



Centre ValBio Newsletter

September/October 2025

CVB News

World Lemur Day in Ranomafana

We celebrated World Lemur Day locally in Ranomafana on October 30 and 31. We hosted a special visit to Ranomafana National Park for local villagers who have never been, aiming to strengthen their personal connection to the forest.



The main celebration happened the second day of our celebratory activities in Ranomafana village. The morning kicked off with a grand parade, followed by a small fair featuring educational booths for school children and the entire community.

Our goal is to boost local awareness, promote responsible ecotourism, and strengthen community engagement in conservation.

This was fruit of a collaboration between co-organizers Madagascar National Parks, Centre ValBio, and the Ranomafana Commune. Partners contributed from Ranomafana Comité de Fete, the Arboretum, Projet Pôles Intégrés de Croissance - PIC Madagascar, and local schools. Officials were invited to attend the event.

Photo credit: Chloé Decobert

"Preserving Knowledge of Endemic Species in Madagascar Through Storytelling" video series now on YouTube

The video series, "Preserving Knowledge of Endemic Species in Madagascar Through Storytelling" is on YouTube, with new episodes being released every week. Centre ValBio's Research Techs are currently being featured.



Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) for upcoming episodes on our local Tour Guides.

Meet RAZAFINDRAIBE Dominique (above) in a [recent episode](#). He started working as a research technician in Ranomafana National Park in 2000. He has worked in the research department at Centre ValBio for over 20 years. Dominique specializes in primatology, ornithology, herpetology, and botany. One of the plants he discovered in Ranomafana is now in the Herbarium at Centre ValBio.

The series was produced in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is funded by University of Arizona, School of Anthropology and WISE Tropics. It is produced by Stacey Tecot, a professor in the School of Anthropology at University of Arizona. It is edited by Explorer Home Madagascar.

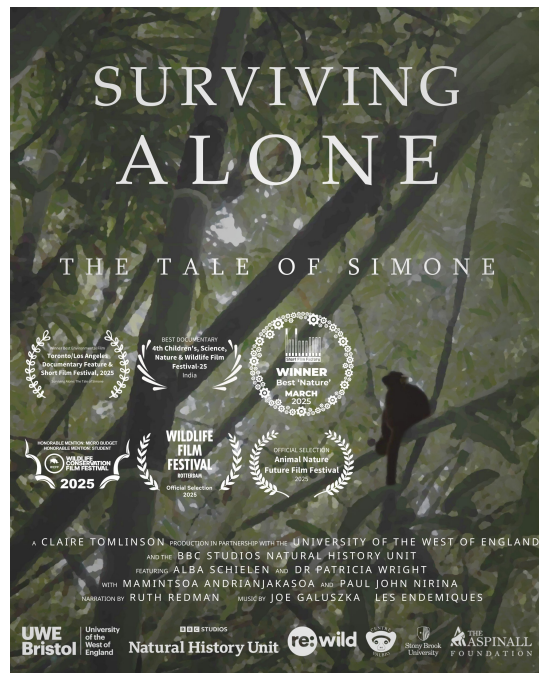
Watch the "Storytelling" video series on YouTube

Surviving Alone: The Tale of Simone

The award-winning wildlife documentary, *Surviving Alone: The Tale of Simone*, has earned multiple nominations at film festivals around the world.

Surviving Alone follows Simone, the last Greater Bamboo Lemur in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar. Simone is a naturally sociable primate, but she has been living in isolation for over three years.

The film is told through the eyes of Dr. Patricia Wright and researcher Alba Schielen. It explores Simone's moving struggle for companionship, survival, and the impact of a vanishing rainforest.



Watch "Surviving Alone: The Tale of Simone" on YouTube

Photo credit: Claire Tomlinson

IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi

Dr. Patricia Wright, Benjamin Andriamihaja and Jonah Ratsimbazafy and 41 other Malagasy representatives, including the head of the Madagascar Trust for the National Park Service and the representative for the Ministry of Environment, traveled to Abu Dhabi for the IUCN World Conservation Congress on October 9-15, 2025. The Congress is a gathering of conservation experts from around the world.



Dr. Russ Mittermeier (pictured with Dr. Patricia Wright) has been Chairman of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Primate Specialist Group since 1977 and is involved with Centre ValBio.

Photo credit: Dr. Patricia C. Wright

Remembering Jane Goodall

Dr. Jane Goodall was the mother of primatology, of following primates in the wild and a symbol of cherishing our closest relatives, the chimps.

Jane has been an inspiration for so many young women to follow their dreams, including me. She gave us hope, hope that Nature would be preserved and primates would be valued to the fullest.

Jane, we will miss you.

- Dr. Patricia Wright



Photo credit: Noel Rowe

Current Affairs in Madagascar

There has been civil unrest and a governmental transition in Madagascar, and we have heard from many of you expressing your concern as to the impact of these events on the Centre. We thank you for your concern, and are very glad indeed to announce that all station personnel and visitors are safe at this time, as they have been throughout the crisis.



While most normal research activities have continued, several aspects of work at the station are being impacted. We rely on the station fees of visitors to and researchers at Centre ValBio to support many of our activities. Due to the civil unrest and subsequent change in government, many Madagascar-bound travelers have canceled their flights. This leaves Centre ValBio facing an uncertain shortfall of funds in the short-to medium-term – a somewhat precarious circumstance that we would like to stabilize as soon as possible, for the sake of our staff, community,

and mission. If you are interested in supporting Centre ValBio through this period, [please click on this link](#) to donate.

Your participation in the continued success of Centre ValBio allows us to do our critical work under any – and all! – circumstances. Thank you for being a supporter.

Support Centre ValBio

Photo credit: Noel Rowe

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Annual Report 2024



Centre ValBio

- USA -

Stony Brook University
SBS Building, 2nd Floor, Room N-203 Stony
Brook, NY 11794-4310

For info, please contact the [ICTE/CVB
Program Coordinator](#)

- Madagascar -

BP 33
Ranomafana, Ifanadiana 312

[\(+001\) 631-632-3278](#)

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