



CVB News

2023 Madaworks Scholars Selected



Photos courtesy of Hajanirina Randrianarivelo and Samuelo Onjaniana

Please join us in welcoming the 2023 Madaworks scholars! Last month, 10 young women from Ambalakindresy, Androy, Ranomafana, Kelilalina, and Ifanadiana received awards for their participation in the Madaworks program, which was started in 2015 to provide girls with the resources needed to continue their education through secondary school. This year's scholars are pursuing careers as doctors, judges, environmental managers, and more. Investing in girls' education can not only improve their standard of living for themselves and their families, but can also increase economic growth and development and empower them to make informed decisions and lead healthier lives.

CVB 'Creators and Connectors' Celebrated at the 2023 Safina Center Gala



Photo courtesy of Patricia Paladines

CVB's artist-in-residence Alain Rasolo and Ranomafana's Nature Center founder, educator and TV show host Erik Callender were celebrated at [The Safina Center](#) Annual Gala at the Explorers Club earlier this month for their contributions as Safina Center Fellows. SC Fellows are creators and connectors who address conservation, the environment and/or social justice issues around the world in unique ways. Dr. Kate Thompson, a former Safina Center Fellow, was in attendance to introduce this year's Fellowship recipients. Thanks to the Fellowship, Rasolo was able to establish an art gallery and studio, based at the entrance to Ranomafana National Park, where he [engages Malagasy and international visitors and school groups](#) in learning about local wildlife and the value of protecting it. Erik Callender was able to complete his PBS series [Menghayati!](#) which connects children and families to the natural world, including episodes filmed in Madagascar. In 2018, [Kate's dissertation work](#) took her to Madagascar to understand the principal drivers behind wildlife hunting and consumption. Congratulations to all the SC Fellows for the incredible work being done worldwide!

Support CVB for Giving Tuesday



Today, on [Giving Tuesday](#), an internationally-recognized day for celebrating and supporting nonprofits, please consider donating to Centre ValBio. Thanks to you, we achieved incredible progress in our education, restoration ecology, health, and research initiatives this year. Your support makes this work possible and we are deeply thankful for your generosity. Please help us continue to make a difference in 2024.

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Research Spotlight: Ivohiboro Protected Area

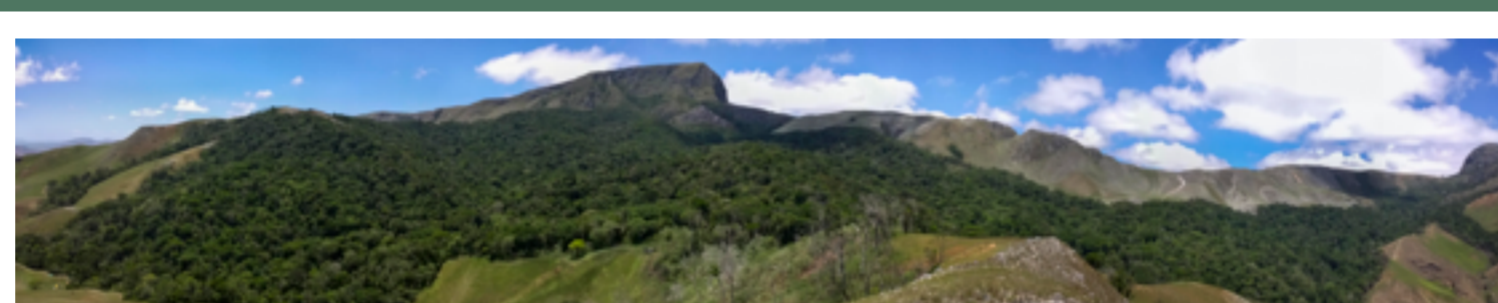


Photo courtesy of Noel Rowe

Last month, a team of 30+ biologists from 6 countries, including RIT, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the American Museum of Natural History, conducted a month-long biodiversity survey in the [Ivohiboro Protected Area](#), also known as the Lost Rainforest. The community-protected area was inaugurated this year and comprises nearly 3,700 hectares of humid forest in south-central Madagascar. The goal of the expedition, led by CVB Executive Director Dr. Patricia Wright and AMNH scientist Mai Fahmy was to assess the species diversity in the rainforest, describe species new-to-science, and use ingested DNA and environmental DNA to detect cryptic species. Herpetologists on the team explored the canopy and streams for reptiles and swabbed frogs for detection of chytrid fungus, a global disease lethal to frogs. AudioMoths, mist nets and camera traps were set up to observe and record potential new species of birds, lemurs, bats, and more. A documentary film crew from France Channel 5 filmed the science. Stay tuned for updates from the researchers themselves on our [social media!](#)



