



Lemurs. Women. Science

Lemur Love in Madagascar





About Dr. Marni

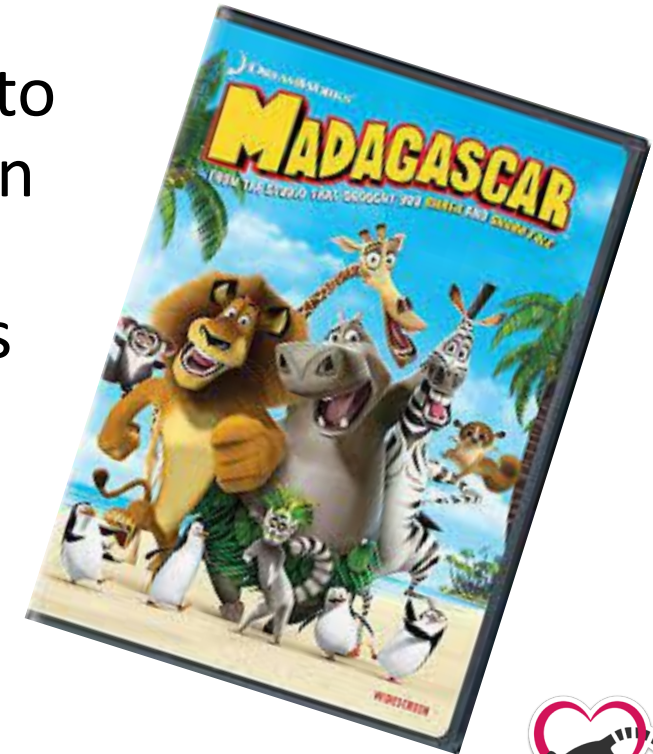
- Associate Professor at the University of San Diego
- Lemur scientist and Lemur Love founder/director
- Taco aficionado
- Life-long animal enthusiast





Lemurs

- Lemurs are the primates native to the island of Madagascar
- I had the opportunity to travel to Madagascar in 2005 and became fascinated with lemurs





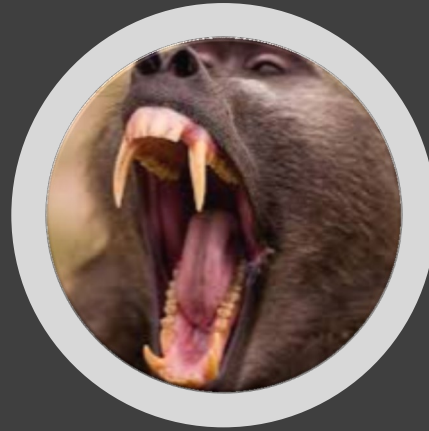
Mammals 101: reproductive energetics

From the most simplistic evolutionary perspective, on the *mammalian*

- Females compete over food because reproduction is energetically expensive and fitness correlates with food access
- Males compete over females because reproduction is cheap and access to females limits fitness

This basic imbalance leads to female choice of mates and male competition for females





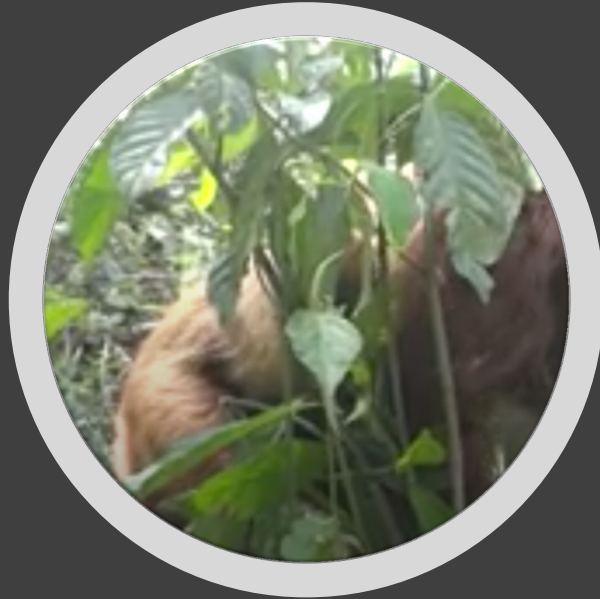
Mating conflicts, cont.

There is selection pressure for male

- Increased body size, weaponry, showy traits, being impressive

As a by-product of this selection pressure in males is

- Male social dominance over females, *almost always*





Lemuridae family (113 extant species, 17 recently extinct species)

- Male and female lemurs are monomorphic
- Females maintain dominance socially rather than physically
- *How did this happen and why???* These questions has driven much of my research.





Stories from the field: the best

I LOVE being with
the animals

Stories from the field: the best

I LOVE to be in the forest with the animals.



