



LEMUR
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION



2013 ANNUAL REPORT



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LEMUR CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

mission statement

The Lemur Conservation Foundation (LCF) is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the primates of Madagascar through captive breeding, scientific research, and education.

LCF staff

- Alison Grand, Ph.D., *Animal Care Manager*
- Nancy Hendrickson, *Office Manager*
- Lee Nesler, *Executive Director and CEO*
- Catherine Olteanu, *Manager of Development and Communications*
- Pete Shover, *Maintenance Supervisor*
- Felicia Spector, *Animal Care Technician*

board of directors

- John Alexander
- George Amato
- Penelope Bodry-Sanders
- Mark Braunstein
- Blair Brown
- Gail Erickson
- Kate Lippincott
- Patrice Connolly Pantello
- Judy Rasmuson
- Scott Riviere
- Charlene Heiser Wolff

scientific advisory council members

- Dr. George Amato
- Dr. Kenneth E. Glander
- Ms. Andrea Katz
- Dr. Thomas Lovejoy
- Dr. Erik R. Patel
- Dr. Elwyn L. Simons
- Dr. Robert W. Sussman
- Dr. Ian Tattersall
- Dr. Linda Taylor
- Natalie Vasey, Ph.D.
- Dr. Jeffery Wyatt



lemur conservation foundation 2013 annual report

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A letter from the Executive Director

Ikoto, the last Sanford's brown lemur, (*Eulemur sanfordi*) in managed breeding programs in the United States and Europe, is a sad example of what can happen to a species without strong, coordinated conservation efforts.

Organizations like ours are an important component in a species conservation plan. There must be space for a population to grow, like LCF's forests and conservation habitats. For Sanford's lemurs, the endangered wild populations in Madagascar are the species only chance for survival into the future. Some species, like Ikoto's, will disappear as we lose our managed breeding program 'safety net' for wild populations.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature lists Sanford's lemurs as Endangered. It is listed as endangered because it has a distribution range of less than 5,000 km² and the range is severely fragmented. The area and quality of habitat in the Sanford's lemurs' range is declining. Hunting of mature lemurs also contributes to its endangered conservation status.

The biggest threat to the survival of Sanford's brown lemurs in the wild is habitat destruction. Mining for sapphires, slash and burn agriculture, and hunting for pets or sources of food for the villagers or the luxury bush meat market puts increasing pressure on these beautiful animals.

Some good news for Sanford's lemurs is they seem to survive in degraded habitats. Researchers have found them in moist montane, such as on Montagne d'Ambre, and dry deciduous forests. In some places, like Ankarana National Park, they appear to favor secondary forest and are active both day and night. In Ankarana groups of up to 15 animals have been observed. This is a significantly larger group than those observed in Montagne d'Ambre, which range from three to nine animals.

Sanford's brown lemurs are listed on Appendix I of The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known CITES and the Washington Convention. Besides being observed in Montagne d'Ambre National Park and in two special reserves (Analamerana and Ankarana) they have been seen in the forests of Daraina which are to become a protected area.

The newly elected President of the Republic of Madagascar, His Excellency Mr. Hery Marcial Rajaonarimampianina, and the Secretary-General

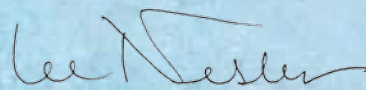
of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Mr. John E. Scanlon, met in Brussels in April 2014 to discuss urgent actions to stem the illegal timber trade from Madagascar. This partnership and commitment can improve the future outlook for Sanford's brown lemurs and other endangered species found among Madagascar's unique biodiversity and natural treasures.

Effective conservation means finding the way forward for villagers, habitats, and animals like Sanford's brown lemurs to thrive, side by side. Lemurs, the iconic animals of Madagascar, especially Ikoto and his species, are ambassadors for a powerful conservation message. Their fragile hold on the future is a report on our collective stewardship of our planet. Together we can help them, and Madagascar, move forward confidently, with hope and inspiration.

You can make a difference:

1. Write to your government representatives and encourage them to end the traffic in wildlife parts and exotic pets. National Geographic estimates that more exotic animals are in homes as pets in the United States than are kept in certified zoo facilities.
2. Become an EConsumer – when you purchase a product made from wood, like furniture, learn where the wood and other materials are sourced.
3. Buy products that support sustainable business and incomes other than natural resource consumption.
4. Support Environmental Education like LCF's Ako Project. In Madagascar there is a direct link between literacy, especially female literacy, and improved conservation outcomes.
5. Contact Madagascar's new president on Twitter and let him know we support his conservation efforts @PresidenceMada.

Sincerely,



Lee Nesler
Executive Director and CEO

Dr. Alison Jolly (1937–2014)

Dr. Alison Jolly has been a great inspiration to many people in science, education, conservation, and even personally for those of us fortunate enough to have known her and worked with her.

Alison's career began in the usual way – as a post-doctoral student in a university program. A chance assignment to watch lemurs in a Yale lab was an opportunity that changed the direction of her career and, it is safe to say, the direction of lemur science and our understanding of conservation. Her field research in Madagascar, focusing on lemur behavior and ecology, helped to transform our understanding of the evolution of social behavior.

In the early 1960's, while still at Yale, she pioneered in-depth field research on the behavior and ecology of lemurs in Madagascar. Her insights transformed our understanding of the evolution of social behavior. Ideas she first put forward in the 1960s and '70s became part of the landscape of evolutionary biology and gave rise to an intellectual genealogy as wide as it is deep. In *Lemur Behaviour* (1966), Dr. Jolly was the first to establish, from her meticulously reported field observations, the odd fact that among the lemurs she studied, females typically had priority over males, upending the longstanding assumption that male primates are always bigger, fiercer and dominant.

Her seminal articles that followed this ground breaking work explored the evolutionary contexts that favor female priority. She linked her field research with experimental studies of dexterity, or the lack thereof, in captive lemurs to argue that social environment rather than ecological factors drove the evolution of intelligence among primates. Dr. Jolly developed these ideas further in two books, *The Evolution of Primate Behaviour* (1972) and *Lucy's Legacy: Sex and Intelligence in Human Evolution* (1999). In *A World Like Our Own: Man and Nature in Madagascar* (1980), Jolly simultaneously celebrated the enigmatic riches of the island's natural heritage and offered an unflinching account of the environmental crisis enveloping people and wildlife alike, "... Madagascar tells us which rules would still hold true if time had once broken its banks and flowed to the present down a different channel ..." No one has said it better, before or since.

As a young woman and scientist, going to Madagascar was certainly a brave choice and inspiring example. Once she arrived in Madagascar, Dr. Jolly became outspoken about the needs of the Malagasy people and their intrinsic connection to lemur conservation. Her observations about conservation outcomes and local people informed and elevated conservation practices around the globe. She taught us this very important lesson: local peoples must be partners in conservation for any success.

