, the 3 tourist guides continued the process of habituating that female Madagascar long-eared owl (*Asio madagascariensis*) and to monitor the lemurs in the forest of Sahofika.

In October, they finished their internship at the National Park of Ranomafana, which had been interrupted in March 2020 when the first steps for a lockdown were introduced, leading to the closure of the park.



The reception office © S. Meys

We also finalized furnishing the tourist reception office at Sahofika.

We also reinforced the team of guides at Volotara and started to monitor 2 new groups of lemurs (red-bellied lemurs and Ranomafana bamboo lemurs) in the context of the extension of the eco-tourism project to Volotara on the territory of group 8 of the greater bamboo lemurs.

Craftwork

The craftwork projects (wood sculptures and jewellery made with Job's-tears) were relaunched in December when the artisans' output was bought. Some of the production will be sold in the Ranomafana shop which is currently being fitted out.



Sculptor © S. Meys



Women participating in the jewellery project © S. Meys



SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT

The embroiderers of the embroidery craft project continued to make cloth masks (a total of 1000 masks) distributed in our partner villages and in the 5 schools of the programme.



Masks distributed to the communities © HELPSIMUS

International Conservation Workshops

The 2 international workshops on the conservation of the Greater Bamboo Lemur and the Red-bellied Lemur we had planned for 2020 have been postponed to a later date due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ifanadiana-Vohitrarivo Track



Large Bridge after Renovation © S. Meys

We participated in the renovation of the large bridge connecting Ifanadiana to Tsaratanana by lending a generator we had bought for this purpose to the

Public Works. This generator will be made available regularly to the Public Works for this kind of work.

Donation of Rice

We donated 10 sacks of rice (250kg) to the tour guides of the National Park of Ranomafana. In fact the 59 guides have had almost no income since the start of the pandemic.

Donation of Clothing by the NaturZoo Rheine

The NaturZoo Rheine donated working clothes (trousers, t-shirts, polo-neck shirts, sweatshirts) which allowed us to fully equip our teams (guides, guards, nursery workers, craftworkers...).



Members of the Teams © HELPSIMUS

The Vohitrarivo Camp

Most of the light infrastructure (shelter-tents) of the Vohitrarivo camp have been destroyed and the surviving ones are in very bad condition. The cause: the heavy rains and lack of maintenance.

The camp will be rebuilt in 2022 in another location thanks to exceptional funds granted to us by Sainte-Croix Biodiversité.





HELPSIMUS NEWS

Crowdfunding

In 2021 we launched a crowdfunding campaign called "New territories for the Greater Bamboo Lemurs!" This aimed to secure new territories for several groups of greater bamboo lemurs.

We had two aims:

- To increase the size of the conservation and restoration zones in the Miaradia VOI,
- To increase our area of action beyond the 3 VOI by acquiring 40 ha of private land.

Buying this land would allow us to secure the habitat of 4 groups of greater bamboo lemurs (close to 170 individuals in all) comprised of several forest fragments in which we could extend our restoration programme.

In addition, this land would connect with the lemur groups present on the Manirisoa VOI territory. Finally, we could build a permanent base camp there to receive outside visitors (biologists, volunteer students, eco-volunteers, eco-tourists...).

The funds raised have allowed the development plan of the Miaradia VOI to be updated. Discussions are continuing with the owner for the purchase of the private land.

Annual Conference of the EAZA

We participated in the annual conference of the EAZA which took place online from 21 to 25 September.

We made 3 presentations: the first at the meeting of the Small Carnivores TAG ("*Study of wild and captive ring-tailed Vontsira: preliminary results*") and two others during the gathering of the Prosimian TAG ("*In situ conservation in times of COVID-19 at Madagascar*" with Josia Razafindramanana for Sifaka Conservation and "*Monitoring of Red-bellied lemurs on Helpsimus' conservation area*").

UNIVET Gala

We were selected by our partner Univet Nature to be part of the charity event organized at Villefranche-sur-Mer in the south of France on 27 September 2021.

The "Gala de l'Espoir [Gala of Hope]" aimed to raise funds for 6 programmes that work for the conservation of threatened species including our Bamboo Lemur Programme.

The president of Helpsimus made a short presentation of our activities to protect the Greater Bamboo Lemur, after which the evening's attendees could decide to make a donation.

We were able to raise 30,200 euros at this exceptional event, which will be used to improve the irrigation of crops amongst other activities.





