Annual Report 2025

HELPSIMUS

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.

Our **values**

To listen, understand and act while respecting Malagasy tradition and culture.
To support the populations in their efforts in favor of sustainable development.
To provide the lemurs a future in an appropriate habitat.

HELPSIMUS was established 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 nearby villages, and funding the education of local children.

The Greater Bamboo Lemur is one of the most threatened lemurs of Madagascar. It used to live widely all over the island, but now it is only found in the humid forests of the East where slightly more than a thousand individuals have been recorded.

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The Director's Message

The year 2025 was marked by the setting up of an emergency plan, which was prepared after noting an alarming decrease of greater bamboo lemur population in 2024.

In response to this situation, we strengthened and complemented the initiatives already undertaken.
For instance, we secured new territories, with the acquisition of 39 additional hectares in 2025, we reorganized the monitoring of greater bamboo lemurs, and we developed the scientific programme with the launching of a PhD thesis dedicated to this species.

At the same time, we accelerated the transition of our agricultural programme (and the first results are encouraging), and we started an agroforestry programme.

In addition, we reorganized the patrols, with a growing number of field monitoring. We also carried on developing our infrastructures, by extending and improving our camps, thus helping the strengthening of the working conditions of our teams in the field.

The Vohitrarivo sector remains particularly under pressure. However, the data show a stabilization of the population in the two other sectors of our area of activity, which is an encouraging signal.

Moreover, the year 2025 was marked by significant advances in terms of reforestation, with the mobilization of over 4000 planters and the restoration of 19 hectares of forest fragments.

At the same time, we pursued and strengthened our initiatives in favor of community health, in particular through the management of waste, the control of rodents, and the setting up of hygiene workshops, from an integrated perspective, linking human health, environment and conservation.

Our school canteens also distributed over 110000 meals to a steadily increasing number of children. They carry on developing short supply chains that help dynamize the local economy.

"The year 2025 was marked by significant advances in terms of reforestation, with the mobilization of over 4000 planters and the restoration of 19 hectares of forest fragments."

The renewal of VOI contracts for a five-year period shows the sustainability of the initiatives undertaken, in terms of forest monitoring and in terms of engagement of local communities in their preservation and restoration.

Yet, the year 2025 was also a difficult year for the French team of Helpsimus from a human perspective, with the death of one of its historic members.

I would like to thank very much all of


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our partners for their trust and their engagement with us.

More than ever, we are moving forward together to protect biodiversity and build sustainable solutions with local communities.

Delphine Roullet

Key dates

2024 | ***2024 launching the process of the creation of a Class 5 Protected Area.***
It will integrate the three VOI and the private land, and will allow for long lasting protection of greater bamboo lemurs and their habitat.

2023 | ***Construction of the first Research Center.***
It hosts the students and volunteers of the programme who carry out research on the lemurs present onsite and, on the issues related to the activities of the Bamboo Lemur programme.

2022 | ***The Simus School opens in Sahofika.***
The Simus School hosts the children from the partner villages of the Bamboo Lemur programme. Environmental education activities are organized there.

2020 | ***The population of greater bamboo lemurs at the Bamboo Lemur programme site exceeds 500 individuals; it is now the largest known wild population of the species under long-term study.***

2019 | ***Launch of the rice field guardening and forest restoration programs, and start of the environmental education program.***
Resolving conflicts between lemurs and villagers is necessary to preserve the species in the long term, just as restoring its habitat and raising children's awareness of its importance to the ecosystem are.

2016 | ***Helpsimus becomes the supporting organization for the creation of the three VOIs (village associations) and launches its school canteen program.***
VOI Miaradia was the first to be established. Those of Samivar and Manirisoa followed.

2015 | ***Launch of the development aid program.***
Helpsimus collaborates with the team of agronomists from the Malagasy NGO IMPACT Madagascar to work on improving yields and developing modern agricultural techniques.

2013 | ***Launch of the support program to the schools.***
The Bambou Lemur program supports the education of children from 5 partner villages: Sahofika, Vohitrarivo, Volotara, Ambodigoavy and Ambodimanga.

2012 | ***Launch of the scientific program with the first field studies.***
This year also marks the removal of the Greater Bamboo Lemur from the list of the World's 25 most endangered primates.

2009 | ***Foundation of the French Association for the Protection of the Greater Bamboo Lemur, called "Helpsimus".***
Partners need 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 (500 specimens out of an overall total of 1400 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 VOI[1]) .
2. Giving the local communities sufficient resources to reduce pressures on the environment. This consists in 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 Income Generating Activities.
3. Supporting the children's education.

The greater bamboo lemurs' habitat, comprised mostly of forests of bamboo of which they feed almost exclusively, is badly damaged by "tavy" (slash-and-burn cultivating). We are therefore 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.

- **Socio-Economic component**

We are improving the standard of living of the local populations by helping secure the produce from their harvests and improving yields, developing new Income Generating Activities, building new infrastructures and means of communication, and implementing better hygiene practices to improve the health of the communities.

- **Education component**

We are improving awareness among local communities and we are facilitating access to education for the children from villages located in the fokontany engaged in the programme.

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[1]Village association to which the forest authority transfers the management of the natural resources which can be found on its land.

The Bamboo Lemur programme

2025
ANNUAL REPORT

Location

390 km south-east of Antananarivo, 4 km 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.

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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.

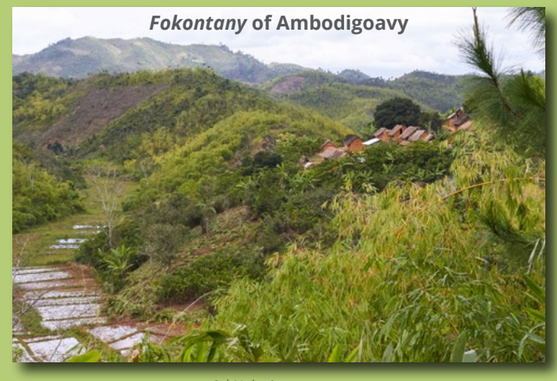
***Fokontany* of Vohitrarivo**

The programme's main camp, around 10 minutes' walk from the village.

***Fokontany* of Sahofika**

The most outlying village which hosts our secondary camp.

***Fokontany* of Ambodigoavy**



3rd Helpsimus camp.

***Fokontany* of Ambodimanga**

***Fokontany* of Ambohipo**

The villagers

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.

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

Monitoring the Greater Bamboo Lemurs

Greater Bamboo Lemurs © Helpsimus

In 2024, the pressures on greater bamboo lemurs increased for various reasons: the decrease in agricultural yields as a result of the impact of climate change, the deterioration of bamboo forests after the cyclones of 2022, as well as inflation which was accentuated by the poor state of the roads.

The area of activity had reached its maximum capacity for this species, so that some greater bamboo lemurs moved outside of the said area, where their chances of survival are poorer. For the first time since the start of the programme, the population thus decreased, to reach approximately 500 greater bamboo lemurs at the end of the year.

In 2025, the monitoring of greater bamboo lemurs was increased thanks to two major changes. First, **the team of guides was reorganized:** the monitoring of some small groups (2A, 2B and 7), comprised of less than 10 individuals that had become difficult to trace, was stopped, in order to focus the efforts on the other groups. In addition, new persons were hired, so that at the present time, each group is monitored 5 days a week, compared to 10 days a month for some groups previously. Groups 2 and 3, (the presence of dogs on their territory was reported on a regular basis) are subject to an enhanced monitoring 7 days a week. Moreover, a census of the whole population which includes the monitored and non-monitored groups is now made twice a year with the research assistants of IMPACT Madagascar: a first time before the birth season (August-October) and a second time after the birth season (end of January-March).

This new organization enables the cross-checking of the monthly counting made by the guides with those of the bi-annual census, in order to consolidate data and response more rapidly in the event of a headcount reduction.

In total, 29 local guides, 2 guards and 2 tour guides take care of the monitoring of greater bamboo lemurs.

Between February and September 2025, the greater bamboo lemur population continued to fall, in particular in the Vohitrarivo sector, where pressures remains the strongest and where the bamboo forests were most affected by the cyclones of 2022. Some of them had been destroyed up to 40%, and led to a significant dispersal of lemurs and a sustainable reorganization of the groups.

Around fifty births were recorded at the end of the year. Yet, the exact number will be confirmed at the time of the global counting which will be made in February 2026.

Baby greater bamboo lemur - Group 3
© Fano/Helpsimus

The latest observations of the year are encouraging in some sectors, and the population may exceed 500 individuals after the birth season.

However, the Vohitrarivo sector remains under pressure, all the more so as the births may lead to new dispersals. In the abovementioned sector, the largest group of greater bamboo lemurs can now be found on the Simus Land, an area made of 40 hectares of private lands acquired in 2023, thus illustrating the efficiency of such approach in order to secure new territories. In 2025, we thus continued to

		February 2025	September 2025	
Sector	Group	Global number of individuals		Comments
VOHITRARIVO	1	34	33	3 subgroups: 2 guides for the subgroup located in the Miradia VOI. The 2 other subgroups are monitored by 2 guards 10 days a month.
	1A	10	7	2 guides.
	~~1B~~			The Group disappeared in 2024.
	~~1AA~~			The Group disappeared in 2024.
	2	38	26	2 guides, group monitored 7 days a week.
	2A	4	0	Monitoring stopped in 2025.
	2B	11	0	Monitoring stopped in 2025.
	3	42	36	2 guides. Group monitored 7 days a week.
	4	22	27	2 guides.
	4A	11	0	A guide was hired in December, following the rediscovery of a few individuals, in order to increase the presence of guides in the area, which is most affected by the reduction in number of animals.
SAHOFIKA	5	74	73	2-3 subgroups: 4 guides (2 during the first two weeks of the month and two during the last two weeks of the month) accompanied by the help from tour guides and some guides from the school reserve where group 5 has expanded its territory.
	6	81	77	2 subgroups: 5 guides (3 guides during the first two weeks of the month and two guides during the last two weeks of the month.
	6A	37	44	2 subgroups: 4 guides (2 guides during the first two weeks of the months 2 guides during the last 2 weeks of the month).
	7	5	5	Monitoring stopped in 2025.
	~~7A~~			The group disappeared in 2024.
VOLOTARA	8	48	48	2 guides.
	8A	26	24	1 guide.
	9	37	45	2 subgroups: 2 guides.
	9A	12		
TOTAL		492	445	

Table 1. Results of the 2 censuses of the whole population

The Simus land, territory of Group 3 © D. Roullet

acquire lands, simultaneously with the proposed creation of the New Protected Area (NPA), in order to rapidly ensure protection of the new habitats for the lemurs.
In total, 39 additional hectares were acquired, including 5 hectares allowing for connecting the first 40 hectares to the Manirisoa VOI.

