SOS LEMURS INITIATIVE

2017-2023 IMPACT REPORT

Second edition

KEEP NATURE STANDING


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IUCN is pleased to acknowledge the support of its Framework Partners who provide core funding: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark; Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland; Government of France and the French Development Agency (AFD); Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea; Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad); the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida); the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the United States Department of State.

This publication has been made possible in part by funding from a private Geneva-based foundation.

Published by: IUCN, Gland, Switzerland

Produced by: Species Conservation Action Team

Recommended citation: IUCN (2024). *SOS Lemurs Initiative: 2017-2023 impact report* (2nd. ed.). IUCN

Illustration: Landor

Layout by: Imre Sebestyén / UNITgraphics Studio

Printed by: L'Imprimerie Nyon

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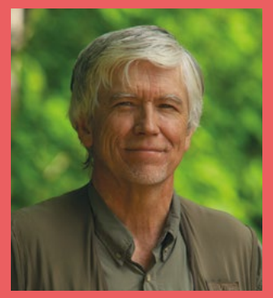
FOREWORD



Russell A. Mittermeier, PhD
Chair, IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group;
Chief Conservation Officer, Re:wild

Madagascar is a truly special place. The world's fourth largest island and the largest oceanic island, it is one of the world's highest priority Biodiversity Hotspots and a top Megadiversity Country. A large portion of the island's highly diverse fauna and flora is endemic and found nowhere else in the world.

The lemurs of Madagascar are the best example of this extraordinary diversity and endemism and are, without a doubt, the island's best known species – truly its wildlife ambassadors. We currently recognise five families, 15 genera, and 112 taxa, putting Madagascar second only to Brazil (156 taxa) in terms of primate diversity. When it comes to endemism, however, Madagascar is truly unmatched. Its five endemic primate families represent 31% of the global total and its 15 endemic genera represent 18% of all currently known. These high levels of diversity and endemism long ago led our IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Primate Specialist Group to consider Madagascar as a stand-alone major region for primates, comparable to all of the Neotropical region, mainland Africa, and tropical and sub-tropical Asia.

However, the lemur fauna is at grave threat of extinction. The most recent IUCN Red List assessment (2021) for 112 lemur taxa indicated that 32% are Critically Endangered, 41% are Endangered, and 22% are Vulnerable – thus, a total of 106 species (94%) are considered threatened. This makes lemurs the most threatened larger group of mammals, and puts Madagascar firmly in place as the world's single highest major primate conservation priority.

Key threats to lemurs include hunting for trade and sustenance, and above all, deforestation. With only about 10% of Madagascar's natural vegetation remaining, habitat loss and fragmentation is driving lemurs, along with virtually all other forest dependent species, further into decline.

The disappearance of Madagascar's giant lemur fauna provides a sobering example of extinction being a very real and recent phenomenon. Indeed, eight genera and at least 17 species of lemur have become extinct since the arrival of our own species, the most recent extinction being approximately 500 years ago.

With trends indicating that a possible major lemur extinction episode could take place in the next couple of decades, in 2012 IUCN SSC published its Lemurs of Madagascar: A Strategy for their Conservation 2013–2016. This conservation action plan set the course for IUCN's SOS Lemurs, a six and half year, 7.7 million CHF initiative dedicated to working with local civil society to conserve Madagascan lemurs. Running from 2017 to 2023, the initiative supported local civil society projects to tackle key threats and strengthen local capacity to undertake priority actions from the Lemurs of Madagascar Strategic Plan. These included ecological research and knowledge building, monitoring and recovery, habitat restoration, anti-poaching initiatives, sustainable livelihood generation and national and global awareness-raising on the plight of lemurs and their habitats.

This impact report details the many positive results achieved by these civil society grantees – and the local communities they support – to help guide future activities. Overall, the SOS Lemurs initiative has contributed in many ways to ensuring the long-term survival of these hugely important animals.

Given the crisis situation that lemurs face, it is essential that the work of SOS Lemurs continue if we are to meet our goal of "Zero Extinctions". Our IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group is committed to working with IUCN to support what will hopefully be a dynamic new multi-year phase of SOS Lemurs and to provide continued support for the important work that is already underway.

INTRODUCTION

IUCN

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,400 member organisations and some 18,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership makes IUCN the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to protect species, reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

IUCN SAVE OUR SPECIES

IUCN Save Our Species supports science-based conservation action on the ground that saves animals, plants and fungi from extinction. We focus our efforts where they will have the biggest impact by funding frontline conservation organisations across the world who have unique knowledge of their region and their local biodiversity.

The alarm has been raised repeatedly about the decline in biodiversity across the planet. As one species falls, it takes with it the whole chain of species that depend on it. Be it tigers or bees, these act as dominos falling one after the other, ultimately leading back to us and putting all of mankind at risk. This is why we must do all we can to Keep Nature Standing.

We never look at species in isolation. All IUCN Save Our Species projects not only aim to protect threatened species, but also to preserve their habitats, and improve the livelihoods of the people who depend on them. To protect threatened species with sustainable, long-term results, all our projects are structured around a three-legged approach to conservation that focuses on Species, Habitat and People.

As a global union of States, scientific commissions, members and specialist groups, we mobilize IUCN's networks to scale conservation initiatives, through capacity building and knowledge development. Our conservation initiatives support implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework as well as regional and national biodiversity policies. IUCN Save Our Species projects also tackle urgent issues such as climate change, poverty, and food and water security, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals. Our objectives and commitments to each of the IUCN Save Our Species pillars are:

SPECIES

We are working to achieve a decline in target threatened species from illegal killing and human wildlife conflict by 2030; and see it halted by 2050.

HABITAT

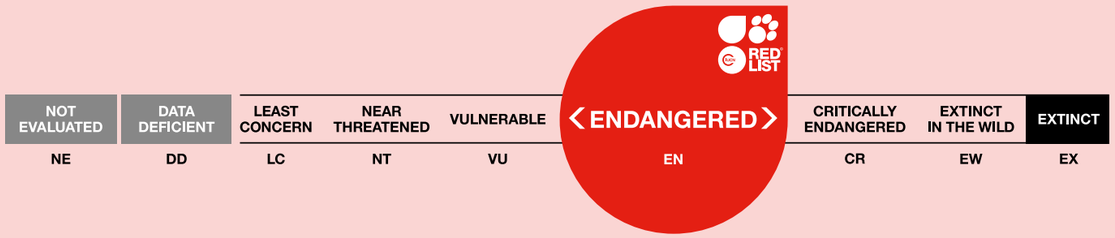
We aim to ensure the loss, fragmentation and degradation of threatened species' habitats is reduced by 2030 and halted by 2050.

PEOPLE

We are working to reduce human pressures on target threatened species by improving local communities' living conditions and providing them with alternative economic activities by 2030.

THE IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of animal, fungi and plant species. The Red List shows where urgent conservation action needs to be taken and thus guides the selection of the IUCN Save Our Species projects.



SPOTLIGHT ON MADAGASCAR

© Aubin Andriajaona

MADAGASCAR: AN UNMATCHED BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT IN PERIL

Madagascar is one of the world's richest biodiversity hotspots, with around 90% of plant and 85% of animal species endemic to the island. Its megadiverse ecosystems including forests, savannah, mangroves and drylands to name a few, support the subsistence needs of the country's 28 million people.

Unfortunately, Madagascar is also one of the most heavily impacted countries globally in terms of biodiversity loss, with estimates reporting as much as 90% of the island's original natural vegetation destroyed, and what remains, severely fragmented.[1] Due to the country's high rate of endemism, habitat loss is impacting biodiversity levels more than anywhere else in the world, with more than 50% of mammal, 43% of freshwater and 63% of endemic tree species threatened with extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species ™.

