

IPS - Lawrence Jacobsen Education Development Grant Application

Please complete the following application in the space provided. The application along with a 1-page vitae of the principal investigator should not exceed 6 pages. Font should be no less than 12pt. Please direct any questions regarding your application or this award to Dr. Patrícia Izar (patrizar@usp.br).

Application Due: March 1st

Name

Last: RASOAMANANA First: Elysée Middle Initial: N.

Project

Title of Proposed Project: Raising awareness for the conservation of *Lemur catta* in the surrounding area of Mangily, Madagascar.

Contact Information

Address: **ONG Reniala BP 58 Tuléar 601 Madagascar**

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Provide a 200 word summary of your proposal:

Reniala is a local conservation and developmental NGO, found in the Mangily area, 27km from the city of Toliara, in south-western Madagascar. The Lemur Rescue Center (LRC), is situated within in the 60 ha Reniala Nature Center, and we operate the only rehabilitation center for *Lemur catta* in Madagascar. The lemurs at our centre have been rescued from the illegal pet-trade in the Toliara region. Currently, the population of wild *L. catta* is rapidly decreasing and could soon disappear (Gould and Sauther, 2016; LaFleur *et al.*, 2016). According to these authors, there are only 2000 to 2500 *L. catta* at known sites in the wild. In 2016, IUCN ranked *L. catta* as one of the 25 most endangered primates. The threats to *L. catta* survival are live capture for the illegal pet trade, habitat destruction and poaching for bushmeat. We believe that awareness and environmental education of local village communities can result in a change in attitude towards lemurs, especially *L. catta* which is endemic to the area. In the area around LRC, there is still a great deal of illegal trafficking in wildlife, consumption of lemurs, and the destructive use of forest resources, e.g. timber harvesting and coal production. We propose, via a number of activities, to help raise local awareness of the value of *L. catta* and the remaining forests in the region. With the support of the Malagasy government, we propose to offer environmental education activities for both children and adults in the region. Our goal is to raise the awareness among local villagers regarding environmental problems and issues in the region, and emphasize how conservation programs can help both humans and wildlife in this part of Madagascar.

1. Describe the purpose of this request. Provide detail on the conservation need and the educational objectives. (1/2 page maximum)

The objective of this project is to combat poaching and the consumption and maltreatment of lemurs, particularly *L. catta*, and to raise awareness among local communities regarding conservation of natural habitat in the region.

In the surrounding areas of Mangily, illegal live capture of lemurs for the pet trade is still common. In some villages the population uses lemurs as bushmeat. There is also a significant degradation of the forest due to excessive wood removal and the production of charcoal. One of the reasons for this situation is the lack of environmental education within school curriculum. Added to this, there is a low rate of formal (school) education among the entire population.

In this project, we aim to educate children and adults on the scientific and socio-economic values of Malagasy biodiversity with a view to preserving and protecting lemurs and their natural habitats. The specific objectives of environmental education are to address (1) the importance of conserving the forest and its biodiversity, (2) the impact of the destruction of lemur habitat in the remaining forests, and to preserve these forests for future generations, (3) to educate local people concerning the essential ecosystem services that the forest provides, and (4) to emphasize the interdependence of human well-being with a healthy ecosystem. We also aim to run education workshops that will address (5) the different approaches needed for sustainable forest management and (6) Forestry legislation and legislation relating to the maintenance of lemurs in captivity.

2. What methods will be used to implement the program? Please provide specific details. (1/2 page maximum)

The activities to be carried out will be divided into two parts: for adults (teachers, local associations, and local administrative staff) and for children (students in public and private schools).

For adult activities, we are planning awareness sessions on the following themes:

- Current forestry conservaiton legislation (government legislation)
- Legislation relating to the use and exploitation of natural resources from the forest
- Illegality of keeping lemurs as domestic animals (pets)
- Educating local people about *L. catta*—by presentation of posters describing the characteristics of *L. catta*, other lemurs present in the area of intervention and threats to lemurs in general.
- Dissemination of a documentary film directed by the NGO Reniala on the captivity conditions, survey and care of *L. catta* in the LRC (in Malagasy).

During these training workshops, we will foster a participatory approach to all participants and provide them with reading material about the workshop topics

For students, the planned activities consist of

- Creative classroom workshops. We will distribute leaflets showing behaviors to do and not to do with lemurs, a booklet with drawings and small stories, and production of school materials speaking about lemurs. As a result of these activities, the class will have a certificate of "guardians of lemurs" granted by the NGO Reniala.
- Visits to Reniala parks to develop the love of nature among schoolchildren.

During these workshops we will adopt a participative and pedagogical approach with the students.

3. What methods will be used to evaluate the success of your program?

We will evaluate the success of the program by the number of persons per village who attend and participate in these educational workshops, per age group and per function category.

For adults, evaluation sheets will be distributed for the level of understanding of the training courses. For the children, learning games and a questionnaire will allow to evaluate what the students have understood and acquired as knowledge after each segment of the workshop.

4. Describe the potential conservation impact.

The main conservation impact anticipated from this project is a change in the mentality of the local population, and how it considers lemurs. More specifically, the expected results are

- Childrens and adults are informed and aware of the environmental problems and issues of urgent conservation of biodiversity and protection of lemurs.
- A decrease in pet lemurs and the illegal pet trade in the region
- A decrease in hunting, trade, and the use of *L. catta* as bushmeat

5. Provide a timeline for the education initiative.

Activity	Timeline																			
	1				2				3				4				5			
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Training Preparation	█	█	█																	
Environmental education (Mangily)					█	█														
Environmental education (Ifaty)									█	█										
Environmental education (Belalanda)													█	█						
Evaluation of activities							█				█				█	█				
Report																	█	█		

6. **Budget** – Please provide detailed information for all expenditures not to exceed \$1500.00. Do you have additional funds for this program? If so, please list funding sources and amounts.

Designation	Description	Quantity	Unit price (dollar)	Amount (dollar)
Training allowance (adult)		100	5	500
Training support (adult)	Posters, workbooks, information leaflets and pens	100	0,35	35
Fuel for generator		40l	1,2	48
Production of educational support (student)	leaflets, certificates	20		300
Supply for student	drawing book, pencils	180	1,2	216
Refreshments for students	Juice, biscuits	180	0,8	144
Supply	Paper, ink			100
Travel fuels				100
Video projector rental	for film documentary	4	10	40
			Total	1483

(Optional Section)

Conservation through Community Involvement (CCI)

If you plan to include community conservation in your program you may be eligible for an additional award of \$500 to support these initiatives. Please describe your Community Conservation Initiative (CCI) component below, addressing how these funds will be used and how this will impact conservation in your region. For more information on CCI and suggested CCI practices, please see the Guidelines for Conservation through Community Involvement posted in the publications section of the IPS website. (Do NOT exceed the space provided here. If you are not applying for CCI funds, write "Not Applicable.")

Not applicable

**Send this application with a 1-page vitae of the principal investigator to:
Dr. Elizabeth Lonsdorf (Elizabeth.lonsdorf@fandm.edu).**