In 2025, the scientific programme also strongly developed, in order to better understand greater bamboo lemurs' needs and define a sustainable conservation strategy to preserve the largest known population of this species in Madagascar.

Identification of Group 3

Group 3, which lives on the Simus' Land and which is regularly spotted next to the Simus' Research Center has been the subject of various studies, in particular with respect to greater bamboo lemurs' food and social organization (see below).

The individuals started being identified in 2024, and the process continued in 2025, in particular with the installation of footbridges on their territory.

Footbridge for the lemurs © Helpsimus

Those footbridges, which were initially set up in the paddy field guarding areas to help driving greater bamboo lemurs away, are extensively used by the animals, given that they ease their moves.

Camera traps were installed at each end in order to record their movements and facilitate the identification of the individuals.

The monitoring of the Ranomafana Bamboo Lemurs

The habituation of Ranomafana bamboo lemurs living on the Simus Land continued, with encouraging progress: the guides can now approach within 10 meters of the group, even though approaching the animals within 5 meters make them remain alert and move away.

Ranomafana Bamboo Lemur © Helpsimus

The habituation of Ranomafana bamboo lemurs is more difficult than that of greater bamboo lemurs. Ranomafana bamboo lemurs are smaller, they live in small groups and are naturally quite discreet, so that longer and more complex approaches are required.

The habituation of the group, which is comprised of 7 individuals, is important given that the group lives next to the Simus Research Center. In addition, a second group comprised of 5 individuals that live on the other side of the path delimiting the territory of the first group, is watched on a regular basis.

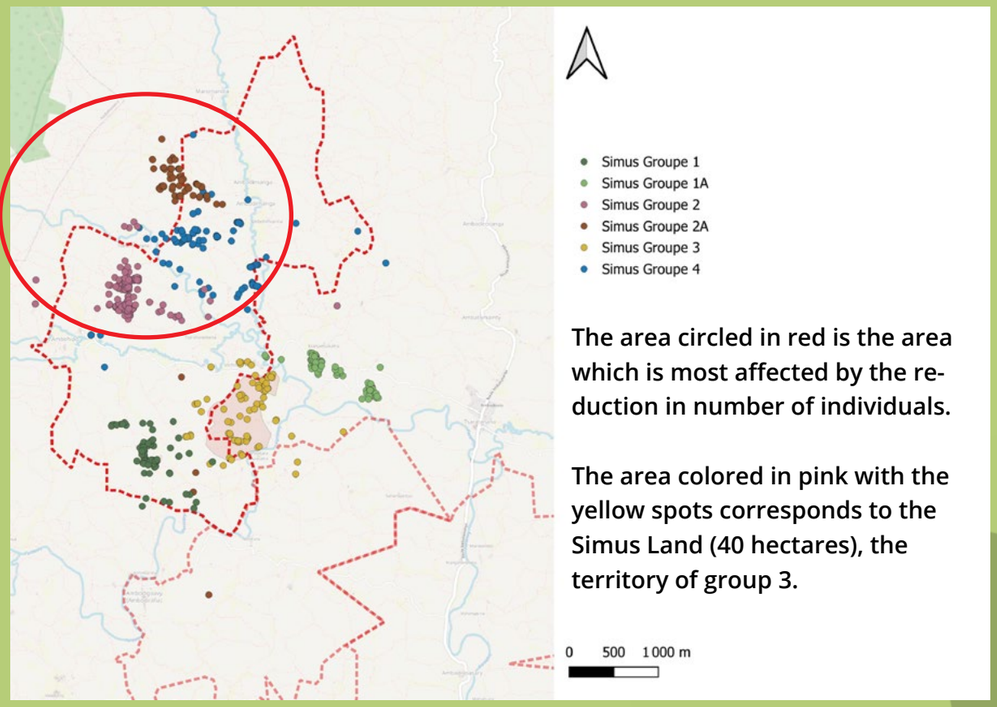


Fig. 2 Distribution map of the greater bamboo lemur groups–Miaradia VOI.

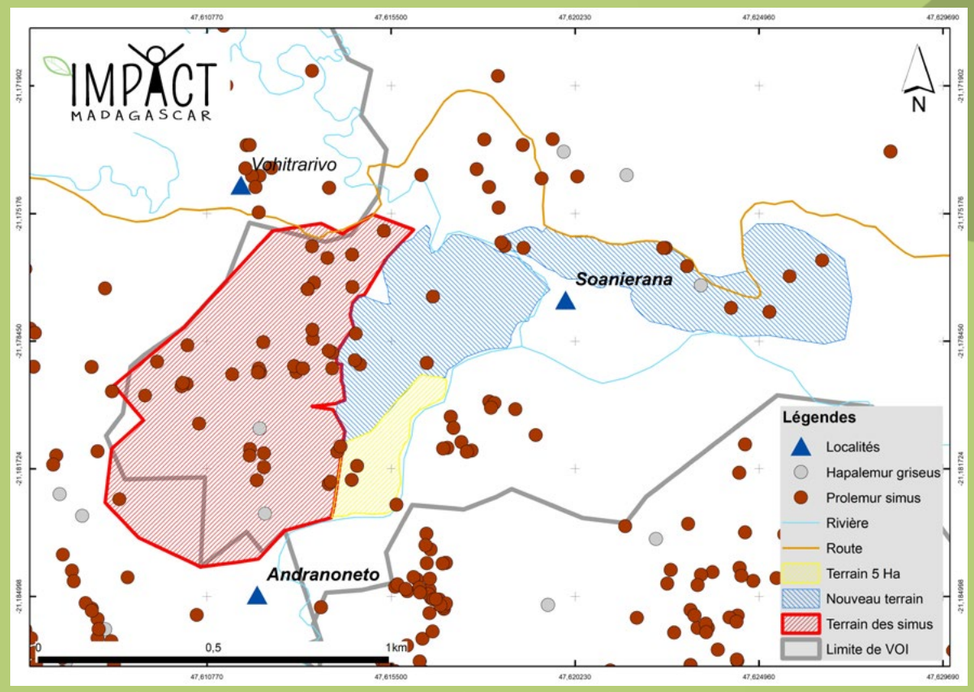


Fig. 2 Location of private lands acquired : red dots = greater bamboo lemurs; red area = the land comprising 40 ha acquired in 2023; yellow area = the land comprising 5 ha; blue areas = the lands comprising 20 and 14 ha.

In total, three groups of Ranomafana bamboo lemurs are monitored: two in Vohitrarivo and one in Volotara.

The monitoring of Red-bellied Lemurs

Births were recorded in nearly all the red-bellied lemur groups that we monitor, which shows that almost all the females give birth to a newborn red-bellied lemur each year.

In the Ankolona group, two individuals (born in 2021 and 2022) left their group just before the birth of 22 October 2025. Those departures are natural: young red-bellied lemurs leave the group when approaching sexual maturity, generally when they reach the age of 2.5-3 years old.

The male born in 2021 left a bit later than the previous ones, probably as a result of a growth at a slower pace or stronger ties with the parents. **At present the group is comprised of 5 individuals: the parents, a female born in 2023, a male born in 2024 and the newborn born in 2025.**

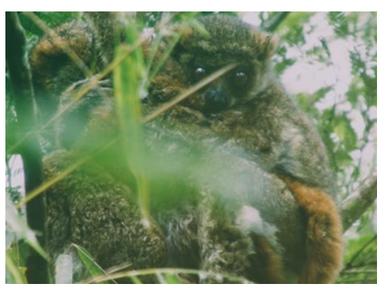
The inventory of red-bellied lemurs was made between August and October in the sectors of Sahofika and Volotara, where this species can be found. Approximately 50 individuals were recorded there, compared to approximately 30 individuals in 2019.

Red-bellied lemurs in Volotara © Helpsimus

Those results show an increase in this population improved by a better coverage of the areas prospected, with two additional groups identified in forest fragments that had never been visited before.

The monitoring of Peyrieras Woolly Lemurs

Two births of Peyrieras woolly lemur were recorded in the Vohitrarivo group and in the group present on the territory of group 6A, which is watched, on a regular basis, by the guides.



Peyrieras' woolly lemurs © Helpsimus

The inventory made between August and October in Sahofika and Volotara enabled to identify 8 groups for a total of 29 individuals! A new group of Peyrieras woolly lemurs was observed on the Simus Land, on the territory of group 3. The presence of the group was suspected since last year, given that some droppings had been found there. Yet, the group had not been spotted directly yet. This year, Fano and José, the two guides of group 3, managed to spot them and take a picture of them for the first time.

Peyrieras woolly lemurs © Helpsimus

At present, almost all of the lemur groups are monitored 5 days a week.

The guides

The team of guides comprises 44 persons (excluding the guards and tour guides) from the villages of Vohitrarivo, Vohimarina, Ambohipo, Ambodimanga, Volotara, Ambodigoavy and Sahofika.

