



Lemurs. Women. Science

Lemur Love in Madagascar



Today

About us

Conservation & Humans

Context

SDGs & Our Expertise

Mission & Programming



About Dr. Marni

- Assistant Professor at the University of San Diego
- Lemur scientist and Lemur Love founder/director
- Committed to conservation of wildlife
- Passionate about equity and fairness



About Dr. Seheno

- In-country Director of Lemur Love
- Conservation Biologist, Researcher at the University of Antananarivo
- Advocate for Lemur conservation



Conservation & Humans

State of the natural world



Humans are driving one million species to extinction

Landmark United Nations-backed report finds that agriculture is one of the biggest threats to Earth's ecosystems.

[Jeff Tollefson](#)



Humans
+
1 000 000
species
+
extinction

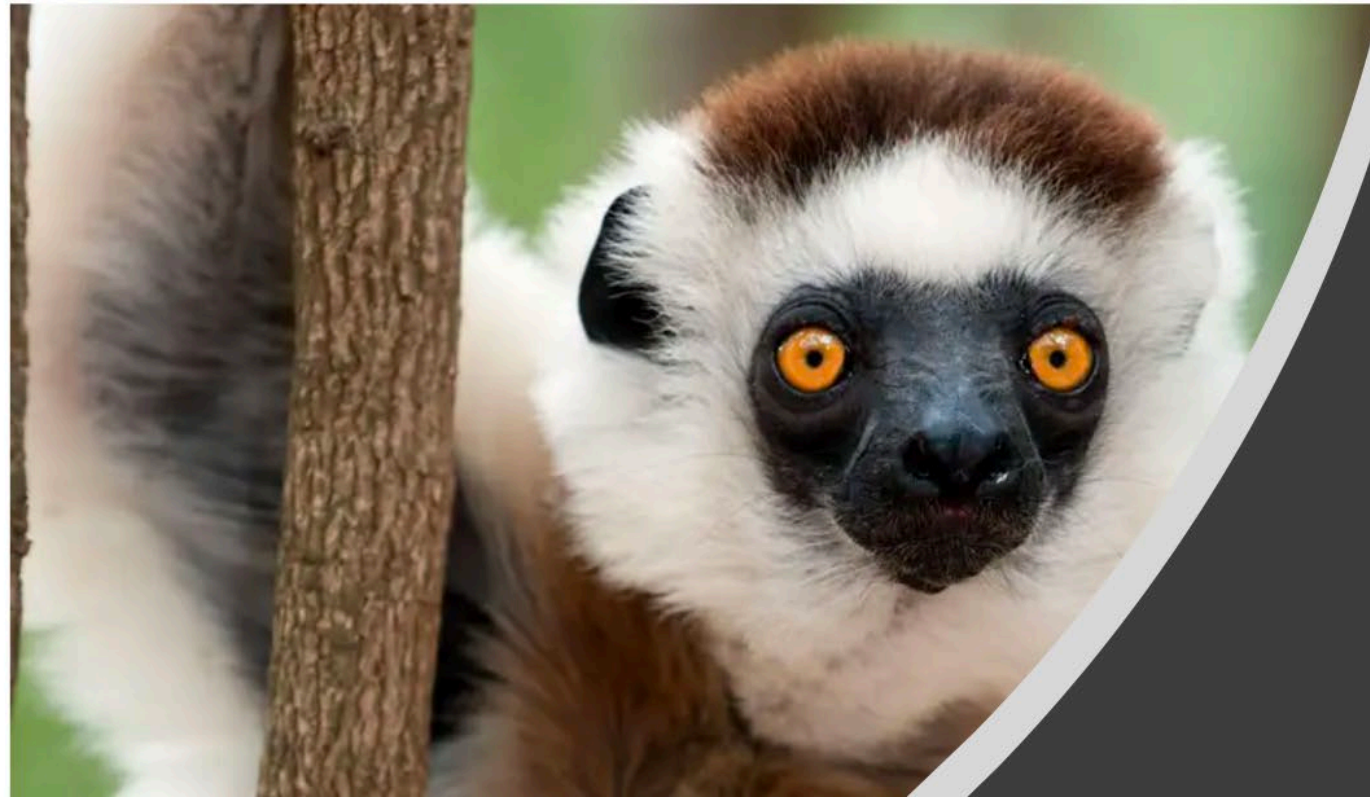


Almost all lemur species are now officially endangered



ENVIRONMENT 9 July 2020

By Adam Vaughan



Lemurs

Most endangered group of mammals
>96% of species in imminent danger



Biodiversity for nature
(state)
Ecosystem functioning
Evolutionary processes
BI

Stocks and
processes

Biodiversity health

Flows

Biodiversity for people
(state and sustainable use)
Human well-being
Functional economies
BCPI