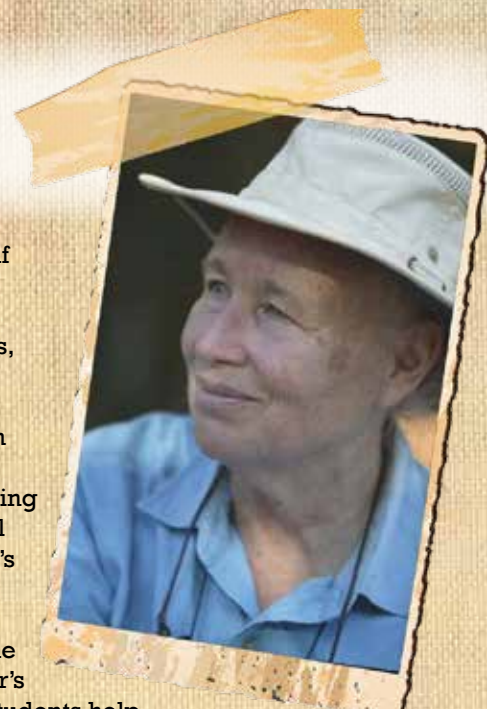
Dr. Jolly's work is one of the longest and most impeccable of many lemur research programs in Madagascar. She began the Berenty ring-tailed lemur study and census in 1963. It continues today, directed by Dr. Hanta Rasamimanana, who started working with Alison in 1983. In addition to lemur research and science Dr. Jolly understood and embraced the relationship between education and improved conservation outcomes. She nurtured students around the world and today a generation of primatologists and conservation biologists benefit from her encouragement and support.

Alison dedicated herself and sometimes her personal resources to training young scientists, teachers, fellow conservationists, and children. For more than 20 years she dedicated her own resources to bring cohorts of masters' level students at Madagascar's prestigious Ecole Normale Supérieure to Berenty. The best and the brightest of Madagascar's young teachers, these students help conduct her ring-tailed lemur and sifaka census and plan phenology, attend professional conservation conferences, and work with leading conservation biologists from around the world. These gifted young professionals write about their experience in their masters' theses and recommend how aspects of their personal field experience can be used as education resources by their colleagues around the country. Today, graduates of the Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund initiative have earned Ph.D.'s, serve in the ministry of education, and have distinguished themselves in conservation careers. Lemur Conservation Foundation is honored to be the steward of Dr. Jolly's Malagasy Students' Fund for the future.

Younger children also captured Dr. Jolly's attention. She wrote a number of children's books, including the Ako Series: *Madagascar Lemur Adventures*, for elementary school children. Each book features a lemur, from Bitika, the tiny mouse lemur, to No Song, an Indri. The imaginative stories are fun for children to read aloud with sounds to imitate and brightly colored illustrations to inspire their curiosity. Dr. Jolly's long-time colleague, Dr. Rasamimanana, developed teacher materials and together they brought the Ako Series to classrooms all around Madagascar. The still-growing Ako project epitomizes Dr. Jolly's education mandate by marrying art, science, story-telling, and joy along with her delicious wit, knowledge of lemurs, their habitats, and Madagascar. Today the books are translated into three languages and are available on four continents.

The Doyenne of lemur research – her career in science is remarkable. Her example and leadership as a conservationist and a woman is unforgettable.

In January of 2014 Dr. Jolly asked LCF to work with Dr. Rasamimanana and the Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund. We are honored to participate in this inspirational and effective project with Dr. Rasamimanana and to steward this part of Dr. Jolly's legacy. In addition to this partnership, LCF publishes and distributes the Ako books in the United States and Canada and develops education materials based on the books for educators, home school families, and informal teaching programs.



Tree Platforms Installed in LCF's Forests

Dr. Phillip Wittman, 'Canopy Phil', came to LCF with his Canopy Quest Team in the summer of 2013 to install two tree platforms in the LCF forests. The platforms are 35 feet high in the canopy, giving our team and visiting researchers a 'lemurs' eye view' of the surrounding forest. The platforms provide important opportunities to observe lemur behavior high among the branches where they spend a great deal of their time.



Mongoose Lemur Births in USA

In 2013 all three rare Mongoose lemur (*Eulemur mongoz*) births in managed breeding programs were born to LCF female lemurs. Two were born at Lemur Conservation Foundation's (LCF) lemur colony in Myakka City. These 2 births are particularly significant because they are 2 of only 3 surviving Mongoose lemur infants born in the United States this year at Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facilities managed breeding programs. The third infant was born to a Mongoose lemur female in the LCF collection that traveled to another AZA institution for a recommended breeding match.

Gina Ferrie, the Species Survival Plan Coordinator and Population Biologist for mongoose lemurs, made this comment about the birth of one infant: "Silvio's birth is important because he comes from a recommended breeding pair which was made because they had not produced offspring before, and are genetically valuable to the population."

Silvio's name means 'of the forest' in Spanish. It was chosen in keeping with the tradition of themed named for different lemur species adopted by many AZA institutions. It also celebrates the significance of LCF's free-ranging forest habitats where lemurs live much as they do in Madagascar, their only endemic home.

According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), lemurs are the most endangered primates in the world, with all but 9 of the 103 known species of lemurs in danger of becoming extinct in the next 20 years.

The Lemur Conservation Foundation (LCF) is a recognized leader in lemur managed breeding programs. LCF works with AZA facilities to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of lemur populations. Our goal is the conservation of lemurs and their home among Madagascar's unique biodiversity.

Madagascar Fauna Group & Parc Ivoloina



Lemur Conservation Foundation is a managing member of The Madagascar Fauna Group (MFG). MFG is an international consortium of zoos and other conservation agencies dedicated to conserving animal species in Madagascar. Approaches to conservation include managed breeding, field research programs, training programs for rangers and park wardens, the acquisition and protection of habitats in Madagascar, and education programs. As an NGO (non-governmental organization), The Madagascar Fauna Group works with Madagascar's government institutions like the Ministry of Water, Forests, and the Environment.

We partner with MFG to achieve goals like providing training and support at Madagascar's most significant zoological organization, Parc Ivoloina. Lemur Conservation Foundation provides direct support for MFG's programs at Parc Ivoloina, especially its outreach, educational programs, managed breeding, and veterinary support efforts. The park provides Malagasy citizens and visitors to the country with interpretive encounters including nature trails, traditional zoo exhibits, education programs, and botanical gardens. Behind the scenes, veterinary and conservation professionals develop and implement conservation initiatives at the park and support field work in wild areas.

Colony Update

Ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*)

IUCN Status: Endangered - High risk of extinction in the wild. There are ten Ring-tailed lemurs in our colony.

