**GRANT PROPOSAL**

1. **General project information**
   1. **Project title**

Enhancing long-term protection of lemur endemic species in forest of Andilambologno unprotected area

* 1. **Focal species**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Scientific name(s)** | **Common name(s)** | **IUCN Red List status (regional/local status)** |
| *Eulemur flavifrons* | Blue-eyed black lemur | Critically Endangered |
| *Hapalemur occidentalis* | Northern bamboo lemur | Vulnerable |
| *Mirza zaza* | Northern giant mouse lemur | Vulnerable |
| *Cheirogaleus medius* | Fat tailed dwarf lemur | Vulnerable |

* 1. **Geographic location**

Country: Madagascar

Region: Sofia, western Madagascar

Village: Mahitsihazo

Project sites: Andilambologno forest ( E 048°03’899’’ S 14°17’045’’)

* 1. **Project duration: 3 years**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.6 Requested costs** (€) | **Total project costs** (€) |
| 2026: 23 000 USD  2027: 23 000 USD  2029:23 000 USD | 69 000 USD for 3 years |

* 1. **Project team**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Affiliation** | **Project role** | **Contact (email)** |
| Sylviane Volampeno | Mikajy Natiora Association/ Part-time lecturer at the University of Antanananrivo/ member of GERP | Principal Investigator | [sylvianevolampeno@gmail.com](mailto:sylvianevolampeno@gmail.com) |
| Guy Randriatahina | Mikajy Natiora Association | Project Coordinator | [guyrandriatahina@gmail.com](mailto:guyrandriatahina@gmail.com) |
| Tsiory Rakotomalala | Mikajy Natiora Association | Field staff | [rehitomahavy@gmail.com](mailto:rehitomahavy@gmail.com) |

* 1. **Project summary**

Madagascar is considered one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots ranking among the top 5-6 megadiversity countries. This island is also among the top 12 priority countries for biodiversity conservation and the second highest on the world list of primate species diversity. For its size (587.000 km²), Madagascar possesses a high diversity of both plants and animals. About 15.000 species of plants exist in Madagascar, 83% of which are endemic. The 112 species of palm that exist in Madagascar represent a quarter of the whole world’s species (Rubel et al. 2003). Fifty-one percent of birds, 92% of reptiles, 99% of amphibians, and 100% of lemurs are endemic. Despite the high level of endemism among plant and animal species, the island is facing a major biodiversity threat from development. In particular, the forest is threatened by deforestation for slash and burn agriculture and logging.

The blue-eyed black lemur has a restricted distribution, found only in the northwestern region of Madagascar. The Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park is its only protected habitat, but this species also occurs in unprotected forests, including the adjacent Andilambologno forest. As the Andilambologno forest remains unprotected and no lemur conservation actions have been undertaken, it is crucial to implement a lemur conservation project within this forest to advance the conservation of this lemur species and to ensure the protection of its forest habitat.

Many species of lemurs still face multiple threats outside the parks. Mikajy Natiora is a Madagascar-based conservation non-profit association and is working to protect these lemur species outside the park. These species include the blue eyed black lemur (CR), gentle lemur, northern giant mouse lemur. We are engaged in preserving lemurs and their habitats with the community through Education and Community Development.

Securing long-term funding is critical for the success of lemur conservation initiatives especially when compared to short term (e.g one year) grants. Lemurs are long-lived primates with slow reproductive rates and many conservation outcomes such as changes in population trends, threat reduction or forest regeneration requires years of consistent effort to become measurable. Long-term funding ensures stability in program implementation allowing organisation conservation to retain experienced staff, maintain community relationship and avoid disruptions that can undermine progress. It also enables effective engage with local communities, whose trust and participation are vital for sustainable conservation. Behavioural change such as reducing lemur hunting or shifting agricultural practices takes time and cannot achieved through one-off awareness campaigns. Scientifically, one year data collection is necessary to detect trends assess conservation impact and adapt strategies as needed. From a management perspective, long-term grants reduce the administrative burden of frequent fundraising and reporting allowing more resources to be allocated to the field. Moreover, long term funding aligns better with international biodiversity targets and conservation frameworks that emphasize sustained. Strategic action over decades. Overall, investing in long-term support is essential for meaningful lasting protection of Madagascar’s lemur.

