



Edition **Vakoka Vakiteny**
Publishing Company
B.P. 453
Toliara 601
MADAGASCAR

[vakoka.vakiteny@
gmail.com](mailto:vakoka.vakiteny@gmail.com)
www.vakiteny.org

Vakoka Vakiteny...

...is a young and professional publishing company producing literature for children and youth in Malagasy language.

...is owned and run by a team of young Malagasy.

...contributes to growth and development in Madagascar - culturally and materially.

...promotes the joy of reading and develops the understanding for literature and art in a modern Malagasy environment.

Layout: content: Sophie and
Mparany Rakotondrainy

Vakoka Vakiteny News

Dear friends of Vakoka Vakiteny.

Currently we are working on three manuscripts. The Bara fairytales and Vony's autobiography are now being proofread and we hope to finish the manuscripts soon. All the pictures for these two books are now also complete.

The third book we are working on is the second edition of an environment book about Madagascar. We have started working on the manuscript, but adapting the content as well as adjusting the layout will need some time. Therefore this book will not as the two others be printed in 2013, but we hope to be able to do it in 2014.

Mparany Rakotondrainy

Manager of **Vakoka Vakiteny**

Distribution on the Countryside

The distribution of "Todisoa" (Hiverina aho, Dadabe) continues and we have two school visits to look forward to as soon as the summer holidays are over. One is a school in Antsimaina, a small town on the countryside outside Fianarantsoa. This school has around 200 pupils in grade 6-9 (secondary level), but the school has no books or other materials for all these students, so we have decided to distribute class sets of Todisoa.

The other place we want to visit is the town of Beroroha in the northern part of the southwestern region. It is one of the most remote towns in Madagascar, but still it is the capital of a 7500 km² district with many primary and secondary schools. We know the director of the school district authorities in Beroroha and have decided to cooperate with him to distribute books to schools in his district. If the road is accessible we are going to drive the long way to Beroroha by car and visit some schools in order to organise the distribution. Beroroha and its surroundings is maybe one of the most neglected areas of Madagascar that rarely or never receives any kind of school materials, and therefore we hope that we by going there meet those who are most in need of books.

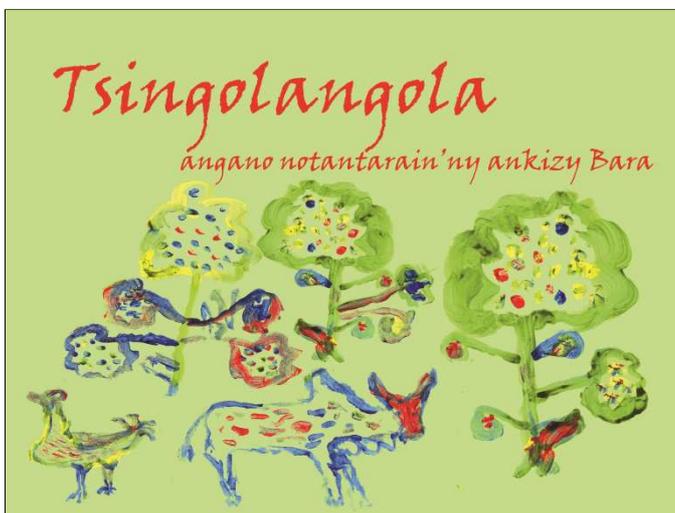
In addition, Mrs. Hanta's distribution in Antsirabe and the surrounding continues. Unfortunately, the negotiations with the prison in Antsirabe prove to be more difficult than we thought. However, we hope to be able to distribute "Todisoa" books there in very near future.

Tsingolangola, the Bara Fairytales

We have now chosen 9 of the fairytales told to us by Bara children on the countryside for the book. The texts are currently being proofread, and we hope to have a final manuscript very soon, ready to be printed. The book will most likely contain around 50 pages with 28 illustrations painted by children. In total we had four illustration workshops with children from 9 to 14 years of age, both in and around Toliara as well as in the Bara countryside.

Below are two suggestions for cover. The title *Tsingolangola* is still a working title and it does not have a particular meaning in Malagasy language. It is the name of one of the fairytales that tells about three siblings who found three eggs that turned out to become birds called “Tsingolangola”.

The other pictures are illustrations painted by children at the last workshop.