1 *Lemurs of Madagascar: A Strategy for Their Conservation 2013–2016* (2013), written by Russell A. Mittermeier, Christoph Schwitzer, Steig Johnson & Jonah Ratsimbazafy.

LEMURS OF MADAGASCAR

Lemurs play important roles in the island's ecosystems as seed dispersers, pollinators, and influencers of the distribution and growth of certain plant species. They are also of strong cultural significance for the Malagasy people, who have lived alongside them for centuries. Many Malagasy beliefs and traditions centre around lemurs, and they are an important part of the country's identity.

Yet, **lemurs are among the most threatened species on the planet**. Out of the 112 known lemur species and subspecies in Madagascar, 90% are threatened and almost a third (31%) are on the brink of extinction (Critically Endangered). Key drivers of lemur decline include extensive loss of forest habitats caused by slash-and-burn agriculture, illegal logging and mining, fires, as well as hunting for their meat and for the illegal pet trade. This has resulted in fragmentation of their populations, making it difficult for lemurs to find food and mates.

Madagascar's forests provide key sources of energy, food and agricultural needs for its communities. Construction of new infrastructures, including roads, has led to increased forest clearing for human settlements, agriculture and mining – fragmenting and destroying most of lemurs' natural habitats. Climate change exacerbates anthropogenic impacts on forest ecosystems: resulting in extended droughts, frequent cyclones, and unpredictable harvests. Amid severe livelihood pressures, climate-stressed communities are, in turn, driven to degrade forests through slash-and-burn agriculture and logging.

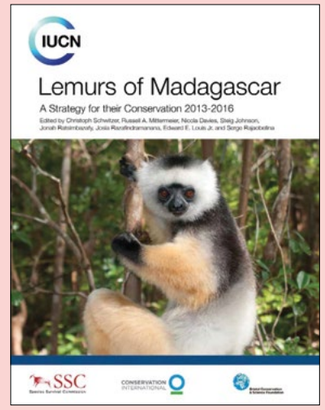
Deforestation and increased natural disasters are also driving the country's high poverty rate, with more than three-quarters of Madagascar's people living below the poverty line. This contributes to the country's low political will for safeguarding biodiversity through law enforcement, leaving threatened ecosystems, and the people who depend on them, at increasing risk. Long-term human wellbeing and prosperity depend on maintaining Madagascar's extraordinary natural capital, including its lemurs, and their habitats.


© R. Mittermeier

SETTING OUT A STRATEGY TO CONSERVE LEMURS

In **2012**, the IUCN's Species Survival Commission's Primate Specialist Group convened the Lemur Red-Listing and Conservation Planning Workshop. This enabled a reassessment of all 103 extant lemur taxa's conservation status against the IUCN Red List criteria. The reassessment revealed that almost **94%** of lemur taxa for which sufficient data were available were **threatened with extinction**.

This alarming Red List update led to IUCN's new, common strategy to save lemurs from extinction. ***The Lemurs of Madagascar: A strategy for their Conservation 2013-2016*** identifies priority sites and actions to conserve lemurs. Its broad variety of conservation and sustainable development activities, combined with efforts to raise public support for conservation in Madagascar, provided the framework for IUCN's Save Our Species Lemurs Initiative.



THE SOS LEMURS INITIATIVE

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SOS LEMURS

The IUCN Save Our Species Programme and its Species Habitat People approach provided the mechanism for implementing the Lemur Conservation Strategy. Thanks to financial support from the Hans Wilsdorf Foundation, IUCN Save Our Species launched the **SOS Lemurs initiative – a 7.7 million CHF**, **six and a half years** fund dedicated to conserving Madagascar's lemurs. To this day, it remains the **only initiative in the world dedicated to funding lemur conservation.**

OUR IMPACT

4,869,596 CHF INVESTED IN MADAGASCAR
100,000 CHF AVERAGE GRANT-SIZE
63 DIFFERENT LEMUR SPECIES
49 PROJECTS
31 SITES
26 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF SOS LEMURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SPECIES

Increase ecological monitoring and actions to protect threatened lemur populations across key sites

HABITAT

Increase suitable lemur habitat and habitat connectivity

PEOPLE

Create incentives to conserve natural and cultural heritage

SOS LEMURS IN FOCUS

SOS Lemurs comprises four key components:

1
Grants to CSOs operating in Madagascar

4.9 million CHF

49
large scale projects

2
The Lemur Conservation Action Fund

213,000 CHF

50
small projects

3
Centre Valbio

750,000 CHF

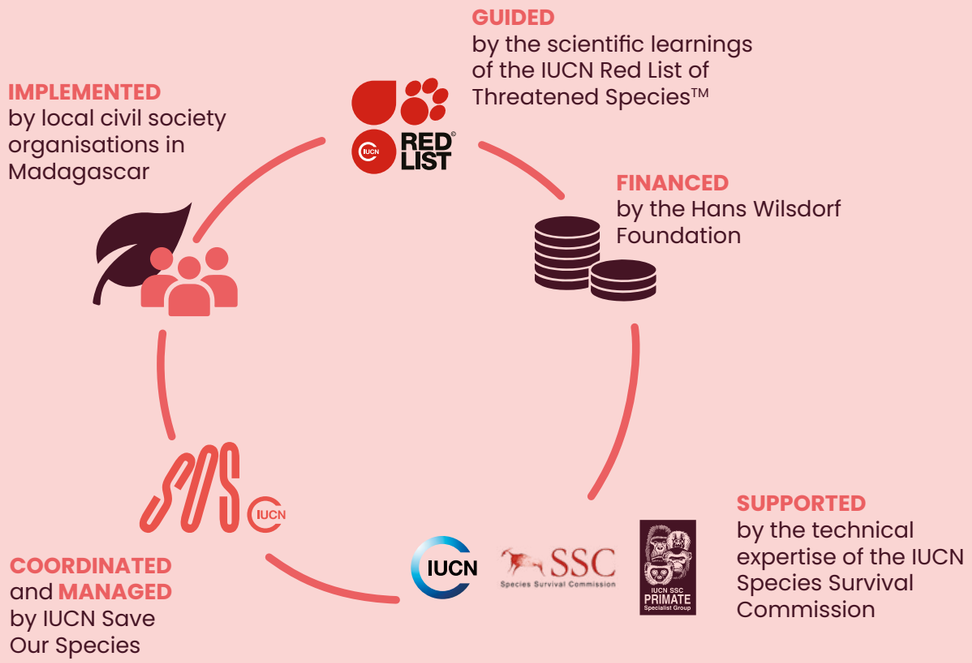
Infrastructure project

4
Red List Assessment

50,000 CHF

Red List update

THE SOS LEMURS INITIATIVE MECHANISM



INITIATIVE TIMELINE

JULY 2012
Reassessment of all lemur taxa against the IUCN Red List criteria

JUNE 2013
Publication of the IUCN SSC Lemur Conservation Strategy (2013-2016)

JULY 2016
Site visit by IUCN Save Our Species, Chair and Vice-Chair of Primate Specialist Group with representative of the donor to Madagascar

AUGUST 2016
Donor approves funds for IUCN SOS Lemurs

JANUARY 2017
SOS Lemur initiative launch workshop

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2017
Call for proposal 1: 18 projects selected

APRIL - MAY 2018
Call for proposals 2: 15 projects selected

MAY 2018
Red List Assessment Workshop

MAY - JULY 2019
Call for proposal 3: 16 projects selected

APRIL - OCTOBER 2022
Final evaluation

MARCH 2023
Lessons Learned Workshop

APRIL 2023
Closure of SOS Lemurs

CONSERVATION ACTION: GRANTS TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

© Laure Montchamp

Through three calls for proposals, the initiative provided 49 medium-sized grants to 26 civil society organisations operating in Madagascar.