Non-material values

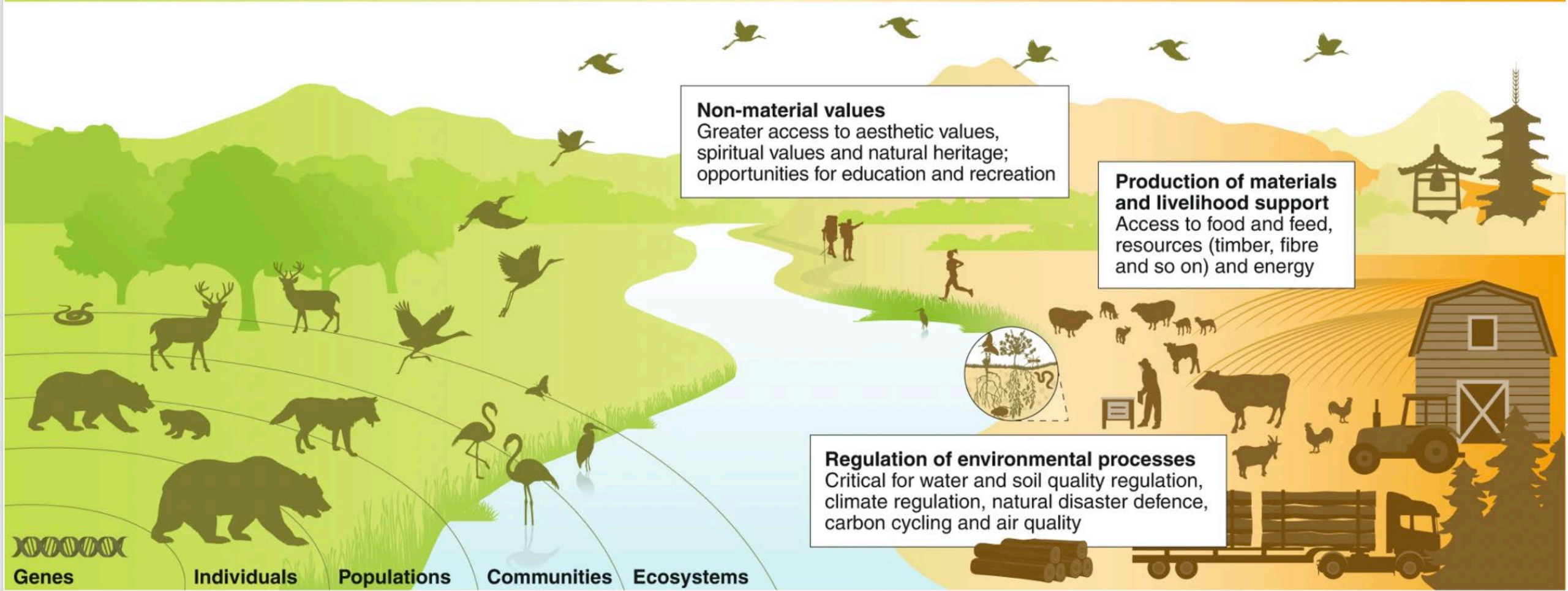
Greater access to aesthetic values,
spiritual values and natural heritage;
opportunities for education and recreation

**Production of materials
and livelihood support**

Access to food and feed,
resources (timber, fibre
and so on) and energy

Regulation of environmental processes

Critical for water and soil quality regulation,
climate regulation, natural disaster defence,
carbon cycling and air quality



Why Biodiversity Matters

Towards a multidimensional biodiversity index for national application

C. A. Soto-Navarro ¹, M. Harfoot, S. L. Hill, J. Campbell, F. Mora, C. Campos, C. Pretorius, U. Pascual, V. Kaos, H. Allison & N. D. Burgess

