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The Director's Message

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The year 2022 was marked by the disastrous consequences of the two cyclones that struck the Vatovavy region where we are based.

The teams from Helpsimus and IMPACT Madagascar, our local partner, worked hard to repair the damage caused by the storms, and also to support the partner villages in limiting the pressure on the lemurs' habitat. The Greater Bamboo Lemurs, who suffered the most from the cyclones, have shown incredible resilience in the face of these events with nearly 70 births recorded in the 18 groups monitored by Helpsimus at the end of the year.

The cyclones were a difficult ordeal for the communities and our teams, but they have also led to the acquisition of new skills in emergency management. They also protecting biodiversity. We have also reinforced our links with our partners and the local communities. In the face of these tragic events, we received considerable support from our partners, thanks to which we were able to help the local communities through this difficult period.

Ultimately, this experience has made us stronger and better prepared to cope with this type of event which, given climate change, is likely to happen again regularly. However, the accumulated effects of the cyclones and inflation have had a significant impact on the cost of certain activities without any possibility of turning back. This is the case of guarding the paddy fields and the school canteens, which now operate year-round.

In the coming months, we will have to find

new sources of finance and to reinforce our current partnerships to maintain our activities efficiently and in the long term. Despite the obstacles, Helpsimus has continued to progress and to develop its activities in association with the local communities.

"This experience has made us stronger and better prepared to cope with this type of event which, given climate change, is likely to happen again regularly."

The opening of the Simus School thus represents a decisive turning point in our environmental education **programme.** This project will allow us to raise awareness more efficiently among the children about the importance of organized our first outdoor classes, two of which were in the National Park of Ranomafana.

This year, we have also introduced important teaching about the menstrual cycle and nutrition. We are convinced that this will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the women and families in the local communities.

We have identified new groups of lemurs and have started monitoring them. Helpsimus now monitors 28 groups of lemurs: 18 groups of Greater Bamboo Lemurs, 5 groups of Red-Bellied Lemurs, 2 groups of Ranomafana Bamboo Lemurs and 3 groups of Peyrieras' Woolly Lemurs. Almost 650 lemurs are now directly protected by Helpsimus!



Finally, we have joined the " Planet" programme of the F Rocher which allows us to a forest restauration plan. Ou restore 60 hectares of fores the next 5 years thanks to the partnership. In 2022, despit caused by the cyclones, we production of forest plants

We warmly thank all our par precious support throughou year. We are proud to conti the animals and their habit with the local communities, challenges encountered.

Delphina

		<b>↑</b>
	2022	The Simus School opens  The Simus School hosts the children from the partner villages of the Bamboo Lemur P  Environmental education activities are organized there.
	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.
© F. Perroux	2020	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> VOI is created  The 3 VOI include over 900ha of forest areas converted to conservation and restoration (protection of the lemurs' habitat).
e "Plant for the Fondation Yves accelerate our	2019	Helpsimus starts the paddy field protection programme  This is to find lasting solutions for protecting crops from attacks by the Greater Bambo hence to reduce conflicts.
Our aim is to est fragments in o this important	2018	Helpsimus confirms the presence of Ring-tailed Mongooses Inventories show the presence of rich and varied flora and fauna on the programme's
oite the losses re multiplied the s by 3.	2017	Helpsimus identifies 4 new species of lemurs within the area it studies  The programme site is home to at least 5 different species in addition to the Greater E
partners for their out this difficult name to protect	2016	Helpsimus becomes the supporting organization for the creation of the 3 VOI plan site of the Bamboo Lemur Programme  The Miaradia VOI is the first to be created. It covers the territory of 6 of the 11 groups Bamboo Lemurs.
itat in association s, despite the	2015	Helpsimus organizes the 3 <sup>rd</sup> international Technical Workshop on the Greater Ban The population of the species is re-assessed at 1,000 individuals in the wild, ¼ of which protected by Helpsimus
ne Roullet	2012	The Greater Bamboo Lemur is removed from the list of the 25 most threatened pr 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 record

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

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



# 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 agriculture). We are therefore implementing a certain number of conservation activities to ensure the longterm 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.

### <sup>1</sup> Village association to which the forestry administration transfers management of the

#### Socio-Economic component

We are improving the standard of living of the local populations by helping to secure the produce from their harvests 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 are facilitating access to education for the children from villages located in the fokontany involved in the programme.



### THE BAMBOO LEMUR PROGRAMME



#### Location

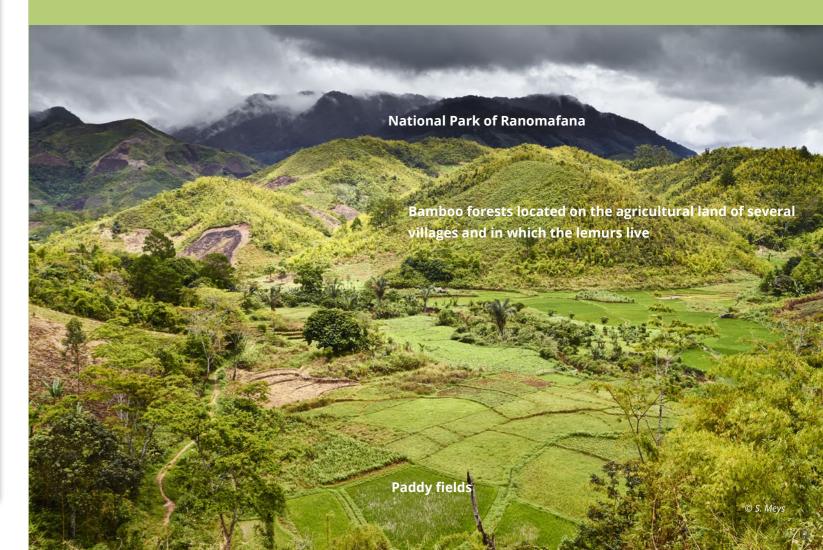
390km south-east of Antananarivo, 4km from the National Park of Ranomafana, in the rural area of Tsaratanana, in the province of Fianarantsoa.

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



#### The Bamboo Lemur Programme is a quadripartite project.

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





# THE FOKONTANY

### THE VILLAGERS



#### 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**

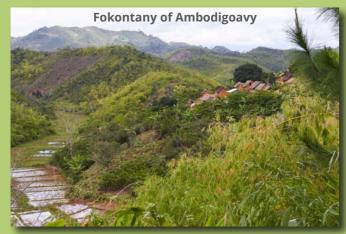


The programme's main camp, around 10 minutes' walk from the village. The territory of 8 groups of greater bamboo lemurs.

#### **Fokontany of Sahofika**



The most outlying village which hosts our secondary camp. Territory of 5 groups of reater bamboo lemurs.



rd Helpsimus camp and territory of 6 groups of greater bamboo lemurs

#### **Fokontany of Ambodimanga**



Territory of 2 groups of greater bamboo lemurs.

Fokontany of Ambohipo



© F. Perroux, D. Roullet

The villagers are farmworkers who grow mainly 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 2022 the site of the Bamboo Lemur Programme hosted a population of about 600 Greater Bamboo Lemurs divided into 21 groups of which 18 are monitored by Helpsimus.

