



LEMUR
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

VIRTUAL TOUR

ESCAPING EXTINCTION

OVERVIEW & GUIDE



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

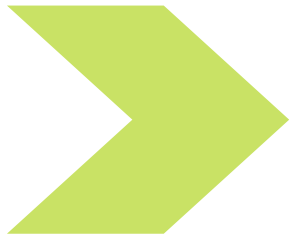
• LEMUR CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	1
• HISTORY	2
• LEMUR RESIDENTS	3
• MADAGASCAR	4

TOUR THE RESERVE

• IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE	5
• COMPATIBLE DEVICES	6
• ACTIVATE VR GLASSES	7
• ACTIVATE OCULUS QUEST HEADSET	9
• BUTTONS AND SYMBOLS	10
• FULL TOUR SCRIPT	11
• IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS	13

AWARENESS TO ACTION

• WHY LEMURS?	18
• TAKE ACTION TO SAVE LEMURS	19



INTRODUCTION

LEMUR CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

We are dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the primates of Madagascar through...



Managed Breeding. LCF plays a critical role in maintaining a genetic safety net for lemurs that are otherwise threatened with extinction in the wild.



Scientific Research. Many of our lemurs range freely in fenced forest habitats, inviting authentic behaviors and enabling observational research and field training.



Education. We work with teachers, educators, and students from kindergarten to college to promote a better understanding of lemurs and help foster an appreciation for the natural world.



Art. The artwork in LCF's permanent collection elicits emotion, understanding, and action about the challenges faced by lemurs. Paintings, sculptures, music, and stories - all of these art forms contribute to conservation.

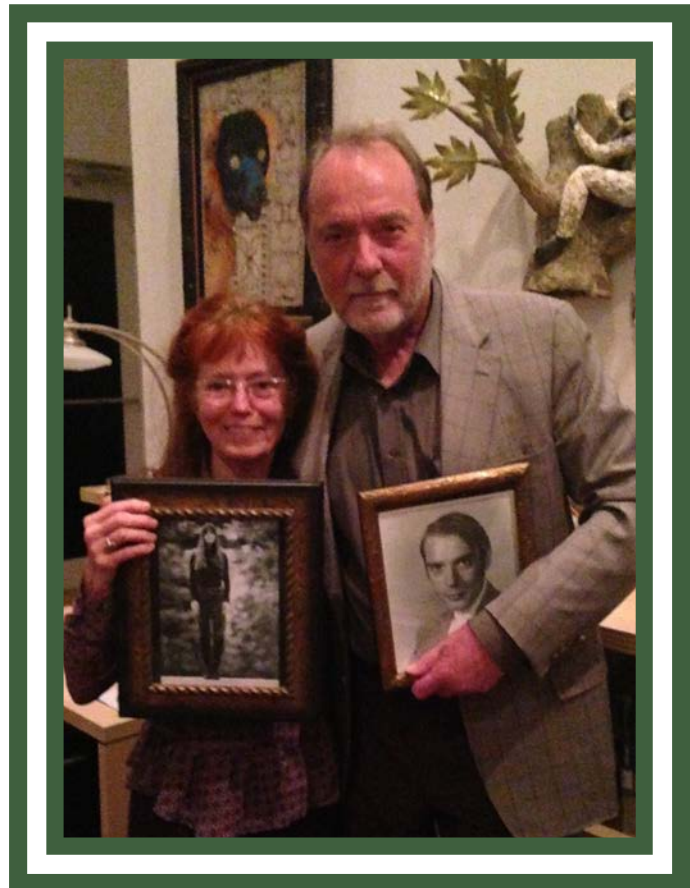
HISTORY

After traveling to Madagascar, Penelope Bodry-Sanders founded the Lemur Conservation Foundation in 1996.

Inspired to Action

Alarmed by the lemurs' threat of extinction and diminishing habitat, she was further inspired by Dr. Ian Tattersall, an expert on the biology and evolution of the primates of Madagascar and a colleague at the American Museum of Natural History.

Bodry-Sanders chose Myakka City, Florida for the reserve because it is below the frostline, allowing our lemurs to exhibit natural behaviors outside throughout the year. This distinction is unique to LCF.



Saving Species

Penelope's vision and leadership has guided LCF to become a respected voice for science, conservation, education, and art. Lemurs are an iconic image of the conservation challenges and environmental crisis facing Madagascar and the entire world today—**98% of lemurs are threatened with extinction in the wild.**

LEMUR RESIDENTS

The first 11 lemurs arrived at the reserve in 1999. Since then, over 150 lemurs have called the reserve home, including our current colony of over 50 individuals.

