

# Madagasikara Voakajy promotes conservation and sustainable use of Madagascar's biodiversity for the benefit of Malagasy people



Contact: [voakajy@voakajy.mg](mailto:voakajy@voakajy.mg)

Primate Society of Great Britain



Madagasikara Voakajy was created in 2005 to provide job opportunities for young Malagasy researchers. Over time, we have evolved to become an organization that provides opportunities for Malagasy biologists to become leaders in conservation. Nowadays, we use evidence-based interventions and stakeholder engagement to implement conservation programmes, which focus on a variety of species, such as baobabs, bats, reptiles, amphibians and lemurs, and their natural habitats.

**Our Vision:** Madagascar's endemic species are conserved and sustainably managed within their habitats and ecosystems by and for the benefit of Malagasy people.

## SPECIES AND CONSERVATION

### Research and conservation of lemurs



*Indri indri* **CR**



*Propithecus diadema* **CR**



*Eulemur fulvus* **NT**

We conduct research on the population status and threats to lemurs within the protected areas that we manage. Three lemur species are hunted by local people for food. We also use camera traps for very rare species such as the aye-aye. This lemur is considered malefic and killed by people when they observe it.

### Reptiles and amphibians

To protect these species, we created the Mangabe Forest Protected Area. Research is conducted on the distribution, habitat requirements and biology of many threatened frogs. Some of them are threatened by illegal collection for the pet trade.



*Mantella aurantiaca*

Critically  
Endangered CR



*Phelsuma pronki*

### Lake Tseny: freshwater biodiversity conservation



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*Paretroplus menarambo* **CR**

We work with local people around the lake which is now the only location of the pinstripe damba. We started captive breeding of this rare fish and now plan to release it back into the lake. Our research focuses on the distribution, biology and ecology of this species. We help the locals to manage the resources from the lake by giving them training and some materials.

## COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION

### Creating new protected areas

Since 2008, we have promoted seven new protected areas in eastern Madagascar. They have now been formally created by a decree from the Malagasy government. They are home to our target species and are co-managed by local people and the Ministry of Environment in Madagascar.

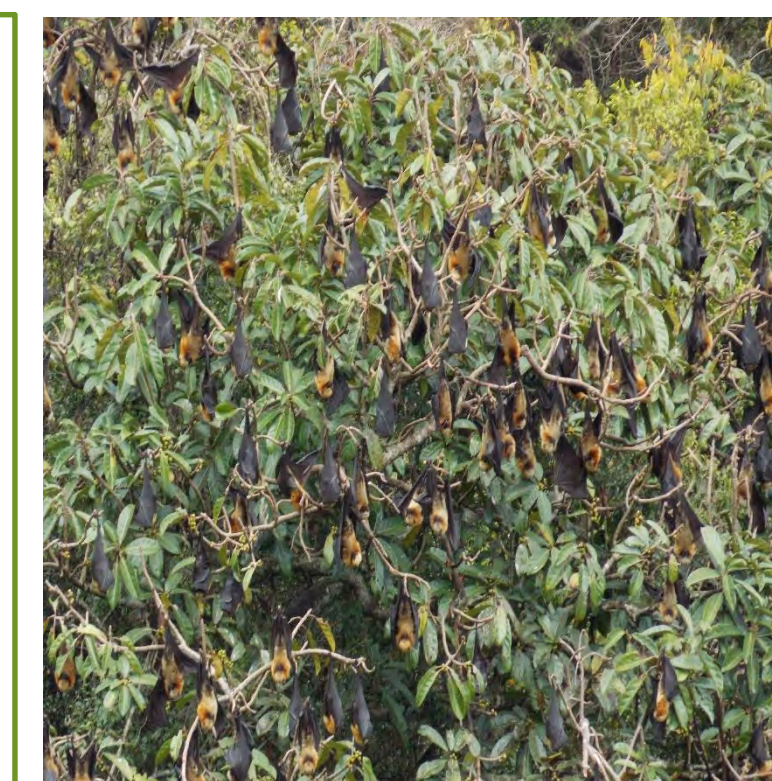


### Capacity building for community leaders and training patrollers.

The forest patrollers participate in ecological monitoring. Agricultural and livestock technicians work closely with us to provide training on modern crops and livestock.

