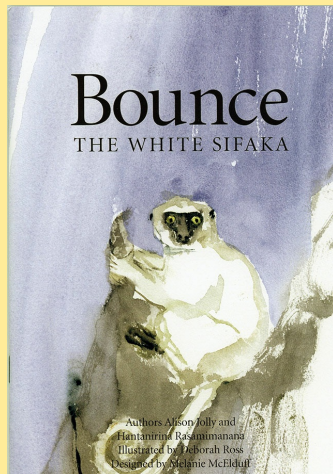
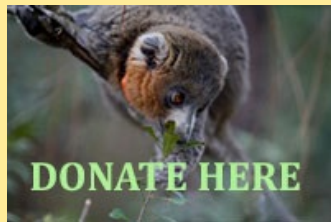




LEMUR CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

E-ulemur Latitudes
e-newsletter October 2013
www.lemurreserve.org



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Increased Poaching Reported

Madagascar Diary: Our colleagues doing field research in southwest Madagascar near the Tsimanampetsotsa National Park report dramatic increase in wildlife poaching.

Animals like Ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*), Verreaux's sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*), and the giant-striped mongooses (*Galidictis grandidieri*) are all being harvested. The poaching is in response to luxury market demands for bush meat, charcoal and timber in urban areas like Toliara, and not necessarily a result of rural village inhabitants hunting for subsistence food. There are complex links between poverty and threats to wildlife, discussed in this report from the International Institute for Environment and Development.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE REPORT](#)

Demand for bush meat appears to be driven by wealthier people, just like demand in the illegal wildlife trade is. In this model wealthier members of communities living near protected areas can present a bigger threat to conservation than poor ones, even though poorer ones, motivated to meet their own and their families physical needs, are the ones actually engaging in the environmental degradation.

[Madagascar in our Amazon store](#)

[Here is a link to the Foundation Center's recent paper "Investments to End Poverty, real money, real choices, real lives."](#)



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



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Here's a page from our Annual Report about the conservation status of lemurs:



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Conservation

IUCN Conservation Status Report for Lemurs

In 2012 leading conservationists and researchers, including LCF Scientific Advisory Council member Dr. Erik Patel, met in Madagascar to re-assess the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) 'red list' for each species of lemur. The 'IUCN Red List of Threatened Species' reflects the conservation status of fragile flora and fauna around the world. The 2012 assessment documented 91% of the world's lemur species as 'Critically Endangered,' 'Endangered,' or 'Vulnerable.' According to Dr. Russell Mittermeier, President of Conservation International and Chairperson of the IUCN Primate Specialist Group, lemurs are the most threatened primate on earth. (Learn more here: discover.iucnredlist.org)



Until 2009 Madagascar made important strides toward protecting the country's legendary biodiversity. Under President Ravalomanana's leadership (2002-2009) several progressive conservation policies were developed and put into practice. His government designated 10% of Madagascar's land as protected parks and established eco-tourism initiatives. In 2009, a military coup ousted President Ravalomanana. Since the coup political instability has resulted in a dramatic increase in deforestation and poaching.

Because the 2008 IUCN red list assessments of lemurs occurred prior to the political coup and the increase in illegal logging and poaching it was considered urgent to reevaluate the conservation status of the 103 lemur species. Today Dr. Mittermeier notes that Madagascar has the most endangered primates of any single country in the world. It is at the head of charts usually measured in terms of continents or global regions.



Lemurs included on the list of the World's 25 Most Endangered Primates are *Microcebus berthae* (Madame Berthe's mouse lemur), *Eulemur flavifrons* (Slater's black lemur), *Lepilemur septentrionalis* (Northern sportive lemur), *Propithecus candidus* (Silky sifaka), *Indri indri* (Indri), and *Varecia rubra* or the Red ruffed lemur.

LCF holds four male and one female red ruffed lemur in our collection. The Red Ruffed Lemur is included among the top 25 endangered primates in the world because of its small distribution range that is under severe threats of hunting and habitat loss.



[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE about strategies to save lemurs from extinction in the IUCN's report: 'LEMURS OF MADAGASCAR - A Strategy For Their Conservation 2013-2016'](#)



Red ruffed lemur (*Varecia rubra*) at the Myakka City Lemur Reserve. photo by Ann Foster



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Contact Info:

LCF Executive Director & CEO

Lee Nesler

941-322-8494