LCF's reserve has seen much growth since our original 40 acre purchase in Myakka City, Florida. Now encompassing 130 acres, this American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) certified private campus includes three multi-acre forest habitats and two lemur shelters with plans underway for expansion.

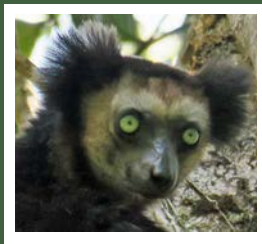
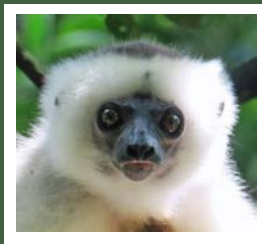


Five species reside at the reserve. Collared brown lemur (1), Ring-tailed lemur (2), Mongoose lemur (3), Common brown lemur (4), Red ruffed lemur (5).

MADAGASCAR

In addition to our Florida reserve, LCF also works on the ground with communities and conservation partners in Madagascar.

Our work focuses on Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve (ASSR) and Marojejy National Park located in northeastern Madagascar, together spanning 320 square miles of mountainous rainforests. At least 11 lemur species inhabit these World Heritage Sites, including some of the most critically endangered such as the silky sifaka and indri.



Above: Marojejy National Park summit

Left: Silky sifaka

Right: Indri

Although stunningly rich in biodiversity, Madagascar is exceptionally poor in almost every quality-of-life measure tracked by the United Nations and World Bank. Population is exploding, and most Malagasy live on less than \$2 per day.

LCF's conservation programs are helping to protect lemurs and their habitat.

Learn more about LCF's Madagascar programs on pages 12-14.

- Public health initiatives
- Ecotourism infrastructure
- Forest monitoring
- Lemur population surveys
- Student field trips to the forest
- Fish farm training
- Reforestation
- Fuel-efficient cook stoves



TOUR THE RESERVE

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

Dive into our interactive 360° tour and experience all aspects of LCF's work both in Florida and Madagascar.

As a private reserve, LCF's physical location is not open to the general public. This allows us to focus on providing a quiet and peaceful environment for our lemur residents to live as naturally as possible. Now, for the first time, you can experience the magic of the reserve in the comfort of your own home.

By truly seeing lemurs and the challenges they face today we can ensure the survival of these primates for generations to come. Visit our website to get started.



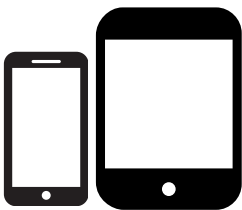
COMPATIBLE DEVICES

At LCF, we strive to provide accessible content. This interactive 360° experience is available on a variety of platforms; all you need is an internet connection and volume.

No audio? No problem! Feel free to read through the full tour script and image descriptions starting on Page 8.



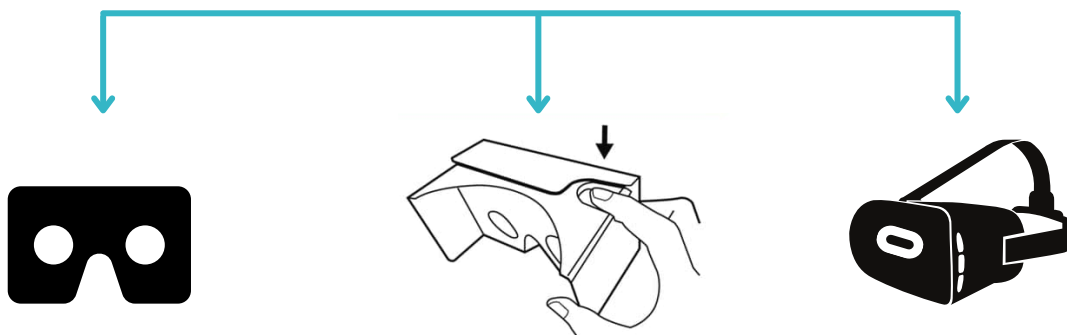
Computer. Simply click and drag the screen to look in any direction. Enjoy all 360° on any computer or laptop. Visit lemurreserve.org/tour to get started.



Smartphone & Tablet. This tour is available on both Android and iOS smartphones. Tablets, iPads, and other small internet devices are also compatible.