### Conservation and research on bats

MV is the only organization actively promoting fruit bat conservation in Madagascar. We are creating five new protected areas dedicated to the three Malagasy endemic fruit bats: *Pteropus rufus*, *Eidolon dupreanum* and *Rousettus madagascariensis*. Loss of its roosting and feeding habitat is the main cause of the decline of *R. madagascariensis*. We have adopted a participatory approach with local communities for the conservation of this species of bat and also of forest fragments.



*Pteropus rufus*

### Promoting conservation and sustainable use of baobab trees

We focus on the distribution, population, threats, fruit production capacity, natural regeneration and sustainable use of this charismatic tree. MV takes the initial lead in managing the resource, but then transfers management to the local people.



### Management and sustainable use of resources

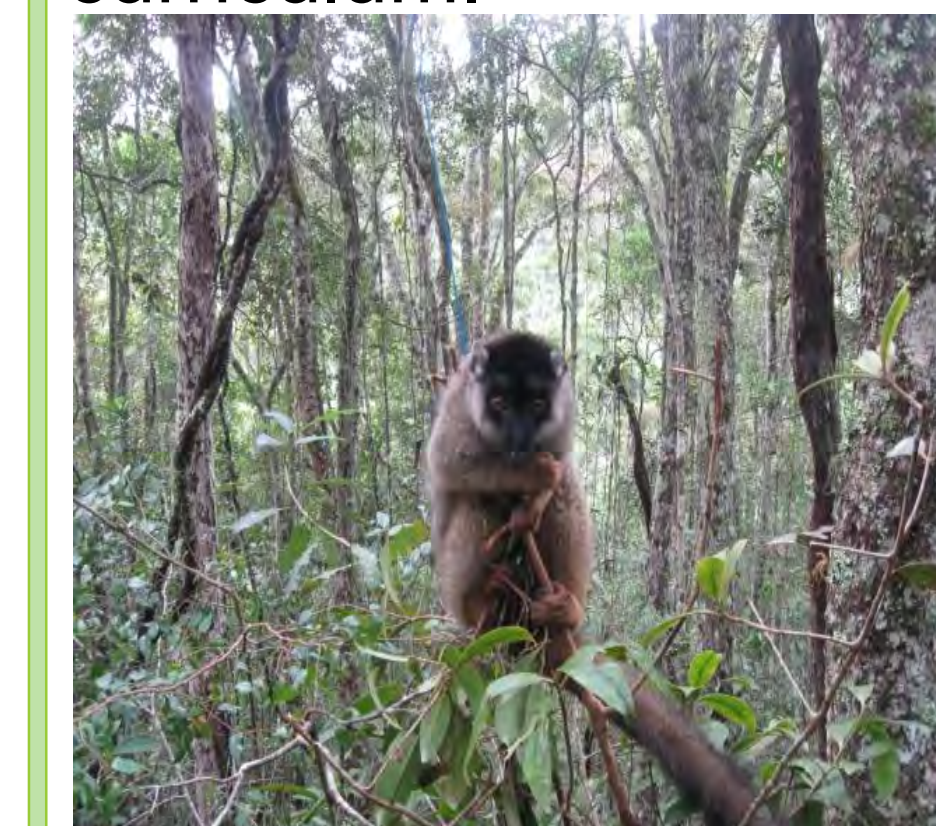
We work with the communities so that they learn the value of their resources. We also help with valorisation of the resources (e.g. transformation of fruits into less perishable products, such as jams, to, thereby, increase their value). We educate the communities about marketing and limiting the exploitation of fruits so they learn about sustainability of the resources.

## SUSTAINABILITY OUTREACH

### Education



We devote considerable effort and resources to raising people's knowledge about the environment and integrating these messages into the national curriculum.



Who consumes wild  
animals and why?



The vast majority of Malagasy people live close to natural ecosystems, practice hunting and consume bushmeat. Bushmeat is the most accessible source of protein. It is also a complementary, and sometimes the main, source of income for households. The exploitation and consumption of bushmeat is not explained simply by the lack of other types of meat, but by a complex set of factors that include financial constraints and preferences.

### Learning alternative livelihoods and agricultural techniques, for the love of lemurs » a.k.a "Youths for lemurs-Lemurs for youths"

The goal of this project is to educate youngsters about improving the conservation status of *Indri indri* and *Propithecus diadema* by encouraging local people to reduce forest destruction and hunting rate.



The teams of young lemur conservation ambassadors then drive the social and economic dynamics within each community-based organization around Mangabe Protected Area, inspiring all community members to work towards sustainable development.

We are grateful to the following organizations for collaboration and support:

