

Report

10 to 14 July 2026

Andasibe, Madagascar

By Rindra Nantenaina &
Nancia Raelinjanakolona



Why this logo?

The logo represents two species: *Argema mittrei* (Comet Moth or Madagascar Moon Moth) and *Angraecum sesquipedale* (Orchid). Both species reflect the delicate beauty and ecological uniqueness of Madagascar's biodiversity. They also represent the location where we are gathered for this Learning Event, as both can be found in Andasibe.

A. mittrei, native to Madagascar's eastern rainforests, captivates with its striking appearance and ephemeral adult lifespan of just 4–5 days. It symbolizes the fleeting nature of biodiversity and the urgency of conservation efforts in Madagascar.

A. sesquipedale, with its remarkably long nectar spur and complex floral structure, inspired Charles Darwin's prediction of a matching pollinator. This orchid embodies the spark of scientific curiosity and the intricate evolutionary relationships that shape natural selection.

With that same spirit of curiosity, and driven by our scientific and conservation goals, we, the Rufford and CLP alumni, have come together in this Learning Event to share knowledge, support one another, and strengthen our collective commitment to protecting Madagascar's biodiversity.

Logo Concept: Nancia Raoelinjanakolona & Rindra Nantenaina

Logo Design & Intellectual Property © 2026 Finaritra Randimbiarison

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Acknowledgement

1 Organizations and Institutions

- The Rufford Foundation – for funding the event
- Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) – for supporting the coordination of the event
- Ary Saina Association – for hosting the event in Madagascar
- Association Mitsinjo Andasibe and Association Fikambanam-behivavy Torotorofotsy, Andasibe – for welcoming participants during the field visit
- Université d'Antananarivo, Mention Zoologie et Biodiversité Animale, Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Agronomiques – for welcoming the pre-workshop for students and staff at the University

2 Individuals

- Jo Cook, Eleanor Glass, Julie Razafimanahaka, Herizo Andrianandrasana – for facilitating the learning event
- Stuart Paterson, Onja Razafindratsima, Tinah Martin – for their thoughtful support behind the scenes
- President Christin Nasoavina – for guiding during the field visit
- Mihary Rasoavolandrainy – for assistance with logistics
- Finaritra Randimbiarison – for designing the Learning Event logo
- Dr. Zafimahery Rakotomalala; Prof. Daniel Rakoto; Prof. Joelisoa Ratsirarson for his team (Andriambelo Radonirina Razafimahatratra, Miora Malala Randriatsoaniaina, Mikoja Rambinintsoa, and Mia Razafimahefa); Mr Jacques Rakotoarisoa – for welcoming the pre-workshop at the University of Antananarivo
- Hasimbola Tantely Razanamaro, Haja Rasolondraibe and Andriniaina Patrick Razafindraibe – for transportation support

Acknowledgement

3 Hotels, Restaurants, and Services

- Eulophiella Hotel Andasibe – for providing the venue for the Learning Event
- Le Bistrot d’Andasibe – for providing picnic lunch and for hosting the closing party
- Diary Service Moramanga – for catering along the route from Tana
- You Print Analakely – for printing logos and stickers
- Boutique Zoé – for providing participant welcome goodies
- IRAY by Harim – for printing the participant shirt



ABOUT THE EVENT

This year of 2026, **The Rufford Foundation** and the **Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP)** hosted a Learning Event for grant recipients in Madagascar, an opportunity to participate in interactive workshops and activities designed to address knowledge gaps and provide essential support for conservationists as they advance in their careers. This event was tailored to the specific needs of the country and cohort, ensuring that participants focused on the most relevant topics for their professional growth.

- **Date:** 10 – 14 July 2026
- **Location:** Eulophiella Hotel, Andasibe
- **Local Host Organization:** Ary Saina Association
- **Participants:** 19 (12 females, 7 males)
- **Facilitators:** 4 (3 females, 1 male)
- **Workshop Topics:** Leadership in Conservation, Fundraising, and Behavior Change
- **Partners:** Université d'Antananarivo, Association Mitsinjo Andasibe

PROGRAM

Schedule – Rufford and CLP Learning Event, Madagascar 2026

DAY 0 – Thursday, July 09

9h00-11h00	Training Session on Fundraising Opportunities & Fundraising - Main Tips at the Mention Zoologie et Biodiversité Animale (MZBA), Université d'Antananarivo, Ankatso
12h00-14h00	Lunch with Rufford staff, CLP staff, and event organizers
14h30-16h30	Training Session on Fundraising Opportunities & Fundraising - Main Tips at the Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Agronomiques (ESSA), Université d'Antananarivo, Ankatso

DAY 1 – Friday, July 10

7h00	Pick up at Sakamanga Hotel
7h45	Pick up at Ankatso
8h15	Pick up at La Maison du Pyla Tsiadana
8h30	Trip to Moramanga (with two breaks along the way)
13h00	Lunch at Dairy Service in Moramanga
16h00	Arrival and Check-in at Eulophiella
17h00-18h00	Welcome from organizers (Rindra, Nancia, Jo, Eleanor, etc.) and Icebreakers
18h30	Dinner at Eulophiella

DAY 2 – Saturday, July 11

7h00	Breakfast at Eulophiella
8h00-10h00	Leadership in Conservation [Herizo Andrianandrasana]
10h00-10h20	Bio break
10h20-12h30	Leadership in Conservation [Herizo Andrianandrasana]
12h30-13h30	Lunch at Eulophiella
13h30-15h30	Leadership in Conservation [Herizo Andrianandrasana]
15h30-15h45	Bio break
15h45-18h30	Fundraising [Jo Cook & Eleanor Glass] (part 1: Elevator Pitch)
18h30	Dinner at Eulophiella
19h30-20h30	Night walk at Eulophiella forest