The duties of the team of guides are defined as follows:

- monitoring the groups (locating the animals and determining their territory using GPS, counting them in order to update inventories on a regular basis),
- report threats (presence of dogs or traps) and raids by the lemurs on crops (for greater bamboo lemurs);
- fending off greater bamboo lemurs from the crops;
- accompanying the scientific teams and volunteers;
- participating in the inventory process.

The guides, staff of the three camps and a few members of IMPACT Madagascar with their new clothes © D. Roullet

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

The Other Animal Species

The fauna inventory started in 2017 and accelerated in 2018 with the use of camera traps (see details in Table 2 opposite).

The Research Programme

Research on greater bamboo lemurs accelerated in 2025 with the launching of a Phd thesis in order to better understand the conditions required to ensure long term preservation of a population of 500 individuals in Helpsimus'

Groups	Number of Species	Comments
Amphibians	23 including *Mantidactylus ambony*, a newly described species (Scherz et col., 2020)	According to a preliminary inventory completed in the Miaradia VOI (Nov-Dec 2020).
Reptiles	At least 20.	14 species were recorded during an inventory made in the Miaradia VOI (Nov-Dec 2020). At least 2 species of *Uroplatus* were identified in Sahofika. At least 4 species of geckos of type *Phelsuma* seem to be present in our area of activity (photos of the guides and of S. Meys). 4 species recorded in 2024 on the Simus Land. Those 4 species had not been recorded in the inventory made in 2020.
Birds	61 (+1 in 2025), 36 of which were photographed (59%).	46 species were recorded in the Miaradia VOI on the occasion of the two fauna inventories made in 2017 and 2020. The inventories of the Simus Land made in 2023 and 2024 enabled to identified various additional species. Other species were recorded thanks to photos taken by the guides, volunteers and research assistants, as well as videos from the camera traps. Since 2019, a monitoring of the Madagascar Owl (*Asio madagascariensis*) has been ongoing in the forest fragment of Ankolona – Sanofika.
Mammals (except lemurs)	At least ten species.	Monitoring of the Ring-tailed Mongoose (*Galidia elegans*) started in 2018. The presence of Broad-striped Mongoose (*Galidictis fasciata*) and of the Spotted Fanaloka (*Fossa fossana*) was confirmed in 2025.

Table 2. Monitoring og the other animal species

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT

Table 3. Summary of the monitoring of lemurs

December 2025				
Species	**Nb of groups monitored**	**Nb of individuals**	**Nb of guides**	**Comments**
Greater Bamboo Lemur	19	445 (sept 25) and 496 (Dec 25 – counting made by the guides)	29 + 2 guards + 2 tour guides	5 groups regularly split up into 2 or 3 sub-groups
Red-bellied Lemur	6	24	8 + 2 tour guides	Several groups on the territories of groups 5, 6 and 6A.
Ranomafana Bamboo Lemur	3	22	4	+2 groups on the territories of groups 3 & 8. Some births were identified among the 3 groups monitored.
Peyrieras Woolly Lemur	3	12	3	+ 1 group comprised of three individuals observed on the territory of group 6A. In Sahofika, the guide is trained to use camera traps and collect the videos of the animals
TOTAL	**29**	**554**	**48**	

Photos taken by the guides

Seven guides are equipped with a camera. They take photos of the lemur groups they monitor and of all the animals observed during the day. In particular, their pictures facilitate the identification of the individuals, which will be essential for the study of social relationships within the groups. At the present time, the social relationships are mainly based on age and sex.

In addition, the photos enable to document the births, including within non-monitored groups. For instance, on the territory of group 6A, Lamy took photos of a Peyrieras woolly lemur with his baby born at the end of 2025. Noret also took several photos of young greater bamboo lemurs born during the same period. Furthermore, the photos enable to confirm the presence of other groups of lemurs on the greater bamboo lemurs' territory. Thus, Fano took photos of a group of Peyrieras woolly lemurs on the territory of group 3, whereas until then, only their indirect presence (droppings) had been reported. Last, those photos are used to count the other species, in particular the birds, several of which could be identified thanks to the photos taken by the guides.

© F. Perroux

area of activity.

This Phd thesis is prepared by Toky Rakotoarinivo, regional manager of the programme within our partner IMPACT Madagascar, with the help of two research assistants.

The latter contribute to collecting the data, in particular the data related to greater bamboo lemurs' food (first stage completed in April-May), the growth and regeneration of bamboo, the distribution of bamboo areas, as well as the lemurs' behavior (social relations and moves). The first results of the studies carried out in 2025 within the framework of this Phd thesis, or in support of this Phd work, are presented below.

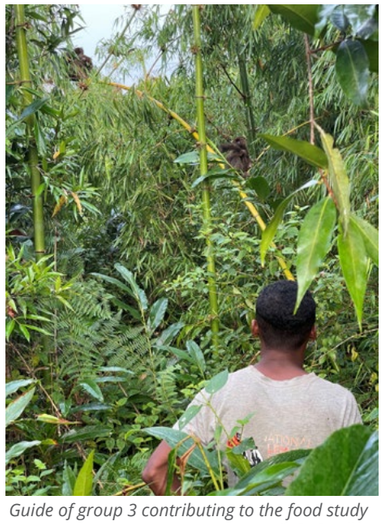
Social organization of greater bamboo lemurs:
The observations made during the breeding season show that females constitute the core of the groups, whereas males tend to evolve at the periphery and to avoid one another.

Study of preferential spatial associations of Group 3 © D. Roullet

The study will be pursued during other periods of the year in order to assess whether or not this organization changes during the non-breeding period.

Greater bamboo lemurs' food (March-April 2025):
Bamboo accounts for approximately 84,5% of their diet and may exceed 95% of their diet when the young shoots are abundant. No significant difference was noted between adult males and adult females.

This study, which is aimed at assessing the daily consumption per individual, will be repeated at different times of the year.



Guide of group 3 contributing to the food study © D. Roullet

Mapping of bamboo areas (2025):
A mapping of bamboo areas was made in 2025 in order to better understand their distribution and guide futures initiatives in terms of habitat conservation and restoration.

Bamboo evolution (study initiated in 2023):
The first results show a deterioration of the plots monitored in Vohitrarivo in one year, which is related to natural ageing, and also maybe to the drought and greater bamboo lemurs' pressure.

Study on bamboo regeneration © IMPACT Madagascar

On the contrary, the plots cleared a year and a half ago have a higher density of bamboo, in particular where the plant residues have been withdrawn or burnt. Those results provide useful information for habitat management purposes, and highlight the interest of controlled clearing and of initiatives favoring bamboo regeneration.

Since April 2025, one of our guides has managed several camera traps in order to collect videos on Peyrieras woolly lemurs of Sahofika and to complement the first data collected at the end of 2024 in that area. A second Phd thesis was initiated in 2025, which is dedicated to carnivores. It aims at understanding the reason why some species present in the National Park of Ranomafana are not observed in the Helpsimus conservation area.

In this context, some inventories made through the use of camera traps between June and December 2025 in the Vohitrarivo, Sahofika and Volotara sectors. In particular, those inventories enabled to confirm for the first time since the start of the programme, two other endemic carnivores in our conservation area, the Broad-striped Vontsira (*Galidictis fasciata*) and the Spotted Fanaloka (*Fossa fossana*), in addition to Ring-tailed Vontsira (*Galidia elegans*), monitored since 2018.

The first analyses show that the forest fragments present on the site of the Bamboo Lemur programme still offer functional habitat for Malagasy carnivores. However, their adaptability to an environment that had been fundamentally reshaped by human activity could be insufficient, in the long term, in the face of the deterioration of the environment and the pressure exerted by invasive species (small Indian civet (*Viverricula indica*) and the dogs.

Guarding the paddy fields
We introduced guarding of the paddy fields in October 2019: guards work in shift 24 hours a day to watch the paddy fields with rice grains ripening, until the harvest.

The guarding of the paddy fields covers two annual rice harvests:

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

All farmers do not start cultivation at the same time, hence the timing difference regarding the crops.

In addition to this surveillance, the areas around the paddy fields are cleared in order to improve visibility for the guards and footbridges are also installed along the lemurs' paths.

The team of guards is comprised of 168 persons who are managed by an agent from IMPACT Madagascar (the agent is paid by Helpsimus). The table 4 (see following page) presents the results of the two guarding campaigns conducted in 2025.

En 2025, 16 new guards were hired to monitor two new paddy field areas in the sector of Sahofika, so that at present the total number of guards amounts to 168.

Their equipment was completely replaced and some tents were distributed in order to improve the working conditions of night guards. During the high-season campaign, 38 hectares of paddy fields were monitored. In addition, seven footbridges were built in 2025: five in the existing guarding areas and two in the new areas.

Footbridge for the lemurs © IMPACT Madagascar

The VOI
Helpsimus supports the creation of the VOI (Village association to which the forest administration transfers the management of the natural resources present on its lands) and therefore coordinates the project, with the assistance of the NGO IMPACT Madagascar.

As a reminder, the creation of these VOI is a vital step of the Bamboo Lemur programme, given that It provides a first level of protection, not only for 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 this lemur.

Campaign	Period	Number of paddy fields guarded	Number of greater bamboo lemur intrusion attempts in the paddy fields	Number of successful intrusions	Number of successful intrusions having caused damaged	Number of beneficiaries/ Satisfaction rate
Off-season	From Nov 2024 to Feb 2025	765	424	9	Damage, representing less than 1% was noted only in 3 paddy fields	185/95%
High-campaign	April to June 2025	2117	997	37	Damage, representing less than 1% was noted only in 11 paddy fields.	197/94%

Table 4. Result of the guarding campaigns of 2025

Three VOI were required to cover Helpsimus's area of activity (which corresponds to an area of almost 3800 ha). The MIARADIA VOI was created in 2016, followed by the SAMIVAR VOI in 2018, and the MANIRISOA VOI which was formalized in 2020.