Mongoose Lemurs (*Eulemur mongoz*)

IUCN Status: Endangered - High risk of extinction in the wild. Twelve Mongoose lemurs are in the LCF colony.

Collared lemurs (*Eulemur collaris*)

IUCN Status: Endangered - High risk of extinction in the wild. Today five Collared lemurs are in LCF's colony.

In 2013 Claire, one of our beloved collard lemurs, passed away on September, 26th from complications arising from liver cancer. Claire came to LCF from Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in 2008 and was successfully paired with her mate, Antoine. While at LCF, Claire and Antoine produced 2 offspring: Olivier, who was born in 2010 and Remy in 2012. Claire was a mild-mannered yet determined lemur, who effectively led her group until her passing. Claire's personality also made her a favorite among the staff and volunteers. Her extraordinary survival with cancer for over a year and a half, including successfully delivering an infant, is not only a testament to Claire's strong will but also of the staff's boundless dedication to her care and well-being.

Claire was not only special to LCF, she was incredibly important to the future of her species. According to Kris Becker, the Studbook Keeper (official record keeper) for collard lemurs, Claire gave birth to 2 of only 6 surviving collared lemur infants born in the United States since 2010. She is also 1 of only 2 females that successfully reproduced in the last 3 years from a total population of 9 fertile females. Although Claire is no longer with us, her important contribution to the survival of her species will live on through Olivier, Remy and their future offspring.

Brown lemurs (*Eulemur fulvus*)

IUCN Status: Near Threatened - Likely to become endangered in the near future. Six Brown lemurs are part of the LCF collection.

Red ruffed lemurs (*Varecia rubra*)

IUCN Status: Endangered - High risk of extinction in the wild. Red ruffed lemurs make up part of LCF's colony. Six of them are free-ranging in the forest enclosures.

Sanford's lemurs (*Eulemur sanfordi*)

IUCN Status: Endangered - High risk of extinction in the wild. There is one Sanford's lemur in the LCF colony. Ikoto is the only remaining Sanford's lemur in managed breeding programs in the United States and Europe.

In May of 2013 Fred, our oldest lemur resident, died from the renal disease he fought for several months. Fred was 24, a hybrid Sanford's lemur and White-fronted Brown lemur (*Eulemur albifrons*) that came to LCF from the Duke Lemur Center in 2007. He quickly became a favorite of the LCF staff and his forest mates.

The staff at LCF monitored Fred's health over the last few months of his life. He had frequent blood tests and health checks. This monitoring helped staff to routinely modify his diet and provide the needed medications to keep him comfortable and in optimal health for his age and condition. He was moved from the forest along with Ikoto, his family group member, when he became too ill to free-range.

Fred's renal disease stopped responding to medication after several months of treatment. There is still a lot more to learn about lemur veterinary medicine and innovative ways to treat illness in collection animals. Fred was one of the last Sanford's lemurs in the United States. Today Ikoto is the only remaining member of his species in the USA and Europe.

Breeding Recommendations and Births

Four infants were born at Lemur Conservation Foundation in 2013, all from recommended breeding pairs. Breeding recommendations are made in the year prior to the birth year. Ravina, a Red ruffed female, was recommended to breed with any of our males in 2012 but did not produce offspring. Stella and Molson, a Ring-tailed lemur pair, were also recommended in 2012 but did not produce any offspring.

2013 Lemur Births

Ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*)

Ansell and Yuengling, a Ring-tailed pair, previously produced offspring at LCF. Ansell is an experienced mother who gave birth to twins in 2013. The twins, named Allagash and Rogue, were named in honor of Catie Homan, a dedicated LCF intern who died in a traffic accident in the United Kingdom while pursuing a graduate degree.

Mongoose Lemurs (*Eulemur mongoz*)

Emilia and Bimbini, a previously recommended pair produced a male infant named Pablo, keeping with the tradition of naming Mongoose lemurs with a Spanish theme. Pablo grew at a healthy rate and gained weight easily as his appetite increased. He learned about his environment and the social cues of his species while becoming more mature and independent.

Kikeli and Felix, another previously recommended pair, produced a male infant named Silvio at the time of his 'adoption' by dedicated LCF volunteer and supporter, Ken Wilson.

While Felix previously sired 5 offspring, Kikeli, a first time mother, was inexperienced and needed support from the Animal Husbandry staff for her infant to survive.

Silvio was found on the ground of the enclosure and was very weak. He was immediately put on a heating pad to increase his body temperature, given fluids for hydration, and a quick physical examination.

Silvio was a bit on the small side, but his weight was within the normal limits for mongoose infants. The staff was able to get his temperature back to normal and he had regained enough strength to cling properly.

Once we determined that Silvio was in good health, the staff began trying to introduce Silvio and Kikeli. After several attempts, it was clear that Kikeli was not going to accept her infant. The Animal Husbandry staff would need to care for the infant, and use their skill, a lot of patience, and around the clock work to encourage Kikeli's mothering skills and ensure Silvio's survival.

First, Kikeli had a veterinary check up to be sure she was healthy after the birth. During Kikeli's postpartum examination, it was discovered that she had a retained placenta and was not lactating. This meant that, unfortunately, Silvio would have to be cared for by the staff and receive formula for nourishment instead of being cared for by Kikeli.

This is not ideal since humans can never adequately replace the natural mother and give the comfort and nourishment that is critical for infant development. Dr. Alison Grand, LCF's Animal Care Manager, knew this better than anyone from her extensive work with primates on mother-infant relationships. She was determined to give Silvio the best caregiving possible and to integrate him into his family group as soon as possible.

One strategy that Dr. Grand used was keeping Silvio in the same room with Felix and Kikeli. This made it possible to keep visual, olfactory, and auditory contact with his family group. By maintaining this level of contact he could still learn normal behaviors from social observations even when he was not in direct contact with his parents.

LCF's staff also managed supervised visitation between Silvio, Felix and Kikeli to try and encourage the bond between them. This helped to give him physical contact with his family. We also swapped blankets, and bears so Silvio's things always had the scent of his family.

When feeding, Silvio would cling to the bear but we would face him towards Felix and Kikeli, in hopes that he would associate them with nourishment and comfort rather than his human caregivers. He stayed in a crate with his surrogate, the stuffed bear, until he was old enough to climb around. The indoor room where he spent his first several weeks and months of life was divided to give him half while Felix and Kikeli

lived in the other half. Silvio also had a window so he could watch his parents when he was not with them.

Our staff managed daily visitations with Felix and Kikeli. These sessions did not go well at first, but they soon started to bond with him and accept him as part of the group. Macy Madden, Research Intern, observed all interactions between Silvio, Kikeli, and Felix to help us document and better understand this critical process. When Silvio reached three months old we started all day visitations. About a week later we began overnight stays!