PROGRAM

Schedule – Rufford and CLP Learning Event, Madagascar 2026

DAY 3 – Sunday, July 12	
7h00	Breakfast at Eulophiella
8h00-10h00	Fundraising [Jo Cook & Eleanor Glass] (part 2)
10h00-10h20	Bio break
10h20-12h45	Behavior Change [Julie Razafimanahaka]
12h45-13h45	Lunch at Eulophiella
13h45-15h30	Behavior Change [Julie Razafimanahaka]
15h30-15h45	Bio break
15h45-17h45	Behavior Change [Julie Razafimanahaka]
17h45-18h30	Extension Time for the three workshops
19h00-22h	Dinner at Le Bistrot d'Andasibe

DAY 4 – Monday, July 13	
6h30	Breakfast at Eulophiella
7h15	Departure for the Station Forestiere Analamazaotra (Association Mitsinjo Andasibe)
7h45-13h	Park and station visit, nursery visit, hiking
	Lunch in the Park
13h30-18h00	Visit the association of women in Torotorofotsy
18h00-19h00	Free Time
19h00	Dinner and Closing at Le Bistrot d'Andasibe

DAY 5 – Tuesday, July 14	
7h00	Breakfast at Eulophiella
8h00	Check-out at Eulophiella
8h15	Trip back to Tana (with two breaks along the way)



EVENT DETAILS

Traveling to Andasibe

Day 1

The 19 participants came from different regions in Madagascar:

- One (1) from Andasibe
- Eight (8) from Antananarivo
- One (1) from Antsirabe
- Two (2) from Mahajanga
- One (1) from Moramanga
- One (1) from Morondava
- One (1) from Ranomafanana
- Four (4) from Toliara

On Friday, July 10th, all participants gathered at the departure points in Antananarivo, the capital city, and then traveled together to Andasibe.

The venue, Eulophiella Hotel Andasibe, is located approximately 135 km from Antananarivo.



EVENT DETAILS

Welcome to the venue!

Day 1

We arrived at Eulophiella Hotel (the venue) in Andasibe at 4:00PM.

After checking-in, participants gathered in the conference room, received welcome goodies and joined the opening session. The program began with a welcoming presentation from the organizers, followed by self-introductions and an ice-breaker activity.



Welcome goodies for each participant contain: (1) long-sleeve shirt, (1) Bottle of water, (1) Sandrify (Malagasy artisanal small bag), (1) Tote bag, (1) Notebook, (1) Pen, Logo stickers.

The selected goodies were featured with this year's learning event logo and were chosen for their usefulness during the event, reusability, and locally production.



EVENT DETAILS

Workshop I Leadership in Conservation

Day 2

Facilitated by Herizo
Randrianandrasana



Topics covered

- Recognizing our leadership style
- Leading people and partnerships
- Leading for conservation impacts

This was an interactive session, with participants representing different stages in their conservation careers, from early-career professionals to mid- and advanced-career leaders. Everyone had the opportunity to share their experiences and learn from one another across these three key topics, strengthening their growth as conservation leaders.



Workshop II

Fundraising

(part-1)

Facilitated by Jo Cook and
Eleanor Glass



Topics covered

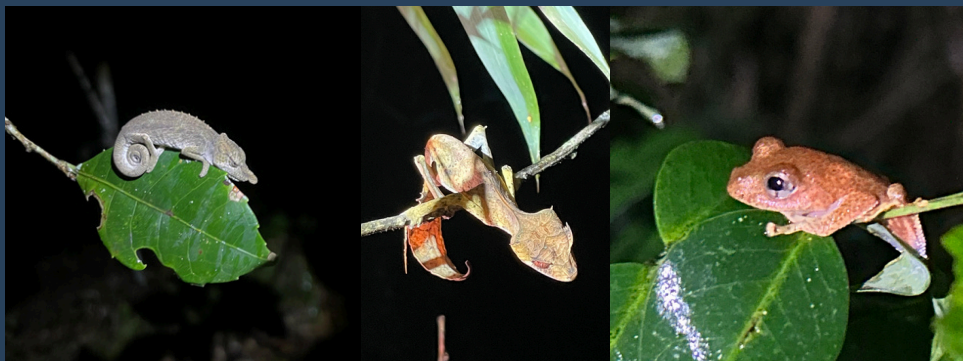
- Mapping donors
- Your fundraising journey
- Donor relations
- Elevator Pitch



EVENT DETAILS

Day 2

Night Walk



After a full day in the Conservation Leadership and Fundraising workshops, we continued with a facultative night walk in Eulophiella forest. Rain accompanied us, reinforcing the reality of rainforest life. In the dim light, plants revealed quiet beauty, and diverse wildlife appeared: frogs, chameleons, birds, lemurs, and snakes. This short exploration deepened our appreciation of biodiversity and strengthened our commitment to conservation.



EVENT DETAILS

Workshop II Fundraising (part-2)

Day 3

Facilitated by Jo Cook and
Eleanor Glass



Topics covered

- Preparing budgets
- Proposal writing

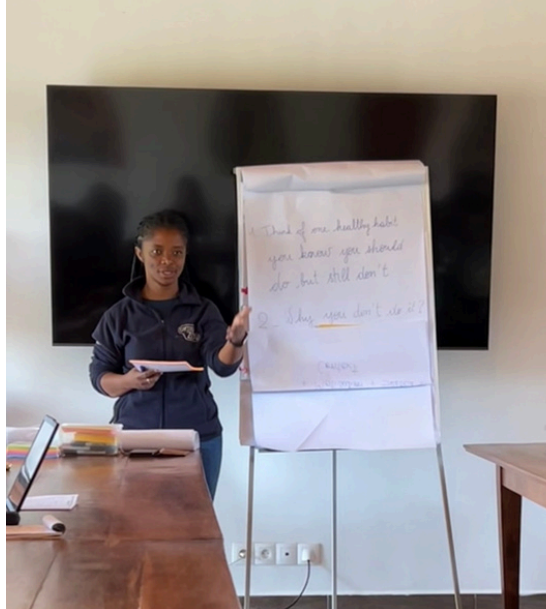
We started the morning with a wake-up activity. Participants then learned how to create detailed and effective budgets, reshape appropriate answers for each section of the proposal application—including Expected Outcomes, Indicators and Activities, Personal Statement—and identify common pitfalls when completing applications.