VOI	Surface area of the Forest fragment managed	Number of members (Dec 2025)	Number of renewals
MIARADIA	939 ha	344	2 3-year contracts and 1 new 5-year contract
SAMIVAR	2243 ha	306	2 3-year contracts and 1 new 5-year contract
MANIRISOA	615 ha	300	2 3-year contracts and 1 new 5-year contract

Table 5 The VOI of the Bamboo Lemur programme

Helpsimus also supports the Management Action Plans ('MAP' that sets the long-term targets of the VOI) and the Annual Work Plans ('AWP' that details the practical steps to be taken in order to implement the Management Action Plan) of the VOI. Table 5 (see at right) gives some information on each VOI.

At the moment, the VOI are comprised of 950 members, i.e. a 11.7% increase compared to 2024. The management contracts of the three VOI were renewed on 25 April 2025 for a 5-year period (compared to a three-year period in the past) on the occasion of a ritualized celebration.

This renewal shows the progress made by the VOI, in particular the commitment of patrollers in detecting threats, as well as the participation of communities in conservation activities, such as forest restoration and development of sustainable means of subsistence.

Signing of the new contracts © D. Roullet

Some improvements remain to be made in particular in terms of governance and management of threats. We will continue to assist the VOI in order to strengthen local capacities and improve efficiency of the device. Two capacity-building sessions of the VOI with respect to the application of the DINA (a community regulation acknowledged by the authorities which sets the local rules and sanctions in the event of non-compliance) were organized in 2025: the first one in April, with 100 participants and the second one in September, with 90 participants.

The main topics broached related to the application of the DINA, request for logging and land clearing (tavy), as well as the associated rules.

Creation of a New Class 5 Protected Area.

Definition : a Class 5 Protected Area is defined as a natural resource management area where the aims to preserve biodiversity are combined with sustainable economic and social activities, while enabling local communities to participate in managing those resources.

Progress made in 2025: 11 public consultations were organized, ten public consultations in February 2025 in the sites visited during the preliminary inventories around our area of activity, and one consultation in September 2025 in Tsaratanana. The latter consultation gathered 81 participants, including a parliamentary assistant, the mayor and the deputy mayor, two representatives of the CIREF of Mananjary, four cops, and seventy-two mobile local authorities.

Public consultations © IMPACT Madagascar

All the participants welcomed the project.

Somes inventories were also made around our area of activity and in the proposed perimeter for the future protected area. Among the ten sites already visited, six of them host lemurs, four of which include four to six species. Greater bamboo lemurs are present on all of the abovementioned sites.

Prospections for the creation of the Protected Area © IMPACT Madagascar

Approximately twenty species of birds as well as numerous reptiles (chameleons, snakes, geckos etc…) were also identified. The main threats identified were the tavy and the expansion of crops. Among those sites, five of them present a specific interest for the conservation, with local communities ready to actively commit to protect them. Two of them correspond to wide bamboo areas hosting greater bamboo lemurs and Ranomafana bamboo lemurs.

The Patrols

Forest patrollers (Polisin'ala) ensure that the members of the VOI comply with the rules in terms of clearing. They are trained by our partner, IMPACT Madagascar, which then verifies their work.

Following its reorganization in May 2025, the team of patrollers moved from 51 agents working part time to 26 agents working full time, thus leading to an increase by 50% of the monthly patrols.

En 2025, 384 patrols were carried out (compared to 298 in 2024), covering an area of 2636 hectares. This corresponds to a weekly effort of 234 patrollers/ days, compared to 150 before the reorganization of the team.

This increased surveillance led to a decrease by 81% of illegal logging of timber, compared to the previous year. However, the number of non-authorized clearing is on the rise, compared to 2024 (one report), yet it remains stable compared to 2023 (28 reports). Those clearings mainly relate to private lands located inside the VOI, the control of which remains difficult given the social and hierarchical constraints within the communities, in particular when the clearings are made by the local authorities.

Three awareness-raising campaigns were organized with local communities, regarding clearing, logging of timber, and the application of the DINA. In addition, two inspection tasks

were carried out in cooperation with the technical departments of the DREDD and the Town hall of Tsaratanana.

Taken together, 10 sanctions were applied on the ground of non-compliance with the DINA, i.e. twice as much as the previous year.

	Miaradia VOI	Samivar VOI	Manirisoa VOI
No. of patrols	From January to April: 32 (8 days/ month with 15 patrollers) From May to December: 96 (12 days/month with 8 patrollers) Total 2025: 128	From January to April: 32 (8 days/ month with 21 patrollers) From May to December: 96 (12 days/ month with 10 patrollers) Total 2025: 128	From January to April: 32 (8 days/ month with 15 patrollers) From May to December: 96 (12 days/month with 8 patrollers) Total 2025: 128
Area checked per month	679,87 ha	1551,93 ha	405 ha
Number of illicit cutting	19	66	68
Number of unauthorized clearing	20	3	2

Restoration of the Forest

The aims of our forest restoration programme are to:

- restore the most damaged parts of the forest fragments present on the site of the Bamboo Lemur programme,
- create corridors among the forest fragments to ensure continuity of the lemurs' habitat.

The restoration areas correspond to almost 80% of the forests present on the site of the Bamboo Lemur programme.

The important efforts made in 2024 in terms of planting have continued and confirmed this year. As a matter of fact, over 75000 saplings were planted in 2025, thus allowing for the restoration of almost 19 hectares of forest – i.e. an increase by 26.7% compared to 2024.

Over the last two years, the annual targets set within the framework of our participation to the program "Plantons pour la Planète (Plant for the planet) of the Fondation Yves Rocher – to restore 12 ha and plant 40 000 saplings a year — were substantially exceeded.

The plantations covered 8 sites, distributed among the Miaradia, Samivar and Manirisoa VOI, as well as 40 ha of private lands acquired in partnership with the NGO IMPACT Madagascar.

Forest restoration © IMPACT Madagascar

In total, approximately 20 forest species were planted, with priority given, like in previous years, for pioneer species in order to create the required shade for future plantations.

The number of days of planting doubled compared to 2024 (from 9 to 19 days of planting) and mobilized 4200 participants (compared to 1500 in 2024).

Forest restoration © IMPACT Madagascar

Each session took place in several stages:

- Mobilization and awareness-raising of the villagers on key topics such as preservation of water resources, land quality, combating erosion, preserve biodiversity,
- Preparation of the land, including digging the holes required,
- Selection and transportation of the saplings before planting them,
- Plantation.

The survival rate of saplings reached 95% in 2025. In addition, our 4 nurseries, maintained by 12 nurserymen under the supervision of an agronomic technician, produced over 80,000 saplings in 2025.

Forest restauration © IMPACT Madagascar

Since the programme was launched in 2019, we have planted almost 196,000 saplings allowing for restoring approximately 52 ha of forest.

Forest restauration © IMPACT Madagascar

© D. Roullet

Education Component

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

EDUCATION COMPONENT

We work with 6 schools (Sahofika, Vohitrarivo, Ambodigoavy, Vohimarina (annex of Ambodigoavy), Ambodimanga and Ambohipo) located in the 5 fokontany engaged in our programme. We pay half of the remuneration of 16 teachers (from preschool to fifth grade).

School results 2024-2025

The global success rate of pupils, which corresponds to promotion to higher grades amounts to 56% and remains relatively stable compared to the previous year. This stability is encouraging, given that good school results are often related to regular attendance, which is mainly prompted by school canteens.

With respect to the Certificat d'Etude Primaire Elementaire (CEPE – primary education certificate examination) the completion rates increased globally in most of the schools based in our area of activity. However, the schools of Ambodimanga and Ambodigoavy recorded a decrease by 20% to 25%, which caused a decline of the global rate in the site (from 56% in 2024 to 53% in 2025). This decrease can be explained by various reasons which affected pupils during the school year: inflation persistence and the economic difficulties of the families, the failure to repair the bridges which limited access to schools, the draught at the beginning of year 2025, as well as the disturbance related to the electoral context. In Ambodigoavy, the retirement of a teacher may have also affected the quality of pupils' supervision.

The challenges in the next coming months and years will be to improve access to the schools and improve the teachers' training, which are essential to pupil success.

2025 back to school period

In September 2025, the number of children enrolled in school increased by 10,8%, showing the impact of the support provided to schools for several years to improve access to education in the area.

Thus, 926 children received a school kit, i.e. approximately one hundred additional beneficiaries compared to last year.

Distribution of kits © IMPACT Madagascar

Each kit was comprised of two notebooks, four pens, a ruler and one pencil. The distribution took place in presence of the cheffe ZAP, a local representative of the Ministry of National Education.

In 2025, we initiated the construction of a permanent footbridge of 60 meters in length, beneath the Vohitrarivo village, to facilitate access to the Vohitrarivo and Ambohipo schools. It will enable to cross the river safely throughout the year, including during periods of heavy rain.

Footbridge being built © IMPACT Madagascar

Our commitment is not limited to the construction of school buildings: we also take care of their maintenance on a regular basis to provide good educational conditions in the long term. Thus, in 2025, the schools of Vohitrarivo and Ambohipo were renovated.

Last, given that the teachers are often poorly trained, have limited educational means and sometimes have to manage multigrade classes, an assessment was initiated in 2025. It will continue in 2026, in order to better understand their equipment and training needs. This is a priority, given that well trained and properly equipped teachers will allow for improving pupil success.

The Simus Festival

The Simus Festival took place on 15 November in Ambodigoavy and gathered over 1000 persons. Organized for over 10 years, it is a key moment to raise awareness and mobilize for the protection of lemurs.