All projects funded by SOS Lemurs have supported and worked with local communities to reduce habitat destruction and lemur hunting through a combination of conservation actions.

PROJECT LOCATIONS

- **Priority Sites**
  as identified in The Lemurs of Madagascar conservation strategy
- **SOS Lemurs projects**

SPECIES

Species monitoring

Understanding lemur ecology, gaining knowledge on species distribution and abundance and monitoring the impacts of conservation efforts is essential for effective conservation. SOS Lemurs projects contributed to:

1. **Setting up monitoring protocols** (defining the location and length of transects for lemur surveys, data collection);

2. **Purchasing specific monitoring equipment** (camera traps, radio collars, GPS) to monitor lemur population dynamics and collect valuable information on their behaviour and habitat requirements;

3. **Training local guides and community patrollers** to foster community ecological monitoring.

Species monitoring has not only provided valuable information for conservation efforts and helped identify areas of concern, but it has also enabled local communities to play an active role in acquiring knowledge and monitoring the health of their natural heritage.

Law enforcement and anti-poaching

Illegal pet trade and poaching are significant threats to lemur. To combat lemur trafficking, SOS Lemurs projects contributed to:

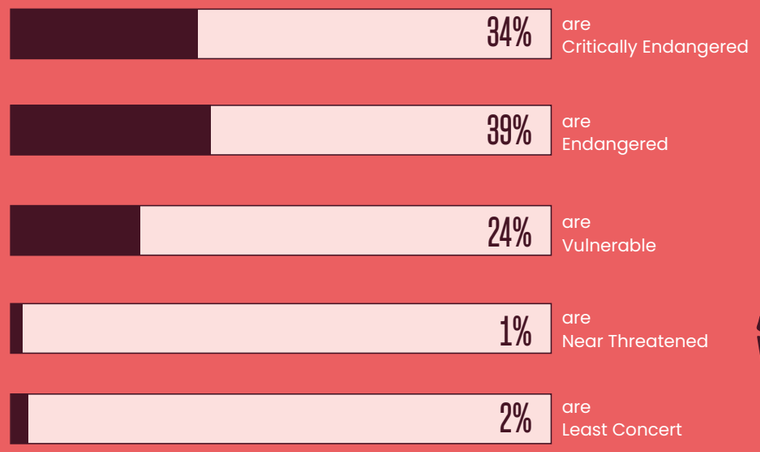
1. **Strengthening law enforcement efforts,** by raising local awareness on conservation laws and enforcing their application through stakeholder collaboration and engagement;

2. **Implementing anti-poaching measures,** by improving surveillance and supporting ranger patrols.

OUR IMPACT

IN TOTAL, THE SOS LEMURS PROJECTS PROTECTED 63 DIFFERENT LEMUR SPECIES

of which



according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

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Strengthened ecological monitoring to inform knowledge and decision-making

© The Peregrine Fund Madagascar Project

Target species
Perrier's Sifaka (*Propithecus perrieri*) - Critically Endangered

Site
Andrafiamena-Andavakoera Protected Area

Implementing partner
Fanamby

Problem

Though the core of the Protected Area benefits from a strong conservation status, buffer zones are exposed to the new rising threat of small-scale gold mining, adding to other permanent threats to lemurs: illegal exploitation of forest products, charcoal production, slash and burn agriculture, poaching, forest encroachment and fires.

Approach

To monitor rising threats to the Park's biodiversity, assess the impact of conservation efforts and inform decision-making, a regular ecological monitoring of lemur populations in the Park is necessary. A project implemented by Fanamby, – administrator of the Andrafiamena-Andavakoera Protected Area – from 2017 to 2022 enabled the monitoring and data collection on lemur population dynamics.

Results

- Ecological monitoring of lemurs established in the Park;
- **138 ecological monitoring missions** carried out (30 transects of 1 km long were walked every quarter);
- 11 lemur species were identified within the Protected Area;
- **Ecological monitoring shows a slight increase in the population of Perrier's Sifaka over the project period;**
- The project revealed for the first time the presence of two groups of the Golden-crowned Sifaka (*Propithecus tatterssali,* CR) cohabiting with the **Perrier's Sifaka groups** inside the Andavakoera forest corridor;
- **60 floristic surveys** were carried out through the setting up of 30 permanent monitoring plots (50 m x 20 m): 262 plants species were recorded, of which 126 species are consumed by lemurs in general and 28 are consumed especially by the Perrier's Sifaka;
- The updated data on the diet of the Perrier's Sifaka informed the selection of seedlings for the reforestation programme implemented by Fanamby as part of the project, to adapt the habitat restoration strategy to the lemur's ecology.

This project, titled *Gold or* Propithecus perrieri: *Challenges for the Effective Management of the Andrafiamena-Andavakoera Protected Area,* was implemented between November 2020 and October 2022.

Improved law enforcement for a reduction of lemur hunting and illegal trade

© N. Cegalerba

Target species

- Perrier's Sifaka *(Propithecus perrieri)* - Critically Endangered
- Aye-aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) - Endangered
- Crowned Lemur *(Eulemur coronatus)* - Vulnerable
- Sahafary Sportive Lemur *(Lepilemur septentrionalis)* - Critically Endangered

Sites

- Andrafiamena-Andavakoera Protected Area
- Analamerana Special Reserve
- Montagne des Français Protected Area

Implementing partner

Alliance Voahary Gasy

Problem

Loss and degradation of forest habitat (through bushfires, illegal logging, slash-and-burn agriculture and mining); and the illegal sale and hunting of lemurs are common and widespread in these areas. Illegal loggers in remote forests will hunt lemurs for meat during their long expeditions into the forest, and lemurs are also poached for animal trafficking. Additionally, poor governance, weak law enforcement (even in protected areas), corruption, as well as lack of knowledge on conservation laws (on the part of authorities and bordering communities) are all shortcomings that allow illegal traffic to flourish.

Approach

A two-phase project (Sept 2017 - Oct 2021) implemented by Alliance Voahary Gasy and partners aimed to strengthen law enforcement, promote awareness of environmental laws through education and lobbying, encourage citizen empowerment and participation in environmental justice, notably through the development of a whistleblowing culture.

Results

- **31 people including criminal investigation officers and protected area managers were trained** on national and international (CITES) law articles, infractions reporting and effective use of penalties;
- A **free and anonymous "Green hotline" (512)** was opened to report environmental crimes. Managed on a day-to-day basis by a specialised lawyer, this hotline receives on average 100 calls/month;
- A **legal guide** containing laws and regulations applicable to lemur protection as well as procedures for recording and prosecuting violations was elaborated and duplicated in **200 copies;**
- **1,000 brochures** were distributed to students, communities, associations, private sectors, authorities, as part of an intensive communication campaign to dissemination advocacy messages and information on the 4 target lemur species, the threats they face and sanctions in case of hunting and capture;
- Thanks to citizen oversight**, 11 lemurs detained in a hotel in Ambanja were seized and transferred.**

This project, titled *Law enforcement against Lemurs' Illegal Trafficking*, was implemented in two phases between September 2017 and October 2021.

HABITAT

Habitat protection and management

The destruction and fragmentation of natural habitats is one of the main drivers of the significant decline in lemur populations over the past few decades. Through a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach, SOS Lemurs projects implemented a combination of actions to tackle this critical threat, which contributed to:


© Naturevolution Madagascar


© D. Roullet

3. **Strengthening forest patrols** to prevent illegal activities (such as poaching, logging, and land encroachment) as well as detecting and responding to emergencies; Through SOS Lemurs projects, the number of forest rangers and the frequency of patrols was increased, patrollers were **equipped with the necessary tools and resources** to carry out their duties effectively, and provided with specific **trainings** (e.g. on the use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool -SMART system);

4. **Strengthening protected areas' management**, including border demarcation through the installation of signs to delineate core zones (e.g in Loky Manambato Protected Area and Vohimana Reserve) and patrols by law enforcement guards to enforce spatial boundaries;

5. **Establishing fire breaks** to help control or contain the spread of fires, and allow natural regeneration of vegetation.

