

Project Update February 2025

Rufford I.D.: 39692-1

Project Title: Ex Situ Conservation of Three *Coffea* (Baracoffea) Species Adapted to the Semi-Arid Regions of Northwestern Madagascar

Update: Between December and January, we set up four nursery plots within the educational botanical garden of the University of Majunga. We observed early fruit maturity in *Coffea bisetiae*, which occurred at the end of December, earlier than the other two species. As a result, we sowed 900 seeds of this species, occupying two of the four nursery plots. These seeds were distributed at a rate of 120 per population, with a total of six populations: four from Ankarafantsika National Park and two from the Antsanitia forest. Additionally, we sowed 30 fruits per population, amounting to a total of 720 seeds + 180 fruits = 900 sown units.

For *Coffea ambongensis* (Antsanitia) and *Coffea boinensis* (Ankarafantsika), fruit maturation was completed at the end of January. We recently collected as many fruits as possible from these two species and will soon proceed with individual measurements (length, width, and weight of the fruits and seeds) as well as the necessary pre-treatments, following the same process as the previous sowings. Afterward, we will individually label the pots before sowing. We plan to sow 600 units for *Coffea boinensis* (480 seeds + 120 fruits, across six populations) and 300 units for *Coffea ambongensis* (240 seeds + 60 fruits, across two populations). These 900 sown units will be placed in the remaining two nursery plots.

Furthermore, phenological and growth monitoring is ongoing.