2025 Simus Festival © IMPACT Madagascar

Over 100 children who were supervised by our educator Laurent, prepared songs and dances to be presented on the D Day. The day before a zebu had been sacrificed and shared among the participants. Two football tournaments (male and female) were also organized.

The day started with speeches and messages to raise awareness, followed by children shows and a big meal for 100 persons. This festive event enables to celebrate the initiatives undertaken with the communities, the local authorities and the partners, while commenting on the challenges that remain to be addressed in order to ensure the sustainable conservation of greater bamboo lemurs.

World Environment Day

On 8 June 2025, we participated in the World Environment Day in Ranomafana. Twenty-five members of our team of Helpsimus and IMPACT Madagascar were present: they paraded and animated a stand to present our initiatives for the protection of lemurs.

JME parade © IMPACT Madagascar

As happens every year, our team also attended the speeches made by the local authorities and the activities organized for that day.

School canteens

The 6 canteens are opened throughout the school year. Over the school year 2024-2025, the canteens distributed 115,684 meals reserved daily to 836 pupils, 25 teachers and 16 cooks.

Supply: We have developed short supply chains for almost two years allowing for maintaining, for our six school canteens, an operating budget equal to that of the preceding year, despite the increase in the number of children in 2025. Those short supply chains also reduced transportation costs and the constraints related to the road conditions, while generating additional income for the farmers engaged in our agricultural programme.

Thus, during the high-season campaign, 583 kg of rice were bought from 16 farmers beneficiaries of the programme at the time of the off-season harvest, which generated average income of 55 500 Ar per farmer, mainly used for the household expenses, the farmers manpower and the purchase of clothes.

School canteen © IMPACT Madagascar

Moreover, the paddy fields of the Simus Land that are cultivated by 11 farmers also contribute to the supply process: in exchange for the use of the lands by the farmers, one-third of their crop is reserved for the canteen of Vohitrarivo, i.e. over 600 kg collected at the time of the high campaign.

Last, 2,8 tonnes of beans were purchased from the beneficiaries of the programme for school

EDUCATION COMPONENT

canteens (compared to 1,1 tonne in 2024).

Training of staff: A Nutricarte training was organized for the five primary school directors and a teacher of the primary school of Vohimarina, in order to improve their skills with respect to menu diversification, adaptation to locally available goods and compliance with hygiene rules.

Cantine scolaire © IMPACT Madagascar

In addition all of the teachers were trained to inventory management and canteen following-up tools and to the importance of a balanced diet for the pupils.

The cooks attended capacity-building training sessions focusing on good hygiene practices, cleanliness and food handling. In addition, monthly follow-up sessions were organized in the canteens and with pupil parents. The nutricarte tool was used to prepare school menus, showing that nutritional concepts are well understood and applied.

Menus served in the canteens: The canteens now serve four types of meals, the composition of which varies depending on food availability and supply constraints. Rice is the basis for all meals. Side dishes vary among Bambara groundnuts, chickpeas and beans three times a week, and vegetables from the local market twice a week. Meal may also be complemented by dried fish or peanuts. Menus can be improved from a nutritional point of view, and we pursue our efforts to gradually improve quality and variety of the meals available.

Canteen cooks © IMPACT Madagascar

Renovation works of the canteen of Vohimarina: We have renovated the fountain and the community attic of the Vohimarina village, which had been initially built within the framework of the programme. The fountain was out of work and the attic had become inoperable as a result of the holes through which the rats could pass. Those two critical infrastructures ease the work of the primary school canteen and now allows for a more secured storage of foodstuffs.

The school canteens encourage children attendance, thus contributing to the improvement of their school results.

They also constitute a source of employment for over one hundred cooks who work in shift to prepare the meals. Each day, 16 cooks are mobilized for this task.

Thus, the goal of this school canteen programme is two-fold:

- Ensure that children attend school,
- Develop local economy regarding the management of school canteens.

In 2025, 4775 children participated in the activities of environmental education, including outdoor classes and the celebrations, compared to 3114 in 2024, i.e. an increase by 53%.

© F. Perroux

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS & OUTDOOR CLASSES

In 2025, 4775 children participated in the activities of environmental education, including outdoor classes and the celebrations, compared to 3114 in 2024, i.e. an increase by 53%

Educational workshops

In 2025, the educators held 311 educational workshops, i.e. a 178% increase compared to 2024. In total, the participation of 4543 children was recorded. This huge increase can be explained by the arrival of a new educator in May, which enabled to better distribute interventions among schools, mobilize more children and facilitate access to the activities available. The workshops we develop focus on nature protection, with activities centered around the role and importance of forests, tree planting and monitoring of their growth or the discovery of the various species of lemurs present on our study site.

Educational workshop on trees © Helpsimus

Our workshops are based on the reading of the illustrated books that we create, as well as on games and songs. They also include training sessions on personal hygiene (hand washing) and collective hygiene, in particular through the cleaning of the school.

Reading the illustrated book "Le refuge de Noro © Helpsimus

Outdoor Classes

In 2025, a second Simus school was built in the Vohitrarivo camp, the expansion of which is ongoing (see p. 45).
This new space enables to organize more outdoor classes and present to the children the territories of groups 2 and 3 of greater bamboo lemurs, which are different from that of group 5 in Sahofika.

In 2025, we organized 10 outdoor classes, five of which in the Simus school of Sahofika, 4 of which in the Simus school of Vohitrarivo and 1 of which in the National Park of Ranomafana.

Outdoor class in Sahofika © Helpsimus

In total, 120 children attended the outdoor classes – 108 in our area of activity and 12 in the National Park of Ranomafana, where the pupils having passed the CEPE (primary education certificate examination) spent 3 days in August. For most of them, it was the first real immersion in the forest. During those outdoor classes, the children were able to observe various species, in particular some lemurs, and also some birds (owls) and reptiles (chameleons).

Outdoor class in Sahofika © Helpsimus

The outdoor classes were supervised by guides, and also enabled to make children more aware of the vital role forests play.

Outdoor class in Vohitrarivo © Helpsimus

Children feedback shows a strong enthusiasm and immense curiosity, in particular in the observation of lemurs and the use of equipment such as binoculars or cameras, often used for the first time. Some of the children said that their favorite moments were when they "saw lemurs sleeping in the trees" or "observe them with binoculars".

In addition, those activities increase academic learning, in connection with our educational booklets (Noro's refuge, The ghost of the forest & Avotra, the lemur of bamboos).

After the visits, the children made drawings inspired by their experience and kept printed souvenir photos, which enabled them to keep a record of their experience.

Simus school in Vohitrarivo © Helpsimus

In addition, an assessment conducted before and after the activities shows a global improvement of pupil knowledge. Outdoor classes thus remain among the most valued activities by the children. They contribute to the further understanding of the environment and their motivation to protect the forest and the species that live in the forest.

Outdoor class in the Simus school of Vohitrarivo © Helpsimus

Excursions into the forest for adults

From July to December, 5 visits to the forest were organized for adults (22 attendees).

Group of adults looking for greater bamboo lemurs © Helpsimus

Those visits enabled them to gain further knowledge about greater bamboo lemurs, their lifestyle, the threats to this species, as well as the importance of the forest for biodiversity and local communities.

Direct observation of bamboo lemurs was the highlight, in particular the direct observation of baby lemurs held by their mother.

Various attendees then expressed their intention to be more engaged in the forest protection process, for instance through reforestation or awareness-raising initiatives in their village.

Socio-Economic Component

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

SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT

We have continued collaborating with the NGO IMPACT Madagascar whose aims are the following:

- **improving existing agricultural production systems;**
- **developing new income generating activities.**

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

In 2025, we accelerated the process consisting in adapting our agricultural programme to the impact of climatic changes, in continuation of the transition initiated in 2024.

And the first results of climate smart agriculture – which is based in particular on the use of more resistant seeds, greater flexibility of cropping calendars, use of compost, mulching etc... - are encouraging.

The agroforestry project also started in 2025.

On another note, the team of agronomists has been reinforced with the hiring of a new agricultural technician. The agronomists remunerated by Helpsimus are part of the team of our partner IMPACT Madagascar.

The Improved Paddy Field System (IPS)

We continued to support the 212 families beneficiaries of the programme of development of the Improved Paddy Field System

In 2025 we carried out the following activities:

- Mobilized and strengthened the beneficiaries' capacities;
- Distributed seeds and agricultural equipment;
- Regularly monitored the IPS technique application;
- Field supervision from a technical perspective ;
- Assessed the results.

2024-2025 Off-season campaign	
Results from the 2023-2024 off-season campaign	**Results from the 2024-2025 off season campaign**
Number of participants: 212 (100% of the beneficiaries) Area cultivated with the IPS: 11.3 ha. Average yield 2,75 T/ha. Destination of harvests: 32% for personal consumption, 3% for sale and 65% stocked. 24,5% of the participants sold part of their harvests, generating an average profit of 27 700 Ar.	Number of participants : 212 (100% of the beneficiaries) Area cultivated with the IPS: 11.3 ha. Average yield 3,29 T/ha. Destination of harvests: 27% for personal consumption, 5% for sale, 68% stocked.

The yields of the 2024-2025 off-season campaign increased compared to the previous campaign, to a large extent thanks to better appropriation of the IPS techniques by the beneficiaries.

Despite this improvement, food aid had to be provided to 800 families (rice, salt, soap and oil) in January. This situation can be explained by a prolonged drought at the beginning of the year, combined with strong inflation related to the deterioration of the road, in particular the collapse of the main bridge.

As a result of the increase in the price of essential goods, numerous farmers were forced to sell their harvest immediately after the campaign, and then to buy rice later at a higher price, which unfortunately increased their food insecurity.