In preserving lemur habitats, these activities contributed much broader positive ecological impacts for overall ecosystems.

Fire protection to allow natural regeneration

© The Phoenix Conservancy

Target species
Ring-tailed Lemur (*Lemur catta*) - Endangered

Sites
The Lost Forest of Ivohiboro

Implementing partners
The Phoenix Conservancy and Madagascar Institut pour la Conservation des Ecosystèmes Tropicaux

Problem
The main threat to the forest comes from wildfires that press at the forest's edge every year. Wildfires have destroyed nearly all of the forests that formerly covered the region, leaving The Lost Forest of Ivohiboro surrounded for kilometres in every direction by degraded grassland dominated by fire-prone invasive grasses. Habitat fragmentation has now reduced the forest to an unsustainable small size (1,215 ha), further exposing Ivohiboro's lemur species and primary forest biodiversity to extinction. Additionally, the lack of economic alternatives for local people puts increasing pressure on the forest to supply cooking wood and water, while increasing the likelihood of illegal logging as communities struggle to make ends meet.

Approach
By creating fire barriers around the forest's perimeter and establishing pioneer species as an integral component of fire barriers, the project aimed to both halt fire destruction and create conditions that allow rainforest species to survive, allowing for the forest's expansion. As succession progresses, fire barriers will serve as corridors between the forest's main body and isolated fragments, greatly reducing the risk of extinction from fragment isolation. Finally, the creation of alternative economic opportunities for neighbouring communities will create additional economic opportunities that promote reforestation and lay the foundation for sustainable practices.

Results
- Approximately **40 km of firebreaks** established around the Ivohiboro forest, allowing the **natural regeneration of about 2,480 ha;**
- **230 Foxhole Forests** have been constructed and seeded with pioneer species, which represents about **2 ha of direct restoration**. Foxhole forests - a n**ovel rainforest nucleation technique -** are designed to serve rainforest restoration and fire protection. Each foxhole is a small circular plot (10m diameter) planted with pioneer tree and shrub species and surrounded by a cup firebreak. As they mature, they provide shade, moisture and seeds for the growth of forest species beyond the initial plots (replication of natural succession), eventually connecting the foxholes and Ivohiboro's current boundary, thereby substantially expanding the forest;
- **More than 6,000 kg** of pioneer species 'seeds were purchased and planted;
- A network of firebreaks and pioneer species now extends north to link isolated forest fragments to the main body of Ivohiboro, reducing likelihood of extinction due to habitat fragmentation;
- More than **6,000 villagers** from local communities have benefitted from **4 distinct alternative livelihood opportunities**; construction of firebreaks, collection and selling of pioneer species' seeds, sowing those seeds along the protected side of the firebreaks, and construction of Foxhole Forests;
- Community members were trained in fire control techniques for protecting other forest fragments, villages, farms, and areas of value;
- **Local communities have completely halted setting fires around Ivohiboro**, which shows a behavior change from project activities;
- **No fire incidents** in and around Ivohiboro have been recorded.

This project, titled *Emergency Fire Protection and Restoration of Madagascar's Lost Forest of Ivohiboro* was implemented between June 2020 and July 2022.

Habitat restoration

With less than 10% of pristine vegetation remaining, restoring degraded landscapes in Madagascar is crucial for conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services, mitigating climate change, promoting sustainable livelihoods and preserving cultural heritage.

Habitat restoration was a central component of SOS Lemurs, with a wide range of restoration activities implemented across the project portfolio, contributing to:

1. **Reforestation**: Most SOS Lemurs projects have implemented **active planting** programmes to restore degraded forests – and, in some sites, control erosion – by planting native tree species, grown in seedling nurseries. While reintroducing native species is ecologically valuable, a few exotic species were also planted for their economic value and services to bordering communities, notably for wood charcoal supply, used by more than 97% of households as an energy source for cooking.

2. **Increasing habitat connectivity /connecting forest corridors:** Habitat fragmentation has led to isolated forest fragments, putting lemurs at increased risk of extinction. By connecting forest fragments, notably in forest corridors (e.g. Ankeniheny-Zahamena, Ambositra-Vondrozo and Bongolava Forest Corridors) projects have facilitated movement of lemur communities between habitats and – in the long term – promoted gene flow.

3. **Restoring wetlands**: Wetlands are important habitats that provide essential ecosystem services, but they have also been heavily degraded. Restoration efforts in the Lake Alaotra region[2] have involved improving water quality, restoring vegetation, and improving natural hydrology.

4. **Managing invasive species**: The management of invasive species is an important aspect of habitat restoration, as they pose a major threat to biodiversity in Madagascar. As part of SOS Lemurs projects, this has involved manual removal of invasive alien species and community awareness campaigns.

Through a holistic approach to landscape rehabilitation, SOS Lemurs aims to restore the ecological functionality of degraded landscapes.

2 Project *Sustaining Marshes for the Alaotran Gentle Lemur; Ensuring Protection of Critical Habitat Within a Dynamic and Challenging Natural and Socio-Economic Environment*

© Fredo Tera MBP

CASE STUDY HABITAT

Marsh restoration and invasive species clearing

© Chris Scarffe

Target species

Alaotran gentle lemur (*Hapalemur alaotrensis*) – Critically Endangered

Site

Lake Alaotra Protected Area

Implementing partner

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Problem:

The Alaotra gentle lemur or Bandro is restricted to the marsh habitats of Lac Alaotra which are facing widespread and increasing pressure from the people who live in the villages around its shores. Habitat loss through the burning of marshes for conversion to rice-fields is the primary threat facing the species. Approximately 2,000 Ha of marsh are burnt every year. Compounding this problem is that the natural regeneration of marsh habitat is being restricted by the presence of invasive species including salvinia (*Salvinia molesta)* and water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*).

Approach:

To reduce marsh burning whilst at the same time improving marsh quality and connectivity to increase lemurs' suitable habitat, the project implemented by Durell Wildlife Conservation Trust and partners i) actively restored marsh habitats, ii) engaged fishermen in the removal of invasive plants from degraded marsh areas to support natural regeneration, iii) sensitized communities to reduce their willingness to engage in illegal marsh clearance, v) strengthened monitoring and law enforcement and iv) supported alternatives for local communities to use products from invasive aquatic species.

Results:

- **43.3ha of marshes were planted** in 7 locations;
- **14.3km of canals and 5.91ha of lake surface** invaded by invasive species were cleaned in 3 locations;
- Over **11 tonnes** of compost was produced from the transformation of invasive species (water hyacinth and water chestnut) into organic fertiliser in 2020 across three villages;
- **40 joint missions** were carried out by a team composed of representatives of the Direction Régionale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable DREDD, Direction Régionale de la Pêche et de l'Economie Bleue (DRPEB) and the National Gendarmerie;
- **6 infractions** of illegal marsh clearance and land grabbing were brought to court. The sentencing of one offender was a significant milestone and will constitute a precedent for future cases;
- A **wetland education game** was played in 14 villages to communicate messages on sustainable resource use through the behaviour change campaign.