EVENT DETAILS

Workshop III Behavior Change

Day 3
Facilitated by Julie
Razafimanahaka



Topics covered

- Understand behavior change
- Learn how to diagnose behavior deeply
- Designing behavior change interventions

This was an interactive session where participants worked in groups and selected one conservation project per group to identify a behavior that should be changed and to understand why the person behaves this way. Participants then learned about the COM-B framework – Capability, Opportunity, and Motivation – as factors that may lead to behavior (B) change. Finally, we explored the theory of innovation diffusion and the theory of change.



EVENT DETAILS

Park visit

Day 4

Visit of Station forestière
d'Analamazaotra



At the Station forestière d'Analamazaotra, managed by Association Mitsinjo in Andasibe, we were welcomed by Mr. Christin Nasoavina, the president. He guided us through the forest, sharing instructions, stories, and insights into the association's conservation work.



EVENT DETAILS

Park visit

Day 4
Nature Walk



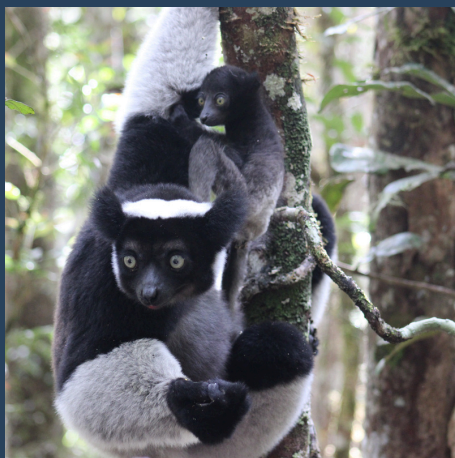
During the nature walk through the Analamazaotra forest, participants appreciated the natural environment while engaging in peer-to-peer exchanges. They posed questions to Mr. Nasoavina from the Association Mitsinjo, and also shared experiences from their own conservation work, fostering dialogue and mutual learning.



EVENT DETAILS

Park visit

Day 4
Lemur Watching



The half of the morning visit was marked by the observation of the indri. Participants listened to its vocalizations and encountered a family group with infants. This inspiring moment underscored the species' ecological importance and highlighted the need for sustained conservation to secure the future of lemurs.



EVENT DETAILS

Other visit

Day 4

Tree Nursery Visit

Centre Toby Sahona Visit



The second half of the morning visit included a tour of Association Mitsinjo's tree nursery. Participants learned about the different processes and the materials used. Before noon, the group also visited the association's terrarium, where a *Mantella* breeding project is underway. Staff explained how the frogs are fed, monitored, and eventually released into the wild as part of ongoing conservation efforts.



EVENT DETAILS

Other visit

Day 4

Visit of Women Association
in Torotorofotsy



After enjoying a picnic lunch at the park, the group proceeded to Torotorofotsy, where participants met with the local women's association. The members shared their approaches to conservation, which include handcrafting and the use of cultural songs and dances to raise awareness within their community. Participants had the opportunity to experience and appreciate this cultural expression as part of the visit.



EVENT DETAILS

Day 4

Closing Party



After this successful and enriching few days, the program concluded with a closing party. This moment was dedicated to acknowledging the contributions of all facilitators and participants. It also provided an opportunity to enjoy our final time together, strengthening connections and celebrating the shared experience. The atmosphere was lively, and participants expressed joy and appreciation.



EVENT DETAILS

Trip back to Antananarivo

Day 5



On the return to Antananarivo, participants shared laughter and camaraderie through social games. The mood was joyful yet bittersweet—closing an enriching journey while igniting fresh motivation to apply new strategies in their conservation work.





PRE & POST-SURVEY

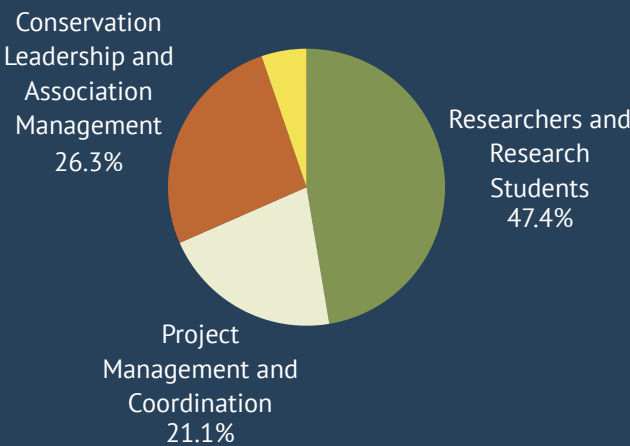
We conducted the pre-survey on Leadership in Conservation and Fundraising before the Learning Event. We received responses from all the participants (19 people) for pre-survey and 16 participants from the post-survey. As for behavior change, the knowledge participants gained after the workshop matters; we did not include questionnaires about it.

PRE & POST-SURVEY

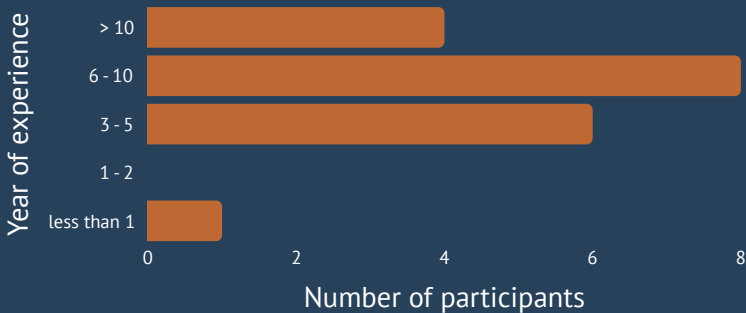
Leadership in Conservation

First, we asked participants about their professional background, including their current role or position in their organization or project, the duration of their involvement in conservation work, and the type of team or community they typically collaborate with.