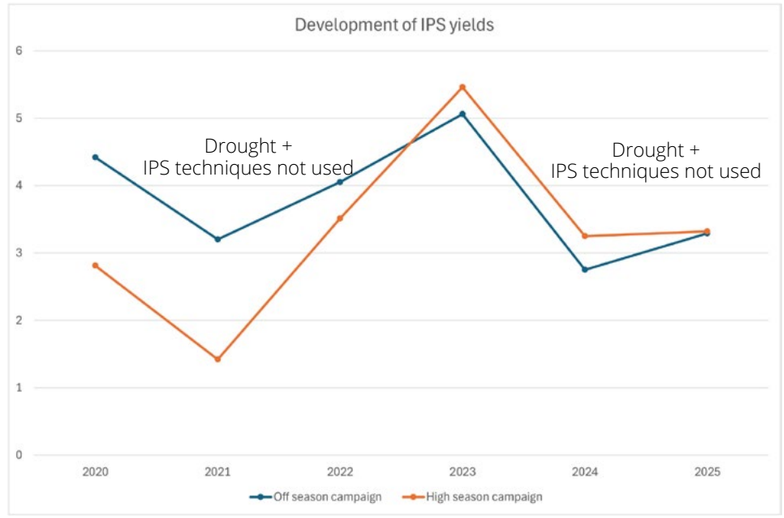
Last, the drought also strongly affected other cultivations, it being specified that some of them had become inappropriate for consumption, such as manioc.

As a result of the drought at the beginning of the year, which delayed planting, 96% of the registered persons participated in the high season campaign.

2025 High-Season Campaign	
Results from the 2024 high season campaign	**Results from the 2025 high season campaign**
Number of participants: 212 (100% of the beneficiaries) Area cultivated with the IPS: 11.3 ha. Average yield: 3,25 t/ha. Destination of the harvests: 27% for personal consumption, 3% for sale, 70% stocked. 20% of the participants sold part of their harvests generating average profit of 27100 Ar.	Number of participants: 204 (99% of the beneficiaries). Area cultivated with the IPS: 10,8 ha. Average yield:3.32 T/ha. Destination of harvests: 27% for personal consumption, 1,6% for sale, and 71,4% stocked. 11,8% of the participants sold part of their harvests generating average profit of 38 000 Ar.

Improved Paddy field System © IMPACT Madagascar

The average yield was up slightly compared to 2024, despite the use of older seedlings, which were less resistant to climatic variations and to diseases. The average income per seller also increased compared to the previous campaign. Yet, it is still lower than that of the 2024 counter-season campaign (55 000 Ar) even though the cultivated areas were bigger. This difference can be mainly explained by the fact that an important part of rice was kept for lean periods, whereas the sales were distributed over time to meet the needs of the families.



Irrigation Improvement Works

The fourth and last phase of works is completed: over 4 hectares of crops are now irrigated in Ambodimanga, that directly benefit over 50 families.

Since 2019, the works have enabled to irrigate 17,5 hectares of crops, which directly benefited

Rice Harvest © IMPACT Madagascar

over 130 families, it being specified that some families managed to recultivate some plots which had been abandoned in the past, thus reducing pressure on forest fragments.

Irrigation canal © IMPACT Madagascar

Irrigation Works © IMPACT Madagascar

Vegetable Crops

In 2025, 840 families participated in the vegetable campaign. They were trained to the techniques of agricultural production, to the use of organic fertilizer, and to pest control techniques.

In order to support crop development, 420 watering cans and 2520 seed packets were distributed. In addition, technical data sheets were made available in each VOI to facilitate the adoption of good practices.

On another note, 1680 additional seed packets were distributed during the campaign, so that the total number of seed packs amounted to 4200 in 2025.

The climate conditions strongly disturbed the campaign. The heavy rains of February delayed the preparations, whereas the farmers were still mobilized in March for rice transplanting. The abovementioned heavy rains also caused flooding and germination difficulties with respect to some seeds. More broadly, the extreme weather events (heavy rains followed by droughts) affect crop growth and reduce crop survival rate.

Despite those constraints, the technical support continued throughout the campaign in order to provide good crop management and to promote sustainable practices. No major pest was observed on the plots monitored, which shows the effectiveness of the methods implemented.

In addition, some farmers have diversified their activities, by developing cultivation of bean during off-season, thus illustrating their capacity to adapt.

In total, 84,12 tonnes of vegetables were produced, 80% of which were consumed within the households, thus contributing directly to their food safety, whereas 20% were sold, generating an average income of 25 200 Ar.

Those income were mainly used for the purchase of essential goods and food (84%), and for the support of other agricultural activities (14%).

Vegetable crops © IMPACT Madagascar

The high self-consumption portion can be explained by the difficulties to access to the markets. Nevertheless, it enables the families to benefit from a source of food on a regular basis and to reinforce their food security. Simultaneously, specific support was provided to 25 beneficiaries, for the production and use of compost, thus contributing to the improvement of soil fertility and the fostering of sustainable practices.

Compared to the previous campaigns, production increased by 46% and income increased by 10%.

Those results can be explained by improvement of seed quality, a better command of agricultural techniques, and by the commitment of the beneficiaries with respect to the monitoring of their land plots.

The assessment also shows skill enhancement, crop diversification and better organization of crops, thus confirming the positive impact of technical support on resilience and living conditions of families.

Bean Crops

Training sessions were organized in early August to strengthen the beneficiary capacities before the launching of the bean crop campaign. Approximately 1 tonne of seeds resistant to climate fluctuations were distributed to the 840 participants. Throughout the campaign, our agronomists provided technical support and crop monitoring, prior to the conducting of an assessment of the results achieved.

In 2025, 27,85 hectares were cultivated in bean form, i.e. almost twice the number that had been achieved in 2024.

Among the participants, 723 were assessed.

The average yields amounted to 1,26 t/ha (compared to 1,16 t/ha in 2024), thus reflecting a better command of agricultural techniques and the effectiveness of support.

In addition, 29% of the beneficiaries assessed sold part of their harvests, thus generating average income of 114 200 Ar (compared to 38 400 Ar on 2024).

Distribution of seeds and watering cans © IMPACT Madagascar

Harvesting beans © IMPACT Madagascar

In total, 23% of their production was sold, 11% of their production was consumed directly and 60% of their production was stocked, thus contributing to the improvement of family food security

The income from sales were mainly used for the purchase of essential goods and food (46%), and also for the development of other activities (24,5%) and for miscellaneous expenses (29,5%). Last, 63% of the sales were made on the Tsaratanana market, and 37% of the sales were made directly in the villages, part of which was used to supply school canteens.

Those results confirm the efficiency of the programme and its positive impact on the means of subsistence of the beneficiaries.

Dynamic Agroforestry

The Dynamic Agroforestry project was launched this year to improve resilience of agricultural systems, which is an essential prerequisite for increasing yields and reducing pressure on forests. This approach consists in seeking out a collection of plants and trees on a same plot of land in order to mimic the natural functioning of forest and improve soil fertility. In March, a first awareness-raising session was organized in various fokontany to present the project, after which 91 farmers signed up.

In September, a diagnosis was made in the villages of Sahofika and Vohitrarivo in order to identify the available resources, better understand local agricultural practices and prepare training, as well as future planting.

In total, we met 35 farmers and visited 7 plots of land, which enabled to analyze the soils and the conditions of production, and adapt training to local realities. In November, a first training was organized for 28 beneficiaries, from the villages of Vohitrarivo, Sahofika and Volotara.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPONENT

It was conducted in two phases: a theoretical phase dedicated to dynamic agroforestry principles and plot design, followed by a practical phase with the implementation of two demonstration plots (in Vohitrarivo and in Sahofika), which now serve as the reference.

Diagnosis and training © IMPACT Madagascar

At the end of the training, the needs in terms of agroforestry seeds were reassessed on the basis of the planned areas.

In addition, our agronomists supported the beneficiaries in the carrying out of a detailed diagnosis of their plots in order to prepare the implementation of dynamic agroforestry.

Fish Farming

In 2025, eleven beneficiaries were assessed, and sampled 667 fishes, i.e. almost 98 kg. The sale of 529 fishes generated an average profit of 86 000 Ar per beneficiary.

Chicken breeding

Prospection was carried out to assess the feasibility of a poultry project, and showed strong interest with 769 chicken farmers enrolled in the programme.

Rat control

Rats are omnipresent in the villages and cause important damage on the agricultural reserves, which may reach 50% of the goods stocked. Beyond economic loss, they also constitute a health risk, given that they may transmit diseases.

Faced with this issue, a rodent control project was implemented in order to limit the agricultural damage and reduce the risks for populations' health. The programme includes 60 beneficiaries, 30 of which were new beneficiaries in 2025. They received trapping kits and were trained to their use (laying, maintenance and following-up of traps), and to good practices in terms of rat handling.

The first results are encouraging: the beneficiaries already report a significant decrease of damage caused to food stocks and to domestic installations (furniture).

Reforesting

The reforesting programme is aimed at promoting the planting of fast-growing trees for domestic use, in order to reduce pressure on natural forest resources.

In 2025, 93 beneficiaries were accompanied and trained to planting techniques and tree maintenance techniques.

In total 885 seedlings were distributed, consisting of *Albizzia lebbeck* (51% of the seedlings distributed) and *Acacia mangium* (49% of the seedlings distributed), two species that are adapted to local needs and that are fast-growing.

Among those seedlings, 855 were planted, covering a total surface area of 0,42 ha. The survival rate of the seedlings reached 90%, which shows that the beneficiaries have a good command of the techniques and that the following up implemented is of good quality.

Those results contribute to secure household access to wood resources for domestic use, while limiting the pressure put on natural forests.

Ecotourism Project

No changes have been made compared to 2024, the conditions of access remain quite difficult as a result of the road condition.