The year 2022 was marked by two cyclones, one of which was category 4, which not only caused major material damage, but also had an impact on the groups of greater bamboo lemurs. They were most heavily affected by the February cyclones.

Some bamboo forests, especially those at Vohitrarivo were 40% destroyed.

The significant reduction in food resources caused the greater bamboo lemurs to disperse widely.

This phenomenon caused a reduction in the size of the groups of lemurs, while their number has increased, from 14 to 21 groups. We therefore observe more groups, but they are smaller in size.

Our guides counted the numbers monthly to follow the evolution of the groups of greater bamboo lemurs in our area of activity.



Greater Bamboo lemur © S. Mey



Bamboo forest after the cyclones © IMPACT Madagasca

The table below shows the results before and after the cyclones:

	January 2022: count before the cyclones	February 2022: count after the cyclones	August 2022: count 6 months after the cyclones	December 2022: count after the birth season
Number of individuals	About 590	About 390	About 540	About 600
Number of groups	14 (including 1 with 2 sub-groups)	14	21	21 (18 of which are monitored by Helpsimus)
Average size of the groups	42	About 28	About 25	About 29

Unfortunately, about 50 greater bamboo lemurs have not been found: some are probably dead while others may have left the Helpsimus protection zone.



Cadaver of a greater bamboo lemur
© IMPACT Madagasc

### THE GREATER BAMBOO LEMURS



We have reinforced our team of guides to help us to find as many Greater Bamboo Lemurs as possible and to monitor the newly formed groups. The table below provides details of the 21 groups of greater bamboo lemurs, 18 of which are monitored by Helpsimus.

A team comprising 38 individuals today monitors 18 of the 21 groups of greater bamboo lemurs.

		N. I. C. I. I. I	
Location	Group	Number of individuals (December 2022)	Comments
	1	52 (including 5 newborns)	
	1′	27 (including 3 newborns)	
	1"	21 (including 3 newborns)	
	1‴	16 (including 2 newborns)	Groups 1' and 1" are monitored by the same guides.
VOHITRARIVO	2	27 (including 7 newborns)	
	2′	36 (including 5 newborns)	
	2"	24 (including 4 newborns)	
	3	42 (including 4 newborns)	
	4	F1 (including 2 newborns)	Group 4 is dividing into 2 sub-groups.
	4′	51 (including 3 newborns)	
	5		Group 5 separates into 2 and sometimes 3 sub
SAHOFIKA	5′	70 (including 4 newborns)	-groups (a few individuals in fact regularly cross the path to join the forest fragment of the School Reserve).
	6	70 (including 10 newborns)	The group separates into 2 or 3 sub-groups.
	7	34 (including 4 newborns)	
	7′	29 (including 4 newborns)	
	8	32 (including 4 newborns)	Only groups 8,9 & 9' are monitored by the guides.
	8′	15	
VOLOTARA	8"	6	
VOLUTARA	9	28 (including 4 newborns)	
	9′	18 (including 3 newborns)	
	10	10	
TOTAL	21	608 (including 69 newborns)	

The birth season started in late September.
69 births were recorded in the 18 groups monitored by our teams. This high number shows the resilience of this species, but the events of this year also highlight its vulnerability in the face of major climate events.

Such events are likely to occur again in the coming years. The other groups of lemurs which mostly live in forest fragments (=the least damaged areas of our site) were less affected by the cyclones than the greater bamboo lemurs.



# THE OTHER LEMURS ON THE SITE

We have however observed that some trees used as dormitories by the Peyrieras' Woolly Lemurs were destroyed at Vohitrarivo, forcing the animals to change their habits: we have seen them sleep in bamboo for example.



Peyrieras' Woolly Lemur © IMPACT Madagascar

The table below provides details about the other groups of lemurs monitored by Helpsimus:



Peyrieras' Woolly Lemur © IMPACT Madagascar

In total, 28 groups of 4 species of lemurs are monitored. Hence about 620 lemurs are directly protected by Helpsimus.

Species	December 2022				
	No. of groups monitored	No. of individuals	No. of guides	Comments	
Red-Bellied Lemur	5	23 (including 5 newborns)	5	A new group is monitored in the Sahofika School Reserve.	
Ranomafana Bamboo Lemur	2	15 (including 3 newborns)	2		
Peyrieras' Woolly Lemur	3	10 (including 2 newborns)	3 + 1 tourist guide	A new group is monitored in the Sahofika School Reserve. At Vohitrarivo, the individuals are widely dispersed, only one group of 3 is now being monitored.	
TOTAL	10	48	10		
			+ 1 tourist guide		

In 2022, we started to monitor 6 new groups of lemurs: 4 groups of greater bamboo lemurs, 1 group of red-bellied lemurs and 1 group of Peyrieras' woolly lemurs.

Four additional guides were hired in 2022 to monitor the greater bamboo lemurs and the red-bellied lemurs.



Family of Red-bellied lemurs  ${\mathbb C}$  S. Meys

### INVENTORY OF FAUNA



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

Groups	Number of Species	Comments
Amphibians	23 including <i>Mantidactylus</i> , a newly described species (Scherz and col., 2020)	According to a preliminary inventory completed in the Miaradia VOI (Nov-Dec 2020).
Reptiles	15	According to a preliminary inventory done in the Miaradia VOI (Nov-Dec 2020).
Birds	49	The presence of a 49 <sup>th</sup> species of birds was confirmed by a photograph taken at Volotara by F. Rakotoalimanana & P. Rafalimanana during their study of the greater bamboo lemurs and the redbellied lemurs. It is a Velvet Asty ( <i>Philepitta castanea</i> ), a small sparrow endemic to Madagascar that is found in the east and north-west of the island.  Monitoring of the Madagascar long-eared owl ( <i>Asio madagascariensis</i> ) started in 2019.
Mammals (except lemurs)	At least about ten species	Monitoring of the ring-tailed mongoose ( <i>Galidia elegans</i> ) started in 2018.







From left to right: Madagascar Long-eared Owl, chameleon, Vaza parrot © S. Meys



# THE BATSIRAI AND EMNATI CYCLONES

farming.

reinforcing monitoring.

the Cyclone Batsirai.

lemurs' habitat.

The most dramatic element was the effect on

cultivation as many corps were destroyed. This was

a real disaster for the inhabitants of the commune

of Tsaratanana who essentially practice subsistence

Finally, the lemur groups, especially the greater

bamboo lemurs, dispersed, which necessitated

On 22 February, a second cyclone crossed the

luckily, did not significantly worsen the effects of

After assessing the damage caused by the cyclones,

consequences and to reduce the pressure on the

Vatovavy region: the Cyclone Emnati which,

we developed an action plan to deal with the

### THE BATSIRAI AND EMNATI CYCLONES



During the night for 5 to 6 February 2022 the Cyclone Batsirai struck the south-east of Madagascar, crossing the Vatovavy region where Helpsimus is based.

This highly intense tropical cyclone caused major damage and forced nearly 2700 people to flee from their homes in the rural commune of Tsaratanana. The wooden houses the roofs of which are made from Ravenala leaves were not able to resist the

winds of over 170km/h with gusts at 235 km/h. The heavy rains caused by the cyclone caused serious flooding in some villages. Water rose to a level of 3m at Sahofika.