Overall, the clearance of invasive plants helped maintain clear channels and ponds for fishermen access to the water course, reducing the need to burn and cut marshes to make new access canals, further degrading the marsh. It also helped clean and oxygenate the water for the benefit of people and fish stocks, which will increase opportunities for fishing. Finally, the conversion of invasives into organic compost to fertilize crops represents a really positive step towards more sustainable agricultural production, using the by-products of a conservation activity to actually improve agricultural yields without the need for chemical inputs (hence improving environmental quality in Alaotra) or further habitat loss (reducing the need to clear to expand crops), leading to financially resilient households with better year-round nutrition.

This project, titled *Sustaining Marshes for the Alaotran Gentle Lemur; Ensuring Protection of Critical Habitat Within a Dynamic and Challenging Natural and Socio-Economic Environment,* was implemented between January 2019 and January 2021.

PEOPLE

Community engagement

Community engagement has been at the centre of all SOS Lemurs initiative's activities and results. The vast majority of project results could not have been achieved without the support and engagement of local communities, facilitated by long-lasting relationships and trust established with our grantees.

In SOS Lemurs projects, community members have **actively participated** in conservation efforts**,** whether as patrollers, local guides, participants in restoration work (planting seedlings, removing invasive species, establishing fire breaks), employees of seedling nurseries, etc.

This has had a significant impact in terms of:

1. **Empowerment**: Projects have helped to promote community ownership and responsibility for conserving the forest ecosystem, and inspire environmental stewardship;

2. **Capacity-building**: Through various trainings (e.g. forest patrolling, firefighting, lemur monitoring, tree nursery management, infractions and crime reporting, etc.), projects helped provide opportunities for education and local capacity-building;

3. **Awareness raising**: Projects helped to sensitize communities on Madagascar's biodiversity crisis, raising awareness of the importance of sustainable use of natural resources and the economic, social and environmental benefits of lemurs and Madagascar's biodiversity as a whole, which, in turn, contributed to reducing local threats;

4. **Improving community livelihoods:** The conservation work undertaken by communities led to different forms of compensation schemes, either monetary or non-monetary (distribution of seeds, fruit trees, meals, etc.)

The direct engagement of local communities in conservation efforts has reduced opportunistic poaching and habitat destruction (notably illegal logging and land clearing), increased awareness of the importance of lemurs, and promote sustainable use of natural resources.

CASE STUDY PEOPLE

Reduced threats to Lemurs

© AFSGH Helpsimus

Target species

Greater Bamboo Lemur or great hapalemur (*Prolemur simus*) - Critically Endangered

Site

Outskirts of Ranomafana National Park

Implementing partner

Association Française pour la Sauvegarde du Grand Hapalémur (AFSGH) - Helpsimus

Problem

The programme targets the largest wild population of great hapalemurs, almost 400 individuals out of a total population of approximately 1,000. This population lives on the agricultural land of several villages that use bamboo as a building material and clear the land to grow rice, sugar cane, coffee and beans. As the Greater Bamboo Lemur's diet is highly specialised and consists almost exclusively of bamboo, the destruction of bamboo forests poses a major problem for the conservation of this species.

Additionally, with the increased pressure on the lemur's habitat, lemurs are regularly seen damaging rice fields cultivated by the local communities. Damage often occurs where the animal's territory is under the highest anthropic pressure: where its habitat has been most degraded for paddy rice fields.

With the increase in the lemur population and consequently, a rise in damage to crops in some areas, discontent was growing among local farmers who rely entirely on agricultural resources for subsistence.

Approach

Through its project from 2017-2021, Helpsimus and its partners have implemented actions to help promote harmony between local, cohabiting communities and animals, while guaranteeing the sustainable management of natural resources and the sustainable development of communities.

The project notably developed techniques to repel lemurs from the crops, such as **crop guarding**, minimising damage to rice and sugarcane by lemurs. During the two annual rice harvests, guards take turns day and night to watch the rice fields as soon as the rice grains are mature and until they are harvested, as attacks mainly occur at this time.

Results

- **46 community members** were recruited and trained as rice guards;
- None of the rice fields protected (about 100) were crop raided by the lemurs;
- **Four footbridges** have been built on lemur passage areas, which are regularly used by the lemurs;
- The success of the crop guarding system convinced farmers to replicate it in other villages;
- The standard of living of the local population has been improved by securing and improving crop yields, as well as by developing new income-generating activities (ecotourism to observe lemurs);
- Between 2017 and 2021, the population of great hapalemurs has been **multiplied by 1.6** thanks to the programme of surveillance of the rice crops.

The success of the crop protection project and the direct involvement of people in the resolution of the conflicts has been essential to ensure the sustainability of conservation work and the long-term involvement of local communities in the protection of the Greater Bamboo Lemurs.

This project, titled *Programme Bamboo Lemur*, was implemented in two phases between September 2017 and December 2021.

Promoting edible insects to improve nutrition and protect lemurs

© Cortni Borgerson

Target species

- Red ruffed lemur (*Varecia rubra*) (CR)
- White-fronted brown lemur (*Eulemur albifrons*) (EN)
- Scott's sportive lemur (*Lepilemur scottorum*) (EN)
- Moore's woolly lemur (*Avahi mooreorum*) (EN)
- Aye-aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) (EN)
- Hairy-eared dwarf lemur (*Allocebus trichotis*) (VU)
- Masoala fork-marked lemur (*Phaner furcifer*) (VU)
- Seal's sportive lemur (*Lepilemur seali*) (VU)
- Northern bamboo lemur (*Hapalemur occidentalis*) (VU)

Site

Masoala National Park

Implementing partner

California Academy of Science and Madagascar Biodiversity Centre

Problem

Madagascar faces dual challenges in biodiversity and public health. The island nation is both one of the most biodiverse and least food secure countries on earth. The survivorship of endemic lemurs depends on the sustainable hunting of a malnourished human population who commonly hunts them for food. In the Masoala region, the best predictor of lemur trapping is food insecurity. Few alternatives to wild meats are available in adequate supply and many are highly volatile.

Approach

By increasing affordability, accessibility, and quality of animal-sourced foods in villages where forests contribute to food security, the project aimed to improve rural nutrition and food security in ways that reduce targeted lemur-hunting by at least 50%. As insects are an indispensable part of seasonal diets for many ethnic groups, the project aimed to enhance and expand farming of an abundant and traditionally eaten forest insect, sakondry (*Zanna tenebrosa*) to reduce the targeted-hunting of Threatened lemurs.

Results

- **About 87 households** in three test communities directly benefitted, nutritionally and economically, from the insect farming program (including the farming of the host plant lima beans);
- **One-on-one agricultural and technical training** on insect rearing and host-plant bean farming was provided to benefitting households;
- **Improved food affordability:** all households reported a net profit in food or income from host plant production;
- **Increased nutrition**: the insect is high in essential nutrientsl, far exceeding levels of all other farmed livestock. Sakondry is superior to both chicken and beef in energy, protein, potassium, calcium, iron, and zinc content and have a far better feed conversion ratio and nutrient retention than other farmed meat;
- **Improved food availability:** the project established a stable farmed *sakondry* population, available in adequate supply to meet the demand for sustainable wild meats;
- **Reduced Lemur Hunting** by 56% from baseline levels. It is estimated that 58 endangered lemurs were "saved" over the project's three years duration;
- In total, **3,000 training card decks** were designed and printed as visual guide to insect farming;
- A training module has been created and shared with 3 organizations in Madagascar who are actively replicating these efforts;
- In contrast to many other agricultural initiatives, the project activities **improved agricultural output and nutrition without increasing habitat loss**.

This project, titled *An evidenced based approach to reducing the illegal hunting of Threatened lemurs on the Masoala Peninsula of Madagascar* was implemented between January 2019 and December 2021.


© GERP MNB


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Income-generating activities and alternative livelihoods

The development of income-generating activities aims to provide alternative sources of income through sustainable economic ventures. As part of SOS Lemurs, the overall objective of these activities was to diversify income and food sources, reduce poverty and improve the well-being of local communities, while supporting lemur conservation efforts and reducing pressure on natural resources.