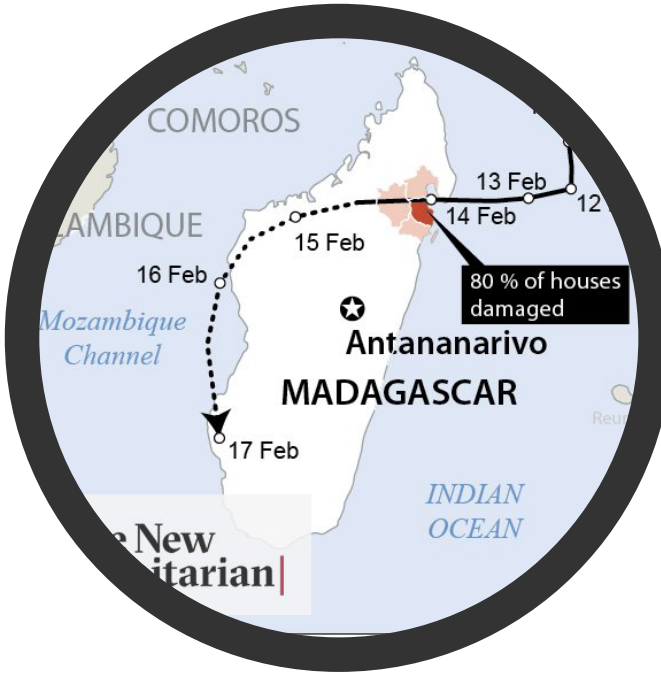


I love discovering the forest
Stories from the
field: the best



Stories from the field: the worst

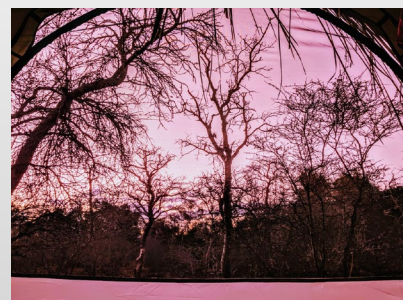
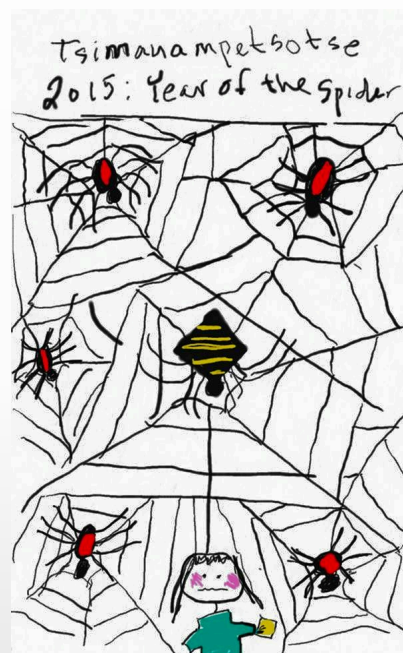
I hate traveling



Cyclone Bingiza

Stories from the
field: the worst





The field is the
best AND the
worst



Big Problems



Madagascar: 'World cannot look away' as 1.3 million face severe hunger



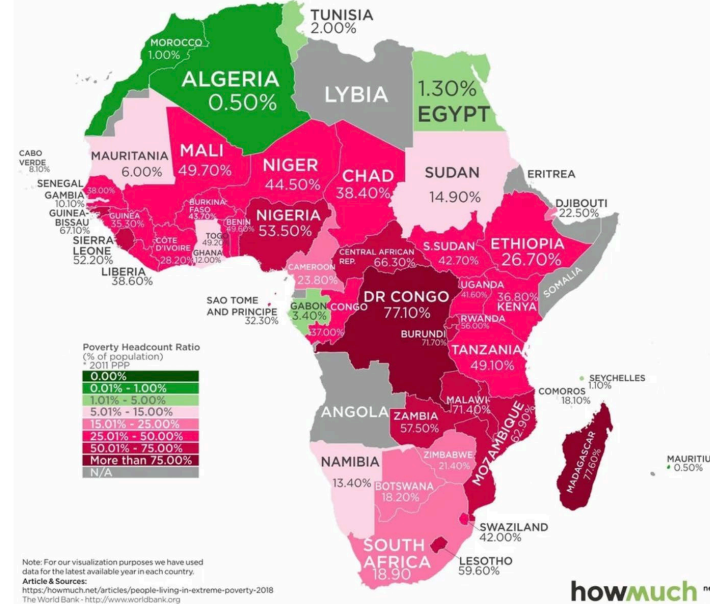
UNODC/Viviane Rakotonirany A mother feeds her child at home in Tohombé District, Madagascar, where nearly 50 per cent of the population is facing severe food insecurity.