Today Silvio is one year old and fully integrated into his family group. He has been weaned off of his bear and huddles with Felix and Kikeli. All of the hard work paid off. He is a playful, curious, mongoose lemur that is socially bonded with his family.

Here Silvio's feeding schedule:

- Every 3 hours for first 2 weeks
- Every 4 hours for 2 weeks to 1.5 months
- Every 5 hours for 1.5 months to 2 months
- Every 6 hours 2 months to 3.5 months
- Every 8 hours 3.5 months
- Started adding chow dust into formula at 2 months
- Added produced at 3 months
- Started weaning off formula at 3 months

Breeding Recommendations for 2014 Births

In 2013 there were 8 approved breeding pairs at Lemur Conservation Foundation. The 2013 recommendations are the pairs we hope to produce offspring in the 2014 birthing season. Now, we are waiting for births from these recommendations which include Ring-tailed, Mongoose, Collared, and Red ruffed lemurs. The breeding recommendations included two Mongoose pairs, two Collared pairs, one Red ruffed pair, and three Ring-tailed lemur pairs.

Ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*) Ring-tailed lemurs are considered Endangered by the IUCN.

Sobe, Sassy & Molson

Sobe and Sassy, two female ring-tailed lemurs, arrived at LCF's Myakka City conservation facility from the Duke Lemur Center as part of the annual breeding recommendations for this species. The recommendations paired them with Molson, a male ring-tailed lemur at LCF, both recommendations are new pairs. After an introduction period with Molson they were released to free range in the forest. Sobe and Sassy had free-ranged in Duke's forests. Molson is at home free-ranging in LCF's forests. A birth from this recommendation would mean an infant born in the forest to free-ranging parents, a significant conservation success.

Ansell & Yuengling

Ansell and Yuengling, another Ring-tailed pair, previously produced offspring at LCF. Ansell is an experienced mother who gave birth to twins in 2013. She has reared infants while free-ranging in the forest and leading her family group, much as she would do in the wild in Madagascar.

Collared lemurs (*Eulemur collaris*) Collared lemurs are considered Endangered by the IUCN.

Two collared lemur pairs were recommended breeding matches at LCF in 2013.

Olivier and Wizard were a new pair and breeding recommendation. Olivier was born at LCF to Claire and Antoine in 2010.

Jacques and Lucy were paired, recommended and produced offspring before. 2013 was their first breeding season at LCF. Lucy was transferred to LCF because her sister, Claire was part of the LCF colony. The goal was for Claire, an experienced mother, to encourage Lucy's parenting skills and success. Unfortunately Lucy and Jacques did not produce offspring in 2013.

Mongoose Lemurs (*Eulemur mongoz*) Mongoose lemurs are considered Endangered by the IUCN.

Emilia and Bimbini, a previously recommended pair produced offspring, Pablo, in 2013 are hoped to successfully breed again this year.

Kikeli and Felix, another previously recommended pair who produced offspring, Silvio, are also part of the managed breeding plan for this year. We are happy to report that an infant was born to this pair, and that Kikeli is rearing her infant successfully with minimal staff support.

Red ruffed lemurs (*Varecia rubra*) Red ruffed lemurs are considered Endangered by the IUCN.

Ravina and Tsikey

Ravina was recommended to breed with any of our male red ruffed lemurs. She and Tsikey are a new pair and breeding recommendation. Red ruffed lemurs are considered endangered by the IUCN.

Conservation status of lemur species is based on the most recent information available from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

Ansell & her twins



Silvio



Silvio



Positive Reward Training

Ansell, one of our female ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*), developed a skin condition on her toes and heels. We were concerned that the condition would not resolve itself on its own, and that she would not be able to comfortably get around the forest with her twins, who were infants at the time.

To treat her problem we poured a Nolvasan® solution commonly used to clean wounds and prevent infections into a small rubber tub so that it came up to just above the height of a sponge placed on the bottom of the tub. Then we squirted some Mal-a-ket, a topical antifungal/antimicrobial solution on top of the sponge.

To get Ansell into the tub we offered her Craisins™, a lemur favorite. She was then rewarded when she stepped into the foot bath. Ansell received craisins at a slow pace to reinforce her behavior, and encourage her to remain standing in the tub.

We worked on her endurance – standing in the foot bath without receiving a stream of craisin-reinforcers. She learned to stand in the solution for 5-10 minutes at a time. Sometimes she would even sit on the edge of the tub. Soon the wounds on her feet were healed.



The AKO Project

The Ako Project, funded through a grant from Nature's Path Foods EnviroKidz initiative, achieved a significant education goal this year by producing Ako based lesson plans and teachers' guides, an 'Ako Certified' continuing education program for teachers, museums, and zoo educators, and working with Florida schools to add Ako programs to their approved curriculums.

In addition, Ako Project materials are incorporated into LCF's Teachers' Institute for Conservation Ecology, and our distance learning programs. To help us achieve our education goals Kristin R. Whipple and Karen Malesky teamed with LCF to produce education materials including curriculum that meets Florida standards. They are working with us to develop Ako materials for middle school classrooms, expanding the impact of our conservation education efforts.

Ms. Whipple produced a comprehensive curriculum based on the Ako Book Series and Posters. This effort provided a K-5th Grade Education Curriculum Framework that gives teachers a set of standards for the complete six book Ako series, an individual set of standards for each book, and a set of standards organized by grade level.

She incorporated learning outcomes for social studies and visual art along with the conservation and science based materials. The comprehensive framework also includes reading level curriculum based on storyline and themes and student reading levels.

Kris's work helps teachers identify which Ako book can be used in their classrooms to enhance students' reading skills by suggesting which books are most appropriate for each grade and reading level. For example, young readers in kindergarten and first grade can engage in 'Read Aloud' activities in 'Bitika the Mouse Lemur' and 'No-Song the Indri' while teachers leading classes of 4th-5th grade pupils can stress independent or guided reading using 'Tik Tik the Ring-tailed Lemur' and 'Ako The Aye-Aye'.

Karen Malesky, a S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) certified educator and museum educator, is our team leader working to introduce the Ako Project materials into Florida school district approved curriculums. She is presenting the lessons in classrooms and mentoring teachers to incorporate the materials into their teaching plans.

In the summer of 2014 LCF will launch an Ako Project based Teachers' institute conducted by Ms. Whipple, Ms. Malesky, and Caitlin Flanagan, a former LCF intern and post graduate candidate at Oxford Brook's University where she is pursuing a masters degree in conservation education.

