



Madagascar was a place with one of the richest **biodiversity** in the world, and for many people, it was a **paradise**. Then years without rain changed everything.

Southern Madagascar was green, and people grew crops there. Climate change brought little rain. At the same time, people cut down the trees, which stopped strong winds.

Now, there are no trees, and when people plant seeds, the wind blows them away. Therefore, people in southern Madagascar have no food, and more than a million of them need international help.

Scientists said that the area would become even drier. Madagascar could become the first country to experience **famine** as a result of climate change.

Difficult words: **biodiversity** (when many different plants and animals grow and live in one place), **paradise** (a place which is very nice, and everything is great there), **famine** (when many people have nothing to eat).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *biodiversity*, *paradise* and *famine*
2. What was Madagascar like before it was hit by severe drought?
3. What caused Madagascar to get little rain and become dry?
4. Why can't people grow trees in Southern Madagascar anymore?
5. What is the worst impact of the severe drought in Madagascar?
6. What could happen to Madagascar if it becomes even drier as a result of climate change?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Which part of your country is considered to have the richest biodiversity?
How does the government protect the biodiversity that this area holds?
2. Why is biodiversity important for the survival of life on earth?
3. Which places in your country are severely impacted by climate change?
4. Is your country doing enough to respond to the issues of climate change?