Nature Sustainability 4, 933–942 (2021) | Cite this article

3405 Accesses | 6 Citations | 178 Altmetric | Metrics

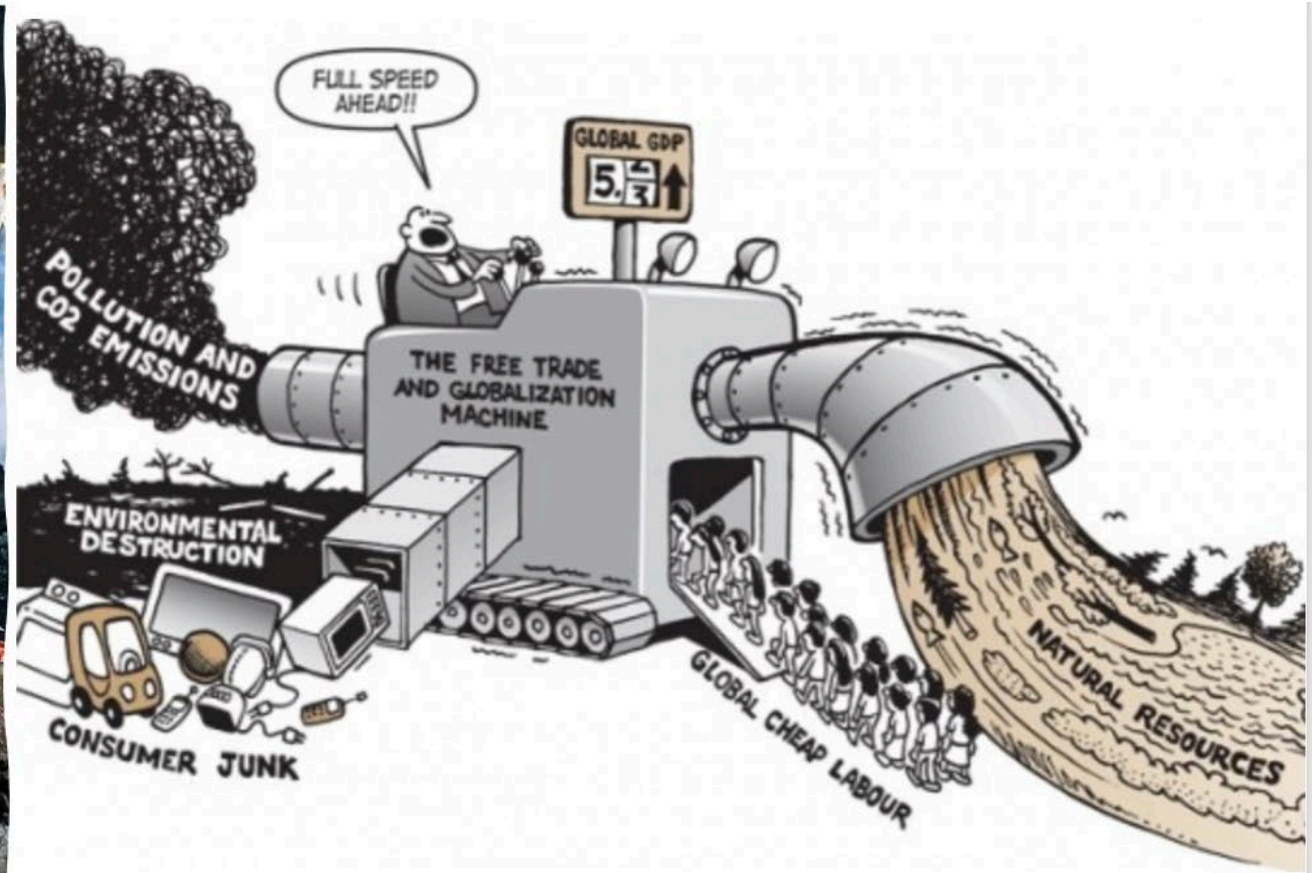


Humans are the
problem
& the *solution*



Why is there a
conservation
crisis?