The AKO Project Educators Bios



Karen J. Malesky, Museum Educator at GWIZ the Science Museum in Sarasota. A Manatee county native, she holds a B.A. in Anthropology (Archaeology) from the University of Florida. 31 years were spent teaching Science in Manatee County schools. A member of The Florida Association of Science Teachers she served as President in 2006-2007. Other S.T.E.M. activities include serving as an N.A.S.A. Resource Teacher, Board member of the Florida Foundation for Future Scientists (State Science and Engineering Fair), and committee member –Committee on Pre College Education for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Florida DOE has had Karen work on various teams for Science curriculum and standards.



Kris Whipple, CIP, CIT, CIG, has a professional background that includes over twenty-five years as a curator, education specialist and naturalist for parks, museums, zoos and aquariums. Most recently, Kris served for fourteen years as the education curator for Walt Disney World Animal Programs and was responsible for the development of student and visitor programs, activities, presentations and educational materials for visiting students and adults and interpretive training at Disney's Animal Kingdom,

The Seas, Disney's Wilderness Adventures and Disney's Discovery Island. Her education background includes a Bachelor's degree in Parks and Natural Resource Management.

With clients ranging from government agencies and non-profit organizations to private institutions, Kris's project sites include visitor centers, botanical gardens, zoological parks, aquariums, museums, parks and nature centers.

Recent projects include DisneyNature Workbooks for the nature series African Cats, Chimpanzee and Bears as well as Pixar's Finding Nemo 3-D. She worked on interpretive planning and media development for Garvan Botanical Gardens in Arkansas, and interpretive graphics and children's activity guides for the Naples Botanical Garden. Kris participated in developing interpretive graphics for the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy and Wildlife Care Center in California and in developing live and on-line interpretive training programs for The San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Kris is certified as an interpretive planner, trainer, interpretive guide instructor and guide with the National Association for Interpretation. As an interpretive guide instructor she facilitates Certified Interpretive Guide Courses around the U.S. that focus on interpretive foundations, techniques and exceptional visitor service. Kris is also a member of the NAI Certification Review Team and Professional Standards and Practices Committee. Her In Training column is regularly featured in NAI's Legacy magazine.

She has presented workshops and presentations at international, national and state conferences including The International Zoo Educators Association, International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, The American Zoo and Aquarium Association, National Association for Interpretation, National Science Teachers Association, Association for Science and Technology Centers, Florida Association of Science Teachers, League of Environmental Educators of Florida, NASA Teacher of the Year Awards and the Disney American Teacher Awards.

Envirokids
ORGANIC

Berenty Reserve & the Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund

In her ground breaking work Dr. Alison Jolly advanced the idea that sustainable communities are required to achieve sustainable conservation goals. LCF is dedicated to working with communities and stakeholders in Madagascar to find and implement solutions to conservation challenges facing the country today through our support of field work, education, research, and grass roots conservation efforts. Through our education programs we partner with schools, conservationists, communities, and other institutions to advance conservation outcomes.

The Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund (MSF) was originated through an act of generosity by 'Earthwatcher' Rachel Oliver. In 1990 Oliver made a \$1000 donation for Soava Rakotoarisoa, one of the Malagasy ENS interns on the Earthwatch project. This support allowed Mr. Rakotoarisoa to return to Berenty for his final year and complete his thesis at the University of Antananarivo's Ecole Normale Superieure (ENS), Madagascar's elite teachers college. He now has a Masters from Cornell University and is Program Coordinator for the World Food Program in Madagascar.

Today, the MSF has two primary conservation education priorities. The first is training cohorts of fourth and fifth year ENS Life Science students in principles of field biology and mentoring them to articulate their experience as an education tool in their master's theses. The second is placing teams of ENS and Malagasy Student Fund alumni in classrooms to mentor teachers and inspire students towards a commitment to conservation through the Ako Project, an education initiative for elementary school students.

Dr. Jolly's Legacy

In recent years the Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund was supported by the late Dr. Alison Jolly, who inaugurated research on the ring-tailed lemur population at the Berenty Reserve in 1963. While Dr. Jolly served on a 1989 World Bank Mission as the coordinator of the Education Volet, a proposed \$20M grant to Madagascar for its' first National Environmental Action Plan, it became clear to her that not only were educational institutions starved of funds in general but that field work on Madagascar's unique biodiversity was a dream beyond the reach of students and institutions unless they had foreign funding. Dr. Jolly's support for the Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund was more than a gesture of friendship to the students. She began providing sustaining financial support for the project from a conviction that grew from personal observation and experience.

In January 2014, Dr. Jolly's last will and testament appointed Lemur Conservation Foundation as stewards of her financial commitment to the Madagascar Student Teachers Conservation Education Fund. The program will continue her legacy and expand the impact of our resources as ENS students graduate and assume their leadership roles in Malagasy society and the conservation community.

Dr. Hanta Rasamimanana

In 1983 Dr. Hanta Rasamimanana came to Berenty to begin a collaboration with Dr. Jolly that lasted until 2014, when Dr. Jolly passed away. Today, she continues Dr. Jolly's ring-tailed lemur census and Berenty research. In addition to continuing the lemur census at the Berenty Reserve, Dr. Rasamimanana mentors ENS students and directs the Malagasy Student Fund as she has done since its inception.

In addition to working in the field, some ENS participants work with Dr. Rasamimanana on the Ako Project, a conservation education outreach program in Madagascar's rural communities. The Ako Projects is based on a six book series written by Dr. Jolly with teachers' guides and classroom materials for Malagasy schools written by Dr. Rasamimanana. Malagasy Student Fund alumni have worked with The Ako Project since it was initiated in 2008. The classroom materials and lesson plans help teachers inspire young students to embrace their patrimony of rich biological treasures.

Engaging Communities to Solve Madagascar's Conservation Challenges

Producing leaders and engaging communities and local stakeholders in identifying and implementing achievable strategies for the conservation of lemurs amid the challenges faced by Madagascar and its people is both an urgent and a long term issue. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature has stated that without intervention in twenty years lemurs could become extinct as a species. As Madagascar's human population grows and its society grapples with the challenges of political crisis, change and economic development, it is critically important to mentor conservation leaders in schools, communities, and universities who will also perhaps one day serve in the country's government and institutions.

For twenty-four years the Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund has provided an opportunity for students to gain both hands-on field training and experience articulating a conservation message for educators and students in communities of southern Madagascar.

The fund provides vital financial resources for these young educators to engage in field work, and to travel to rural communities with a strongly articulated, personal conservation message and classroom education materials.



The combination of hands-on scientific experience and a foundation of the values associated with a commitment to conservation in the teaching profession can affect positive conservation outcomes at all levels of Malagasy society, including in villages near critical habitats, national education standards, in government, and in the everyday choices of its citizens.

