

## **Bamboo Park Project Update – Sponsored by Merz Foundation**

It's been 4 months since we received the first €10,000 tranche to launch the Bamboo Park project, and we've been busy restoring 16 hectares of degraded land! This park will highlight bamboo's environmental and socio-economic benefits.

### **Activity Highlights:**

1. **Bamboo Propagation:** We're multiplying species like *Dendrocalamus strictus*, *Bambusa Balcoa*, *Bambusa Tulda*, and *Bambusa vulgaris* using vegetative techniques.
2. **Seed Collection & Nursery Development:** We're collecting and growing seedlings from 5 endemic species, including *Acacia nilotica*, *Albizia adianthifolia*, and *Strychnos spinosa*, as well as non-native species like Baobab and Coffee.
3. **Bamboo Park Design:** We've drafted a 3D plan for the park's layout and development.
4. **Community Engagement:** We presented the project to local authorities, the APAM consortium, and community representatives, receiving enthusiastic support for the next steps.

### **Challenges:**

1. **Propagation Delays:** The dry season slowed bamboo growth due to low humidity and rainfall.  
**Solution:** Installing an irrigation system and applying organic compost will boost plant growth, especially during summer.
2. **Scheduling Meetings:** Coordinating with government and community representatives has been challenging.  
**Solution:** We suggest appointing paid community members to assist with land rehabilitation and report to the local government.
3. **Seed Availability:** Limited access to forestry seedlings and seeds from various sources, including IIAM (Mozambican Institute of Agroforestry Research).  
**Solution:** Establishing a small seed bank, equipped with a fridge for long-term storage, will help ensure a consistent supply of seeds.


Despite these hurdles, we're making great progress and look forward to transforming this land into a thriving bamboo park! 



Fig.1 - Bamboo culms prepared for propagation using vegetative techniques.



Fig2. Coffee grows well alongside bamboo, helping to boost biodiversity and offering an extra source of income through the global coffee market. This makes our bamboo park project in Mozambique both environmentally and economically stronger



Fig3. Baobab trees are symbols of resilience and hope in Africa. They store water during the rainy season, which can be used in the dry months. By including baobab trees in our bamboo park, we aim to inspire resilience and hope for a better world, while also making the park more sustainable



Fig.4 Seed collection, treatment, and propagation are crucial steps in ensuring successful growth. Cutting some seeds with scissors or nail clippers helps break their outer coating, significantly improving the germination rate and promoting healthier, more consistent growth



Fig.6 Meeting in the future bamboo park with community representatives and local authorities to discuss the Bamboo Park project.



Fig 7. The 3D Occupation Plan for the Bamboo Park provides a first draft of how the park will look in a few years. The community representatives were very excited about the vision and the potential it holds for the future

**Next Steps:**

1. **Ecology Assessment** – Conduct a thorough evaluation of the existing ecosystem (plants and animals) on the plot, forecast potential changes with the introduction of native and nonnative species, and identify the most sensitive areas of the land.

2. **Land Survey** – Perform detailed measurements of the land, including topography and level curves, to guide future planning.
3. **3D Model Review** – Discuss the 3D model in detail and finalize the design for the Bamboo Park based on ecological and community input.
4. **Borehole Installation & Irrigation System** – Set up a borehole and irrigation system to ensure a sustainable water supply for the park.
5. **Greenhouse Establishment** – Build a greenhouse to grow organic vegetables and continue the propagation of endemic tree species.
6. **Seed Collection & Tree Growing** – Continue collecting seeds and growing trees, focusing on native species to support biodiversity.
7. **Pilot Intercropping Project** – Begin a one-hectare pilot project, intercropping bamboo, endemic trees, and seasonal crops to test the viability of different species working together

### **Call to Action!**

Support our Bamboo Park project by donating your skills, time, or funds. We're seeking experts in agroforestry, architecture, rural community development and social media to help, or you can share our work with potential partners and donors. You can also contribute financially through our crowdfunding on Betterplace. Every bit of help makes a difference!