18 November 2021 | Humanitarian Aid



325 People Living in Extreme Poverty in Africa

People Living in Extreme Poverty in Africa Percentage of Population Living on less than \$1.90 a day*



PUBLICATION | DECEMBER 16, 2020

Madagascar Economic Update: COVID-19 Increases Poverty, a New Reform Momentum is Needed to Build Back Stronger

Latest Issue: December 2020



Madagascar

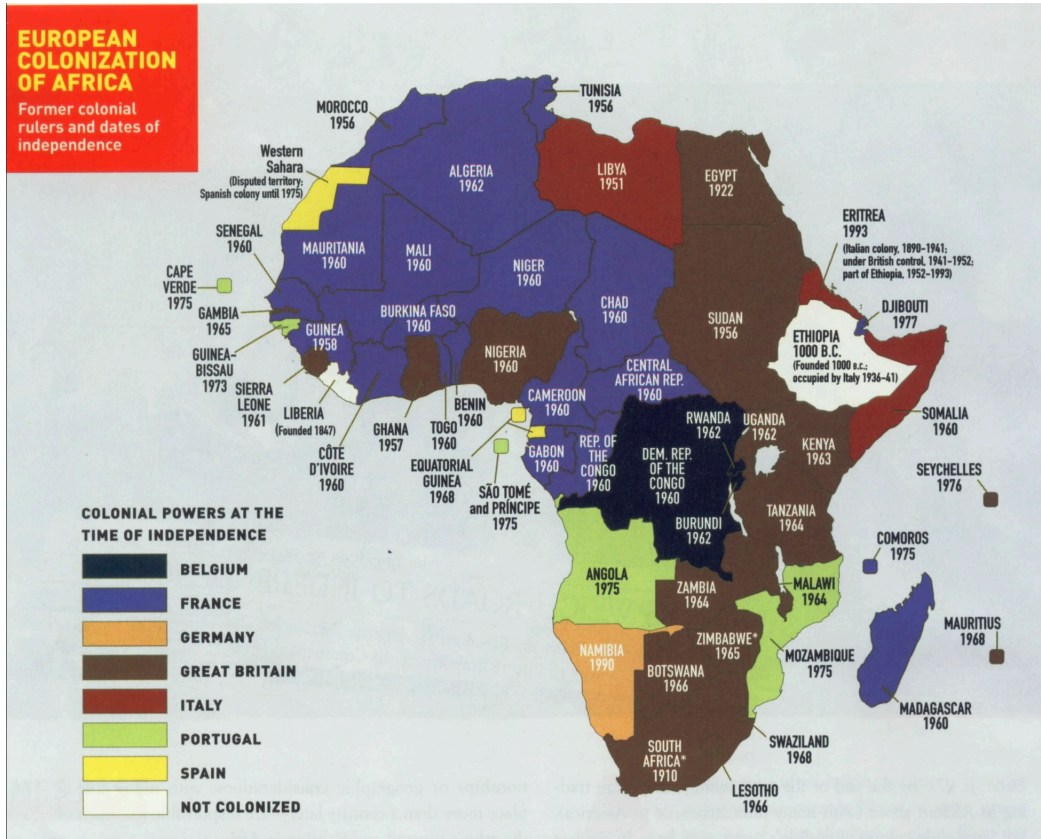
Poverty and extreme poverty increase



Conservation & extreme
poverty are *not*
compatible



Madagascar was a French Colony



Patterns in the legacies of Colonialism

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



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

I 
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





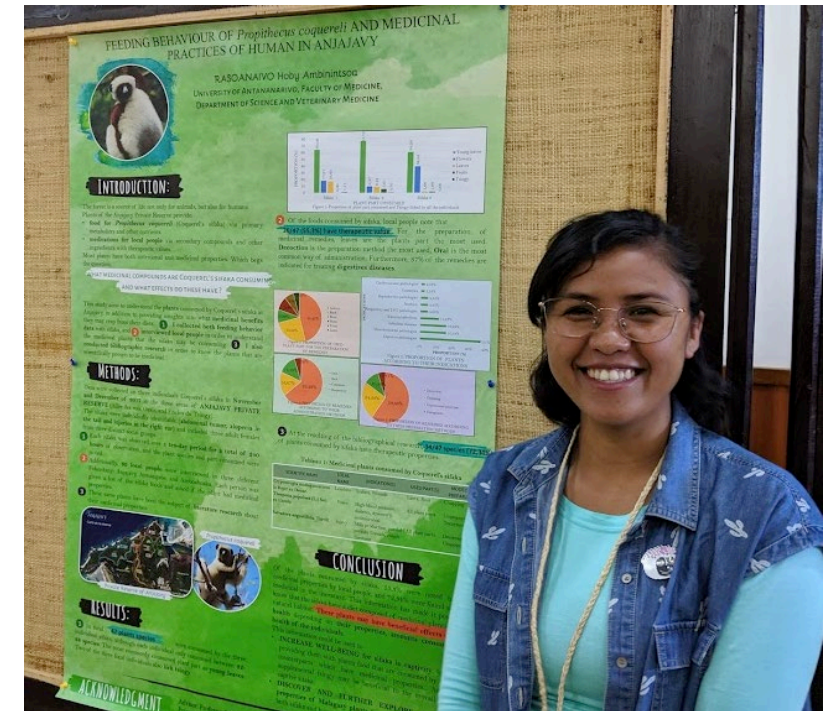
Programs: wild lemurs





Programs: people (through women) living next to lemurs





Programs: the next generation