Need & Greed

Drivers of Extinction





Biodiversity Conservation in southwestern Madagascar



Context

History, politics & society of Madagascar





Patterns of European colonialism (1400- late 1900s)

- Restructuring of society through domination, appropriation, and containment
- Christianity valued over traditional beliefs
- Gain wealth by annexing existing wealth, land, natural resources, forced labor
- Create and maintain deep hierarchical divisions

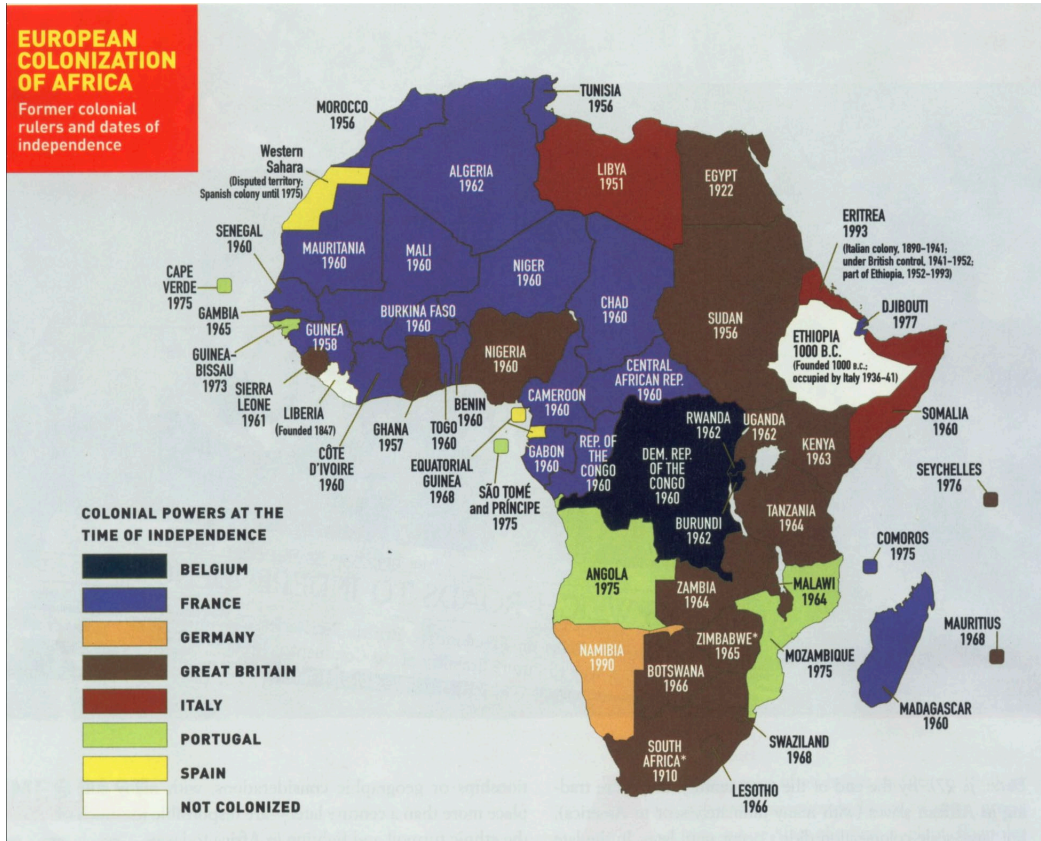


Patterns in the legacies of Colonialism

- Civil unrest or tensions
- Christianity
- Poverty and insufficient infrastructure
- Exploited natural resources
- Deep societal divisions