Flooding at Sahofika © Helpsimus

Many roads were damaged or blocked by fallen trees, isolating several villages even more.



Food donation © HELPSIMUS



Track between Ifanadiana and Tsaratanand

School of Sahofika © HELPSIMU

Educational
infrastructure such
as the schools
of Sahofika and
Ambodigoavy were
also badly affected in
some cases.

solating several

yillages even more.

two distributions of emergency aid, which took place in February and in November.

February

Number of About

	February 2022	November 2022
Number of beneficiary families	About 700	About 900
Donation per family	5kg of rice, 1.5kg of dried beans, 1 packet of candles, salt, nails, and iron wire	3kg of rice, salt, soap, 1l of oil and 2 packets of pasta

In November, the aim of the food aid was to help the families to survive the lean season, a period during

which fruit comprises their main source of nutrition. However, this year the situation was critical because the fruit trees were badly affected by the cyclones, which reduced food production and exacerbated the difficulties of the local communities.

 Support for restarting cultivation around our partner villages

In March, seeds (beans and vegetables) were distributed to



Seed Donations © IMPACT Madagascar

around 700 families who also received increased support from the agronomists.

The paddy fields were the crops that were most resilient to the cyclones. We have therefore reinforced and extended guarding of the paddy fields to our entire area of activity.

 Reducing the isolation of the most distant villages caused by the destruction of tracks and bridges.

We have repaired



Repair of the main track © HELPSIMUS

the track between Ifanadiana and Vohitrarivo (refilling holes, creating channels for evacuating water, etc.).

We have also built a solid bridge, the last one on the track before the village of Vohitrarivo. This bridge had been completely destroyed. Finally, we bought a motorbike to facilitate movements between the villages.

Reinforcing the protection of the lemurs' habitat and reinforcing monitoring of the lemurs.

According to our estimates, about 15% the vegetation in our area of activity was damaged by the cyclones. The bamboo forests were especially affected with up to 40% losses, which had negative repercussions on the availability of food for the greater bamboo lemurs.

Although we have reinforced our support to the villager associations, illegal clearing has unfortunately been reported, which is not surprising.

Again this year, the team of guides has been reinforced, especially to find the greater bamboo lemurs that have dispersed, and to better understand their movements following the disturbances caused by the cyclones.

 Restarting the reforesting and forest restoration programme to restore the parcels.

The nurseries were restored quickly after the cyclones, allowing the surviving plants to be planted in the ground as early as in March. In addition, the nursery team was reinforced with the arrival of gardeners for the school vegetable gardens which unfortunately were completely destroyed by the cyclones. This allowed the production of plants to be increased in 2022.

• Supporting the children's education.

Even though the school buildings built with solid materials by Helpsimus resisted the cyclones relatively well, it was necessary to repair them:

- the roof of the school canteen kitchen at Ambohipo and the storage granary of the canteen at Ambodimanga;
- the roof of the new school building at the school of Ambohipo;
- the second building of the school of Ambohipo (more fragile) was entirely renovated;

3 19 m



# THE BATSIRAI AND EMNATI CYCLONES

## THE BATSIRAI AND EMNATI CYCLONES

# ANNUAL REPORT

- the 2 school buildings of the school of Ambodimanga were repainted;
- the school canteen of the school of Sahofika was completely rebuilt. It was also extended.

In addition, we have built two new solid school buildings at the school of Ambodigoavy and at the school of Sahofika, replacing earth and wood infrastructure that was badly damaged by the cyclones.

Finally, we have started the complete renovation of the main school building at Sahofika which will be finished in 2023.

The school canteens, which were only operational during the lean season, have been continued until the end of the school year after the Easter holidays (see the section on the school canteens).

The 2 offices of the VOI Miaradia and Samivar were renovated after the 2 cyclones.

We have also rebuilt and improved the 2 camps at Sahofika and Volotara which were badly damaged.



Rehabilitation of the Ambohipo school © HELPSIMU.



New school building at Ambodigoavy © HELPSIMU



New school canteen at Sahofika © HELPSIMU

A big thank you to our donors who increased their support to help us to deal with the consequences of the cyclones:

















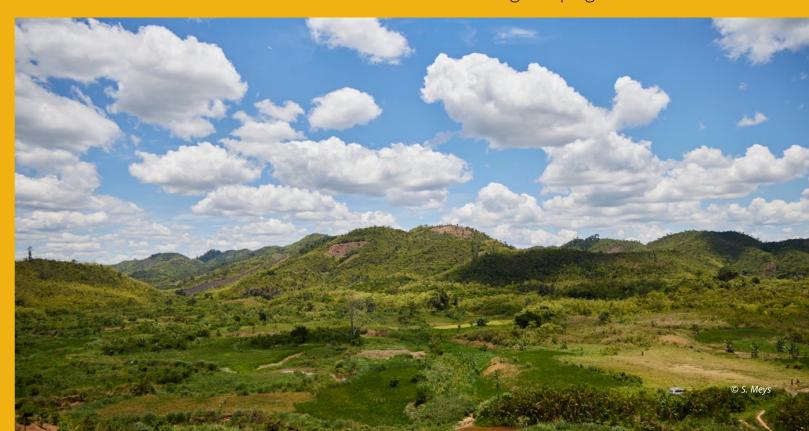








As well as to all the donors of our crowdfunding campaign!





# THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT



#### The guides

The team of guides comprises 38 individuals from the villages of Vohitrarivo, Vohimarina, Ambohipo, Ambodimanga, Volotara, Ambodigoavy and Sahofika.

Their duties are defined as follows:

- monitoring 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 ecovolunteers;
- · participating in inventories.

Like every year, the guides' uniforms have been updated (t-shirts, trousers, sandals, boots, jackets, rainwear, backpacks and watches).



The team of guides from Sahofika © HELPSIMUS



The team of guides from Volotara © HELPSIMUS

#### The Research Programme

From May to mid-July, 2 Malagasy research assistants

(IMPACT Madagascar) studied the Group 8 and the group of red-bellied lemurs at Volotara.



The research team © HELPSIMU.

Their work allowed precious information on the diet of the red-bellied lemurs to be gathered and on the rhythm of activity of the greater bamboo lemurs.

Over 200 videos of greater bamboo lemurs were collected by the camera traps and are being analysed.

The study of the ring-tailed mongoose continued from January to mid-March and from September to mid-November and we recorded over 300 videos with the camera traps! We also think we have located the burrow of a couple in the School Reserve. At the end of the year, there were many more direct observations close to this burrow.

In October,
Caitlin O'Reilly, an
English student
from Nottingham
University spent
three weeks in
Sahofika to complete
the data on the
Peyrieras' Woolly



Caitlin O'Reilly © HELPSIMUS

Lemurs for a future publication. As mentioned last year, she had analysed the videos collected in 2021

at Vohitrario and Volotara by two Malagasy students.

She has also gathered data on a new group of Peyrieras' Woolly Lemurs that we have started to monitor in the School Reserve of Sahofika.

In October we also hosted two keepers from the Yorkshire Wildlife Park who started to habituate a new group of red-bellied lemurs in the School Reserve.

From November to mid-December, a Malagasy research assistant started a study of this new group of red-bellied lemurs after the birth of a young lemur. He also used camera traps to gather information on the animals' rhythm of activity.



