

APRIL **Centre ValBio Newsletter**

CVB News

CVB's National Director Pascal Rabeson has been selected to participate in the Society for **Conservation GIS Global** Scholarship Program! This year's fellowship selected 12 alumni of the program from around the world. Pascal, who graduated from the program in 2014 with training in ArcMap and ArcCatalog, will travel again to California in June for trainings in ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, and ESRI Story Maps. **Congratulations Pascal!**



In other important news, we are thrilled to announce a new collaboration with MSI Reproductive Choices, an international NGO providing contraceptives and other family planning services around the world. This is a great opportunity to expand access to reproductive health services in the Ranomafana region and build upon CVB's mission to support a healthy population around the national park. Their first expedition, led by the CVB Health team, took place April 18 - April 28.



Donate to CVE



Saving Prolemur Simus

After nearly a decade of planning, our lemur translocation team, in collaboration with Madagascar National Parks, set out on a seven-day expedition to bring back ten critically-endangered greater bamboo lemurs (Prolemur simus) from a fragmented forest patch near Ivato/Karianga in Southeastern Madagascar. On March 17th, the lemurs were released into a large habituation enclosure in Ranomafana National Park for a quarantine period. To safely bring the lemurs back to Ranomafana took days of

transporting them on foot and by car, truck, and even canoe. The group, known as the T-10, includes three males and seven females, and two amongst them are infants. It is our hope that after their recent release into the park, they will join Simone, the only Prolemur simus currently living there. This was a monumental step in the conservation of this critically-endangered species and we'd like to thank the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation for their constant support in this endeavor.

To read more about the expedition, check out the translocation StoryMap here.



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Looking Forward

In May, we will be welcoming back another Stony Brook University Study Abroad group! 20 students will be joining us at CVB from May 26 - July 3 to conduct independent research and explore Ranomafana National Park. Joining them will be primatologist Dr. Mónica Ramírez, Teaching Assistants Isabel Arcusa and Marisa Turk, and Franck Rabe, Logistics and Coordination Officer.

In the News

<u>SBU's Patricia Wright prepares to</u> <u>release endangered lemurs into</u> <u>Madagascar national park</u> By Daniel Dunaief, TBR News Media

Recent Publications

Beeby, N., Rothman, J.M. and Baden, A.L., 2023. Nutrient balancing in a fruit-specialist primate, the black-and-white ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata*). American Journal of Primatology, p.e23484. DOI: <u>10.1002/ajp.23484</u>

Mancini, A.N., Chandrashekar, A., Lahitsara, J.P., Ogbeta, D.G., Rajaonarivelo, J.A., Ranaivorazo, N.R., Rasoazanakolona, J., Safwat, M., Solo, J., Razafindraibe, J.G. and Razafindrakoto, G., 2023. Terrain Ruggedness and Canopy Height Predict Short-Range Dispersal in the Critically Endangered Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur. Genes, 14(3), p.746. DOI: 10.3390/genes14030746

Get to Know the T-10









From left to right:



Row 1: Queen (adult female); Prince Benjamin (juvenile male); Rose (juvenile female); Red (adult male) Row 2: Big Blanche (adult female); Margaret (adult female); Daffodil (adult female); Green Leaf (adult female)

Row 3: Dora the Explorer (adult female); Black Jack (adult male)

Protecting CVB's Collections

CVB's collections are getting an upgrade! Insect expert Emile Rajeriarison and Leah Harrell, a recent graduate from the University of Florida with experience in museum collections, are working together to protect the insectarium specimens from fungal growth and deterioration. Each display case is also being outfitted with additional labels and Malagasy translations, as part of our long-term goal to create a comprehensive natural history collection of the Ranomafana region.