Photo courtesy of Mai Fahmy

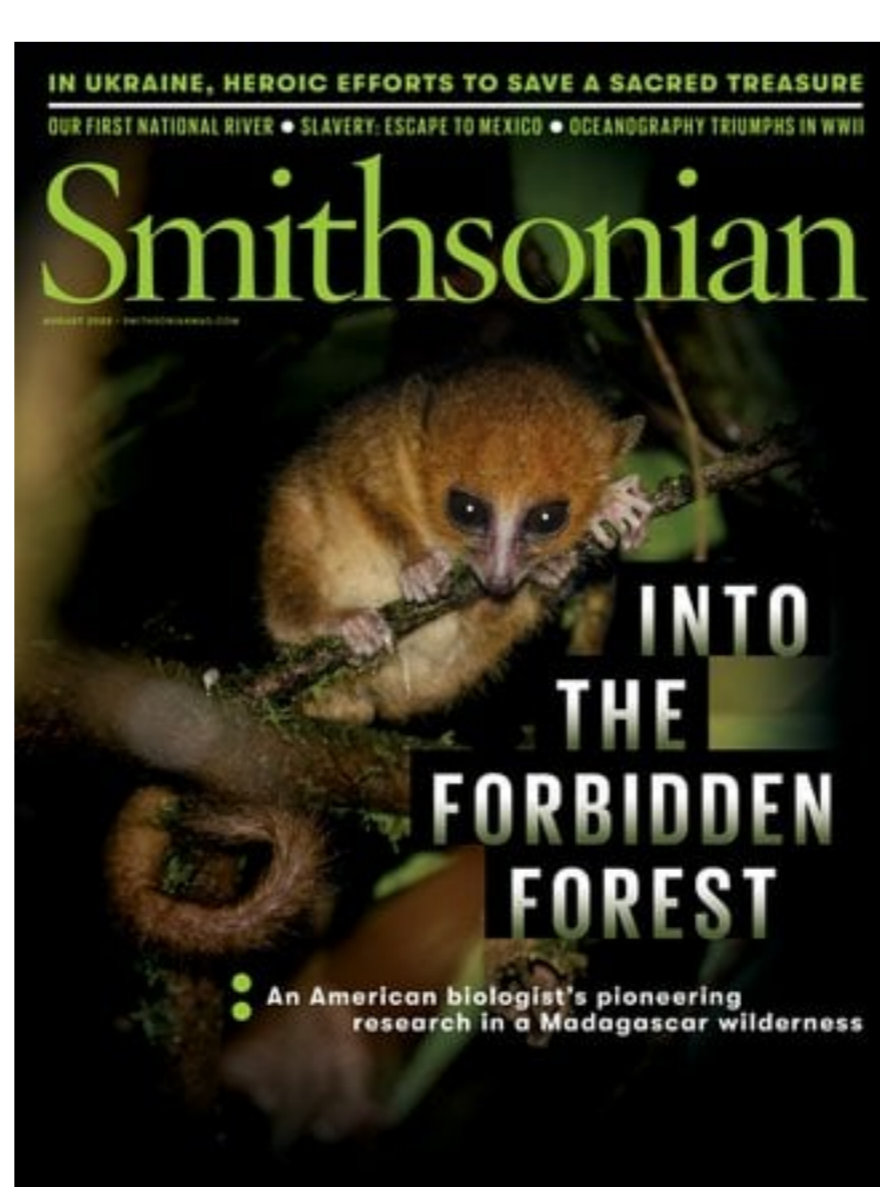
Past Research in Ivohiboro Protected Area

[Leech-derived iDNA complements traditional surveying methods, enhancing species detections for rapid biodiversity sampling in the tropics](#)

[Tardigrades of the Ivohibory forest \(south-central Madagascar\) with a description of a new Bryodelphax species](#)

[A surprising haven: The biodiversity of an old-growth forest amidst a scorched landscape in Madagascar](#)

Last year, Dr. Patricia Wright's efforts to protect the Ivohiboro Forest were featured on the cover of [Smithsonian Magazine](#).



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