



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 years without rain hit the place?
3. What did people do with the trees in the area?
4. What brought these changes that Madagascar is experiencing right now?
5. Why can't seeds grow in Madagascar?
6. What has been the biggest problem of the people in Madagascar today?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Which area in your country has the richest biodiversity?  
How does the government protect the biodiversity that this area holds?
2. Why is biodiversity important for human survival?
3. Are there places in your country that are severely affected by climate change?
4. How does your country respond to the issues of climate change?