Student Teachers' Conservation Fund and the Ecole Normale Superieure

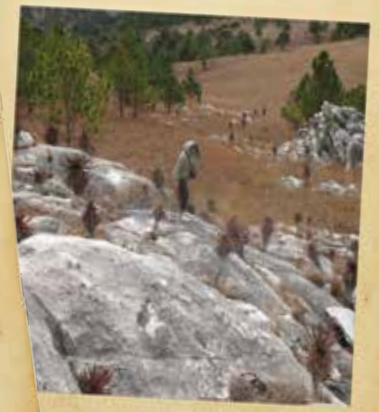
The principal goal of Madagascar's ENS is the training of elite teachers. Through this important partnership with the university, MSF leverages the talent and commitment of these highly engaged young professionals.

Every year the Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Fund (MSF) selects a cohort of ten ENS students to learn principles of field research at the Berenty Reserve with Dr. Rasamimanana. The fund allows ENS students to become more aware of Madagascar's unique biodiversity, its challenges, and related issues. It offers them the opportunity to participate in effecting solutions and provides these gifted candidates fundamental knowledge and competencies about social and natural sciences in their country. During the program they develop their interest in conservation along with a sense of values that enable them to actively participate in diverse conservation projects. The expertise they gain is demonstrated in their Master and PhD thesis. Many participating ENS students have pursued advanced degrees at universities throughout Madagascar and abroad, positioning them to become respected authorities in the conservation field.

Impact of the Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund

Details of students' personal experience with field biology and lemur conservation are discussed and published in their theses with emphasis on their use as education tools. The data they help gather and the results of their field studies help advance discussions with the Berenty Reserve's landowners about solutions to protect its flora and fauna and to reforest the land. Their contributions to science help identify future research that should be conducted and help protect species like the Near Threatened ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*) and the Vulnerable Verreaux's Sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*) found at the reserve.

For example, Dr. Josia Rasafindramanana, a graduate of the ENS and participant in the Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund began studying the impact of brown lemurs on tamarind trees as an undergraduate at Berenty, supervised by Dr. Rasamimanana. After graduating with a teaching degree she then completed a DAE at the School of Agronomy. In 2011 she earned her doctorate degree from Oxford Brookes University with a thesis on the ecological niche separation between ring-tailed lemurs. Her work compared Berenty Reserve, where browns were first introduced in 1975, with Beoloka Reserve with only the native ring-tailed lemurs, and with Ambatotsirongaronga, where brown lemurs (*Eulemur collaris*) and ringtails live in natural sympathy. In addition, Dr. Rasafindramanana is the Crowned Sifaka (*Propithecus coronatus*) Project Coordinator of the Malagasy Primate Working Group (GERP). She currently focuses on this



species, whose population has declined by 50% over the past 30 years. Her goal is to establish an effective metapopulation management approach. Today Dr. Rasafindramanana engages ENS students to participate in her field work, related community outreach and conservation education.

A recipient of the prestigious Whitley Award, Josia says "Local people are very excited about the project. They wish to be involved in decision-making and the project activities. We organize regular meetings with local people to discuss results, problems and next steps. This makes them direct participants in the implementation of the project and, in the areas where we have started, local people have already stopped illegal timber exploitation."

Teachers have a unique role, voice, and opportunity to influence communities. A core of teachers trained with principles of conservation and a commitment to preserving Madagascar's biodiversity and unique habitats can reach a large audience in a relatively short period of time, particularly if part of their objective is to mentor other teachers. It is an effective way to accelerate the conversation about conservation in Madagascar, and to encourage involvement which leads to positive change.

Field Work at Berenty

The field work done by these talented student teachers takes place at the Berenty Reserve. Although the Berenty Reserve is a microcosm it is still of conservation importance. It is one of Madagascar's main tourist destinations and is a showcase for the island. Dr. Alison Jolly's research on ring-tailed lemurs at Berenty is the longest running census of lemur populations in Madagascar. The relationship with the de Heaulme family, owners of the Berenty Reserve, is a successful model of a public and private conservation partnership.

Berenty comprises some 1000 ha of southern dry spiny forest and gallery forest beside the Mandrare River. Both forest types are threatened outside the reserve by the spread of local farming, and by exploitation for charcoal. The main section of Berenty reserve, the 200 ha traditional study site, is the largest remaining patch of gallery forest on the whole Mandrare watershed.

Many of the threats to the Berenty ecosystem come from introduced species, both those which spread naturally and those which were introduced at the reserve without knowing the potential side effects. Berenty offers a scale model of some of the threats to lemur populations and ecosystems over much larger areas and longer times.

There are two components of research at Berenty, the lemur census and the plant phenology. Dr. Rasamimanana is the principle investigator of both components. The lemur census includes an annual census of the native ring-tailed lemur, the introduced hybrid *Eulemur rufus* x *Eulemur collaris* populations, and the Sifaka census. The plant phenology, which began in 2010, studies native and invasive vegetation and reforestation following a burn in the forest. Dr. Rasamimanana and several assistants, who are all participants in the ENS field-work program, conduct the research. As with all long-term study sites, the accumulation of comparable data multiplies in value each year.

Berenty is a worthy conservation effort both for itself and as a seat of research and education. The Malagasy Students Fund bridges the education and research component of conservation in Madagascar. Its participants open and guide engagement with conservation issues, from Dr. Rasamimanana in her role as researcher and mentor, to the new ENS graduates entering Malagasy classrooms as teachers each year for the first time.

Future Madagascar Conservationists

Upon completion of their degree program, MSF alumni are qualified to teach in lycées, Madagascar's advanced secondary schools for students in grades equivalent to ten through twelve in the United States.

The ENS program is rigorous and its candidates are highly motivated. They study their chosen subject plus teacher training and internships for five years and write a masters' level thesis. Their thesis must link some aspect of research in their subject to its potential as an educational tool. Students from ENS often continue their education to earn still higher degrees, influencing academics, education professionals, and the students whose lives they touch. Many Malagasy Student's Fund graduates go directly into teaching and immediately begin spreading the impact of their training to students and colleagues.

For instance, a 2012 graduate of the ENS and the Madagascar Student Teachers' Conservation Education Fund continued to teach the Ako Project materials after graduation, and in 2014 was appointed as Regional Director for the Ministry of Education. Support for ENS students is an important link between education, research, and local conservation outcomes in Madagascar now and for future generations.



Vanishing

Saving Lemurs through Art and Fashion

Vanishing – an exhibit curated from the LCF art collection.

More than 90 percent of the known lemur species are at risk. LCF is using the power of art to raise awareness of their plight.

In 2013 our founder, Penelope Bodry-Sanders, the LCF art committee, and the team from Art Center Sarasota organized “Vanishing,” an exhibit featuring works from the foundation’s permanent collection.