Summary of the role of participants in their organization or project



Duration of participant's involvement in their conservation project



PRE & POST-SURVEY

Leadership in Conservation

Second, we asked participants before and after the workshop to evaluate their confidence in leadership using the following five points.

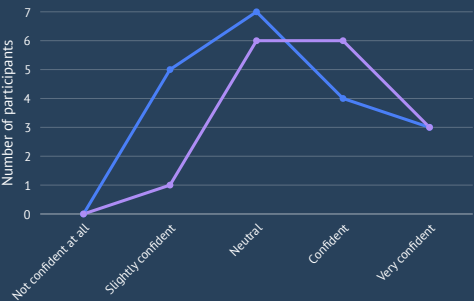
1. Ability to identify and describe one's own leadership style
2. Confidence in applying essential leadership skills (communication, problem-solving, negotiation, and active listening)
3. Understanding of the personalities, motivations, and working styles of team members and collaborators.
4. Preparedness to address and manage conflicts within teams or between individuals.
5. Clarity regarding the positive changes or impact participants aim to achieve within their project, team, or community.



PRE & POST-SURVEY

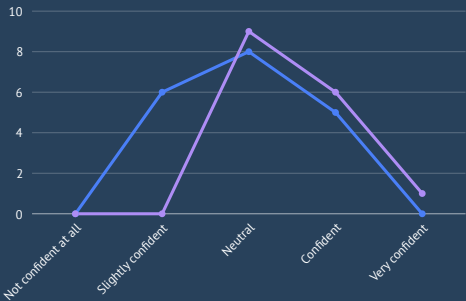
Leadership in Conservation

1) Ability to identify and describe one's own leadership style



→ After the session, the number of slightly confident participants decrease and the number of confident participants increase.

2) Confidence in applying essential leadership skills (communication, problem-solving, negotiation, and active listening)



→ After the session, the number of neutral, confident and very confident participants increase.

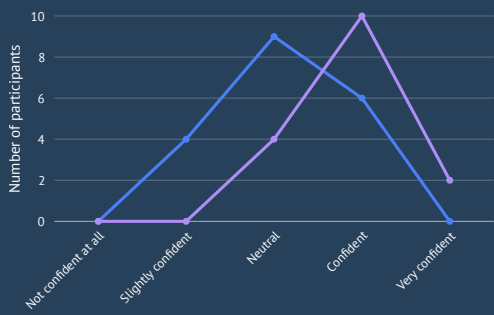
Pre-survey

Post-survey

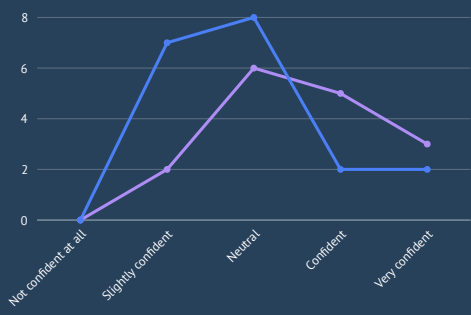
PRE & POST-SURVEY

Leadership in Conservation

3) Understanding of the personalities, motivations, and working styles of team members and collaborators.

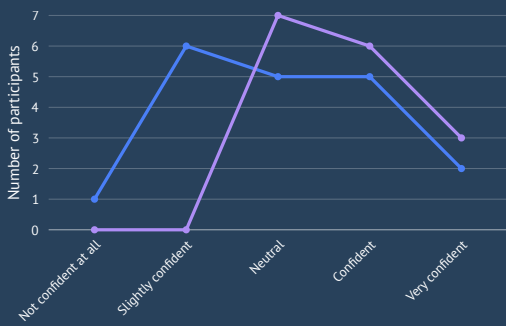


4) Preparedness to address and manage conflicts within teams or between individuals.



→ After the session, the number of neutral participants reduced and the number of confident participants and very confident participants increase.

5) Clarity regarding the positive changes or impact participants aim to achieve within their project, team, or community.



→ After the session, the number of confident participants and very confident participants increase.

Pre-survey

Post-survey

PRE & POST-SURVEY

Leadership in Conservation

Third, we asked participants the following questions to identify their leadership needs and challenges in their conservation work prior to the workshop.

- What do you hope to gain from this leadership workshop?
- Which leadership skill do you most want to improve?
- What challenges do you currently face in leading your team or project?

In these open survey responses, participants focused on issues such as communication barriers, team motivation and management, decision-making difficulties, delegation, coordination with stakeholders, community involvement, and resource limitations.

Following the workshop, they were asked about the leadership skills or insights from the workshop they will apply first in their work and the changes they will make to their leadership approach. Participants more frequently articulated specific approaches to addressing these challenges, including active listening, participatory and collaborative leadership, shared decision-making, empowerment, trust building, and stronger engagement with communities and stakeholders. This suggests that the workshop provided participants with practical leadership perspectives that they could relate to their existing challenges and translate into intended actions within their conservation work.



PRE & POST-SURVEY

Leadership in Conservation



Key takeaway about Leadership in Conservation

PRE & POST-SURVEY

Leadership in Conservation

Participants also indicated several forms of additional support or training that would help them continue developing their leadership skills.



Mentoring, coaching
or peer-learning
opportunities



Conflict management
and negotiation skills



Art of communication



Team management,
strategic planning



Cultural competency

PRE & POST-SURVEY

Leadership in Conservation

Finally, participants were invited to share suggestions for improving the 'Leadership in Conservation' workshop in future events, and the following is a summary of their responses.

- ✧ Adding more theoretical sessions on leadership principles and different leadership styles.
- ✧ Adding practical activities to develop communication skills.
- ✧ Extending time for the workshop.
- ✧ Exploring the different leadership styles, conflict management, leadership impact in greater depth, including their strengths and limitations, to help participants identify the approach that best suits their role and context.
- ✧ Including practical session.