1. **Project structure and logic**
   1. **Project background and threats**

Madagascar is also among the top 12 priority countries for biodiversity conservation and the second highest on the world list of primate species diversity. Unfortunately, the biodiversity including lemurs is threatened due to ongoing threats including slash-and-burn agriculture, selective logging, uncontrolled fire, illegal mining, and hunting. As a result, the majority of the lemur species are now threatened, about 95%, are classified as critically endangered and endangered. Lemur species are important ecologically, scientifically, and economically. They play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of the island's ecosystems; and help in the forest's regeneration and the forests' health. In addition, lemurs are also a major attraction for ecotourism in Madagascar.

Due to the restriction of the distribution of the Madagascar sacred ibis, little activity has been undertaken on this species. This species occurs within the mangrove habitats along the western coast of Madagascar. It has been reported that the Madagascar sacred ibis is threatened by the anthropogenic activities including destruction of mangrove habitat for production of charcoal and house construction; collection of eggs and hunting. Our team had witnessed collection of chicks previously. Madagascar is home to 2% of the world's mangroves and this represents the second largest extent of mangroves of any country in the western Indian Ocean. Mangroves play an essential ecological role in providing home for various species, preventing soil erosion and protecting coasts from tidal waves and storms. Despite their importance, human activities are rapidly degrading and deforesting mangroves around the world. Mangrove ecosystems also provide essential goods and services to coastal communities. These coastal communities have exploited the mangrove for many years and without doubt they depend on the mangrove resources. Protection of the mangrove means protection of the Madagascar sacred ibis. The Madagascar sacred ibis cannot live without the mangrove and the coastal communities also cannot survive without the mangrove and its resources. They are still unaware of the immediate threats facing the Madagascar sacred ibis and the consequences of the mangrove destruction.

* 1. **Overall goal**

Ensuring sustainable conservation of the target species and its habitat and the well-being of the local communities surrounding the target species’ habitat.

* 1. **Intended project impact**

- Gathering comprehensive data on the populations and habitat quality of the blue-eyed black lemur and Northern bamboo lemur in order to develop adaptive and effective conservation strategies.

- Ensuring the protection of the target species ‘habitats through reinforcement of forest patrolling

- Developing sustainable livelihoods that benefit local communities economically while reducing pressure on natural resources.

- Implementing health services, when people are in good health, they devote more time and energy to productive activities and to protecting the environment

- Enhancing local community awareness and understanding of conserving the blue-eyed black lemur and northern bamboo lemur and their habitats.

1. **Project Methods**
   1. **Project methodology**

**Lemur survey**

Line transect will be used to determine the population estimate of the blue-eyed black lemur species. Line transects have been reported to be a suitable and rapid method to estimate forest primate densities (Brockelman & Ali 1987). Four (4) transects will be followed and the transect length will depend on the forest fragment size. During observation, we collect date and time, GPS waypoints, group size, group activity, height of tree where the animal is found.

**Forest patrolling**

To control the human pressures, forest controlling should be increased. Two additional community members will be recruited and will be joined the current three (2) local rangers. They will be trained in simple patrolling techniques including infraction data collection, use of equipment (GPS, Camera). Routine foot daytime patrol will be conducted by a team of 2 people. They will record type, quantity and location of illegal activity encountered within the forest. Patrol time will not be fixed to avoid patrol patterns becoming too predictable for the people who exploit the forest. In total, four (4) people will be in charge of the forest patrolling but they will work on a rotational schedule. The rangers make report to us every month.

**Development of alternative livelihoods**

Lack of income-generating activities incite local community collect natural resources within the forest. We will improve livelihoods of people. The existing livelihoods activities such as fast-growing crops and poultry farming will be expanded to reach more households. Vulnerable households that have single parents or do not have their source of income will be prioritized. These activities are already responding to the needs of the local community. The head of the village will help us with the identification of beneficiaries. To evaluate the progress of this activity, we will carry out monitoring every three months.

**Implementation of Heath services**

With no health center in the village, patients cannot be treated in time. We plan to improve health care in the village. Prior the implementation of this activity, we will make a collaboration agreement with the hospital. We will conduct a courtesy visit with the local stakeholders such as the mayor and head of villages to inform them. A free medical consultation will be carried out every two months. The health service team will include a doctor and a midwife. During the medical consultation, the doctor will diagnose illness that are frequent and common in the region and the midwife will examine pregnant women. We will provide medicines to the patients. In case of complicated disease, the doctor will provide a letter for hospital admission. At each medical consultation, we will record the number of patients; age-sex classes and type of disease.