Madagascar was a French Colony



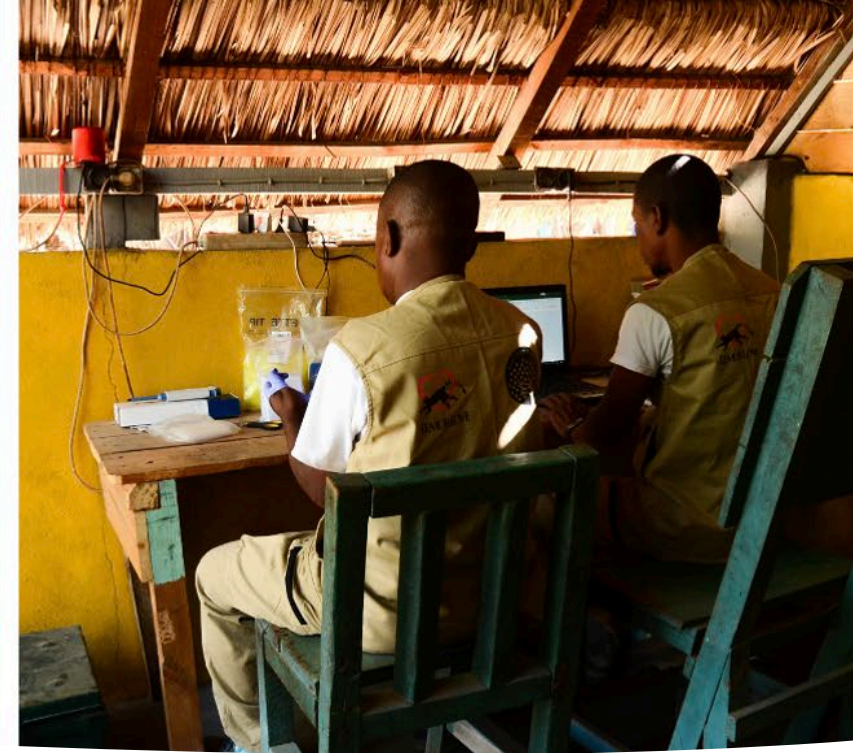
Colonial legacies in Madagascar

- Primary and secondary school through college based on French system
 - Children learn about European flora and fauna rather than the biodiversity of Madagascar
- Post-secondary under-developed and under-funded
- Graduate students are trained to be good assistants, rather than good researchers



Madagascar





Lemur Love

Protect lemurs. Empower women. Further science.



Sustainable Development Goals

Blueprint for a better and more sustainable future for all



Lemur Love

We prioritize:

Wild lemurs

People living next to wild lemurs

The next generation of Malagasy conservationists





Programs: wild lemurs



Lemurs

- Scientific research examining the evolution of female dominance
- Long-term data and impacts of climate change
- Monitoring with permanent ranger presence



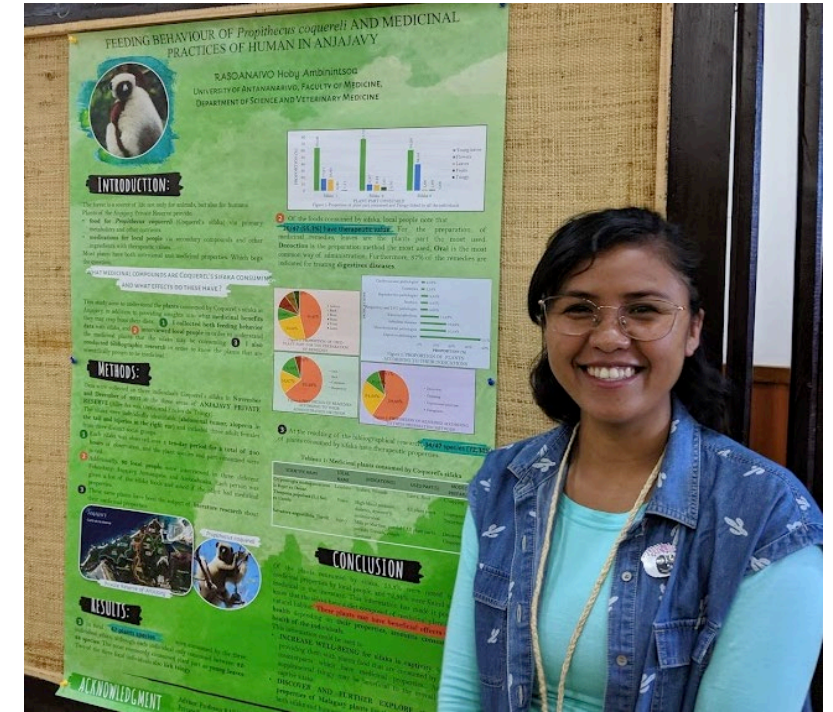
Programs: people (through women) living next to lemurs