The nearly 20 participating artists, including Jean Blackburn and Craig Rubadoux, have created stunning images of lemurs and their habitats in a variety of media. “Fragments,” by Alexis Rockman, a nationally renowned nature painter, is a beautiful but disquieting work depicting an imagined future of a devastated lemur habitat.

Ms. Bodry-Sanders hopes this and the other art will help people “understand the awfulness of extinction—without that, there is little hope for the future of lemurs and life itself in its magnificent diversity. Art can’t change the world, but it can change the way we see, think and feel about it.”

Vanishing

curated by:

Mark Ormond and Emma Thurgood

artists represented:

Jean Blackburn, Penelope Bodry-Sanders, Ana Flores, Mary Fussell, Peter McCaffrey, Katharine McKenna, Judy North, John Ofori, Joyce Powzyk, Alexis Rockman, Deborah Ross, Craig Rubadoux, Kathy Ruttenberg, Barbara Sandler, Joseph Santore, Camille Wainer, Sarah Watts

In 2013 LCF adopted a formal art statement to help express its importance to our mission:

LCF embraces art as a powerful vehicle for conservation because art illuminates universal truths that are beyond the scope of words to express. Art helps us explore and define our connection with the natural world to ensure its survival in the future.

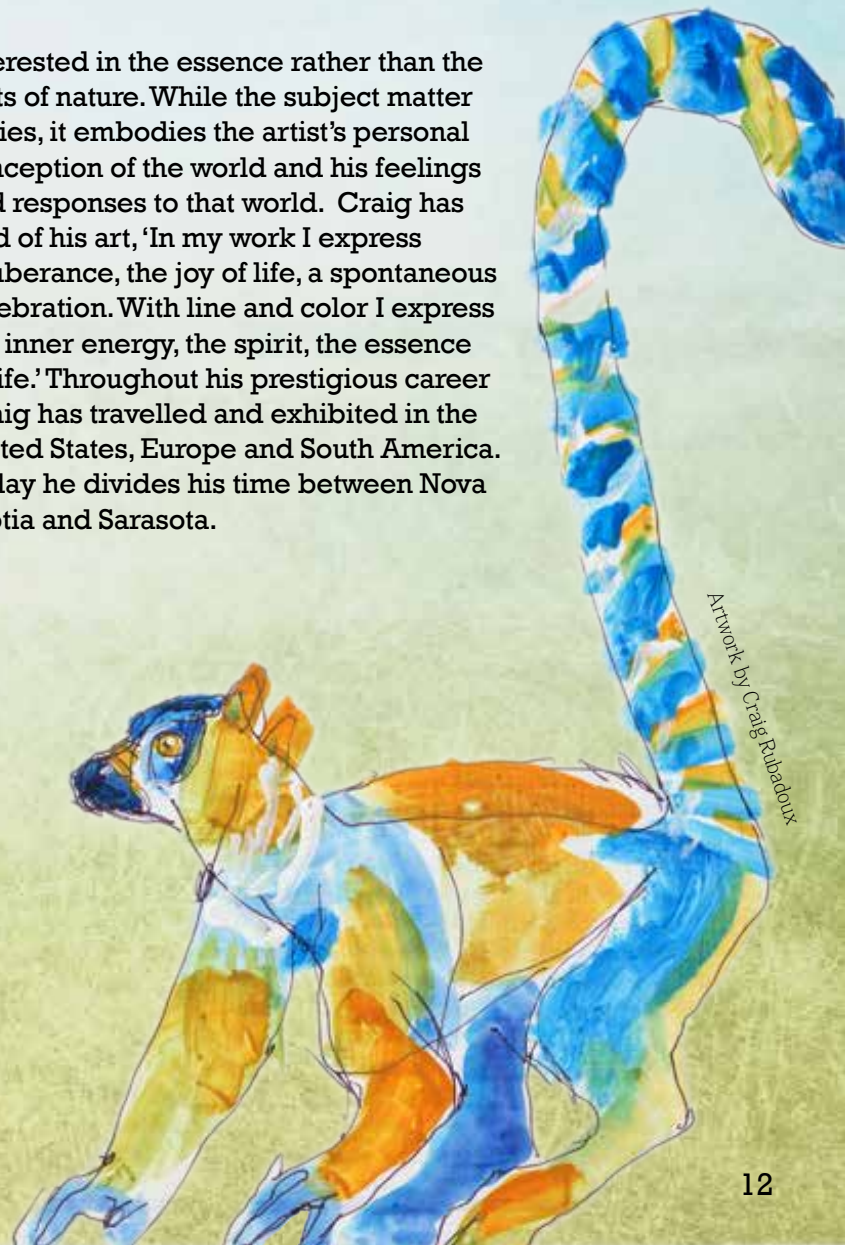


2014 Calendar Artist, Mr. Craig Rubadoux

In 2013 LCF was honored for Mr. Craig Rubadoux to produce original art for our 2014 Calendar. In addition to the calendar, Mr. Rubadoux generously donated his work to the Evening of Lemur Enchantment Gala held for the first time in December of 2013.

Craig Rubadoux was born in Rochester, New York, but came to Sarasota before he was ten years old. He won a scholarship to the Ringling College of Art & Design and apprenticed with illustrator Ben Stahl. Craig's work has appeared in over 70 exhibitions including solo exhibits at the Ringling Museum of Art, the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art, the Lowe Museum of Art, and the Cornell Fine Arts Museum, and is represented in collections including the Guggenheim Museum, New York, the High Museum, Atlanta, and the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Florida to name a few. Rubadoux primarily works on paper and canvas. While he is greatly affected by his environment and a love of nature, his paintings are not literal documentations of nature. He is

interested in the essence rather than the facts of nature. While the subject matter varies, it embodies the artist's personal conception of the world and his feelings and responses to that world. Craig has said of his art, 'In my work I express exuberance, the joy of life, a spontaneous celebration. With line and color I express the inner energy, the spirit, the essence of life.' Throughout his prestigious career Craig has travelled and exhibited in the United States, Europe and South America. Today he divides his time between Nova Scotia and Sarasota.



Artwork by Craig Rubadoux

Research at the Reserve 2013



Dr. Lauren Highfill, Eckerd College, continued her study on personality traits in lemurs at LCF. With the help of two Eckerd students, Ashley Chambers and Christine Dumbleton, Dr. Highfill worked with LCF's colony to observe the lemurs during normal daily activity, and during training sessions to code personality traits.

As part of the project the students presented lemurs with various food baited puzzle boxes to test their learning rates and problem-solving abilities.

This kind of animal personality research offers a number of both practical and theoretical benefits. Examining individual differences enables animal caretakers to better understand and predict the behavior of animals.

Understanding individual differences can directly benefit the animals. Zoos and facilities like LCF can more effectively manage animals and maintain their welfare if they can consider the specific characteristics of each individual.

