



Basketry: Reeds

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Erana

Erana is a common type of reeds between the rice fields on Madagascar. It is not useful as food for cattle or humans. Erana is manually harvested and left to dry in the sun. Before plaiting, the reeds are split and re-moisted. For Mme Perline (above and to the right) it is a craft learnt from mother. The family where living in the Ambatondrazaka region, where Erana is plenty and this craft common. The basket, pot mat, turtle, frog and owl are examples of her work.

Result



Isatra; colours and patterns



Result



Isatra grows in the same region and is harvested in the same way as Erana. However, this is a reed of a very different quality. Isatra is split, coloured and plaited. The finer split, the finer pattern. The inside of the basket or bag is made of more simple, plain reeds. The women in Ambatondrazaka are rice-farmers—but between planting, weeding and harvesting, they are skilled basket makers. Since many years back, they cooperates with La Maison Afrique. The different types of basketry here are examples of the products they deliver.



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