To support the engagement and economical resilience of individuals in these activities, projects have provided them with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools, hence contributing to **capacity-building.**

SOS Lemurs projects supported the following alternative livelihoods:

1. **Ecotourism:** Activities mostly included the construction and rehabilitation of bungalows, restaurants, kitchens, sanitary facilities, as well as the construction of gift shops[3] and observation towers/platforms to observe lemurs. One project[4] in the Vohimana Reserve also opened two new eco-trails for tourist trekking. Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, projects created various employment opportunities locally as eco-guides or lodge and accommodation staff.

2. **Handicraft production:** The production and selling of handmade products such as jewellery, textiles and baskets was implemented in a few projects. As an example, one project[5] used the technical expertise of a French jewellery designer to train 12 women to make jewellery out of seeds.

3. **Sustainable agriculture and organic farming**: Technical expertise and trainings on climate-resilient agriculture and agro-ecological techniques were provided to increase crop yields and community food security. For example, several projects trained communities on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). Overall, communities wished to receive support for subsistence crops (e.g. rice and maize) and cash crops (vanilla, clove, ginger, turmeric, coffee and cashew nuts.)

4. **Animal husbandry**: Projects supported mostly poultry and fish farming, but also sheep, rabbit and duck farming.

5. **Veterinary support**: Projects supported vaccination campaigns to reduce chicken mortality from diseases. For example, one project in Betampona[6] supported the vaccination of 87,060 chickens over 8 vaccination campaigns. The participation of 327 households in all 8 vaccination campaigns led to a reduction in chicken mortality from Newcastle disease (NCD).

3 *Programme Bamboo lemur*: 3 shops were built at the entrance of Ranomafana National Park (sale of handicrafts)

4 L'Homme et l'Environnement: securing critically endangered lemurs at Vohimana Reserve through sound ground protection (joint patrols), corridor reforestation, scientific research and consolidation of sustainable economic alternatives (agroforestry and ecotourism)

5 *Programme Bamboo lemur*

6 Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group: Proactive reduction of bushnmeat collection and wild-wood harvest to protect the lemurs of Betampona and support local community development.


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6. **Small business development:** Several projects supported **beekeeping** through the distribution of beehives, suits and protected gears, honey extraction equipment and training on honey production. One project[7] in the Vohimana Reserve also supported the production of **essential oils**, which were then sold to private companies for export.

7. **Improved cook stoves:** These cooking devices are designed to reduce biomass fuel consumption (such as wood and charcoal) and minimize harmful emissions compared to traditional open fires or traditional stoves. They achieve this through features such as insulated combustion chambers, better airflow control, and heat-retention mechanisms. The purchase of efficient stoves was supported in one project[8] in the Betampona forest to reduce the need for people to turn to the forest for firewood to cook daily meals. Through the distribution of 2,100 stoves to 1,406 households, results show that the demand in firewood reduced by more than 30%.

The selection of alternative livelihoods depends on the local context and the skills and interest of the communities or individuals involved. SOS Lemurs projects adopted a holistic approach that considered environmental, social and economic aspects to ensure the success and sustainability of these initiatives. Overall, the implementation of income-generating activities and alternative livelihoods has contributed to improving local livelihoods and well-being while promoting sustainable resource use and biodiversity conservation.

Education and outreach

Raising awareness of the threats facing lemurs and the importance of their conservation is critical. By providing knowledge about sustainable practices, conservation issues, and the consequences of destructive actions, education can promote behaviour change that supports conservation efforts. This ensures that conservation efforts continue beyond short-term projects and initiatives.

SOS Lemurs projects implemented a broad range of awareness-raising initiatives to engage as many people as possible through:

1. **Events:** All 49 projects organised celebrations for World Lemur Day (October 28th) and World Environment Day (June 5th). Lemur festivals organised on World Lemur Day were occasions for various awareness raising activities and collective conservations actions with communities.

2. **Educational programmes**: To foster school children's understanding, appreciation and inspiration to take actions to protect lemurs, projects have supported the distribution of educational materials, the inclusion of environmental education in curriculums, and the development of "Green Classrooms" to promote environmental awareness at early stages.

3. **Communication and outreach materials**: A wide range of materials were developed to increase public support for conservation efforts such as posters, local radio broadcasts, card games, comic books, films, plays and documentaries.

By investing in education, SOS Lemurs has inspired a new generation of conservationists and empowered communities to be active participants in protecting Madagascar's lemurs. Additionally, the outreach programmes implemented as part of projects have provided a platform for advocating stronger environmental policies and regulations.

7 L'Homme et l'Environnement: securing critically endangered lemurs at Vohimana Reserve through sound ground protection (joint patrols), corridor reforestation, scientific research and consolidation of sustainable economic alternatives (agroforestry and ecotourism)

8 Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group : Proactive reduction of bushnmeat collection and wild-wood harvest to protect the lemurs of Betampona and support local community development

KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH

THE LEMUR CONSERVATION ACTION FUND
(SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME)

This **small grants mechanism** managed by IUCN Save Our Species' partner Re:Wild aimed to provide swiftly available funding for projects with simple, short-term objectives. The **agility** and **flexibility** offered by small grants (maximum grant size of **CHF 5,000)** was complementary to the larger-scale, longer-term projects granted through SOS Lemurs calls for proposals.

In total, the Lemur Conservation Action Fund awarded **50 small grants to individual beneficiaries,** with a focus on the following themes:

- Developing scientific knowledge and capacities
  - Research on lemur population dynamics and ecology
  - Use of camera traps
  - Research on threats to lemur populations, e.g. forest fragmentation
  - Academic training in conservation methodologies and field work
  - Lemur population and distribution surveys.

- Conservation action
  - Anti-poaching support and capacity building for National Park guards
  - Field courses, conservation trainings.

- Environmental awareness and education
- Red List assessment updates.

The main added-value of the small-grants scheme was that it contributed to funding research and building local scientists and scholars' capacity. Knowledge on lemur behaviour, ecology, genetics and health can help us better understand the complexity and interdependence of the island's ecosystems, and inform broader conservation efforts aimed at protecting Madagascar's rich biodiversity.


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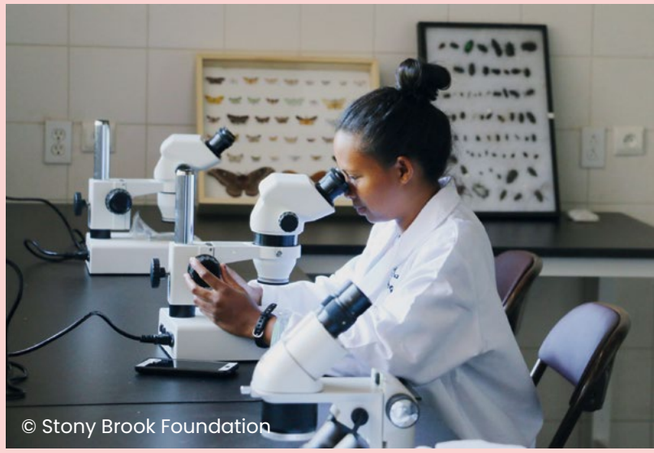
CENTRE VALBIO IUCN SAVE OUR SPECIES BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRE

Built in 2003, the Valbio Centre (CVB) is an international research station situated on the edge of Madagascar's Ranomafana National Park. Focused mainly on lemur and biodiversity research, the centre became in 2012 Madagascar's research station of reference, with the only modern laboratories able to conduct genetic, molecular and infectious disease research and parasitology.

As part of the SOS Lemurs initiative, a specific component of the programme was dedicated to expanding the Centre ValBio's facilities to better support lemur and biodiversity research, and applied science.