PRE & POST-SURVEY

Fundraising

This workshop covered 6 topics below. In summary participants gained a clear understanding of donor types and effective funding strategies, as well as improved skills in building donor relationships, budgeting, proposal writing, and succinctly pitching their projects.

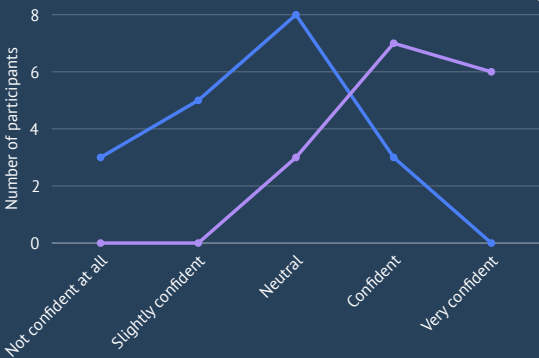
1. Mapping donors by sector
2. Donor progression
3. Good donor relations
4. Good budgeting
5. Proposal writing
6. Elevator pitch



PRE & POST-SURVEY

→ After the session, the number of confident participants and very confident participants increases, suggesting an improvement in the knowledge.

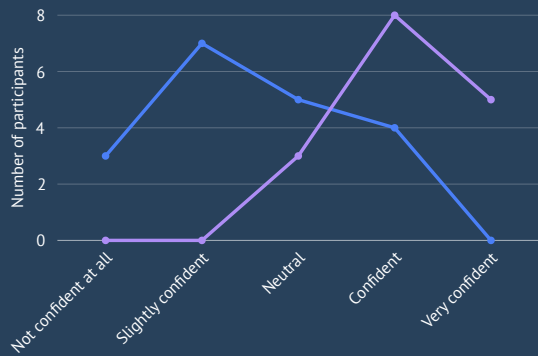
2) Donor progression



→ After the session, participants are confident in maintaining a good relationship with the donor

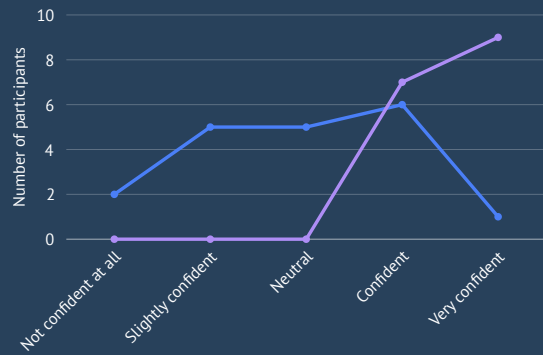
Fundraising

1) Mapping donors by sector



→ After the session, participants increase their knowledge about donor progression

3) Good donor relations



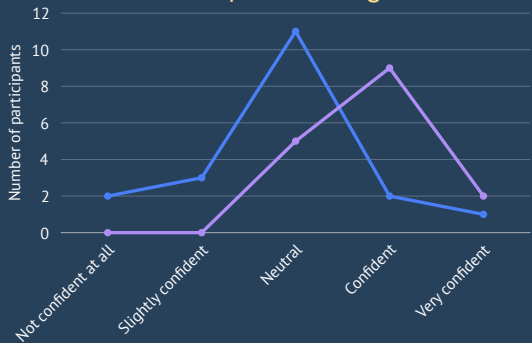
Pre-survey

Post-survey

PRE & POST-SURVEY

→ After the session, participants improved their ability to prepare an effective budget for their research and conservation work.

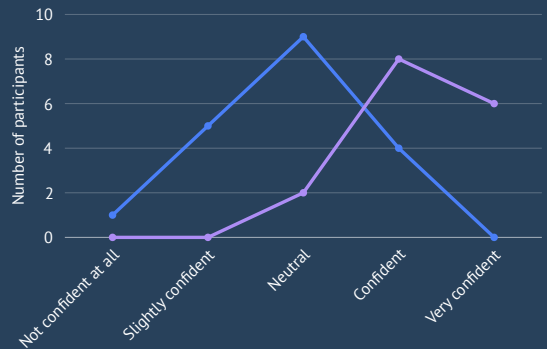
5) Proposal writing



→ After the session, participants gained a clear understanding of the importance of an elevator pitch and felt confident in their ability to deliver one effectively.

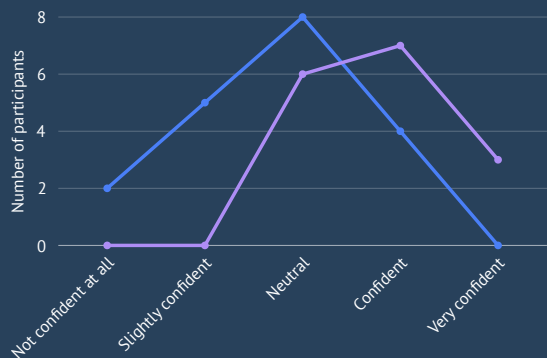
Fundraising

4) Good budgeting



→ After the session, the number of participants who feel not confident or slightly confident in writing proposals decreased, while those who feel confident or very confident increased. These statistics indicate that participants feel more prepared and confident in preparing their proposals.