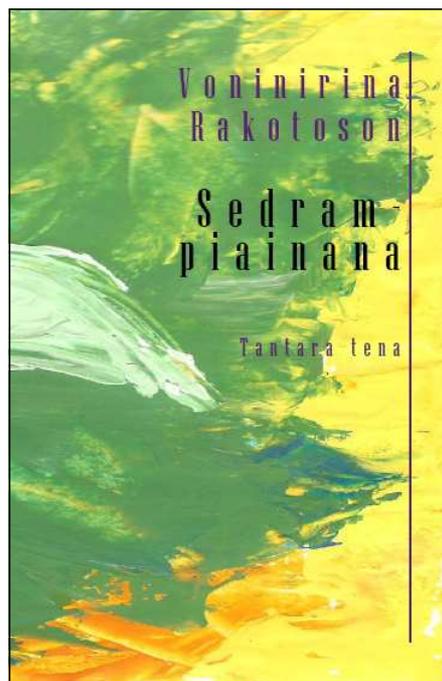
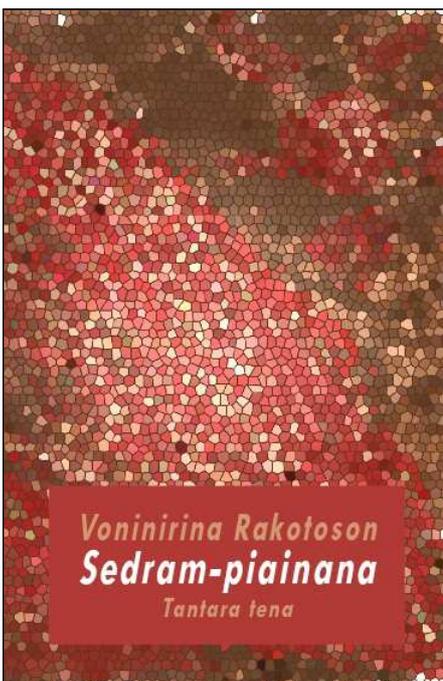


Vony's Autobiography: "A test for life"

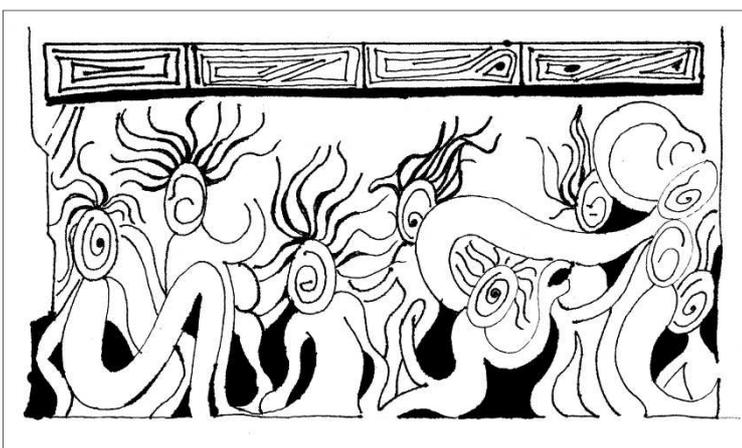
The work with Vony's autobiography is progressing, and we are now laying the final touches on the manuscript before sending it to the proofreaders. We have decided to include small black and white drawings for approximately each chapter. These are painted by Mparany.

We have also written a foreword in the book which introduces the issue of human trafficking and the huge challenges that we face in Madagascar today. It is apparent that the current government has much of the blame for the large number of victims of human trafficking and the bad conditions they live in, abroad and in Madagascar. It is an important message to convey, so we have decided to translate the foreword into French as well. The translator is already working on it and we hope to have it in our hands very soon.

Below are two suggestions for covers of the book. It is Vony herself who has painted the pictures that were the starting-point for the covers. The title is not yet decided, but we suggest "Sedram-piainana" which can be translated with "A test for life".



Left are two of the suggestions for the book cover. The black and white drawings will be placed inside the book.



Environment Book

In our last newsletter, we wrote that we were thinking of printing a revised edition of an already existing environment book about Madagascar. This has now been decided and the contract between Vakoka Vakiteny and the Norwegian author, Jon Bakke has been signed.