For example, ensuring inter-individual compatibility in group housing may serve to ensure the safety of the whole group. Knowledge of personality types can also aid in a variety of animal management techniques, such as breeding and reintroduction programs.

Dr. Highfill's recent research with small-eared bushbabies indicated that personality measures could be used as a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of environmental enrichment plans for individual animals. This study examined the relationship between personality traits and reduced

stereotypy after five different enrichment interventions in small-eared bushbabies. Her results indicated that some enrichment interventions were better suited for certain personality types.

The personality traits of lemurs have not been extensively studied. A better understanding of personality traits in captive lemurs could be extremely beneficial to husbandry staff because understanding personality can aid in a number of husbandry procedures like reducing conflict among group members and individualizing environmental enrichment interventions.

Our husbandry and research team welcomes Dr. Highfill and her students. We look forward to learning the results of this study and considering their impact on husbandry practices.

In 2014 Dr. Laurie Santos, Director of Yale University's Comparative Cognition Laboratory, conducted a preliminary visit to LCF as a first step to continuing her research on lemur cognition. Dr. Santos previously conducted research with the LCF colony to study a simple 1+1 problem or situation, and if lemurs can track objects hidden from their sight as well as quantify small sets of objects. Her paper, 'Expectations about numerical events in four lemur species' discusses research done at LCF.

Abstract: Although much is known about how some primates—in particular, monkeys and apes—represent and enumerate different numbers of objects, very little is known about the numerical abilities of prosimian primates. Here, we explore how four lemur species (*Eulemur fulvus*, *E. mongoz*, *Lemur catta*, and *Varecia rubra*) represent small numbers of objects. Specifically, we presented lemurs with three expectancy violation looking time experiments aimed at exploring their expectations about a simple 1+1 addition event. In these experiments, we presented subjects with displays in which two lemons were sequentially added behind an occluder and then measured subjects' duration of looking to expected and unexpected outcomes. In experiment 1, subjects looked reliably longer at an unexpected outcome of only one object than at an expected outcome of two objects. Similarly, subjects in experiment 2 looked reliably longer at an unexpected outcome of three objects than at an expected outcome of two objects. In experiment 3, subjects looked reliably longer at an unexpected outcome of one object twice the size of the original than at an expected outcome of two objects of the original size. These results suggest that some prosimian primates understand the outcome of simple arithmetic operations. These results are discussed in light of similar findings in human infants and other adult primates.



LEMUR CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2013

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 161,107	\$ 167,933	\$ 329,040
Investments	3,366,927	100,000	3,466,927
Inventory	7,444		7,444
Pledges receivable	200		200
Accrued interest receivable	23,821		23,821
Prepaid expenses	7,900		7,900
Property, plant and equipment, net	1,769,854		1,769,854
Collections	36,251		36,251
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,373,504	\$ 267,933	\$ 5,641,437
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$ 10,716	\$	\$ 10,716
Accrued expenses	9,539		9,539
TOTAL LIABILITIES	20,255		20,255
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted			
– operating	1,986,322		1,986,322
Unrestricted - board designated	3,366,927		3,366,927
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	5,353,249		5,353,249
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		267,933	267,933
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5,353,249	267,933	5,621,182
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 5,373,504	\$ 267,933	\$ 5,641,437
Revenue			
Contributions	\$ 595,006	\$ 32,800	\$ 627,806
Operations	30,992		30,992
Unrealized and realized gain on investment	610,111		610,111
Interest and dividends, net	170,843		170,843
Released from restriction	39,200	(39,200)	
Total revenues	1,446,152	(6,400)	1,439,752
Expenses			
Program services	398,364		398,364
Management and general	218,504		218,504
Fundraising	62,351		62,351
Total expenses	679,219		679,219
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	766,933	(6,400)	760,533
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,586,316	274,333	4,860,649
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 5,353,249	\$ 267,933	\$ 5,621,182

Donor Acknowledgements

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 Mark Homan *in memory of Caitlin Homan*
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Volunteers

Thank you to our volunteers & interns

Eileen Alber	Heather Lake
Bruce Alber	Mary Lueder
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Elsie Ariles	Kelsey McBride
Mark Aughton	Kerry McElroy
Kim Basset	Lauren Mc Leron
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Marlaina Edwards	Jacob Ranger
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Matthew Henderson	Jamie Sincuge
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Casey Krause	Brian Tockler
Hannah Johnson	Joe Van Sistine
Jeff Jones	Ken Wilson
Jen Lafontaine	Vickie Wilson



The Alice Farley Dance Theater Performs at
LCF's December Gala

An Evening of * Lemur Enchantment

Although visual art is an important part of LCF's education and outreach efforts, we love art of all kinds - especially the Alice Farley Dance Theater. The dancers performed at 'An Evening of Lemur Enchantment' at Michael's on East. The Alice Farley Dance Theater performs at venues from the Andy Warhol Museum, to Wildlife Conservation Society's Bronx Zoo, and the World Financial Center Winter Garden. Ms. Farley attended the gala with her dancers, who performed in lemur costumes so perfectly fitted the dancers were sewn into them. They wore 'bouncy shoes' to emulate lemurs unique locomation through interpretive dance.

'For me, the province of dance is to speak that which cannot be spoken. Make the invisible, visible.'

- Alice Farley

Like Ms. Farley, LCF believes that art is a uniquely important part of articulating complex messages, and is an access point for application of high level skills in problem solving and the expression and comprehension of complex issues.

'An Evening of Lemur Enchantment' was a great success for LCF, raising over \$40,000 in funds for lemur conservation at our Myakka City conservation habitats.

The evening included an auction with donated items like a villa penthouse in Tuscany, an Hermes scarf, and a luxury, private trip to Madagascar with LCF and Dr. Ian Tattersall. Michaels on East was a perfect place for this delightful and successful gala evening.

Besides raising funds for conservation the evening raised awareness of lemurs and their conservation status. LCF currently holds six species of lemurs, all of which are listed on the International Union For The Conservation of Nature's Red List as Endangered, Near Threatened, or Vulnerable.

Thank you to our 'Evening of Lemur Enchantment' friends and supporters, the organizing committee, and our generous sponsors.



Alice Farley Dancers
Photo credit: Kim Longstreet ©DogStreetPhoto.com



Alice Farley Dancers
Photo credit: Kim Longstreet ©DogStreetPhoto.com



Inga Hatton, Craig Rubadoux and Blair Brown
Photo credit: Kim Longstreet ©DogStreetPhoto.com



Blair Brown, Kipling Sanders and
LCF founder, Penelope Bodry-Sanders
Photo credit: Kim Longstreet ©DogStreetPhoto.com

Mission Statement:

The Lemur Conservation Foundation (LCF) is a small non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the primates of Madagascar through captive breeding, scientific research, and education.

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