6) Elevator pitch

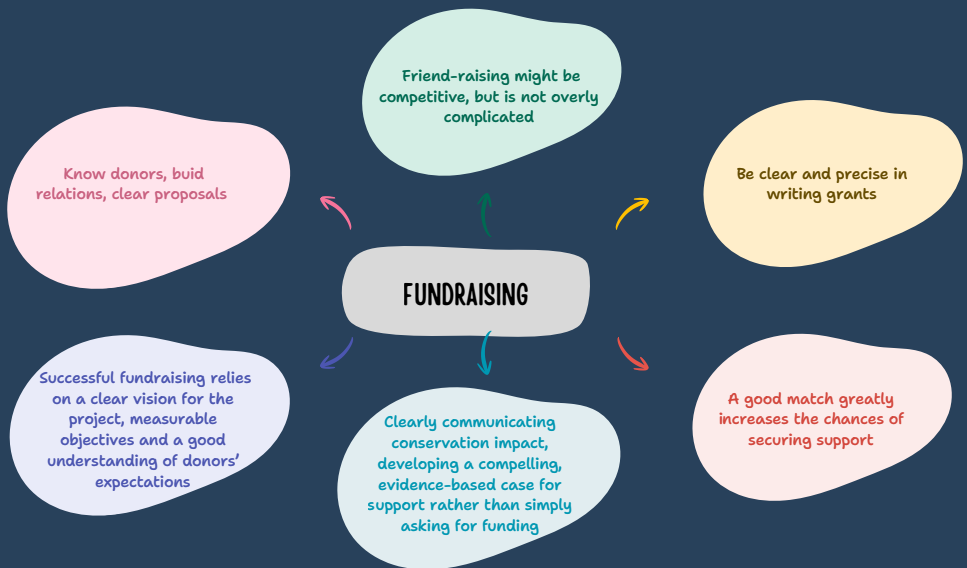


— Pre-survey —

— Post-survey —

PRE & POST-SURVEY

Fundraising

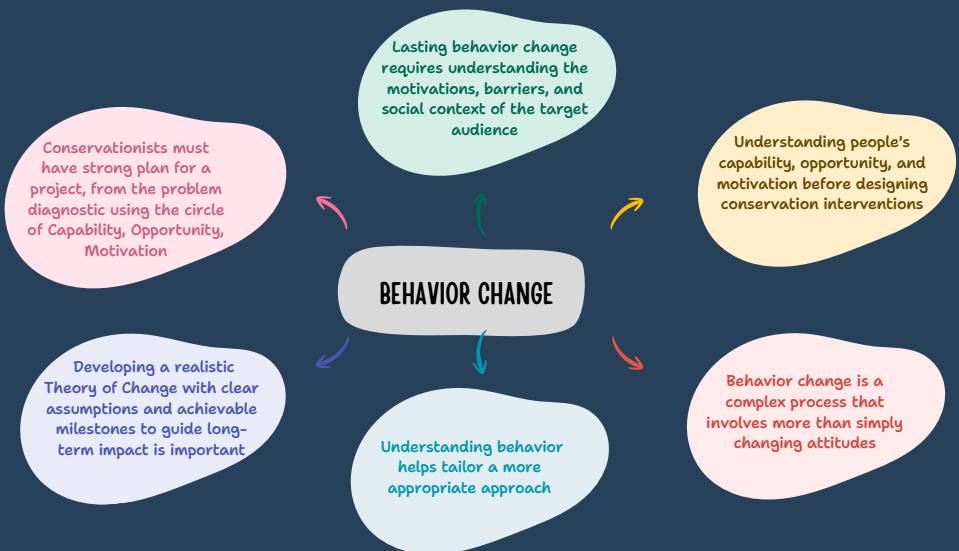


Key takeaway about Fundraising

PRE & POST-SURVEY

Behavior change

Behavior change requires time to yield observable results, and we did not conduct pre- and post-survey questions. Below are the key takeaways expressed by participants from the workshop.



Key takeaway about Behavior change

PRE & POST-SURVEY

Overall Organization

Relevance of the workshop content

The three workshops were largely seen as relevant by most participants. Fundraising stood out with the highest strong relevance, as **75%** of participants rated it highly relevant. This was followed by Behavior Change at **62.5%** and Conservation Leadership at **50%**. A few participants didn't express a clear opinion either way. Conservation Leadership had the lowest neutral response at **6.25%**, while both Fundraising and Behavior Change had **12.5%** neutral responses.

Usefulness of other activities

Most participants found the other activities to be useful or very useful. The Park Visit and Closing Party stood out, with **100%** of attendees rating them positively. The Center of Frog followed with an **80%** approval rating, then the Night Walk at **73.3%**, and the Women Association visit at **66.7%**. Notably, the Women Association activity had the highest neutral response rate at **26.7%**, whereas the Park Visit received no neutral ratings. Overall, the feedback indicates that the activities were well received, especially the Park Visit and Closing Party.



PRE & POST-SURVEY

Feeling of participants

The word cloud below illustrates participants' positive feelings after the Learning Event.



Participant's feeling after the Learning Event

PRE-WORKSHOP

Training Session on
Fundraising Opportunities
& Fundraising - Main Tips

9 July 2026

Mention Zoologie et
Biodiversité Animale,
Université d'Antananarivo



We also organized a pre-workshop Training Session on Fundraising Opportunities & Key Tips, designed to help graduate students and university staff strengthen their skills in applying for research and conservation funding. The morning session was held at the Mention Zoologie et Biodiversité Animale and brought together 22 participants.



PRE-WORKSHOP

Training Session on
Fundraising Opportunities
& Fundraising - Main Tips

9 July 2026

Ecole Supérieure des
Sciences Agronomiques,
Université d'Antananarivo



The afternoon session, held at the École Supérieure des Sciences Agronomiques, followed a similar format to the morning but engaged a different audience. In total, 48 participants joined: 45 in person and 3 online.



Host Organization



Ary Saina
MADAGASIKARA

Ary Saina is a group of Malagasy Conservation Biologists committed to promote scientific research and knowledge for the conservation of Madagascar's unique biodiversity. Ary Saina Association was founded in 2017 with the following objectives: (1) Promote and facilitate scientific research in Madagascar; (2) Contribute to the capacity building of Malagasy in science; (3) Conduct scientific research to enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Madagascar

<https://arysaina.weebly.com/>

Supporting Organization

Funder & Coordination



The Rufford Foundation is a charitable organization based in the UK that supports nature conservation projects throughout the developing world. The Rufford Small Grants Programme, offers financial assistance to individuals in developing countries who are beginning their careers in conservation research and initiating pilot projects. This program focuses on identifying early-career scientists and providing them with the necessary support to help them make significant contributions to conservation efforts.