Studying red-bellied lemurs in the School Reserve of Sahofika © D. Roullet

The Mouse Lemur Project continued: we are seeking to gather hairs / droppings from this nocturnal lemur

to identify the species present in our area of activity without capturing any animals. We know that the nest is operational since a mouse lemur chose to live there for a while.



Examining a mouse lemur nesting box © HELPSIMUS

We also think we have gathered hair, but we need to confirm this with genetic analysis. For the year 2023, we are planning to increase the number of nests and to extend the project to the dwarf lemurs.

Finally, we have contributed to a study of red-bellied lemurs aimed at identifying the factors influencing their rhythm of activity, whether in a natural environment or in captivity. The videos collected in 2021 from the group in Volotara by our camera traps were sent to the English student who has carried out this research for Nottingham University.

#### The Orchid Project

In January, we hosted Jean-Michel Hervouet and his wife who visited the forest fragment of Sahofika with our 3 tourist guides.

Jean-Michel is an expert on orchids, President of the

Fédération France Orchidées (FFO) and Vice-President of the Association des Amis de la Forêt d'Ambodiriana-Manompana (ADAFAM).

During his stay, he identified nearly a dozen species of orchids including:

- Oeonia brauniana var. sarcanthoides which is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red list,
- Grammangis ellisii which has become very rare in the wild.

Since their visit, the tourist guides have been regularly photographing the orchids.



Oeonia volucris © F. Perr



rammangis ellisii © Lova, Francine & Charles/Helpsimus



# THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT



#### Guarding the Paddy Fields

We introduced guarding of the paddy fields in October 2019.

The principle is simple: guards replace each other 24 hours a day to watch the paddy fields as soon as the rice grains are mature, until they are harvested. The 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 Surveillance was started again in October 2022. The June. This is the most important of the year, when all the paddy fields are cultivated.



Guarding the paddy fields © IMPACT Madagascal

Not all farmers start cultivating at the same time, so there is a lag in the harvests. In addition to this surveillance, the areas around the paddy fields are cleared in order to improve



Guarding the paddy fields © IMPACT Madagascal

visibility for the guards and footbridges are also installed along the lemurs' paths.

Surveillance of the paddy fields was intensified after the cyclones, as the paddy field were the only crops to have resisted relatively well: between April and June 2022, 672 paddy fields belonging to 131 farmers Village association to which the forestry administration transfers management of the

were watched by 60 guards.

412 attacks were put off in 188 paddy fields. Except for a few isolated incidents in only 12 paddy fields, no damage was reported in the 660 other paddy fields.

94% of the beneficiaries are very happy with the system as it works. The footbridges damaged by the cyclones have been repaired.

teams of guards (which have increased in number from 15 to 19) were doubled and now comprise 8 people. This increase has allowed a job to be offered (even half-time) to a larger number of people. In addition, guards, who are also farmers, have more time to look after their fields.



Monitoring of the guarding © IMPACT Madagascar

The team of guards is now composed of 152 individuals who are managed by an agent from IMPACT Madagascar paid by Helpsimus.

#### The VOI<sup>1</sup>

Helpsimus became the supporting organization for the creation of the VOI and consequently the project coordinator in 2016 for which we are assisted by the NGO IMPACT Madagascar.

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

The first VOI was created in 2016: the MIARADIA VOI, which covers some of the territory of 10 of the 21 groups of greater bamboo lemurs. The SAMIVAR VOI was created in 2018. It covers the territory of 5 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 6 groups of greater bamboo lemurs. Helpsimus also supports the Annual Work Plans (AWP) of the VOI.

Forest patrollers ensure that the members of the VOI comply with the rules in terms of clearing. The team of patrollers consists of 51 people:

- 15 patrollers for the Miaradia VOI,
- 21 patrollers for the Samivar VOI,
- 15 patrollers hired for the Manirisoa VOI.



The patrollers of the VOI © D. Roullet

Patrols take place twice a month and their results are noted in a monitoring notebook. The patrollers are trained by our partner, IMPACT Madagascar which then verifies their work. In 2021, 864 patrols were carried out.

	MIARADIA	SAMIVAR	MANIRISOA	
	VOI	VOI	VOI	
	288 (8 days/	288 (8 days/	288 (8 days/	
No. of patrols	month with	month with 21	month with 15	
	15 patrollers)	patrollers)	patrollers)	
Area checked	641ha	1550ha	405ha	
per month	04111d	1550114		
Number of	28 cutting	67 illegal cutting	7 non-compliant	
unauthorised down & 42		down & 3	clearings	
chopping/ illegal		non-compliant		
clearing	clearings	clearings		

Despite reinforced support for the village associations after February's cyclones, unauthorised clearing was recorded in the 3 VOI.

Our zone of activity covers about 3800 ha of which almost 934 ha are conservation and restoration areas. The VOI bring together 777 members (30% increase compared to 2021): 310 for the Miaradia VOI, 210 for the Samivar VOI and 247 for the Manirisoa VOI.

In 2022, we built a house that serves as an office and meeting room for the Manirisoa VOI The house was equipped with appropriate furniture and



Marinisoa House © IMPACT Madagascar

toilets were built nearby.

#### 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,



# THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT

 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 nurseries damaged by the cyclones were quickly rehabilitated. Although the cyclones destroyed 20% of the forest plants, there was no interruption to the forest restoration programme. The 5700 saplings that survived the passage of the 2 cyclones were planted in March.



Tree nursery workers at work © IMPACT Madagascan

In total 8300 forest saplings were planted in 2022, which represents 4ha of forest restored. The gardeners from the school vegetable gardens (destroyed by the cyclones) joined the team of nursery workers to increase the production of forest plants. 46,759 saplings of 30 forest species were produced in our 3 nurseries.

In addition, we have joined the programme "Plant for Planet" programme of the Fondation Yves Rocher which enables us to increase our targets by planning the restoration of 60ha of forest in 5 years. 9 priority zones for restoration have been identified.

A 4<sup>th</sup> nursery has been created on a plot of land that we are in the process of acquiring with our partner