Virtual Reality Headset

Grab your headset and get ready to experience lemurs like never before. Visit LCF's online giftshop at lemurreservegiftshop.org to purchase your very own set of VR Glasses for your personal smartphone or access the experience on Oculus Quest headsets.



Google Cardboard
No button on headset.
Simply gaze at a hotspot and wait until the action is triggered.

Cardboard v2
This headset includes a button. Gaze at a hotspot and press the button to trigger its action.

Oculus
Catch every detail with the stunning clarity on the Oculus Quest 2 headset.

ACTIVATE VR GLASSES

Take your viewing experience to the next level by using a set of VR Glasses during the virtual tour. Purchase a pair of VR Glasses for your smartphone by visiting lemurreservegiftshop.org then follow the directions below to activate them.

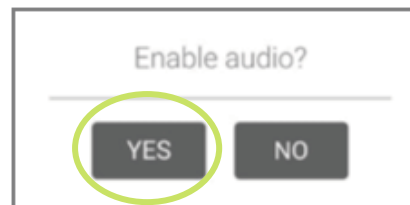
1

Visit our website at lemurreserve.org/tour.




2

Select "YES" to enable audio and take a moment to listen to the introduction.



3

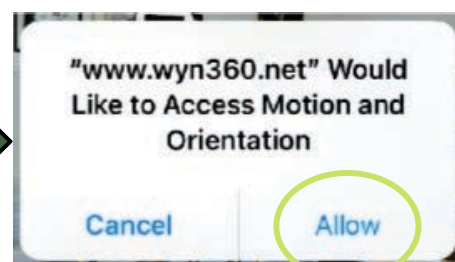
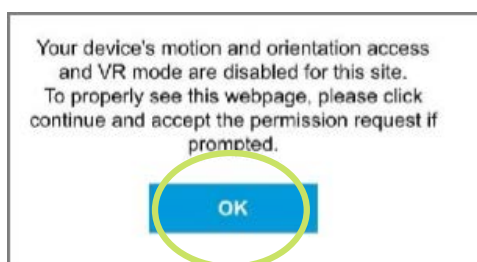
When you are ready, click the headset icon () located directly above the LCF logo.




4

If this prompt does not appear, continue to Step 5.

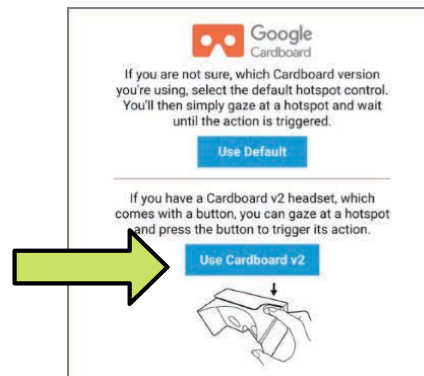
If this prompt appears, please enable motion and orientation access by selecting "OK" then "Allow."



5

If redirected back to the home screen, click the headset icon () again.

Then select the option "Use Cardboard v2."



6

Your VR Glasses have now been activated. Rotate your phone horizontally, and your screen should look like this.

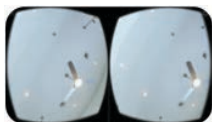


Uh oh, did something go wrong?

Take a look at the troubleshooting suggestions below.

I can only see the ceiling, what do I do?

Your phone is upside down. Try rotating your phone a full 180°.



There is no image at all!

Visit your phone settings and make sure "auto rotate" is enabled.




7

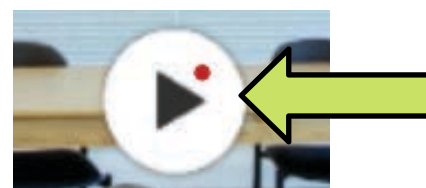
Slide the VR Glasses onto your phone.



Note: You may need to remove your phone case for the VR Glasses to fit properly.

8

Peer through the lenses and find the small white dot in the center of your screen. Line the dot up with the play button () and tap your phone screen to click.



Note: The dot will turn **red** to indicate when you can tap your phone screen to click an item.

ACTIVATE OCULUS QUEST HEADSET

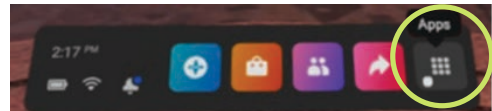
1

Power on your headset, and click the oculus button on the right controller.