<https://www.rufford.org/>

Supporting Organization Coordination



CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME



Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) is a partnership of three world-renowned biodiversity conservation organisations. CLP supports early-career local conservationists and projects in biodiverse countries that often lack resources for conservation. Their support for early-conservation leaders includes training, mentorship, and continuous peer-to-peer support through an extensive alumni network that enables them to overcome major threats to nature.

<https://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/>

Organizers



Front row:

- Jo Cook (left)
- Rindra Nantenaina (right)

Back row:

- Nancia Raoelinjanakolona (left)
- Eleanor Glass (right)

Facilitators



Jo Cook

The Rufford Foundation

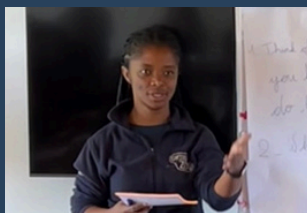
Facilitated Fundraising Workshop



Eleanor Glass

Conservation Leadership Programme

Facilitated Fundraising Workshop



Julie Razafimanahaka

Madagasikara Voarakajy

Facilitated Behavioral Change Workshop



Herizo Andrianandrasana

University of Helsinki

Facilitated Leadership in Conservation Workshop

Participants

Aina Aro Ambinintsoa Rakotoarison



Aina Aro Ambinintsoa Rakotoarison is a Site Operating Officer at Madagasikara Voakajy. She specializes in natural resource governance, biodiversity conservation, and project management. Working in the protected areas of Analalava and Analabe Betanantanana in Ambatondrazaka, she collaborates with local communities to strengthen sustainable resource management. Her work focuses on promoting community engagement and linking biodiversity conservation with livelihood improvement to support both ecosystem protection and community well-being in Madagascar.

Aurélien Ndrianjafy



Aurélien Ndrianjafy is a Malagasy conservation biologist, Herpetologist and PhD Candidate in Biodiversity, Ecology and Conservation. He is passionate about Madagascar's remarkable biodiversity, with a particular interest in amphibians and reptiles. Over the past five years, he has worked on biodiversity surveys, ecological research, and conservation projects. He enjoys collaborating with researchers, local communities, and conservation practitioners to turn scientific knowledge into practical action. Through my work, he hopes to help protect threatened species while supporting and inspiring the next generation of Malagasy conservationists.

Participants

Beva Grilante



Beva Grilante is a marine biologist, conservationist, and environmental educator. He is currently a PhD candidate in Marine Sciences and Fisheries at the University of Toliara, Madagascar. He founded Mada Seagrass Research and Conservation in 2025 and is deeply committed to advancing marine conservation in Madagascar. He has led several community-based conservation projects in southwestern Madagascar, to promote sustainable management of coastal ecosystems in the country. His work bridges scientific research and practical conservation action, with a focus on strengthening the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems and supporting the well-being of coastal communities in the context of climate change.

Chantia Mahavory



Chantia Mahavory is a Malagasy social worker and IEC (Information, Education and Communication) practitioner specializing in environmental conservation. She currently serves as IEC Thematic Leader around the Mangabe Protected Area. A graduate of the Institut Supérieur de Travail Social (ISTS) in Antananarivo, she completed an internship in Environmental Education with Madagasikara Voakajy under the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) from 2023 to 2024. Her work focuses on environmental education, community awareness, and governance. Since 2025, she has facilitated SAGE (Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity) workshops, promoting inclusive and participatory conservation practices.

Participants

Eliette Noromalala



Eliette Noromalala is a PhD candidate at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research focuses on disease transmission at the wildlife–livestock–human interface using a One Health approach. She investigates parasite transmission among wildlife, domestic animals, humans, and the environment to better understand cross-species disease dynamics. In addition to her research, she organizes environmental education programs at a school near Kirindy Mite National Park in Madagascar. She leads Natorala Conservation and the STEM Girl Association in Madagascar. In collaboration with the University of Fianarantsoa and the University of Antananarivo, she has mentored medical and biology students through her One Health research and conservation projects.

Elysée Rasoamanana



Dr. Elysée Rasoamanana is a plant biologist holding a PhD in Plant Biology. Her scientific work has focused on the biology, ecology and conservation of Madagascar's baobab species, contributing to a better understanding of these emblematic trees and the challenges affecting their long-term survival. She is currently the President of the Association Analasoa, a Malagasy conservation organization dedicated to the protection of biodiversity in southwestern Madagascar. Through this role, she leads research, conservation, ecological restoration, and environmental awareness initiatives aimed at preserving the region's unique ecosystems. Her work places particular emphasis on threatened species that face increasing pressure from habitat degradation and climate-related challenges.

Participants

Fetratiana Rakotomanga



Fetratiana Rakotomanga is a Master's graduate in Environmental Science from the University of Antananarivo. He is an ecologist specializing in forest restoration and plant ecology. His research focuses on natural regeneration processes, forest recovery following disturbance, and the ecological factors influencing plant establishment. He is particularly interested in forest and landscape ecology and their applications to ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation. His goal is to contribute to evidence-based strategies that support the preservation of Madagascar's exceptional biodiversity.

Herizo Emmanuel Ravelomanana



Herizo Emmanuel Ravelomanana is an agronomist engineer, holding a Master's degree in Forestry and Environment. As an environmental expert with over eight years of experience, he specializes in biodiversity conservation and community-led sustainable development. His career led him to coordinate the MIHARI network in the South of Madagascar, before managing sustainable fisheries projects at Blue Ventures. Currently serving as National Advocacy Lead within this organization, he drives strategic coalitions and amplifies the voices of coastal communities at the heart of legislative reforms to turn ecological challenges into concrete results, aiming to secure these communities' rights and establish sustainable resource management by and for the communities.