The first stage of the work has been to read through the original manuscript and adapt it to younger readers. This means that long, difficult sentences are being shortened and scientific words explained. Furthermore, all the facts are being checked in cooperation with people who work for WWF here in Toliara as there are some new results in scientific research in Madagascar since the book was printed in 1994. Many new plant and animal species have been discovered, at the same time as the size of forest remnants has dramatically shrunk. This has to be updated. This work has not yet been finished, but we are progressing on it.

Furthermore, what we need to do is to adapt the layout as we wish to have bigger fonts for the writing and maybe some new pictures and maps. Whether or not to include a shortened text in French translation is not yet decided, but also that is an issue that has to be settled when doing the layout.

All in all this is a huge project and we will not be able to finish it this year. Printing is therefore estimated to be accomplished in the first half of 2014.

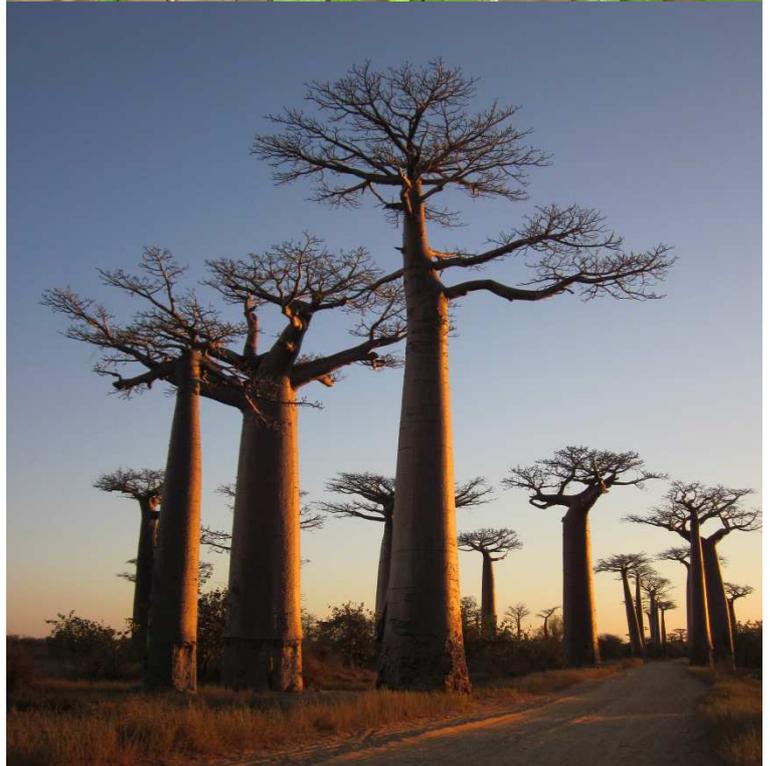


Illustration photos (not from the book)

Top: Sifaka lemurs

Middle: Chameleon

Bottom: Baobab trees

Need for Books

For the purpose of writing an article for the Norwegian magazine *Madagaskarforum*, we did an interview in January with the director for the *Direction Regionale de l'Education Nationale* (DREN) in the Southwestern Region, Mr. Nahory. The whole interview can be read on www.madagascar.no, magazine 1-2013 (in Norwegian). Here is some of what he told us:

Although the policy from the Ministry of Education states that all children shall have their own textbooks, this rarely happens, and sometimes only the teacher has a copy of the textbook and the students have to copy from the blackboard. Literature is almost nonexistent in most of the schools although the schools are obliged to keep one room as a library. However, there are rarely any books to fill the library with. Sometimes the books found at schools are from the 1960s and they are almost exclusively in French.

“It is very important that children get access to books and learn to like reading”, Mr. Nahory says. Unfortunately this is not a priority of the Ministry as teacher’s wages and school building have first priority (and even this is a problem since the government is in a deep crisis). Furthermore, “as Madagascar is a francophone country, schools mostly receive French books, but the children won’t learn to love books if they can’t understand what they say”, concludes Mr. Nahory.

He was very happy to hear that there are some people who want to contribute to change the situation concerning books, and he wished us good luck. However, neither the DREN nor any other government office has any funds to support us and



Illustration photo



Map of the Southwestern region with Toliara as the capital. Here you can also see Beroroha in the north.