



## Centre ValBio Newsletter

November/December 2024

### CVB News

#### Mural Painted in Ranomafana Village

Shawn Dunwoody, an award-winning artist from Rochester, New York, organized an artistic event at the Nature Center in Ranomafana village. Over 100 children participated in the painting of a mural around the center's outside walls.



The mural features a black-and-white ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata*) and "Ny fianarana no lova tsara indrindra," which is Malagasy for, "Education is the best legacy." Thank you, Shawn and Seneca Park Zoo, for this incredible gift.



*Photo credit: Lovasoa Razafindravony*

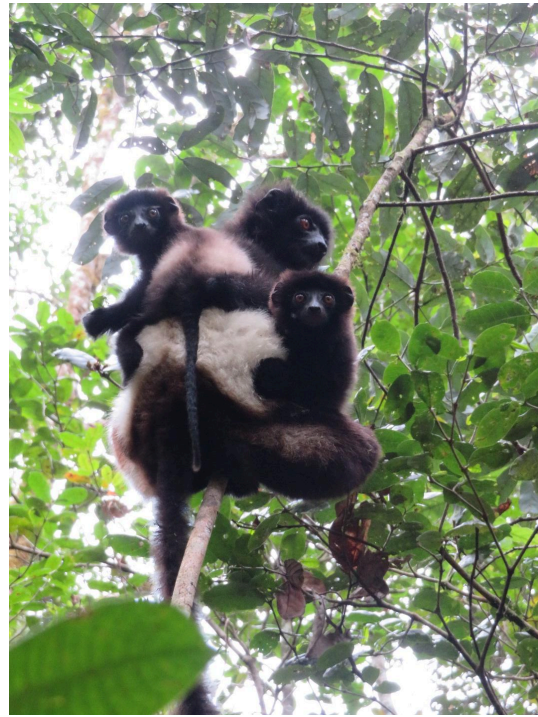
#### Update from the Field: Sifaka Infant Survival Research

MJ Ingmanson is collecting behavioral and social proximity data on Milne-Edwards' sifaka (*Propithecus edwardsi*) groups with multiple infants to assess survival differentials.

For six months, she has been following groups in both the pristine and disturbed forests to explore ecological and social factors affecting survival.

She has recorded extensive cooperative infant care in one Talatakely group, a rare phenomenon in this species. In Valohoaka, she has been following the saga of an

intruding male vying for a spot in the group and access to fertile females.



*Photo Credit: MJ Ingmanson*

## **Chief Operations Officer Transitions Out of Role**

Shin Shin Hsia (Xīn Xīn Xià) has transitioned out of her role as CVB's Chief Operations Officer.

We very much appreciate Shin Shin's successful efforts to get CVB protocols and policies in place for administration and finance. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

"It's been an honor to support the team and CVB this year," Shin Shin Hsia wrote in her farewell message.



*Photo Credit: Shin Shin Hsia*

## **Sponsor of the Conservation Warrior Award Visits CVB**

Claudia Weber, Seneca Park Zoo sponsor of the Conservation Warrior Award won by Dr. Patricia C. Wright, and her daughter, Stephanie, visited CVB for the first time. Tom Snyder of Seneca Park Zoo and Dr. Wright guided them to see the Tsingy and other lemur sites.



*Photo credit: Dr. Patricia C. Wright*

## **Ecosystem Stewards Take Cross-Country Trip**

The Ecosystem Stewards went on a cross-country trip from Ranomafana to Tulear with Patricia Paladines of ICTE/CVB, two guests, and Rabenahy Franck Naina. The Ecosystem Stewards are a group of young Malagasy adults who participated in CVB's Ecosystem Stewards workshop earlier this year, which is funded by Re:wild.

The goal of the workshop was to train young people living in the villages surrounding Ranomafana National Park with skills that would help them qualify for positions as research technicians, park rangers, tourist guides, and other biodiversity focused employment opportunities. There were over 200 applicants for 12 workshop slots.

After the successful completion of the three-month program, the applicants said they hoped for more opportunities to develop their English language skills.

Patricia Paladines engaged two friends to join her in providing the opportunity to CVB's newly minted Ecosystem Stewards. They would act as the English-speaking tourists the Ecosystem Stewards would guide during a cross-country trip normally taken by CVB's study abroad programs. Over the week, the Ecosystem Stewards became more confident in their English language skills.

"It is inspiring to be here with these young people who show such dedication to work toward understanding and protecting the unique wildlife of their beautiful Madagascar," said Patricia Paladines.



Photo credit: Patricia Paladines

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