



DEFI & AMI TAPIA FOREST RESTORATION

PROJECT FOR PRESERVATION OF THE TAPIA FOREST

Environment Project for Preservation of Ancient Tapia forest with wild Silkworm habitat, providing sustainable local production of wild silk to create revenue for village families in the forest areas

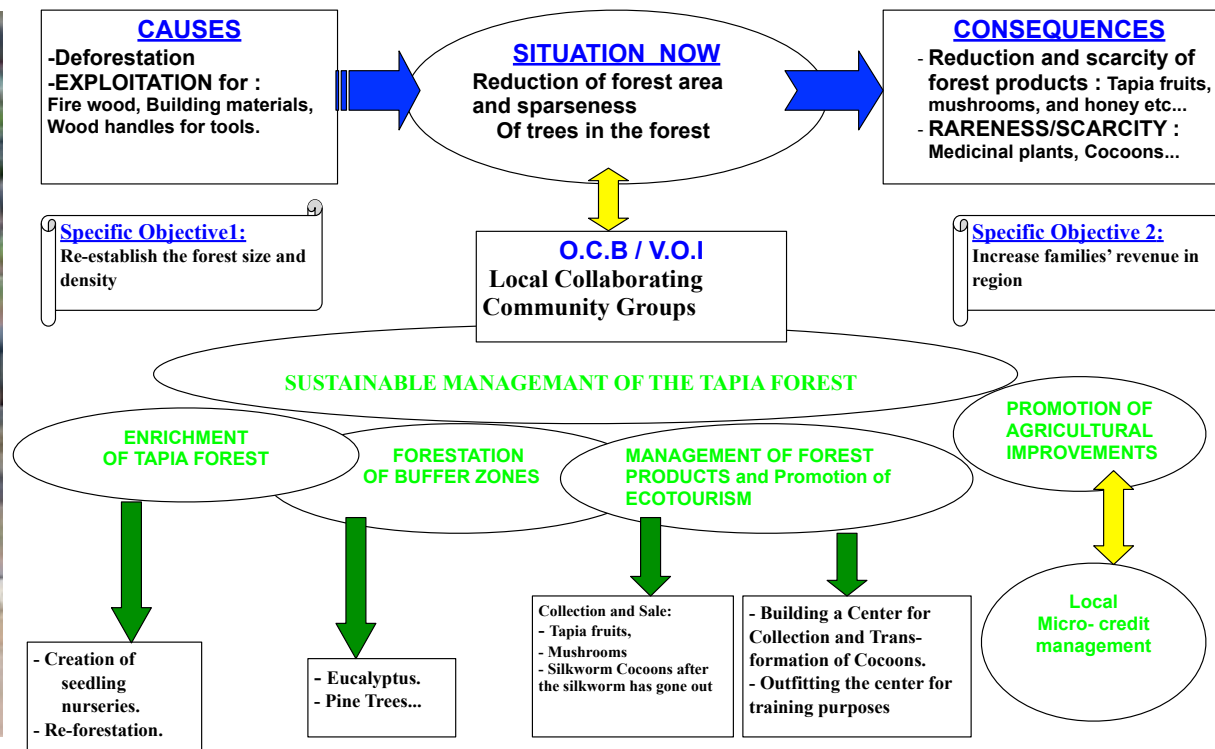


DEFI :
Développement Economique du Faritr’Imamo
Date de création : 1993

THE TAPIA FOREST OF MADAGASCAR IS TRULY UNIQUE.
IT DOES NOT EXIST IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE TAPIA FOREST

DEFI are working with local communities providing practical education on how to restore the forests



The current degradation of the environment in Madagascar constitutes a major problem, with the consequences affecting all parts of the 'bio value chain' and directly impacting on family income and survival.

The forest of TAPIA, is the only natural and endemic forest in the region of Soamahamanina and is suffering from severe degradation and the local population is suffering the consequences.

Soamahamanina is 75km west of Antananarivo, on the National Road N°1. It is situated in the district of Miarinarivo and in the part of ITASY Region.

The population is 18600, almost 80% of them live in poverty. 90% of the population are farmers, producing rice and cassava.

THE TAPIA FORESTS OF MADAGASCAR ARE A UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY RESOURCE FOUND NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD - DEFI

A families average annual income is USD \$ 356.



DEFI WORKS WITH THE COMMUNITY EDUCATING THEM ABOUT CONSERVATION, HEALTH AND HYGENE, ALL DESIGNED TO IMPROVE LIVES

Objectives:

Protection, reforestation and the sustainable exploitation of the Tapia forest.

Promoting the environmental, cultural social economic development and addressing the public health needs in the region.

DEFI organises training in these issues for the local community.

Promotion of the fight against bush fires and poverty.

Achievements to date:

- Creation of 8 nurseries in the area and training of gardeners in skills of germination of seeds and potting of seedling trees.
- Helping create the structure and effectiveness of partners and stakeholders in the community.
- Creation of 13 AVBC: Agents for the sale of products for family planning,

anti malaria medicine, and water purifying syrup.

- Promotion and subsidised sale of above products to local communities in 13 sites.
- Creation of tree-nurseries in community and school ground for Tapia and Mulberry trees in 6 sites
- Community and School environmental education
- Sanitary Education on: TSI/ AIDS, hygiene and water purification, Familial Planning, diarrhoea and malaria

- Setting up demonstration fields showing improved agricultural techniques
- Creation of buffer zones by planting 1500 plants of 50 cm high Eucalyptus and pines on
- Enrichment of Tapia forests with 1250 young tapia trees on
- Training about the plantation of Mulberry trees

- Planting of new Mulberry plantation ; two fields of 2700 young plants of Mulberry trees
- Training of 12 women members of the processing and transformation of cocoons into silk thread.
- Collection, processing and transformation of cocoons into silk thread.
- Production of 2 silk articles using the traditional method of weaving.

Enrichment of the forests of TAPIA

- Installation of seedling nurseries in 4 village sites, for the production of 27,360 young plants of Tapia
- Continued reforestation of TAPIA, planting 12000 young seedlings of Tapia in 4 sites.

Creation of buffer zones

- to provide fire woods and building/ agricultural materials:
- Installation of seedling nurseries of eucalyptus and pine in 4 village sites for the production of 12800 young trees.
- Planting of 11520 young trees of eucalyptus and pine in 4 sites.

Increasing family revenues for the local population:

- Creation of a centre for silk
- A 2 room building has been built
- Allowing for cocoon preparation
- Weaving and education.
- 20 people trained in weaving techniques



NEXT STEPS

- PLANTING MORE TREES
 - 10,000 TREES FOR 5 HECTORS
 - INCREASE OF BUFFER ZONE
- EDUCATING MORE VILLAGERS IN:
 - CONSERVATION
 - HEALTH AND SANITATION
- HELPING TO PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS
 - TRAINING MORE WEAVERS
 - CREATING ECO TOURISM

In addition, DEFI in partnership with AMI are now starting on a series of surveys to record:

- changes to the environment
- fauna and flora mapping
- improved livelihoods
- up date inventory of needs



For more information please contact DEFI - c/o
 Access Madagascar Initiative:
accessmadagascar@gmail.com

DEFI WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AMI IS
 ACCEPTING VOLUNTEERS AND SEEKING FUNDS
 TO FURTHER THE RESTORATION OF TAPIA

please contact AMI if you would like to
 make a donation to the DEFI
 reforestation project. Every donation
 big or small makes a difference!