**Education and community outreach**

One of the reasons why biodiversity is threatened is that the population is deprived of knowledge about biodiversity. The aim is to raise awareness among local communities of the importance and necessity of protecting the lemur and its forest habitat. We will collaborate with the local stakeholders and schools for the implementation of this activity.

We will develop various materials for all age-sex classes. The activities will include: Lemur PowerPoint presentation and film documentary projection about the forest and lemur protection; distribution of T-shirts, posters and sarongs, calendars carnival; environmental quiz, village cleanup and sketches. We will be conducted activities during the celebration of environmental events such as Earth Day, World Environmental Day, Lemur Day, and International Biodiversity Day, Mangrove Day. Number of awareness sessions over the project period will be recorded. At each session carried out, we will record the number of the audience in order to evaluate if the public is interested to our activities. At the end of the project, we will also interview the villagers per village in order to assess their perception about the lemur conservation.

* 1. **Project schedule**

Project start date: 1 January 2026

Project end date: 31 December 2029

1. **Sustainability of the project**

Through the extension of the current alternative livelihoods activities, the local community will learn to live independently of natural resources. Therefore, we will continue to search for more grants and partnerships that could provide sufficient funds to continue our project in the long-term. We have created a funding database that contains information about funding sources. In addition, we regularly consult Terra Viva Grant Directory funding database that focuses particularly on conservation, biodiversity and environmental issues. In addition, we are committed to remain at this site for as long as is necessary to ensure the protection of the lemur forest habitat and to incentivize the local community to become more independent of its natural resources.

1. **Project budget**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Items** | Amount in $ | | |
| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |
| **Human resources** *staff, consultancy, insurances* | | | |
| 01 Project cordinator'salary | 5 454,55 | 5 454,55 | 5 454,55 |
| 01 Field cordonator | 1 909,09 | 1 909,09 | 1 909,09 |
| Ranger 1 salary | 409,09 | 409,09 | 409,09 |
| Ranger 2 salary | 409,09 | 409,09 | 409,09 |
| Ranger 3 salary | 409,09 | 409,09 | 409,09 |
| Ranger 4 salary | 409,09 | 409,09 | 409,09 |
| 01 Cook | 818,18 | 818,18 | 818,18 |
| 10 Doctors per diem during 4 days every quarter | 681,82 | 681,82 | 681,82 |
| ***Subtotal*** | ***10 500,00*** | ***10 500,00*** | ***10 500,00*** |
| **Travel and subsistence** *e.g., field travel; susbsistence* | | | |
| Car hire + fuel 4 trips during 10 days | 4 545,45 | 4 545,45 | 4 545,45 |
| Foods for 2 persons during 10 days, 4 trips | 727,27 | 727,27 | 727,27 |
| ***Subtotal*** | ***5 272,73*** | ***5 272,73*** | ***5 272,73*** |
| **Education and outreach** | | | |
| 300 T-shirts | 1 704,55 | 1 704,55 | 1 704,55 |
| 300 Calendars | 477,27 | 477,27 | 477,27 |
| 300 Todebag | 2 727,27 | 2 727,27 | 2 727,27 |
| ***Subtotal*** | ***4 909,09*** | ***4 909,09*** | ***4 909,09*** |
| **Medical consultation** | | | |
| Medecines | 960,00 | 960,00 | 960,00 |
| ***Subtotal*** | ***1 045,45*** | ***1 045,45*** | ***1 045,45*** |
| **Livelihood activities** |  |  |  |
| Purchase of seeds (maiza) | 227,27 | 227,27 | 227,27 |
| Purchase of chicken (200 chickens) | 1 140,00 | 1 140,00 | 1 140,00 |
| ***Subtotal*** | ***1 367,27*** | ***1 367,27*** | ***1 367,27*** |
| **Overhead costs** | | | |
| Internet | 545,45 | 545,45 | 545,45 |
| ***Subtotal*** | 545,45 | 545,45 | 545,45 |
| **Total per year** | **23 009,09** | **23 009,09** | **23 009,09** |
| **TOTAL for 3 years** | **$ 69 027,27** | | |