

Zahana is a non-governmental organization in Madagascar dedicated to participatory rural development, education, revitalization of traditional Malagasy medicine, reforestation, and sustainable and environmentally friendly agriculture.

It is Zahana's philosophy that development must be based on local needs and solutions proposed by local people. Participatory development means asking communities what they need. Working collaboratively with Zahana on their priorities a community claims ownership of their own development successes.

To realize a community's priorities, Zahana hires in-country experts to assist with specific tasks such as building a clean water system from the mountains to the village or a school. The villagers contribute their labor and locally available materials to every project.

To find out more please visit our website at www.zahana.org or write to us for printed information at:
 Project Zahana * PO Box 62223 * Honolulu HI 96839 * USA.



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About the photos: Access to Clean Water
 Until 2005, all water used for drinking, cooking, and other purposes came from two communal water holes and a nearby river. Women and children carried water in buckets back to the village. The community of Fidanana built their own water system that pipes clean water from the mountains into the village - over more than 1.5 miles (2.5 km)! From a large storage tank in the village, it is distributed to seven communal faucets. The community contributed sand, stones and their labor (digging trenches, laying pipe) to the project. Zahana bought the pipes, cement, and materials not locally available as well as hired water engineers, who lived in Fidanana for two months directing the project and teaching the villagers how to maintain the system.

RURAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT ZAHANA

