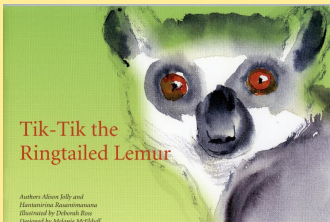




LEMUR CONSERVATION  
FOUNDATION

E-ulemur Latitudes  
e-newsletter February 2014  
[www.lemurreserve.org](http://www.lemurreserve.org)



[Click here to peek inside the Ako books and receive our special offer for the six book series.](#)



[Organic Spices from Madagascar are available in our Amazon Store](#)





[children's puzzle available in our Amazon store](#)

## CANOPY QUEST TEAM INSTALLS TREE PLATFORMS AT LCF

Dr. Phil Wittman, a.k.a. 'Canopy Phil' brought his Canopy Quest team to LCF to install two tree platforms in the forests. The platforms give our team and visiting researchers the opportunity to observe lemur activity and behavior high above the forest floor, approximately thirty feet up into the canopy.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the platforms being installed and the first climb up the ladders!

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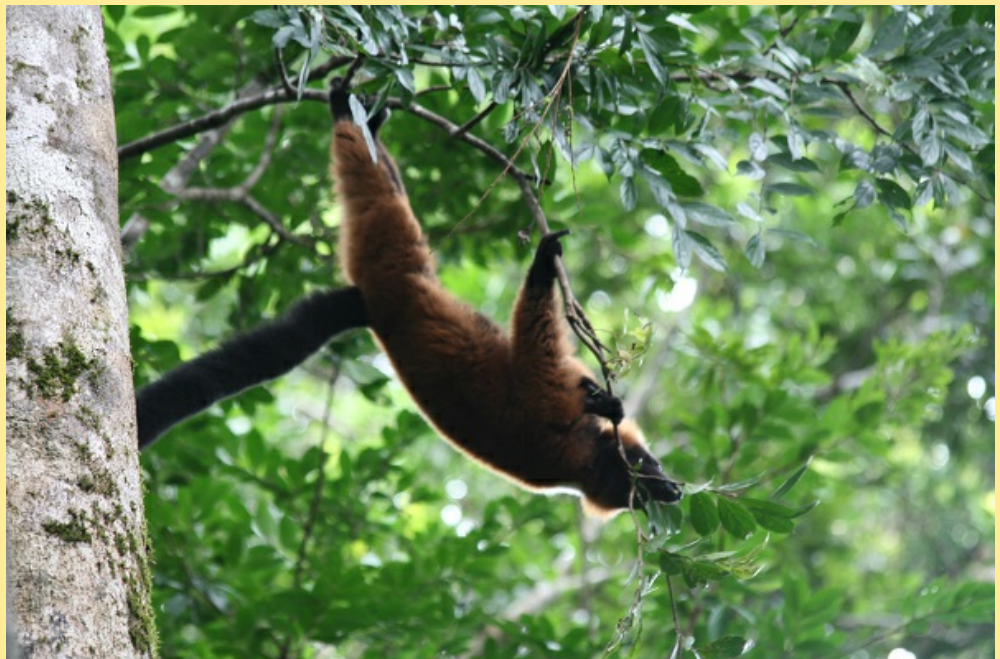


LCF founder Penelope Bodry-Sanders and Dr. Wittman looking into the canopy from the tree platform. Image by Phil Sirouis



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**THE JOURNAL SCIENCE PUBLISHES LEMUR CONSERVATION ARTICLE**

Leaders in lemur conservation published an article published in high-impact journal, *Science*.

The article, led by Dr Christopher Schwitzer (head of research at Bristol Zoo Gardens and vice-chair for Madagascar of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) SSC Primate Specialist Group) was co-authored by 19 lemur conservationists and researchers, many of whom are from Madagascar or have been working there for decades.

[CLICK HERE to read the article and supplementary materials.](#)

The article stresses the importance of implementing a new emergency three year IUCN lemur action plan which was recently published by Dr Schwitzer and other lemur experts from around the world. The action plan outlines a way forward for saving Madagascar's 101 lemur species. It contains strategies for 30 different priority sites for lemur conservation and aims to help fundraise for individual projects. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the action plan.

[CLICK HERE to read the action plan.](#)

"Fact is that if we don't act now, we risk losing a species of lemur for the first time since our records began," Schwitzer explains. "Lemurs have important ecological and economic roles and are essential to maintaining Madagascar's unique forests, through seed dispersal and attracting income through ecotourism. Their loss would likely trigger extinction cascades. The importance of the action plan cannot be overstated."



Alison Grand, Ph.D., LCF's Animal Care Manager

## **Alison Grand, Ph.D., Attends AZA Population Management Training in Wheeling, WV**

LCF's Animal Care Manager, Dr. Alison Grand, attended a week long Association of Zoos and Aquariums training session in Population Management. In addition to her responsibility for management of our lemur colony Dr. Grand is also the Stud Book Keeper for Ring-tailed lemurs. The Population Management course is mandatory for anyone who is a studbook keeper. During the week, Dr. Grand engaged with professional colleagues who also manage captive breeding programs throughout the United States.

A studbook manager is responsible for maintaining an accurate database that allows detailed genetic and demographic analyses, recommending breeding decisions to enhance genetic diversity, and assessing the population status.

[Here is a short video of three of LCF's Ring-tailed lemurs, Sobe, Sassy, and Molson](#) being

released into the forest habitats after an introductory period in our enclosed habitat. Molson is recommended to breed with either Sobe or Sassy. Sobe and Sassy were transferred to LCF from the Duke Lemur Center. We expect that any infants born from this recommendation to be forest births.

" I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from some of the best and most experienced population biologists in the field. I am excited to start putting all my knowledge to good use and the timing of the training could not have been better, as we are approaching birthing season. For the 2013 season 20 breeding males and 33 breeding females were recommended for breeding, which means there will be a lot of new ring-tailed lemurs to add to the studbook.

It seems like it would be an easy task, but there are numerous challenges and it often takes the mind of a detective to work out some of the mysteries. For example, if a lemur is born into a group with multiple males who do you enter as the sire? Studbook school teaches you techniques to deal with these kinds of issues, ensuring that the population is properly managed. It is a challenging job, but it's also incredibly rewarding when you make an important new discovery about an individual or the population."

- Alison Grand, Ph.D.



Scenes from studbook school: L to R - Dr. Grand and colleague, Audra, Ed Runyon, Director of the Cape May Zoo, and instructor Gina Ferrie.



### **PABLO, OUR YOUNGEST LEMUR TURNS 6 MONTHS OLD**

Over the last 6 months he has gone from an adorable, shy shadow of his mother to a mischievous and inquisitive boy! He is growing at a healthy rate and gains weight as his appetite increases.

Pablo, a mongoose lemur (*Eulemur mongoz*), is learning a lot more about his environment and the social cues of his species as he grows and becomes more independent. The more he plays the more he learns...and he has become quite a playful lemur!

**Contact Info:**

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