HELPSIMUS TOUR

HELPSIMUS TOUR



Unfortunately in Madagascar no festivities could take place due to the Covid-19 epidemic.



2021 PARTNERS

€25,000 - 40,000

Univet Nature - RP

€9,000 - < 25,000

Fondation Air France - Fondation Audemars Piguet
Fondation Bel - Fondation Le Pal Nature - Pure Trade -
Rotary Club Paris Est - Sainte Croix Biodiversité

€3,000 - < 9,000

AFdPZ - Conservatoire pour la Protection des Primates
- Cotswold Wildlife Park - NaturZoo Rheine - Parc
Zoologique de Paris - SECAS - Thoiry Conservation
- Yorkshire Wildlife Park Foundation - Zoo de La
Palmyre - Zoo de Montpellier - Zoo de Pessac

€1,500 - < 3,000

Association Timba (Zoo de Jurques) - Boissière Mer-
vent Conservation - CERZA - Parc de Clères - Parcs
Lumigny - Saho Vidua - Spaycific'Zoo - Zoo African Sa-
fari - Zoo de la Citadelle de Besançon - Zoo des Sables
d'Olonne - Zoo de Sanary-sur-Mer

< €1,500

Association Francophone des Soigneurs Animaliers
- Centre d'accueil pour petits primates de Folembay
- Jane Goodall Institute France - Touroparc
Conservation - Zoo de Cologne

Our Malagasy Partners:



Logistical support: **TEILEN**
AVOCATS

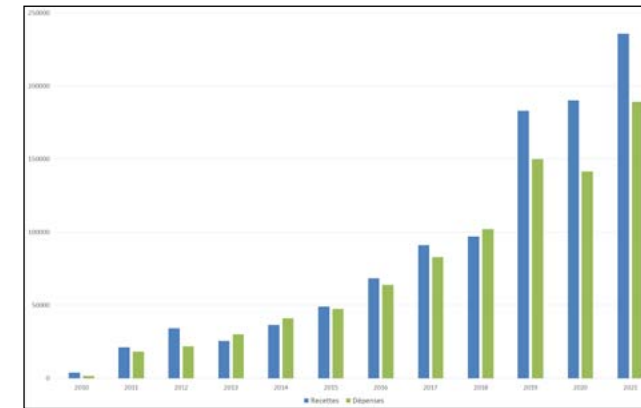
And the members of Helpsimus !



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

2021 has seen an increase in our revenues and expenses. This is due to the expansion of the development aid activities as well as the forest restoration and reforestation program within the VOI Manirisoa (the 3rd VOI located on our conservation site and whose creation was formalized at the end of 2020).



In 2021 we also had to finance the evaluation of the first 3 years of management of the VOI Samivar as well as the update of the development plans for the Miradia & Samivar VOIs.

The establishment of the 3 VOIs involved a threefold increase of all of our activities, for example the guarding of the paddy fields which extended to 2 VOIs in 2021 whereas it had started in only one. Likewise for the activities in the schools that are repeated in the 5 schools of the site. The needs are similar in all VOIs and all schools.

We obtained funds for the financing of certain specific projects (construction of a school building, creation of 3 school canteens).

The funds that have not been spent during the year are held and allow us to handle emergencies when they arise. This was set up in 2019 and has been of great help when the Covid pandemic broke out. We also have 6 months to 1 year in advance of funding on certain activities.

Finally, several of our donors have increased their annual contribution which has helped us to deal with the budget increase for creating the 3rd VOI.

Operating Costs	Amount (€)	Operating Income	Amount (€)
Purchase of equipment Equipment for the terrain and merchandise for the Helpsimus shop.	-14325.29	Provision of services	1195.54
External Expenses Rent Ranomafana apartment, insurance, banks, subscriptions, project expenses, postal charges, etc.	-7055.61	Product sales Helpsimus shop	4184
Staff costs	-5683.45	Donations from Zoos (& affiliated organisations)	84429.16
Bamboo Lemur Programme Includes amongst others payments to teams in the terrain.	-72800	Donations Charities, Foundations & NGO	77757.16
IMPACT Madagascar Malagasy partner in charge of the scientific programmes and assistance and development activities.	-76200	Individual Donations	15756
Building Construction Landry Company	-111000	Company donations	49500
		Member Subscriptions	1440
TOTAL	-187164.35		234261.86
Operating Income	47097.51		



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