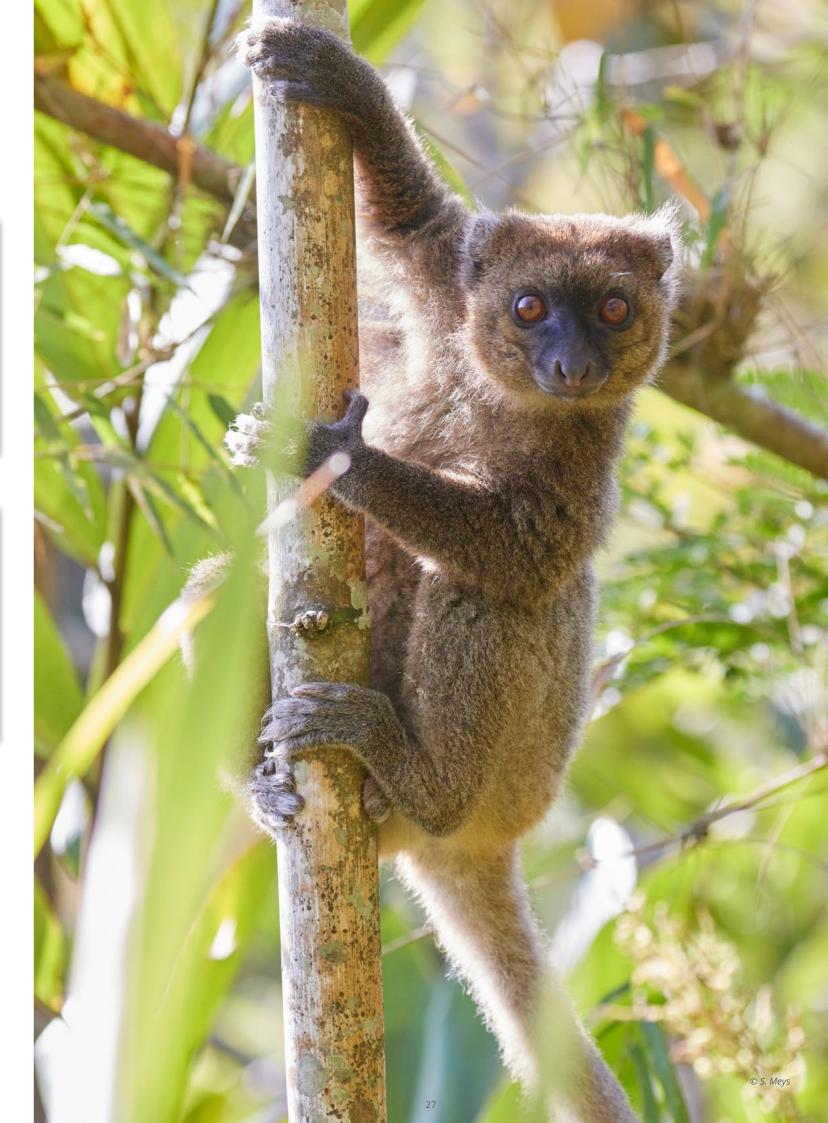
IMPACT Madagascar.



One of the 4 nurseries of the forest restoration and reforesting programme © IMPACT Madagascar



One of the 4 nurseries of the forest restoration and reforesting programme © IMPACT Madagascar







# EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

### EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT



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

We pay half of the salaries of 16 teachers and have distributed over 650 school kits this year.



Distribution of school kits at Ambodimanga © *D. Roullet* 

Our environmental education programme took a new turn in 2022 with the creation of the Simus School, our house dedicated to education on the environment.



Simus School © D. Rou

The school was built at Sahofika. It comprises a kitchen and a refectory so children from all our partner villages can be hosted and activities can be held over several days

The hiring of a new educator, Laurent, and the decision that from now on our educational programme will be supervised by our partner IMPACT Madagascar, have facilitated the organization of additional activities for the children.

Last year, we held 65 educational workshops, in which 1866 children participated. We introduced new activities, in particular a workshop called "I take care of the forest". The aim of this workshop is to raise awareness of the forests' importance among the children by teaching them to look after the trees that they have planted themselves near their school.



Planting workshop © IMPACT Madagascar

In addition, during the long holidays, we organized our 2 first outdoor classes in the National Park of Ranomafana.

They brought together about thirty children.
They were all amazed by this place which they had never had an opportunity to visit. They were able to observe the red-bellied lemurs, Milne-Edwards's sifakas, rufous brown lemurs, as well as many endemic species of vegetation.

They discovered the different roles of the forest and the interdependence of the living beings in this ecosystem.



A visit to the National Park © *IMPACT Madagascar* 

In 2022, we also organized seven tours to the forest fragment of Sahofika, two of which were during the Christmas holidays when the Simus School was launched.

These tours allowed 43 children to observe the greater bamboo lemurs (Group 5) and the family of red-bellied lemurs monitored since 2017.

The children quickly identified these as the heroes of their illustrated booklet called "Noro's Haven".



Reading the booklet "Noro's Haven" at the Sahofika School

© IMPACT Madagascar

In September and October, our educators concentrated on preparing the Simus Festival, a major event that had not taken place since the start of the pandemic.

About 150 children participated in this event, presenting song and dance shows. Laurent even composed a song especially for this event, which was adopted by several schools.



imus Festival © *D. Roullet* 



Sillius Festival & D. Roulle



Football competition during the Simus Festiva © *D. Roullet* 

2022 was an especially rich year for our environmental education programme, the main aim of which is for the children to

know more about their biodiversity and to learn to preserve it.

#### The School Canteens

Following the cyclones in February, the school canteens were extended after Easter holidays up to the long holidays.



# EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT

During the 2021-2022 school year, we distributed nearly 68,000 meals to over 660 children and their 22 teachers.



It should be noted that not only did the canteens have a beneficial effect on attendance of the pupils (+17%) but also on their school results (+25%). From now on, the canteens will stay open the entire school year. They reopened in early October for over 700 children.

Thanks to the Fondation d'Entreprise Bel, the kitchen of the Sahofika school canteen was rebuilt and



extended. It had become dilapidated (especially after the cyclones passed) and too small for the number of pupils using it. In addition, our teams were trained in the Nutricartes method the aim of which his to fight malnutrition among children.

During the first quarter, they distributed nearly 31,500 meals to 719 children and their 23 teachers! The school canteens encourage regular attendance by the children at school, which contributes to significantly improving their academic results. They are also a source of employment for over a hundred cooks who work in rotation to prepare the meals. Each day, 14 are mobilised for this task.

This programme of school canteens has two objectives:

- To ensure the presence of the children at school,
- To develop the local economy around the management of the school canteens.

#### **Mother-Daughter Workshops on Menstrual cycles** and hygiene

In 2022, we organized our first mother-daughter workshop on the menstrual cycle and related hygiene. It brought together 35 mothers and their daughters, aged from 11 to 60 years, and different themes related to the menstrual cycle and hygiene were thus tackled.

The main objective of this mother-daughter workshop is to improve the health and quality of life of the women while contributing to the prevention of early pregnancies. These can in fact cause serious health problems, sometimes even death, and leading to many adolescent girls dropping out of school.

t is important to note that the women have limited access to sex education and to information on reproductive health. This is why this workshop also aims to fill this gap by offering a space for discussion and exchange on these important subjects.

Similar workshops will be organized every year in our partner villages.

### THE NUTRICARTES WORKSHOPS



The international solidarity charity (L'Appel) has set up an entertaining learning method for teaching the fundamentals of nutrition.

The educators use a game about diet to pass on knowledge in an interactive and playful manner.

In September 2022, 11 members of our team were trained at Antananarivo by Dr. Voahangy RAJAOBELINA.

In November, workshops were organized in the 5 schools during which our team trained the school directors, the teachers, and the canteen cooks in the Nutricartes method. Aim: to improve the canteen menus quickly.

115 individuals participated in these workshops. In addition to diet, the following subjects were discussed: hygiene, budget management, etc.





Schools	Directors	Teachers	Cooks	Others*	TOTAL
Sahofika	1	2	5	6	14
Ambodigoavy	1		24		25
Vohitrarivo	1		27		28
Ambohipo	1		24		25
Ambodimanga	1		22		23
TOTAL	5	2	102	6	115

<sup>\*</sup> Helpsimus educators, IMPACT Madagascar liaison agent, Delphine Roullet and Helpsimus volunteers

These workshops were very successful. All the participants, 80% of whom passed the assessments, asked for revision sessions to be organized regularly.

