



CVB News

Eco Stewards in Full Swing

It's been a busy past few weeks for our twelve Eco Stewards! As part of our new capacity-building initiative, made possible with the support of our partner [Re:wild](#), these students are training to become the next generation of Malagasy researchers, ecotourism guides, and parks officials.



This month, representatives from Madagascar National Parks gave the students an introduction to smart technologies used in the creation of new national parks. Students practiced using smartphones and GPS equipment both in the classroom and out in the field, while learning about park rules and what it takes to manage a protected area like Ranomafana National Park.



In their lectures on biodiversity, conservation, and climate change, CVB's Head of Biodiversity Dina Andrianoely and Head of Research Dr. Hasina Malalaharivony prepared students to dive deeper into the next few weeks of herpetology, botany, entomology, and primatology lessons, which are taught by CVB's longest-serving biodiversity experts and research technicians.

In May, the group will embark on a ten-day cross-country trip through some of Madagascar's most imperiled ecosystems, stopping along the way to hear from local parks officials and tour guides working to protect these places and the unique biodiversity within them from disappearing.



Photos courtesy of Aina Eric Andrianarisata

Volunteer Spotlight: Jack Scheutzow



Jack Scheutzow is a medical student at Stony Brook University and recently joined the Mobile Health Team for a ten-day expedition to our central intervention zone, delivering healthcare to remote villages on the periphery of Ranomafana National Park. Read about his experience below.

"My six fellow team members and I trekked to three remote villages, delivering medical care to more than 250 patients. Our encounters spanned a spectrum of diagnoses, ranging from malaria and respiratory ailments to hypertension and back pain. Additionally, we facilitated educational initiatives in each village, with a focus on culinary nutrition demonstrations and First Aid training sessions.



Reflecting on my experience, I am immensely thankful to Dr. Thomas and the rest of the Mobile Health Team for granting me the opportunity to participate in this expedition. Above all, this journey underscored the

significance of establishing trust with patients. Upon our arrival in the village, prior to any consultations, the team conducted a comprehensive two-to-three hour meeting with the entire community. During this session, each team member thoroughly explained their role, discussed the services they could provide, and allotted time to address any concerns from the villagers. Witnessing this impactful process has inspired me to adopt a similar approach in cultivating relationships with my patients in the United States."

Papers and Publications

As we head into our peak research season, be sure to check out some of the recently published papers authored by CVB researchers on plague transmission, lemur locomotion, natural resource use, and more:

[From such great heights: The effects of substrate height and the perception of risk on lemur locomotor mechanics](#)

[Provisioning services decline for both people and Critically Endangered wildlife in a rainforest transformation landscape](#)

[Can cyclone exposure explain behavioural and demographic variation among lemur species?](#)

[Socio-ecological risk factors associated with human flea infestations of rural household in plague-endemic areas of Madagascar](#)

[An integrated passive acoustic monitoring and deep learning pipeline for black-and-white ruffed lemurs \(*Varecia variegata*\) in Ranomafana National Park, Madagascar](#)



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