The tour guides have thus continued to participate in the monitoring of lemurs as well as in the scientific studies.

Craftwork

The shop: The shop of Ranomafana has been opened since July 2024. It hosts visitors three days a week and is ideally located, next to the entry to the National Park of Ranomafana.

It sells 9 types of goods (embroideries, sculptures, bags and raffia hats, baskets, paintings), part of which is manufactured by our partner craftsmen, as well as bottles of water for the visitors.

Helpsimus shop in the National Park of Ranomafana © C. Deffontaines

In 2025, 57 handicrafts were sold in the shop, as well as 204 bottles of water were sold in the shop, thus generating a sales margin of 1 033 469 Ar and 198 000 respectively, i.e. a total of 1 231 469 Ar over the year. If a comparison is made with year 2024, over an equivalent period (the shop started its activity in 2024), the evolution is very positive.

In 2024, 37 handicrafts were sold, generating a sales margin of 327 000 Ar, compared to 47 handicrafts sold and 909 894 Ar generated over the same period in 2025, i.e. an increase by approximately 178%.

The monthly analysis indicates a sales peak in August 2025, without recovery in November, contrary to the previous year. This difference can probably be explained by the political situation in Madagascar at the end of the year, which caused a reduction in the number of tourists.

The amounts presented correspond to a gross margin and do not include the operating costs of the shop (indirect costs).

Those results confirm the rise in power of the shop, both in terms of number of tourists and financial contribution, despite external context that was sometimes unfavorable.

Sewing project: The sewing project was initiated in Volotara before the Covid-19 pandemics, following a request made by the women of the villages of Volotara and Ambodigoavy wishing to develop a sewing and embroidery business. Two of them were trained and equipped with a sewing machine. Despite the slowdown resulting from the health crisis, they continued their business by making masks which were distributed in the partner villages.

In 2025, the project reached a new milestone with the construction of a sewing workshop, which is currently being equipped, and the identification of a local trainer at the end of the year.

Sewing workshop © D. Roullet

42 women enrolled for a first training provided for 10 participants. They will be trained for the manufacturing of cloth backpacks for the children attending outdoor classes. A first annual order of 250 backpacks is already planned by Helpsimus, with prospects for diversification in the long term.

This project gives women an opportunity to develop new skills and generate additional income, thus contributing to their autonomy.

Community health: Hygiene workshops for the staff and the community

Hygiene in schools: : In 2025, our educators organized 25 hygiene workshops in the 5 primary schools of the programme, focusing on the washing of hands and the cleaning of the school and its surroundings. Each school is equipped with handwashing

stations, which facilitates the adoption of this act on a daily basis and its gradual integration into the children's habits.

Those workshops are essential for the children's health, and also for the environment: they contribute to reducing diseases, favoring regular school attendance and encouraging more environment friendly behaviors.

Community hygiene: A new waste management project was launched in 2025 in four villages: Vohitrarivo, Sahofika, Ambodigoavy and Volotara. Each village was equipped with sorting containers made from recycled drums and compost pits. In addition, a person was hired in each village to deal with their management and proper use.
The launching of the project was accompanied by a training and awareness-raising training session regarding waste sorting, health and protection of the environment, followed by a cleaning operation which mobilized over 200 participants in the 4 villages.

Hygiene workshop © IMPACT Madagascar

In 2025, eight days of cleaning were organized in each village, i.e. a total of 40 days, which contributed to improving cleanliness and living conditions of the inhabitants.

Cleaning of the village of Vohitrarivo © D. Roullet

The first plastic waste collections enabled to gather 2 bags in the Miaradia VOI, 2 bags in the Samivar VOI, and ½ bag in the Manirisoa VOI (bags of rice). At the moment, the quantity of batteries collected remains quite low. Waste sorting is still imperfect, and the collection of waste remains sporadic in some villages.

In Volotara, for instance, biodegradable wastes were found in the drums reserved for non-biodegradable wastes. This shows that the change in habits will take time and requires regular monitoring.

Community-led total sanitation (CLTS): Participatory approach which encourages the communities to improve their hygiene and sanitation practices themselves, in particular by stopping open defecation.

In 2025, an exchange visit was organized in Mahasoabe, intervention site of the cooperation programme Eaurizon between Lyon and Madagascar with respect to water, sanitation and hygiene.

It enabled to learn more about the activities put in place and get practical advice to prepare the introduction of the method in our area of activity.

Hygiene workshops: Three workshops were organized (1 workshop per VOI), for a total of 114 participants, mainly women.

Workshops on menstrual and hygiene cycle: Three workshops were organized, 1 in each VOI, gathering a total of 96 participants. They focused on sexual and personal hygiene and on menstrual cycle.

Those workshops contribute to improving hygiene practices and favoring better access to water in households.

Mothers-daughters workshops © IMPACT Madagascar

Training on rainwater harvesting: Three workshops were organized, 1 in each VOI (with a total of 96 participants) and enabled them to be informed of the importance of water management, of methods of rainwater collection and of the treatment techniques of water recovered.

Supporting the National Park of Ranomafana

We provided financial support to the National Park of Ranomafana to help coping with the fires of January, which destroyed 120 hectares of forest. Our guides also joined forces with the volunteers mobilized to contain flames, it being specified that the aggravation of flames spread resulted from the lack of rain during the rainy season. In addition, we donated 2 GPS which will be used by the agents of the Park during the patrols.

Expansion and improvement of camps

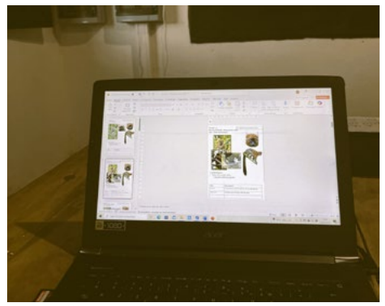
Volotara: The tent shelter of the camp was renovated, with the installation of a roof plate.

Vohitrarivo : Various infrastructures were built, including a dormitory, a second Simus School, as well as additional permanent WC and showers. Wooden stairs were installed between the two levels of the camp, and the research center was electrified.

Camp of Volotara © D. Roullet

Simus School in Vohitrarivo © IMPACT Madagascar

Dormitory in Vohitrarivo © IMPACT Madagascar



Electrification of the Simus Research Center in Vohitrarivo © D. Roullet

Sahofika : A research center was built next to the Simus School and wooden stairs were installed, in order to create an independent access.

Research Center of Sahofika © IMPACT Madagascar

Stairs to access the Simus School of Sahofika © IMPACT Madagascar

The camp is currently being relocated next to the Simus School. The Simus School was also electrified. The transfer of the base will continue in 2026.

Logistics: We bought two motorbikes and hired two drivers to facilitate movements on the path.

Motorbikes and their drivers © IMPACT Madagascar


TONGA SOA
ETO AMIN'NY ECOLE DES SIMUS!
① Inona avy ireto kamazana bibi misy eto Sahofika?
② Inona no
n'ny Vanika?
ala?
mianjady amin'ny
rovana ny ala:
ny Va
DREAMNIGHT AT THE ZOO
FRANCE 2017
NIKE

© F. Perroux

TRIBUTE TO *François-Gilles Grandin 1969-2025*

François-Gilles Grandin
The lens at the nature's service

Passionate photographer and committed to conservation, François-Gilles Grandin dedicated his life to recording the beauty of the living world. His work, and in particular in Madagascar with the Lemurs, contributed to make the public aware of the need to protect some of the most threatened species of the planet.

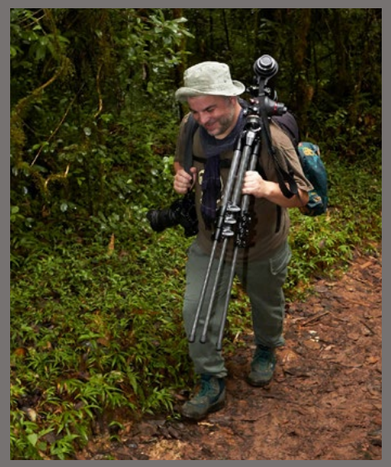
Born on 20 January 1969, François-Gilles Grandin knew quite early his vocation for photography. After studying at ETPA in Toulouse (Photography school), his military service in the French Air Force in Dakar constituted a major turning point. In contact with the African fauna, he developed a fascination for nature that guided all his career.

In 1997, he joined the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle de Paris (National museum of natural history) after passing a competitive examination specialized in photographic techniques. Assigned to the Parc Zoologique de Paris (Zoological Park of Paris), for over twelve years he immortalized the daily life of animals, births, veterinary treatments, transfers and the work of the scientific teams. His thousands of photos show the transformation of the park until its complete renovation in 2014.

The year 2001 marked the beginning of a deep connection to Madagascar. François Gilles went to Madagascar to document the 'Station Forestière à Usages Multiples' (Multiple use forest station), a project led by the Parc Zoologique de Paris.

Shortly thereafter, he became one of the members for the association Helpsimus, created by the primatologist Delphine Roullet to protect greater bamboo lemurs, one of the most endangered lemurs in the world.

Over the expeditions to the Malagasy forests, François-Gilles made great images of this rare species. In particular, he was the first photographer to document greater bamboo lemurs on Helpsimus conservation site. His photos revealed to the general public the beauty of those animals while highlighting the necessity of protecting their habitat.



François-Gilles was of the view that photography was not only an art but also a way to act.

His photos have largely help to make the Greater Bamboo Lemur the symbol of a successful field conservation. Committed administrator of Helpsimus, he participated in the first missions of the association as well as in numerous raising-awareness initiatives organized in European zoological parks.

He also photographed other emblematic species of Madagascar, such as the Indri of Andasibe or the Crowned Sifaka of Antrema.

His technical expertise also served scientific research, with the creation of images used in several ethological research initiatives and the recommendations in terms of species management set out by the European Breeding Programmes of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria.