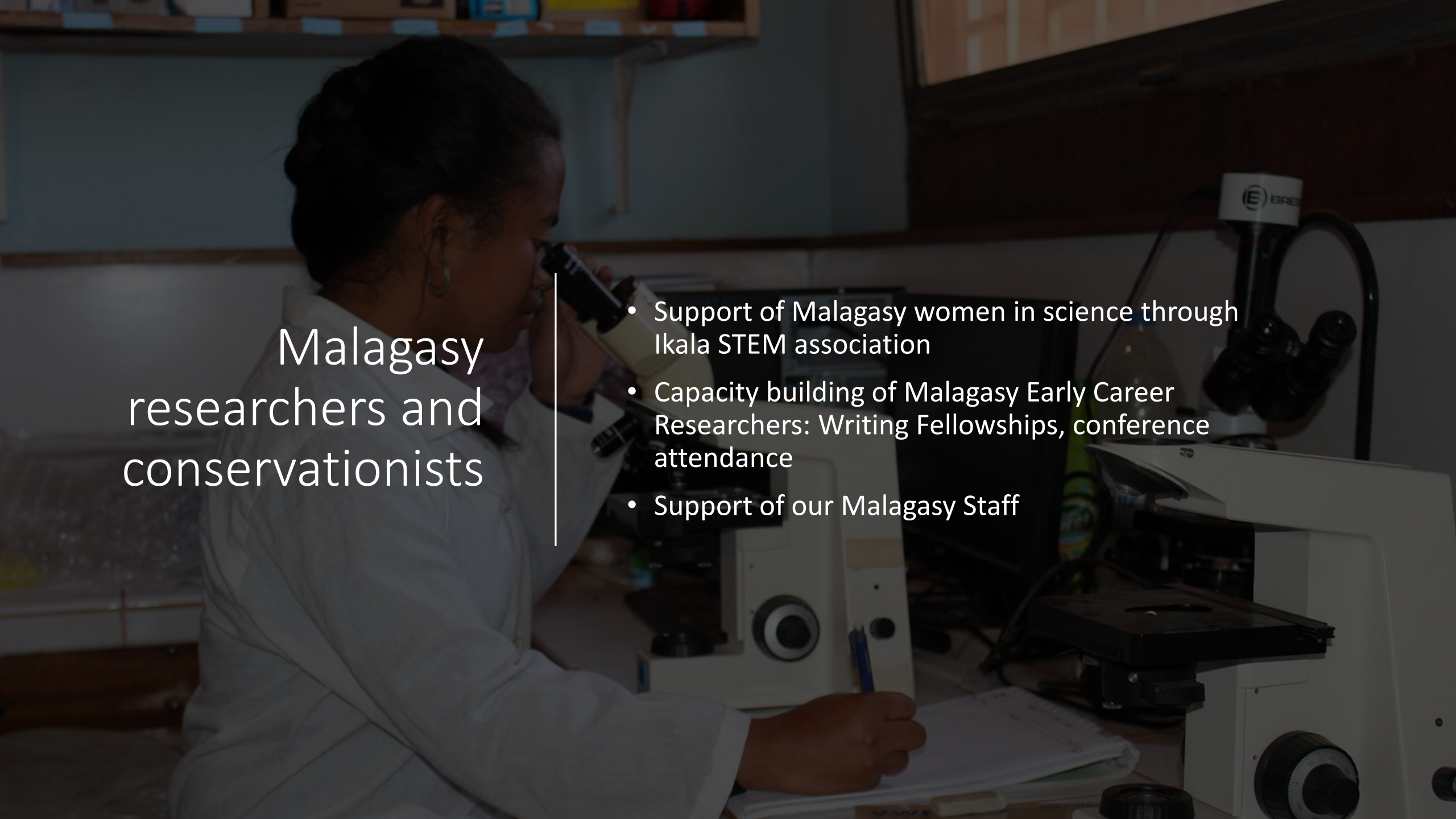
Aid humanitarian programs

- Support for sustainable livelihoods (Women head of households)
- Local development through supporting “solar mamas”: Barefoot College Program
- Emergency programs:
 - Food and cash for vulnerable families
 - Support of schools



Programs: the next generation





Malagasy researchers and conservationists

- Support of Malagasy women in science through Ikala STEM association
- Capacity building of Malagasy Early Career Researchers: Writing Fellowships, conference attendance
- Support of our Malagasy Staff



How to help

Follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)

Financially support our work

- Urgent situations (\$ any amount)
- Research expedition equipment, expenses, veterinarian (~\$30000 USD)
- Barefoot College Initiative equipment (~\$50000 USD)
- Next Generation Fellow (\$2000 pp)





165
Conference
Room F

ANTHROPOLOGY

Inclusivity in Research Abroad

12:00PM - 2:00PM

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