The menus developed in the school canteens after the workshops will be assessed in the coming weeks.







# SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT



We continued our collaboration with the NGO IMPACT Madagascar with the following aims:

- improving existing agricultural production systems;
- · developing new revenue generating activities.

The participants benefit from training, donations of equipment and raw materials as well as constant support from our agronomists.

#### The Improved Rice-growing System

We continued to support the families that benefit from the Improved Rice-growing System (SRA).

Off-Season campaign 2021-2022:

Of the 151 families registered for this programme, 147 participated in the 2021-2022 off-season campaign, i.e. 97.3%. This represents an increase of 178%.

Results from the 2020-2021	Results from the 2021-2022 off
off season campaign	season campaign
53 participants (35% of the beneficiaries).	174 participants (97.3% of the beneficiaries).
Area cultivated with the SRA: 3.2ha	Area cultivated with the SRA: 9.75ha.
62% of the participants were assessed.	Average yield 4.05 T/ha.
Average yield 2.13 T/ha.	Destination of harvests: 26% for personal consumption and 4% for sale, 7% for seeds, 64% stocked.
Destination of harvests: 89% for	
personal consumption and 11% for sale.	109 beneficiaries in Vohitrarivo and Sahofika were checked, showing that the SRA was applied
21% of the participants sold some of their harvest generating a total profit of 290,000 Ar.	only moderately, in particular the recommended distance between rice plants was not respected.

Tab. 1 (Ar=Ariary)

High Season Campaign 2022:

Of the 151 families registered for this programme, 84 participated in the high season campaign and practiced the SRA until the harvest, i.e. 56.7%.

#### Results from the 2021 high Results from the 2022 high season campaign season campaign 30 participants (19.9% of the 148 participants (98% of the beneficiaries). beneficiaries). Area cultivated with the SRA: ab. Area cultivated with the SRA: 2ha. 6 53ha 43% of the participants were After the February cyclones, 64 assessed. participants replanted quickly and abandoned the SRA. Hence, only 84 Average yield: 1.42 T/ha. participants really practiced the SRA for this campaign, or 56.7%. Destination of the harvests: 100% personal consumption. Average yield: 3.51 t/ha for the beneficiaries who practiced the SRA to the end, 2.41 T/ha for the others. However, even though the paddy fields resisted the cyclones relatively well, the yields are lower despite the SRA. Destination of the harvests: 38% for personal consumption, 2% for sale (for only 12 beneficiaries or 8%) 1% in seeds, 59% stocked.



Monitoring the SRA © IMPACT Madagasco

Off-season campaign 2022-2023

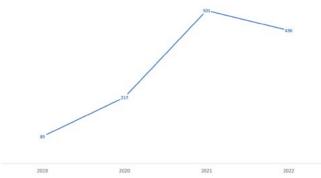
60 additional families signed up for the IPS programme for the off-season campaign, which is an increase of 40%. There are now 211 participants and have all been trained by our agronomists who have also held revision sessions for the initial beneficiaries.

Seeds have been distributed to 160 beneficiaries. Each family has received 5kg of rice representing a total of 800kg of rice.



Distributing seeds © IMPACT Madagascar

In all, 436 families participated in the development programme for vegetable crops in 2022. They all receive the support of our agronomists.



11 species of vegetable were cultivated last year:

Number of participants in vegetable crop cultivation

Irrigation improvement works continued at Vohitrarivo in 2022 (October-December 2022). This consisted of building 172m of irrigation canals (including the bridges) and 2 dams, respectively 5 and 8m. This work was essential for better management of water in the cultivated areas and especially in the paddy fields. They benefit 18 families directly and improve the yield of their paddy fields.



Irrigation improvement works © IMPACT Madagascar

canals anamamy, angivy, carrot, cucumber, courgette, cabbage, green bean, petsai, ramirebaka, tissâme and tomato.

s and 8 families of fields.



The "leafy" vegetables (anamay, petsai, cabbage, tissâme, and ramirebaka) were harvested in May-June, the others in July-August.

Vegetable Crops

Except for the paddy fields, all the crops were destroyed by the cyclones. In March we distributed seeds (beans and vegetables) to over 700 families who also benefitted from increased support from the agronomists to restart their cultivating.



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT



Number of participants assessed	Beneficiaries assessed	Products harvested (Kg)	Destination of the harvests	Profits
436	99.7%  Among the beneficiaries assessed, 63.3% sold some of their harvest. This is more than in 2021 (58%).	Anamamy = 1614 Angivy = 1515 Carrot = 2890 Cucumber = 5060 Courgette = 1492 Cabbage = 4049 Green bean = 1752 Petsai = 5772 Tissâmes = 1093 Ramirebaka = 2671 Tomato = 927	80% for direct consumption by the beneficiaries (compared to 69% in 2021) and 20% for sale (essentially to other villages).	Total profits from sales: 4,399,700 Ar.  Average profits/ beneficiary: 15,940 Ar.  The profits were mainly used to buy other basic necessities.

The profits are similar to 2021 despite an increase in the number of sellers because 80% of the harvests were consumed or stocked by the beneficiaries (consequence of the cyclones).

In 2021, we started a programme for growing beans in 15 villages from which 391 families benefit.



Monitoring of the vegetable crops © IMPACT Madagascar

Number Regis- tered	Number of participants in 2022	Area Cul- tivated	Beneficiaries Assessed	Average Yield	Quantity of Beans Harvested	Destination of the Harvests
			HIGH SEA	ASON CAMPAIG	N	
391	74 (18.9%)	1.26ha	100% Everyone sold some of their harvests.	1.32 T/ha (vs. 0.59 T/ha in 2021).	1.67 T	85% for sale (Tsaratanana and Ifanadiana markets) vs. 94% in 2021 (due to the cyclones).  15% for personal consumption. Total profit from sale 5,393,900 Ar.  Average profit/beneficiary: ab. 72,890 Ar (vs. 49,000 Ar in 2021).

Number Regis- tered	Number of participants in 2022	Area Cul- tivated	Beneficiaries Assessed	Average Yield	Quantity of Beans Harvested	Destination of the Harvests		
OFF SEASON CAMPAIGN								
391	197 (50.3%)	3.55ha	100% of which 84% sold some of their harvests.	0.91 T/ha (vs. 0.59 T/ha in 2021)	3.23 T	56% for sale (villages, Tsaratanana and Ifanadiana markets) vs. 94% in 2021 (due to the cyclones).  44% for personal consumption (including stocking for the lean period).  Total profit from sale 12,113,600 Ar.  Average profit/beneficiary: ab. 72,973 Ar (vs. 49,000 Ar in 2021).		

#### Fish Farming

The number of beneficiaries increased in 2022, today there are 65.



About a dozen basins were cracked and/or overflowed after the 2 cyclones, leading to the death of about 1000 fish (2/3 of which were fry). All the basins have been repaired.

Thirty beneficiaries were assessed in 2022, all sold

nearly 80% of the fish they had raised. In 2022, 1252 fish were raised by the 30 beneficiaries (vs 123 in 2021) and 34,949 fry were produced (vs. 4500 in 2021).