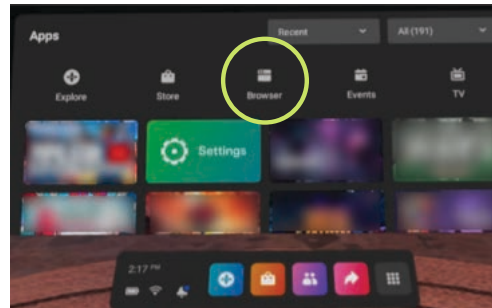


2

Select "Apps" on the menu using your trigger button.



Then select "Browser."



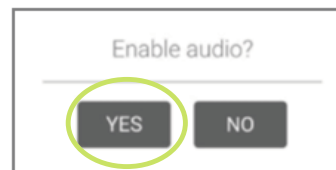
3

Visit our website at lemurreserve.org/tour.



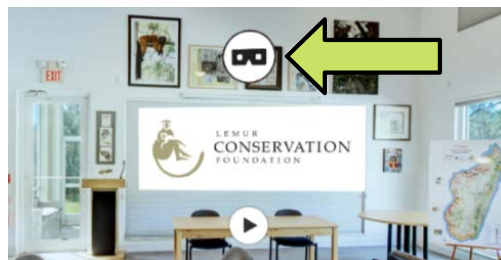
4

Select "YES" to enable audio and take a moment to listen to the introduction.



5

When you are ready, click the headset icon located directly above the LCF logo to immerse yourself. Then take a look around!



BUTTONS AND SYMBOLS

During this self-guided virtual tour, you will see a variety of symbols and clickable content to interact with.

Make sure to look in every direction along the way and click the following symbols to learn more.



Headset. Click to activate your VR headset and immerse yourself.



Information. Learn all about the art featured on the walls.



Arrow. Travel to different areas of the reserve to take a closer look



Drone. Fly to new heights with this aerial view of the reserve.



Audio. Hear more about the various locations on LCF's campus.



Video. Get up close & personal with some of our lemur residents.



FULL TOUR SCRIPT

[INTRODUCTION - IN LIBRARY]

Welcome to the Lemur Conservation Foundation where our actions are making a positive difference for the most endangered group of mammals on the planet. Scientists, researchers, students, and animal caretakers work together here at our 130 acre campus in Myakka City, Florida to protect lemurs from extinction.

[FOREST CANOPY PLATFORMS]

Our lemur residents are able to enjoy several large, protected forest habitats. With plenty of space, they can happily live in large family groups, climb high up in the trees and explore as if they were in the wild.

LCF is a private reserve which means we are not open to the general public. Instead, we focus on providing a quiet and peaceful environment for our lemurs to live as naturally as possible. Within the forests, visiting scientists can observe how the lemurs spend their time. With platforms built over 30 feet in the air, researchers have the thrilling opportunity to safely view lemurs traveling high up in the forest canopy.

[AERIAL PATHWAYS]

The lemurs have 24/7 access to the forest, but also to their shelter. They have free choice on where they want to spend their time. Each free-ranging forest is home to several species of lemur. Generally the groups keep to themselves, but every day brings new opportunities for the different species to socialize.

[LEMURS ON LOG PILE]

Unfortunately, lemurs are the world's most endangered group of mammals. At least 17 species of lemur have already gone extinct in relatively recent times, including a lemur that was as big as an adult male gorilla! Today, there are more than 100 different lemur species in Madagascar - the overwhelming majority of which are threatened, mainly by habitat loss. As of 2020, an astounding 33% of lemurs were classified as critically endangered. That's just one step away from extinction! It's up to all of us to bring about the change necessary to protect and conserve these vital primates.



[LEMURS ALONG PATHWAY]

It's easy to see why people are fascinated by lemurs. In some ways, they remind us...of us! Both lemurs and humans are primates. This means we share certain characteristics like thumbs, forward facing eyes, nails instead of claws, larger brains than most non-primates, and some species even have an affinity for sunbathing! Like us, many lemur species are social creatures. Some live in small families and others live in large communities. Lemurs provide scientists with clues about our earliest primate ancestors and how we came to differ from other species.

[LEMURS AT BASE OF TOWER]

Lemurs also act as one of the largest pollinators in the world! While looking for fruits and nectar, pollen sticks to their nose and fur. When the lemur moves on, pollen travels with them and helps to keep Madagascar's forests growing strong. Fruit-eating lemurs are also some of the most important seed dispersers in Madagascar. Without lemurs, many plants would struggle to survive, as well as the other animals that depend on them.