Participants

Holi Rabemananjara



Holi Rabemananjara is a PhD student at the University of Antananarivo and a conservation educator. Her research focuses on assessing perceptions of the aye-aye and evaluating educational approaches to address negative attitudes toward this unique species. Drawing on a multidisciplinary background, she is interested in the intersection of conservation, education, and community engagement. She was a Rufford grantee in 2022. Holi is also a National Geographic Explorer and is passionate about travel, exploration, and learning from diverse cultures and communities. In addition to her doctoral research, she supports conservation efforts as a Database Manager of Madagascar Lemur Portal and Fundraising Support at GERP Madagascar.

Jeannin Nicolas Rakotondrazandry



Dr. Jeannin Nicolas Rakotondrazandry is a Malagasy primatologist, researcher, and conservation practitioner specializing in the ecology, behavior, and conservation of the aye-aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*), one of Madagascar's most unique and endangered lemur species. He serves as Site Manager for the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership in Andasibe and as a part-time lecturer at the University of Mahajanga. His work combines scientific research, biodiversity conservation, and capacity building, with a strong commitment to mentoring young Malagasy scientists. Through collaboration with local communities, researchers, and conservation organizations, he contributes to the long-term protection of Madagascar's exceptional biodiversity.

Participants

Jonathan Pépin



Of Malagasy origin and a member of the Vezo community of Toliara, Jonathan Pépin is a marine biologist, ecologist, and cartographer specializing in the conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems. As an early-career researcher, he is committed to advancing marine environmental conservation through research and collaboration. He is currently a PhD candidate at the Thematic Doctoral School of Marine and Fisheries Sciences (EDT-SMH), Institute of Fisheries and Marine Sciences (IH.SM), University of Toliara, Madagascar. He also led a Rufford Foundation-funded project on the sustainable management of seagrass communities on the Great Reef of Toliara.

Lovasoa Esperance Razafindravony



Motivated from a young age by my passion for nature, Lovasoa Esperance Razafindravony studied biology in college with the dream of using my scientific knowledge to help both people and nature. Today, she is living that dream in the heart of the Ranomafana rainforest! She works with Centre ValBio for 10 years now with the local Tanala and Betsileo communities to inspire and empower them to become conservation partners, live in harmony with nature, and appreciate the uniqueness and importance of biodiversity.

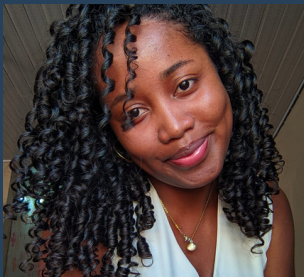
Participants

N. Nancia Raoelinjanakolona



Dr. N. Nancia Raoelinjanakolona is a Malagasy ecologist and conservation biologist. She is a Research and Programs Fellow at the Ary Saina association in Madagascar. Nancia earned her Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of Antananarivo in Madagascar. Her work encompasses research on habitat fragmentation and plant–frugivore interaction networks, as well as conservation efforts focused on habitat restoration and biodiversity conservation. She is a co-founder of Ary Saina, an association that connects research activities with community-based outreach programs. She also serves as the co-coordinator in country for the Rufford-CLP 2026 Learning Event in Madagascar.

Notahiny Zafindretsaba



Notahiny Zafindretsaba is a scientific animator at Toliara Eco Restoration youths led organization , for marine and coastal ecosystems management at Ranobe Bay MPA in SouthWest of Madagascar. At the same time, she is Master's II student at Institut of Fisheries and Marine Sciences (IHSM), University of Toliara, specializing in Fisheries and Aquaculture. Her research focuses on communities fish aquaculture development in Madagascar.

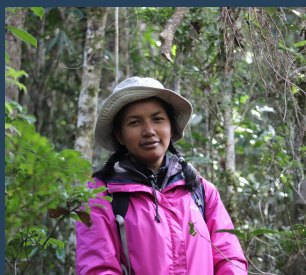
Participants

Rickarlos Bezandry



Dr. Rickarlos Bezandry's research explores the adaptation of endemic *Baracoffea* species to semi-arid environments in northwestern Madagascar using ecological, architectural, phenological, germination, and genomic approaches to support ex situ conservation and the valorization of endemic biodiversity in breeding programs for climate resilience.

Rindra H. Nantenaina



Rindra H. Nantenaina is a PhD candidate at the Doctorate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Université d'Antananarivo, Madagascar. Her research explores the ecological importance of plant galls for frugivorous lemurs and their forest habitats. She is co-founder of the Ary Saina association, leading conservation initiatives through outreach, social media, and field-based projects. She also serves as the coordinator in country for the Rufford-CLP 2026 Learning Event in Madagascar, fostering collaboration and capacity building in nature conservation.

Participants

Rindrahatsarana Ramanankirahina



Dr. Rindrahatsarana Ramanankirahina, a conservation biologist from Madagascar. She works as a lecturer at the University of Antananarivo and as a researcher in biodiversity conservation. Her research focuses on lemur ecology, behavior, and conservation, with long experience in field surveys across several protected areas.

Sylviane Volampeno



Dr. Sylviane Volampeno is a Malagasy primatologist dedicated to conserving her country's unique biodiversity. She holds a DEA (Diplôme d'Études Approfondies) in Animal Biology from the University of Antananarivo, and earned her Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of KwaZulu-Natal for research on the blue-eyed black lemur in Sahamalaza-Iles Radama National Park. Her work integrates primate conservation with sustainable development, community engagement, and environmental education. She is the Founder and President of Mikajy Natiora, and Deputy Chair of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group (Madagascar Section), as well as a member of GERP.

Participants

Zo Samuel Ella Fenosoa



Zo Samuel Ella Fenosoa is a Malagasy biologist and ecologist. She earned my Master degree at the University of Antananarivo where she studied the wild mouse lemur responses to stress induced by their capture-release. Since then, she has collaborated researches mainly related to lemur-plant interactions. Among these researches, she focuses on the project evaluating the interactions between the epiphytic and parasitic plants mistletoes and their dispersers in Madagascar's rainforests which has been funded by the Rufford Foundation Small Grant.

END OF REPORT