At Ambodigoavy, some beneficiaries practiced combined rice growing and fish farming which consists of raising fish in a paddy field at the same time as cultivating rice. They have mastered this technique well according to our agronomists who have checked them.

#### Reforesting



Community reforesting at Sahofika © IMPACT Madagascar

The reforesting campaign was launched at the same



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT

time as the forest restoration campaign. Over 3200 saplings of species for domestic use were planted in 2022. Over 1 hectare has in this way been reforested.

Our agronomists from IMPACT Madagascar check the 140 individual reforesting parcels every two months where the survival rate of the saplings is 92%.

#### Ecotourism project

The Ecotourism project (for day tours) has been developed at Sahofika on the territory of Group 5 of the greater bamboo lemurs which comprises about sixty individuals and where a group of red-bellied lemurs lives regularly as well as a female Madagascar long-eared owl.



The tourist guides in the forest © S. Meys



We are continuing to prepare for the site opening. The 3 tour guides are continuing to monitor several animal species: The tourist guides in the forest © S. Meys the Madagascar long-eared owl (Asio

madagascariensis), several groups of lemurs (greater bamboo lemurs and red-bellied lemurs), managing camera traps (mongoose and mouse lemur).

They accompanied several people on private tours in 2022, including an orchid specialist. Since then, their task has been to photograph the species present in the School Reserve.

#### Craftwork

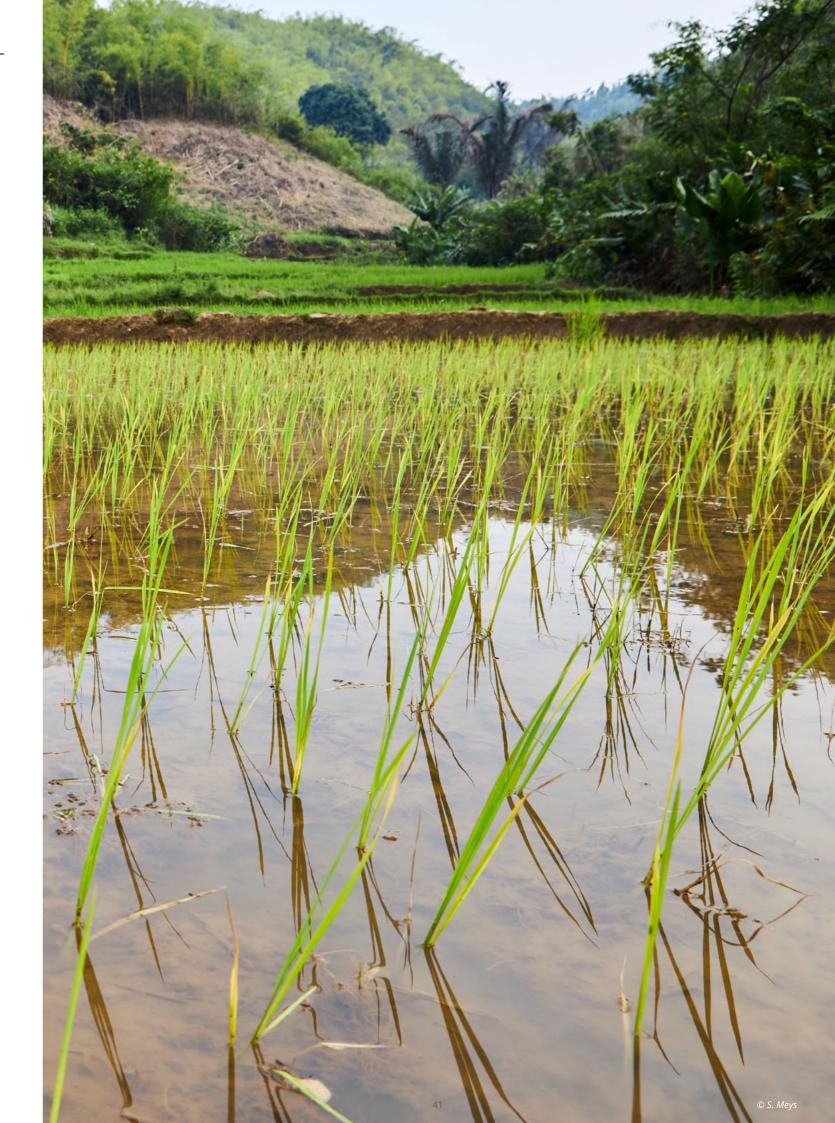
We have relaunched the craft projects (wood sculpture, embroidery and raffia) and are preparing to open our shop at Ranomafana.

We have inventoried the sculptures stocked in the apartment at Ranomafana and have bought all the new works produced by Jo and Bona, the 2 sculptors.

We have also bought soubics, baskets and little jewellery boxes made from raffia from two women from Sahofika village who have joined the project.

In addition, we have relaunched the embroidered bag project with Mamy, the embroiderer from Ranomafana. Two models of embroidered bags have been validated: one with a Greater Bamboo Lemur and the other with a chameleon. About a dozen bags have been ordered from Mamy for the shop's opening. Then Mamy will train the embroiderers of Ambodigoavy to make these bags.

Finally, we have ordered about a dozen paintings from Menabe, an artist with whom we have been collaborating for several years and who decorated the Helpsimus shop at Ranomafana.





# HELPSIMUS NEWS

#### **Publications**

We published several articles in the newsletter of the EAZA Prosimian TAG: one on the situation of the Greater Bamboo Lemur population after the cyclones Batsirai and Emnati (*PTAG Newsletter n°20*), another describing our return to the terrain after a two year interruption due to the COVID-19 epidemic (*PTAG Newsletter n°20*), and a third on the most recent developments in our programme (*PTAG Newsletter n°21*).

#### Scientific Publication

For the first time, the Greater Bamboo Lemurs' cathemeral activity has been described in detail in their natural environment. The results confirm earlier observations on this species' behavioural flexibility. Thus, the cameras located in the heart of the forest have recorded more diurnal activity while the camera at the edge of the forest fragments near the rice fields recorded much more nocturnal activity.

2022. Nazima, A., Reuillon, L., Randrianarijaona, A., Roullet, D. and Donatia, G. Coping with habitat disturbance: camera-traps reveal cathemerality of Prolemur simus in the community-managed area of Tsaratanana, eastern Madagascar. Folia primatologica, Volume 94: Issue 1, pages: 87–96.

#### Annual Conference of the EAZA

We participated in the Annual Conference of the EAZA (European Association of Zoos and Aquaria) which took place from 27 September to 1 October in Portugal.

Helpsimus organized a meeting during which its actions were presented in detail.

Josia Razafindramana, director and founder of IMPACT Madagascar also gave two presentations on the village associations (VOI), the forest restoration programme and development activities.

Delphine Roullet presented several activities of the programme, including the monitoring of the animals, the inventories and guarding the paddy fields.

We also contributed to the meeting of the Prosimian Taxon Advisory Group which brought together over 200 people. During this meeting,



Delphine Roullet, president and founder of Helpsimus, outlined the effects of February's cyclones and our strategy for dealing with them.

