



## BAMBOO FOR REFORESTATION OF MADAGASCAR

Valiha Diffusion is an association specializing in the planting of bamboo for reforestation in Madagascar. Our action makes it possible to regenerate soil affected by erosion, protect biodiversity, produce energy and create sustainable income for rural populations.

### KEY NUMBERS

**22 M of m<sup>3</sup>** of wood  
used each year by  
**82%** Malagasy households

### Deforestation in Madagascar



According to the Global Forest Watch, no less than 200,000 hectares of primary forests disappear each year in Madagascar under the combined effects of bush fires and charcoal production. 22 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood are used each year by 82% of Malagasy households who still use wood or charcoal as fuel for cooking. Although home to many endemic species, the primary forests of Madagascar, which covered more than 30% of the territory in 1950, only cover 10% today.

The decline of forests, which results in the loss of tree root systems, has many repercussions on ecosystems:

- Threat of extinction of plant and animal species, the most emblematic of which is that of lemurs.
- Decrease in water resources leading to desertification and soil erosion.
- Formation of landslides called locally lavakas.
- Silting of rice fields and estuaries which threaten the food production of vulnerable rural populations.

### Our solutions, bamboo and raffia

Thanks to its rapid growth, its annual regeneration and its high biomass content, bamboo used as a source of bioenergy reduces the pressure on forest resources, while creating income-generating activities for rural populations.

Bamboo groves have many benefits for the environment. They capture up to 30% more CO<sub>2</sub> than hardwood forests, restore soils threatened by erosion, raise groundwater levels and are reservoirs of biodiversity.

In wetlands affected by erosion, the Valiha Diffusion team favors the planting of raffia. Originally from Madagascar, *Raphia farinifera* is a variety of palm that grows in marshy areas and along rivers. In addition to maintaining the soil with its roots, it also serves as a raw material for the production of handicrafts and basketry.



## Our experience and our partnerships

The director of the Valiha Diffusion association in Madagascar, Mr. Jean-Yves Razafindrakoto was for more than 12 years the technical manager of the PROSPERER program financed by the European Union and the United Nations.

His great knowledge of the players in the bamboo sector has enabled our association to sign a 10-year partnership with the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar. Valiha Diffusion is also supported by INBAR (the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation) which provides technical support and quality bamboo seeds.



## Boeny region project Ankarafantsika national park

The first three-year project led by our association is part of the Forests4Future program led by GIZ (German development agency).

For the first planting campaign, which takes place between November 2022 and March 2023, our association organized the planting of 21 hectares of bamboo (8,000 plants).

The varieties that have been chosen are *Bambusa bambos*, *Bambusa vulgaris*.

This project aims to fight against deforestation in the Ankarafantsika National Park, to maintain the banks of the Betsiboka River, to protect the agricultural production areas of the Boeny region from silting and landslides.

Valiha Diffusion intervenes to organize the production of bamboo plants, plan the planting of bamboo and raffia as well as support the populations in the production of handicrafts. We also provide advice to optimize the production of bamboo charcoal and supervise its marketing in the city of Mahajanga.



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Planted for the first phase of the project