[NATALEE LEE QUAY LEMUR LOTUS TOWER]

The most iconic feature of this forest is the Natalee Lee Quay Lemur Lotus Tower. This functional art piece offers an amazing view of the entire reserve when you climb up to the top. Not only is this tower for scientists who can study the lemurs up in the trees, but it also serves as a fun climbing structure for the lemurs, almost like a jungle gym. Local artists designed the tower to resemble a lotus flower with blue petals up at the top. The lotus grows from the muck into the light, and so this art piece serves to remind everyone that there is still hope to save lemurs, even from the most challenging of circumstances.

IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS



"Mixed Lemurs"
Oil and Pencil
Barbara Sandler

By focusing on lemur anatomy, like their amazing human-like hands, this artwork by Barbara Sandler looks as though it could be a sketch from the diary of an early naturalist. People only arrived on the island of Madagascar a couple thousand years ago, and that's when lemurs started disappearing. The first solid print reference of lemurs occurred in the 1600s, and less than 400 years later they are on the verge of extinction.

"Red Lemurs" by Katharine McKenna was the very first painting in LCF's collection. The lemurs seem almost not to be attached to the tree as if they are losing their forest home. Red ruffed lemurs are critically endangered, and one of the species that LCF helps to protect at our Florida reserve. The artist communicates that these lemurs are at risk of losing their attachment to the vital habitat that helps them live and survive.



"Red Lemurs"
Oil Painting
Katharine McKenna



"Fragments"
Watercolor and Ink
Alexis Rockman

In this painting by Alexis Rockman, three creatures found only in Madagascar cling to the bare branches of a dying tree. If you look carefully, the lemur is literally out on a limb symbolizing its critically endangered status. At the very bottom, there are trucks hauling logs away from the remaining forests and half the painting looks blank and runny, showing that Madagascar is disappearing. The painting also hints at other places like India and the continent of Africa which are also suffering from habitat destruction.



"The First Family"
Pastel
Mary Fussell

Mary Fussell commemorated the first infant lemur born at the Florida reserve in 2002 with this pastel portrait titled "The First Family." Each and every mongoose lemur birth is cherished and inspires hope for this critically endangered species. This piece is a touching representation of LCF's managed breeding program which provides a safety net against extinction and helps lemur species survive well into the future.

This marvelous ceramic sculpture titled "Sifaka Lemur Hiding in Tree" was created by internationally renowned artist Kathy Ruttenberg. Moved by their plight, she created this sculpture to help LCF promote the beauty of these creatures. Using the organic material of clay and then firing it to freeze a moment in time gives us a snapshot in an ever-evolving world. This creates enormous empathy for lemurs, and encourages viewers to have joy in the habitat as it exists now.



"Sifaka Lemur Hiding in Tree"
Ceramic Sculpture
Kathy Ruttenberg



"Dans Mes Bras"
Oil Painting
Penelope Bodry-Sanders

Penelope Bodry-Sanders is the founder of the Lemur Conservation Foundation with a passion for 'art with teeth'. At first glance this oil painting appears beautiful and charming, but when you realize what you're seeing it bites you. Titled "Dans mes bras mes petit lemuriens," Penelope depicts the last two baby lemurs on the planet. In this world, Madagascar has disappeared and these infants are forced to live in a wet world where they are not able to survive. The lemurs' only companions are the little sea squirts at the bottom, and an octopus with outstretched arms who arrives to embrace and comfort them.



Overnight student field trips. Some of the children that live just outside of Madagascar's National Parks have never even seen a lemur. Programs like our 3 day 2 night field trips allow these kids to fully immerse themselves in nature, see unique lemurs, and walk away with an understanding of the importance of conservation.



Forest patrols. LCF leads monthly forest monitoring missions in the national parks with park rangers and local forest police. Our patrols are critical to identifying disturbances in the national parks, destroying bushmeat traps, and installing new park boundary signs.



Reforestation. With a dedicated team of staff, partners, and student volunteers, each year at least 25,000 seedlings are planted to help regrow habitat for lemurs in Madagascar. LCF supports tree nurseries that grow native plants like endangered rosewood and ebony trees, as well as plants like fruit trees and cash crops that benefit local people.



Fuel-efficient cook stoves. LCF transports and sells these rocket stoves built in Madagascar by ADES. They are longer lasting and use less wood and charcoal than conventional cooking methods resulting in less wood being harvested from nearby lemur habitat. LCF also installed these stoves for use at all tourist campsites in Marojejy National Park and Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve.