Florence Perroux,
Helpsimus' education
advisor, who is in charge
of education and *in situ*conservation at the Zoo
de La Palmyre, presented
our environmental



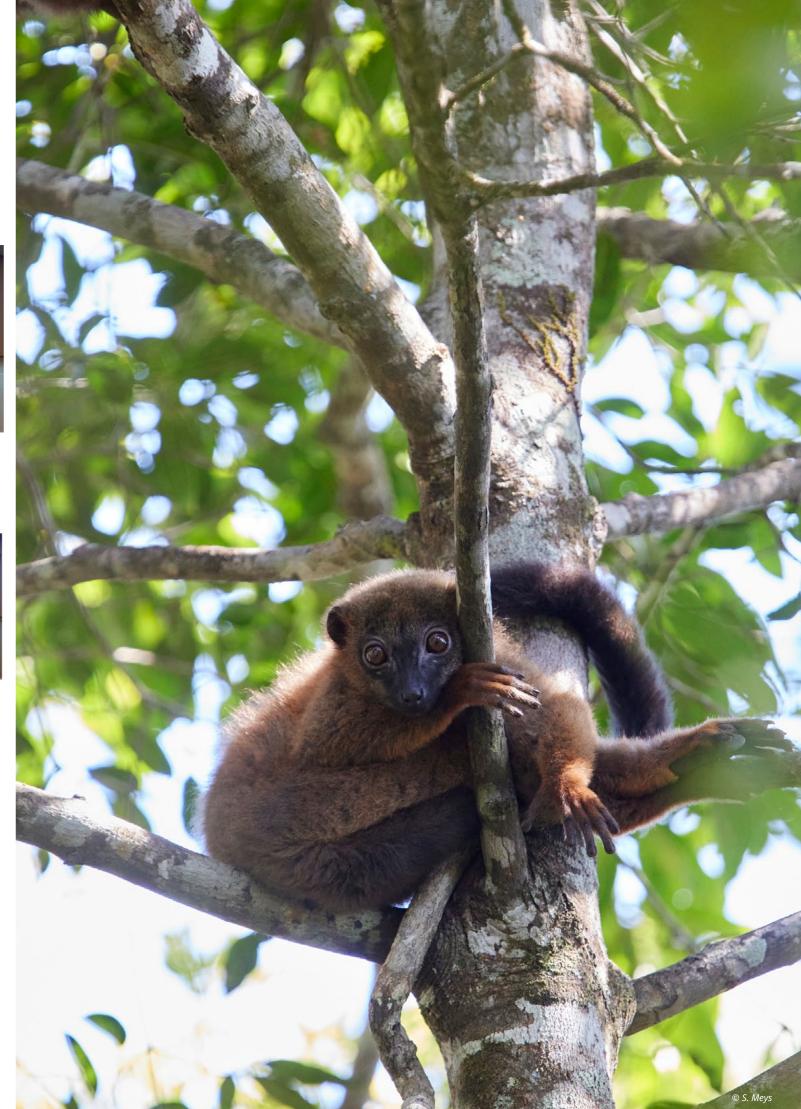
education programme and the challenges for its development in an isolated rural area of Madagascar.

At this conference which brought together over 900 people, Helpsimus made a total of 10 presentations.

Thank you again to Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens and to the EAZA who enabled Helpsimus to participate in this congress.

#### Crowdfunding campaign

After the two cyclones in February, we launched a crowdfunding campaign which contributed to funding urgent humanitarian aid.





# HELPSIMUS TOUR

### HELPSIMUS TOUR





In Madagascar, we participated in celebrating the World Environment Day in June.



#### ≥ €20,000

Foundation Audemars Piguet - Univet Nature - RP -Foundation Air France - Foundation Le PAL Nature - Le Poids du Vivant

#### €9,000 - < €20,000

Cotswold Wildlife Park - Boissière Mervent Conservation - Palmyre Conservation - Fondation Yves Rocher - Pure Trade - FDD Itancia - Foundation Bel -Thoiry Conservation

#### €3,000 - < €9,000

Hommage S. Eimer - Yorkshire Wildlife Park Foundation - SECAS - Parc Zoologique de Paris -Sainte Croix Biodiversité - AFdPZ - NaturZoo Rheine

- Conservatoire pour la Protection des Primates
- Foundation Masalina Ecofaune Association La Barben Conservation - Zoo de Montpellier - Zoo de Sanary

#### €1,500 - < €3000

CERZA - Zoo de Jurques - Parcs Lumigny - Association des Amis du Zoo de Lyon - Parc Zoologique et Botanique de Mulhouse - Zoo African Safari - Zoo de Bordeaux-Pessac - Zoo de la Citadelle de Besançon -Parc de Clères - Rotary Paris Est

#### < €1,500

IUCN SOS Species - Colchester Zoo & ABWAK -VETNET - Spaycific'Zoo - Zoo de Cologne - Zoo du Bassin d'Arcachon - Bioparc de Doué - Zoo des Sables d'Olonne - Saho Vidua - AFSA - Touroparc - La Réserve Exotique

#### Our Malagasy partners:





Logistical help: TEILIN



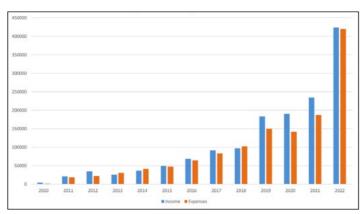
#### And the members of Helpsimus!



# PARTNERS 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Income and expenditure have increased significantly following the two cyclones that caused considerable damage in our area of activity.



Evolution of expenditure/income 2010-2022

A budget of 80,000 euros was allocated to repairing damaged infrastructure, to reinforcing the protection of the lemurs and to supporting the local communities in their response to this emergency.

In addition, the budget includes the construction of a new school building for the Ambodigoavy school.

We also obtained 70,000 euros to acquire a 40-hectare plot of private land to which several groups of Greater Bamboo Lemurs have spread their territory. The sale will be finalised in 2023.

In summary, an exceptional budget of 150,000 euros was obtained in 2022 to respond to the urgent needs relating to the cyclones and acquiring the land.

In 2022, Helpsimus reached an important step by hiring its first employee in France, Delphine Roullet. She resigned from her position as President to become Director of the association. This recruitment was made possible thanks to the granting of a special fund dedicated to financing Delphine Roullet's salary, without it affecting the programme's other budgets.

Operating Costs	Amount (€)	Operating Income	Amount (€)
Purchase of equipment Equipment for the terrain and merchandise for the Helpsimus shop	-9691.6	Provision of Services	1,500
<b>External Expenses</b> Rent Ranomafana apartment, insurance, banks, subscriptions, project expenses, postal charges, etc.	-12,459,6	Product Sales Helpsimus Boutique	1,544.3
Staff Costs	-19,420.83	Donations from Zoos (& affiliated organisations)	132,594.68
Bamboo Lemur Programme Includes amongst others, payments to teams in the terrain	-56,000	Donations from Charities, Foundations & NGO	220,548.87
IMPACT Madagascar Malagasy partner in charge of the scientific programme and assistance and development activities	-238,600	Private Donations	4,641
Building Construction Entreprise Landry (erection of buildings)	-78,720	Company donations	56,027.2
<b>External Services</b> Nutricartes workshops and services from artist Menabe	-5,000	Memberships	1,980
		Fundraising	4,590
TOTAL	-419,892.03		423,426.05
Operating results	3,534.02		