SOS Lemurs funded the construction of a new building for the centre to provide the following new facilities:

- Laboratory
- Auditorium
- Lemur Education Centre, with an amphitheatre for community members and school children to attend films and performances
- Dedicated space for species collections and biodiversity database
- Office space for scientists to analyse data and work on publications.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This new building has doubled research capacity in the region.

In its first year of opening, 102 overseas students and 1,690 other students (mostly Malagasy) used the new Biodiversity/Lemur Research Complex for studies and trainings. In total 76 scientific tourists and 259 other visitors (including members of the Government) visited the complex in its first year.

RED LIST ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

The interconnectedness of Madagascar's challenges and opportunities underlines the critical role of an **evidenced-based approach to conservation**. That begins with effective and up-to-date Red Listings which inform coordinated actions through initiatives like SOS Lemurs. That is why a component of the programme was dedicated to updating the baseline conservation status of all known lemur species, to serve as a reference for initiative's implementation.

The five-day workshop in Antananarivo (7-11 May 2018) gathered more than 50 lemur experts – including SOS Lemurs grantees.

The workshop enabled a re-assessment of all lemur taxa, including those that had not been previously evaluated, and an update of all the distribution ranges' maps. Workshop participants also recommended the addition of 10 new geographic priority sites to the Lemur Conservation Strategy, aligning with the SOS Lemurs initiative.

Issuing a global press release and securing coverage from BBC broadcast journalists, the workshop raised public awareness of lemurs, their conservation status, and the important role of IUCN and partners to save them frwom extinction.

THE FUTURE

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the course of SOS Lemurs six and half years' implementation, IUCN has sought to identify key learnings which can inform and improve future efforts to support lemur and biodiversity conservation in Madagascar.

In March 2023, IUCN hosted a lessons learned workshop in Antananarivo, convening 52 participants from 30 civil society grantee organisations as well as representatives from the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group and the EU Delegation in Madagascar. The workshop reviewed activities across the initiative to identify key learnings and recommendations.

Topics included species monitoring, capitalisation of conservation data, anti-poaching and patrols, law enforcement, reforestation and protected area management. Key learnings identified from the workshop include:

Project design and evaluation

- **Engage local communities from project inception**: Consulting with local communities from the project design phase is critical to understanding communities' situations, needs and expectations. For the project to succeed, it must include communities in the project's definition and objectives.

- **Integrate monitoring throughout the project cycle:** Monitoring needs to be integrated from the project initiation phase through the long-term. An initial logical framework with key performance indicators (KPIs) must be set, with sufficient financial and technical means dedicated to monitoring KPIs across the project duration.

- **Invest in continued, targeted capacity building:** Efforts to strengthen the capacity of local communities and stakeholders across reforestation, sustainable livelihood generation, species monitoring, and anti-poaching all require repeated resources for training and follow-up. Further, capacity-building approaches must consider communities' needs, motivations and contexts, e.g. linguistic, cultural, religious and nutritional needs – to be successful.

- **Strengthen poverty community resilience:** Conservation initiatives should strengthen sustainable income generation opportunities to support communities to build resilience to poverty, climate impacts and other critical challenges.

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Community inclusion and participation

- **Follow a participatory approach throughout the project duration**: Conservation planning, implementation and monitoring should ensure inclusion of communities, stakeholders and authorities, providing them with adequate support and opportunities to participate.

- **Understand local communities' contexts and needs**: As part of the landscape approach, reforestation must identify and consider local needs, demands and constraints at an early stage, to meaningfully involve and motivate communities and other stakeholders in a sustainable way.

- **Ensure community interests:** In the case of a community-based project, it is essential to ensure that communities have a clear and concrete interest in doing so, so that they can take ownership of the initiative.

Partnerships and stakeholder engagement

- **Engage with local government to improve governance structures**: Strengthening local governance structures is essential for stakeholders to be able to take decisions which are necessary for the long-term success of conservation efforts and to maintain the engagement of local stakeholders.

- **Advocate for stronger law enforcement:** Improving law enforcement is essential to maintaining the impacts of conservation efforts, and to sustain local stakeholders' motivation for conservation efforts (especially with community patrols).

- **Invest in knowledge capitalisation and collaboration**: Strengthen opportunities for civil society conservation actors to share data, knowledge and lessons – for stronger collaboration and coordination across the initiative; and to generate data and coordinated messages for stronger advocacy and awareness raising for biodiversity conservation.

- **Invest in broader partnerships:** Collaborate with relevant national and international stakeholders to raise awareness of lemur conservation and foster dialogue with key stakeholders to strengthen advocacy and fundraising efforts.

These learnings will support IUCN to strengthen the efficiency and impacts of IUCN SOS Lemurs through its next phase from 2023.

ALIGNING WITH GLOBAL AND NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY GOALS

Throughout its implementation, SOS Lemurs strongly aligned with Madagascar's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2025, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, serving eight out of 20 of its NBSAP targets. The next phase of SOS Lemurs will continue its work, contributing to all four of the new Global Biodiversity Framework's long-term goals, with key outcomes for preserving lemur populations, ensuring sustainable use of biodiversity and empowering local communities to adopt sustainable livelihoods.

The work of SOS Lemurs to restore habitats and reduce deforestation also contributes to the global goal to protect 30% of nature by 2030, as well as climate mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development goals.