Even now, several of his photos illustrate scientific presentations, specialty publications and teaching materials. After the temporary closure of the Parc Zoologique de Paris in 2009, François-Gilles joined the communication department of the botanical and zoological gardens Division of the Muséum national d'Histroire naturelle.

In particular, he covered the first edition of the exhibition called "Mille et Une Orchidées" and made thousands of photos of the gardens of the Museum.

In 2017, he joined the Image Department, and then in 2024, the Direction for Communication and Digital Information, carrying on developing natural and scientific heritage. His sensitive eye highlighted both the new animal facilities and the changing landscapes of Paris gardens through the seasons.

In 2014, with his friend photographer Sébastien Meys, he exhibited his photos of greater bamboo lemurs at the prestigious Festival international de la photographie animalière et de nature de Montier-en-Der (International Wildlife and Nature photo Festival of Montier-en-Der). This recognition highlights the outstanding quality of his work and his ability to share the emotion of the encounter with living beings.

Beyond the talented photographer, those who knew him remember him as a warm-hearted, generous and with a remarkable sense of humor. His reassuring presence, his enthusiasm and his friendship had a significant impact on those who had the opportunity to work with him.

François-Gilles Grandin died on 1st February 2025, thus leaving a dip void in our lives.

Yet, his heritage remains alive through the thousands of images he created, the species he contributed to make known and the conservation projects he supported.

His photos continue to inspire photographers, biologists and protectors of nature. They remind us of the fact that the images can raise awareness, move and mobilize people, in order to protect what is rare, fragile and precious.

His work, which is like a silent witness, yet strong, invites us to watch nature more carefully, to better understand it and protect it for future generations.

Photos : F-G Grandin, D. Roullet, F. Perroux, Aurélie

Helpsimus News

Publications

Use of camera traps to count and identify a group of greater bamboo lemurs (EAZA Prosimian TAG newsletter August 2025).

Look back at the international conversation workshops for greater bamboo lemurs and red-bellied lemurs (EAZA Prosimian TAG newsletter August 2025).

Peyrieras woolly lemurs on the Helpsimus site: a discrete nocturnal lemur which is remarkably resilient) (EAZA Prosimian TAG newsletter December 2025).

Lectures

EAZA workshop related to small carnivores - Tallinn Zoo (4–7 March 2025): Participating in a second international workshop with the presentation of a poster on the first results of a comparative study on ring-tailed mongoose in the wild and captive environment, conducted with the CERZA. Some goodies were also offered for sale, in order to finance the purchase of camera traps.

International Congress of Primatological Society: Presentation called "Status and challenges in the conservation of the Greater Bamboo Lemur (*Prolemur simus*)."

EAZA annual conference – Łódź, Poland (9–13 September 2025): participation with various contributions, including a presentation of the first results on the social organization of greater bamboo lemurs (Prosimian TAG), a presentation of the workshop on small carnivores and of the existing PhD thesis work on carnivores of our area of activity (Small Carnivores TAG); a poster on outdoor classes.

EAZA Annual Conference 2025 © F. Perroux

This participation was made possible thanks to the support of Cotswold Wildlife Park.

Organization of the International workshop on small Malagasy carnivores: first session organized in October 2025 which gathered over 30 participants. This workshop is organized by Helpsimus, with the support of its partner IMPACT Madagascar, in the name of the Ministry in charge of Environment and Sustainable Developpement. It is funded by the CERZA, the Berlin Zoo and the Chester Zoo.

Workshop carnivores © F. Perroux

Helpsimus participated in the Rencontres pour la Planète (Events for the Planet), an annual event organized by 1% for the Planet France, which enables environmental organizations to present their projects to foundations, sponsors and private philanthropists.

This participation enabled to collect over €27,000 for our bamboo plantation and agroforestry development projects distributed as follows: €4,630 during the participatory fundraising campaign (including €3,000 doubled by 1% for the Planet), €14,393 obtained during the Events for the Planet, as well as an additional donation of €5,000. Those fundings will allow for accelerating the development of our Agroforestry programme and restore the habitat of greater bamboo lemurs on part of the 39 hectares acquired recently, in order to create new refuge areas for this species while increasing local community resilience.

Delphine Roullet's speech during the Rencontres pour la Planète © Q. Elles

Rencontres pour la Planète's Evening © Q. Elles

HELPSIMUS TOUR

HELPSIMUS TOUR

Parc de Clères
28-29 June

Réserve exotique de Blérancourt
3rd August

Zoo de Jurques
19-20 July

CERZA
5-6 July

Zoo de Trégomeur
23 March

Spaycific'Zoo
15 August

Parcs Zoologiques Lumigny
19-20 July

Parc Zoologique et Botanique de Mulhouse
26-27 April

Parc Zoologique du Muséum de Besançon
28 April

Zoo de la Boissière du Doré
13-14 September

Le PAL
6-7 September
5 October

Zoo de La Palmyre
28-29 August

Zoo du Bassin d'Arcachon
14 July

Zoo African Safari
12-13 July

Parc animalier de La Barben
17-18 May

PARTNERS 2025

PLATINIUM Partners / ≥ €20,000
Fondation Audemars Piguet pour les Arbres - Palmyre Conservation - UICN Comité Français - UICN SOS Save Our Species - FDD Itancia - Le Poids du Vivant - Fondation de France - Cotswold Wildlife Park

GOLD Partners / €10,000 - €20,000
Pure Trade - Univet Nature - Boissière Mervent Conservation - Fondation LE PAL Nature - Association of Friends of Tierpark Hagenbeck - Zoo Givskud

SILVER Partners / €3,000 - €10,000
AFdPZ - SECAS - Sainte-Croix Biodiversité - WOW Conservation - Parc de Clères - Fondation Yves Rocher - NaturZoo Rheine - Zoo de Jurques - Parc Zoologique de Paris - Conservatoire pour la Protection des Primates - CERZA Conservation - Parc animalier de La Barben-Ecofaune - Fondation Masalina - Parc Zoologique du Muséum de Besançon - African Zoo Safari - Zoo de Berlin - Zoo du Bassin d'Arcachon - Oranova Conseil - Domorrow - Fondation Léa Nature - 1% For the Planet

BRONZE Partners / < €3,000
Zoo de Montpellier - Zoo de Cologne - Spaycific'Zoo - ZOA Conservation - AFSA - Zoo d'Ostrava - Zoo de Trégomeur - Zoo des Sables d'Olonne - Touroparc - Réserve Exotique - Chester Zoo - Les Amis du Muséum de Besançon - Parcs Zoologiques Lumigny - Zoo de Torun - Vetcare

Our Malagasy partners:

Logistic support:

And the 61 members of Helpsimus!


© D. Roullet


© F. Perroux

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In 2025, our financial resources increased again, reflecting the renewed trust placed in us by our partners, and enabling us to enter a new phase in the development of our actions.
A significant portion of this funding was dedicated to the acquisition of 39 hectares of private lands, in partnership with IMPACT Madagascar. This strategic investment is aimed at securing new habitats for greater bamboo lemurs, against a background of constant pressure on ecosystems, and constitutes a major step forward in long-term conservation of this species.

In addition, the support from the Fondation de France and from the Fonds de dotation d'Itancia allowed for hiring a task officer.

The process initiated in 2025 will lead to taking up of the post at the beginning of 2026. This strengthening of the team in France is in line with the changes in scale of the association and consolidates our structuring and development capacity. Last, our participation in the Rencontres pour la Planète (Events for the Planet) marked a high point in mobilization, allowing for collecting over €27,000. Those funds will be used for the launch of the Agroforestry project and the implementation, as from 2026 of large-scale bamboo planting on the recently acquired lands.

In Madagascar, almost 400 persons contribute to our conservation programme. Its implementation is largely based upon the teams of our partner IMPACT Madagascar, comprised of a dozen professionals (agronomists, administrative staff, biologists, conservation workers, research assistants, teachers ...) who coordinate the follow-up of the activities on site. The majority of the employment positions are locals. Some employees are supervised by IMPACT Madagascar (patrollers, nurserymen, paddy field guards, educators ...) whereas the guides and the camp staff are supervised by an agent of the National Park of Ranomafana who has been engaged since the beginning of the programme and who is paid by Helpsimus.

Some of those persons are not employed on a full-time basis, yet their engagement constitutes a key source of additional income for local communities. Since 2023, the accounts are managed by the accounting firm FIDUCIAL.

Operating income	Amount (€)	Operating Costs	Amount (€)
Memberships and sponsorships	**1536**	Bamboo Lemur Programme (includes in particular payments to field team)	**49000**
Sales of goods (Helpsimus shop and illustrated booklets)	**7836**	IMPACT Madagascar (Malagasy partner on the BL Programme), including €80,000 for the acquisition of 39 hectares	**286850**
Donations from zoos	**182640**	Entrepreneur Landry (real estate constructions) + PowerTech (electrification) + footbridge of Vohitrarivo	**82100**
Donations from NGO/ asso/FDD/Fondation	**346073**	Purchase of equipment (Field equipment or for the Helpsimus shop and office equipment etc.) + book "Helpsimus, of lemurs and men"	**13508**
Donations from firms	**26000**	Mission expenses (Madagascar and France)	**6458**
Individual donations	**9437**	External expenses (rent Ranomafana apartment, insurance, subscriptions, bank charges, fiducial expertise, postal charges etc.)	**7067**
Other	**124**	Staff costs (employee DR and social contributions + external staff France and Madagascar)	**48392**
TOTAL	**573646**	**TOTAL**	**493375**
Operating result	**80272**		
Financial proceeds	**1801**		
OVERALL TOTAL	**82073**		

Income / Expenses 2010-2025

View of the new land purchased by Helpsimus © D. Roullet

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