Ecotourism infrastructure. Supporting ecotourism is a key requirement of the IUCN Lemur Action Plan. Each year, LCF has completed major ecotourism infrastructure projects such as four new bungalows, a dining area, as well as toilet and shower facilities at Camp Mantella in Marojejy, the most visited campsite in the SAVA region.



LCF Madagascar team. LCF doesn't just work in Florida. Since 2016, we have had an office in the SAVA region of northeastern Madagascar where our dedicated team of full-time staff members work with conservation partners and local communities.



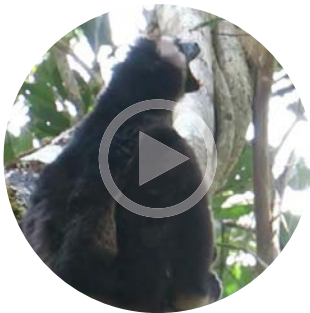
Marojejy summit. Our work in Madagascar mostly focuses on Marojejy National Park and Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve. Together both areas span about 320 sq miles of beautiful mountainous rainforest inhabited by at least 11 different species of lemurs.



Public health initiatives. LCF organizes voluntary family planning services in remote rural villages where nurses are in high demand. Through this Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) program, LCF is able to empower women and address Madagascar's unsustainable population growth which ultimately puts pressure on natural resources and precious lemur habitat.



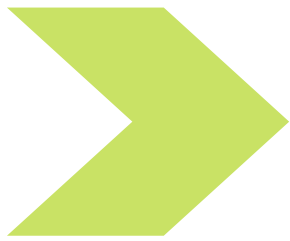
[VIDEO] Silky sifaka geophagy. Did you know that some lemurs occasionally eat dirt? This is called geophagy. These silky sifakas are one of the rarest mammals on earth and can be seen here descending to the ground to snack on some soil. By leading lemur population surveys and conducting research, LCF is able to create a better understanding of lemurs and their unique behaviors.



[VIDEO] Indri song. LCF established Camp Indri as an ecotourism destination where visitors can see Madagascar's largest living species of lemur in the wild. Indri are critically endangered, and they have a hauntingly beautiful song. LCF's nearby infrastructure includes tent shelters, a dining pavilion, covered picnic table, and even a shower building with running water!



[VIDEO] Agriculture. Farmers in Madagascar cut and burn down forests as a way to grow food. This practice is called slash-and-burn agriculture, however, the soil is only fertile for a short time before new forest must be cleared. Once there are no trees left to hold soil in place, the earth is washed away during the rainy season and the landscape is irreversibly damaged. As their forest homes disappear, lemurs are forced to live in smaller areas that no longer provide the space and food they need to survive.



AWARENESS TO ACTION

WHY LEMURS?

To inspire understanding and appreciation for the unique primates of Madagascar, we must first recognize the important role lemurs play and how we can take action to save them.

1

Contributors to Earth's biodiversity

Lemurs come in a vast array of shapes and sizes with astonishing adaptations and social structures allowing them to fill unique niches.

2

On the brink of extinction

Today, there are over 100 living lemur species on the island of Madagascar, the majority of which are threatened by habitat loss.

3

It's not too late to help

Our actions can make a positive difference for lemurs. The choices we make help create a hopeful future for these primates.

TAKE ACTION TO SAVE LEMURS

Partner with the Lemur Conservation Foundation to protect lemurs for generations to come. With nearly one-third of all lemur species considered critically endangered, there's no better time to get involved than right now.

Not only is saving these unique species critical, but protecting lemurs protects all the other flora and fauna that live in that same habitat. With 90% of all plants and animals on Madagascar found nowhere else in the world, saving lemurs directly connects to saving this island's incredibly biodiverse ecosystem.

Here are some simple ways to make a difference for lemurs.



SHARE

Tell your friends and family about the plight of lemurs. Urge them to support LCF and other organizations that are making a difference for lemurs and their habitats.



FOLLOW

Follow us on social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) and our website. It's a great way to keep in touch with all the work we are doing in Madagascar and Florida to help lemurs.



SHOP

Shop at ethically sourced companies that work in Madagascar. Chocolate and vanilla are shade grown crops that don't require destructive farming practices.



EDUCATE

Spread the word that lemurs are inappropriate pets. These are wild animals and keeping them as pets is very damaging to them as individuals and to the species as a whole.



CONSERVE

Support habitat conservation efforts in Madagascar and in your own backyard. Always remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle to help protect the Earth.



VISIT

If you are able, visit Madagascar as a responsible ecotourist. When you visit, make sure to avoid supporting businesses that use lemurs as photo props.



LEMUR
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

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**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