LIST OF PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH SOS LEMURS

	Grantee	Project title	Start date	End date	SOS Grant Amount (in CHF)
1	The Aspinall Foundation	*Improve lemur's habitat suitability by re-connecting forest patches and prevent habitat loss due to fire*	29 August 2017	31 August 2018	37,810
2	Association Française pour la Sauvegarde du Grand Hapalémur (AFSGH) - Helpsimus	*Programme Bamboo Lemur*	13 September 2017	31 August 2020	25,000
3	Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Primates	*Conserving lemurs in the Manombo Special Reserve by protecting their forest habitat and improving human well-being*	28 September 2017	31 August 2019	66,610
4	Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Primates	*Saving Lemurs in the Maromizaha Protected Area*	01 October 2017	31 March 2019	74,850
5	Alliance Voahary Gasy	*Law Application Against Lemurs' Illegal Trafficking*	25 September 2017	31 December 2018	49,970
6	Planet Madagascar	*Conserving threatened lemur species and their fragile ecosystem through community-based forest restoration in Ankarafantsika National Park, North-West Madagascar*	16 October 2017	31 December 2019	99,910
7	Madagascar Fauna and Flora Group	*Pro-active reduction of bushmeat collection and wild-wood harvest to protect the lemurs of Betampona and support local community development*	19 October 2017	30 April 2021	40,230
8	Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium	*Improving reforestation and community livelihoods for the conservation of the Critically Endangered Northern sportive lemur at Montagne des Français*	27 October 2017	14 December 2019	145,040
8	Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium	*Advancing education, reforestation, and local capacity for forest and wildlife protection in Kianjavato, Madagascar*	27 October 2017	30 November 2020	296,080
10	The Aspinall Foundation	*Community-based conservation of greater bamboo lemur, black-and-white ruffed lemur, indri, diademed sifaka and other threatened lemurs in and around the Andriantantely lowland rainforest, eastern Madagascar*	18 October 2017	30 June 2019	49,745
11	Bristol Zoo	*Growing links for lemurs: towards an effective reforestation of Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park*	30 October 2017	30 April 2021	97,500
12	The Peregrine Fund	*Renforcer la conservation des lémuriens de Tsimembo Manambolomaty et de Mandrozo dans l'ouest de Madagascar, région Melaky*	23 October 2017	31 October 2020	97,120
13	Association Fanamby	*Empowering local community in lemur conservation within Anjozorobe Angavo Protected Area*	02 November 2017	31 October 2020	200,000
14	Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium	*Integrating community programs to promote ring-tailed lemur biodiversity in the Mahafaly Plateau, Southwestern Madagascar*	01 February 2018	31 August 2021	143,365
15	Association Fanamby	*Empowering local community in lemur conservation within Andrafiamena-Andavakoera Protected Area*	14 November 2017	31 October 2020	200,000
16	Conservation International	*Save the critically endangered lemurs through joint actions of community-school-scientists in the Corridor Ankeniheny-Zahamena*	01 December 2017	31 December 2020	187,460
17	Wildlife Conservation Society	*Improving the conservation status of three critically endangered lemurs, the Red Ruffed lemur, the White-belted Ruffed lemur and the Indri, in Makira Natural Park*	30 October 2017	31 October 2019	99,570
18	Association des Guides d'Andasibe	*Renforcement des capacités de la communauté locale pour la sauvegarde des lémuriens*	20 July 2019	20 July 2022	100,000
19	Ny Tanintsika	*Community-based action for sustainable lemur conservation in the COFAV*	12 December 2018	31 July 2022	128,057
20	Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Primates	*Improving the conservation status of lemur species in Manombo Special Reserve through participatory ecological research, community economic development, conservation education, and habitat restoration*	26 November 2018	25 April 22	49,908
21	Missouri Botanical Garden	*Securing lemur populations at the Analavelona Sacred Forest NAP*	01 December 2018	30 November 2020	49,750
22	Madagasikara Voakajy	*Saving the lemurs of Mangabe and their habitats: a youth-led initiative*	18 December 2018	17 December 2021	167,086
23	Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium	*Advancement of education and reforestation capacity and local resource availability through infrastructural renovations leverages forest and wildlife protection in Kianjavato, Madagascar*	01-January 2019	31 December 2019	99,000
24	AFSGH/Helpsimus	*Programme Bamboo Lemur*	27 December 2018	26 December 2021	38,500
25	CAS - Madagascar	*An evidenced based approach to reducing the illegal hunting of Threatened lemurs on the Masoala Peninsula of Madagascar.*	01-January 2019	31 December 2021	151,074
26	The Peregrine Fund	*Renforcer la sauvegarde des espèces de lémuriens menacées d'extinction des Nouvelles Aires Protégées Bemanevika et Mahimborondro à Bealanana*	20 December 2018	19 December 2021	149,000

	Grantee	Project title	Start date	End date	SOS Grant Amount (in CHF)
27	Aboretum d'Antsokay	*Community-based lemurs monitoring and conservation in Tsimanampesotse and Amoron'iOnilahy Protected areas, reducing demand for live-captured lemurs*	16-January 2019	30 June 2021	69,802
28	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	*Sustaining marshes for the Alaotran gentle lemur; ensuring protection of critical habitat within a dynamic and challenging natural and socio-economic environment*	22 January 2019	21 January 2021	99,963
29	WWF - Madagascar	*Le Simpona (Propithecus candidus), sa survie assurée par les communautés locales et devient l'emblème de leurs villages.*	17 January 2019	30 September 2020	99,000
30	Association Fanamby	*Protect Microcebus berthae habitat within the Protected Area of Menabe Antimena.*	04 February 2019	03 February 2021	100,000
31	Asity Madagascar	*Saving the lemurs of the Madagascar's southernmost rainforest: community-led sustainable management, research, and conservation education in the Tsitongambarika Protected Area*	11 February 2019	30 September 2021	99,955
32	Association Fanamby	*Save endangered lemurs species in Loky Manambato new protected area through local community involvement*	04 February 2019	03 February 2022	149,906
33	The Aspinall Foundation	*Community empowerment for the conservation of threatened lemur species within the CAZ west*	05 February 2019	04 February 2022	99,118
34	Lemur Conservation Network	*Lemur Conservation Network: a program to build communicational training and outreach with Malagasy organizations to achieve progress in the implementation of the Lemur Conservation Strategy*	03 March 2020	02 July 2022	91,184
35	Naturevolution Madagascar	*Protection des habitats et conservation de la biodiversité du massif Makay par : suivi écologique et restauration égologique des habitats des lémuriens, puis lancement de patrouille de vigilance villageois et finalement développement de l'écotourisme une alternative directe en faveur de la communauté locale dans le pourtour de la NAP*	04 March 2020	03 April 2022	70,003
36	Missouri Botanical Garden	*Mobilizing local youth to conserve Eulemur cinereiceps at the Ankarabolava-Agnakatrika Forest, Madagascar*	03 March 2020	02 March 2022	50,067
37	The Aspinall Foundation	*Community-based conservation of greater bamboo lemur, black-and-white ruffed lemur, and other critically endangered lemurs in and around the Andriantantely lowland*	27 February 2020	26 Mar 2022	96,425
38	L'homme et l'Environnement	*Securing Critically Endangered Lemurs at Vohimana Reserve, through sound ground protection (joint patrols), corridor reforestation, scientific research and consolidation of sustainable economic alternatives (agroforestry and ecotourism).*	10 March 2020	09 July 2022	65,000
39	Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium	*Leveraging lemur diversity at Torotorofotsy, Madagascar to improve forest connectivity, counter degradation and develop sustainable ecotourism practices.*	13 February 2020	12 June 2022	125,003
40	Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium	*Expanding reforestation and community livelihoods for the conservation of the Critically Endangered northern sportive lemur at Montagne des Français*	01 March 2020	31 May 2022	139,328
41	Conservation International	*Scaling up and strengthening joint actions by communities, schools, and scientists to save critically endangered lemurs in the Corridor Ankeniheny-Zahamena*	02 June 2020	15 August 2022	126,500
42	Planet Madagascar	*Working with Communities to Conserve Endangered Lemurs through Forest Protection, Forest Restoration, and Conservation Science in Ankarafantsika National Park, NW Madagasca*	19 March 2020	30 June 2022	99,998
43	The Aspinall Foundation	*Improving the conservation status of mongoose lemur, crowned sifaka, and red brown lemur in the western dry forests of Maevatanana - Ambato-Boeny (MAB), Madagascar*	27 February 2020	26 February 2022	99,999
44	Association Fanamby	*Pérennisation des actions de conservation des Lémuriens au sein de l'Aire protégée Anjozorobe Angavo*	01 November 2020	31 October 2022	150,000
45	Association Fanamby	*L'Or ou le Propithecus perrieri : défis pour la gestion efficace de l'aire protégée Andrafiamena-Andavakoera*	01 November 2020	31 October 2022	153,998
46	The Phoenix Conservancy	*Emergency Fire Protection and Restoration of Madagascar's Lost Forest of Ivohiboro*	08 June 2020	07 July 2022	47,666
47	The Peregrine Fund	*Evaluation de la diversité spécifique de Lepilemur dans l'aire protégée Complexe Tsimembo Manambolomaty*	01 November 2020	31 October 2022	42,200
48	Fikambanana Bongolava Maintso	*Sécurisation des population d'espèces de lemuriens dans l'Aire Protégée Corridor Forestier Bongolava*	11 March 2020	10 March 2022	50,556
49	Alliance Voahary Gasy & GERP	*Projet d'amélioration du cadre de conservation des Lémuriens à Madagascar (Analamerana ; Andrafiamena ; Montagne des Français; Kirindy)*	01 July 2020	31 October 2021	71,618

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS AND COMPONENTS:

50	Stony Brook Foundation	*ValBio Infrastructure project*	14 November 2017	30 September 2020	750,000
51	Re:Wild	*Lemur Conservation Action Fund*	02 November 2017	30 June 2021	213,612
52	Bristol Zoo	*Red List Workshop*	16 June 2017	31 May 2018	49,999

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