

The hidden treasure of the Alaotra Lake



CAN NOT
BE SOLD



<http://www.gerp.mg/>

Tale for children written and illustrated by *Catherine Rhiat*
Discovery
the fauna and flora of Madagascar



Association pour la Sauvegarde des Lémuriens de Madagascar

colibri59cr@gmail.com

In a big city of
Madagascar,
lived Jonah and
his parents.



During the holidays,
they loved to visit
their family
who lived near
Alaotra Lake.



Documentaire : « Le trésor caché du lac Alaotra »



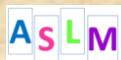
http://www.supagro.fr/ress-pepites/innovationAlaotra/co/Etape_2.html



Jonah was still waiting for these moments because he liked to go to the lake with his cousin Toky to observe nature.



They made small boats which were sailing on the water.



**One day, as they went to the lake,
they saw great flames.**



<http://slideplayer.com/slide/4424615/>



**Toky explained
to him,
to circulate
more easily
on the lake
and**

**to grow rice,
people burned
reeds and papyrus.**



<http://www.supagro.fr/ress-pepites/EtudeCasAlaotra/>



Film MADAGASCAR, L'ILE MERVEILLEUSE



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**Jonah was sad to see such a spectacle,
to see his favorite play area go up in smoke.**

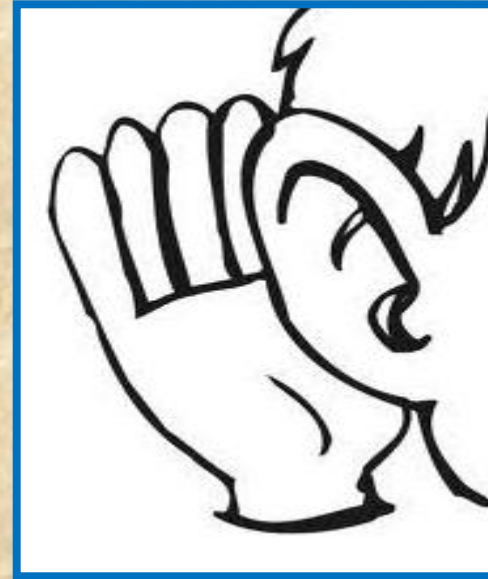
**As he approached flames,
he heard a screaming voice**



*Help...
I am a prisoner of flames
...
come and deliver me ..*



**He asked Toky
if he heard anything
but
Toky replied no.**



**Jonah was still hearing
that little voice
and he made his way
to where she came from.**



**Jonah moved closer
to the flames,**



Film MADAGASCAR, L'ILE MERVEILLEUSE

**he took off his shirt,
dipped it in the water
and started
to extinguish flames with
his wet tee-shirt.**



**Thanks to his precise gestures,
he progressed quickly.**



**That's when he saw a bandro,
this little lemur that lived on the lake.**



**Jonah redoubled
his efforts
and
reached
the little bandro
which he took
in his arms.**

Documentaire : « Le trésor caché du lac Alaotra »





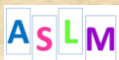
Documentaire : « Le trésor caché du lac Alaotra »

**This little bandro had
burned hairs.**

**It was exhausted,
but it managed
to whisper to Jonah
that his family was in danger
and that it had to be saved.**

**Jonah shouted
to Toky**

**I saved a bandro !
Go quickly for help
to village !**



**Toky ran to village while Jonah asked
the little bandro
to show him the way.**



**The little bandro clutched at Jonah,
who was constantly wetting his t-shirt to
extinguish flames around them.**



**The villagers, Sihanakas
("those who wander in the marshes")
are arrived quickly
and union being strength,
they extinguished quickly flames.**



The little bandro then designated to Jonah a place where you could see a nest.

Jonah approached and saw in this nest the family of the little bandro which was terrified.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgJLRg33L4E>





**The family of brave little bandro
was saved
thanks to Jonah who braved danger and
thanks to villagers
who helped him.**

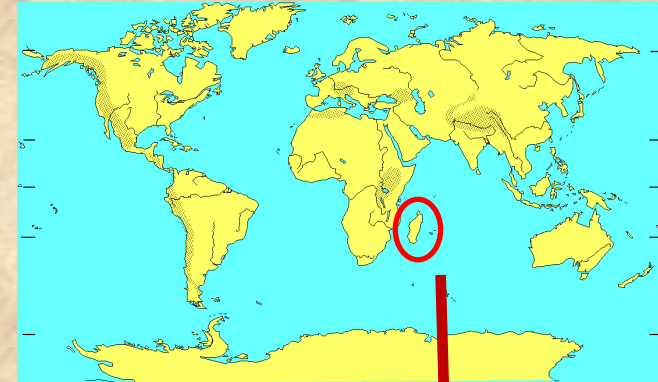


**The little bandro
thanked them**



... and whispered in Jonah's ear
the secret that his ancestors told him:

"The world is very big
but bandros only live
in Madagascar,
on the Alaotra Lake ...

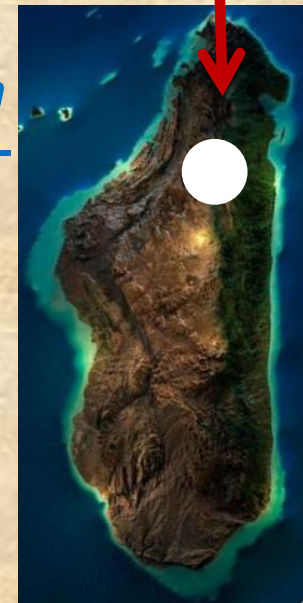


the bandros are

the hidden treasure of the Alaotra Lake"



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<https://news.mongabay.com/2015/08/a-diamond-in-the-marsh-saving-the-lake-alaotra-gentle-lemur/>

Jonah was touched by this confidence.

**He understood that it was urgent
that the Malagasy stop lighting fires
on lakeshore and take care of bandros.**

**He explained this
to villagers and
made them understand
that if nothing was done,
the bandros would
quickly disappear
from Alaotra Lake
and our planet.**



**The villagers decided
to protect them
by banning reed fires.**



**Jonah also suggested
that tourists discover Alaotra
Lake and its bandros.**

Ecotourism was born around
Alaotra Lake.



<https://sites.google.com/site/universdesanimaux/le-bandro>

The villagers found that tourists came from all over the world to see the bandros.



**And thanks of this, the villagers lived better.
In addition to accommodation and meals,
tourists paid
a boatman to take them to see bandros and
a guide to explain the lifestyle
of these small lemurs.
And they buy gifts made by the villagers.**





**As for Jonah,
he decided to devote his life
to protecting
these little bandros and
all lemurs.**

**He created
with other scientists
an association to protect
lemurs and their habitat :
the **GERP** of Madagascar.**



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<http://www.gerp.mg/>

And since, Jonah travels the world :

*Tourists do not come to Madagascar to see
dead lemurs and empty forests !*

He federate people
who lived on the island and
on the planet to protect
lemurs and Malagasy biodiversity,
the green treasures
of the Great Red Island.



<http://www.lemurlove.org/lemur-gallery.html>

Protecting Madagascar's biodiversity for future generations go through knowledge of Malagasy fauna and flora.

Catherine Rhiat

Author and President of the Association



Association pour la **Sauvegarde des Lémuriens de Madagascar**



Through this tale, I wanted to pay tribute to

Jonah Ratsimbazafy

*Primatologist,
Founding member and President
of GERP Madagascar*



**whose objective is to
ensure protection of lemurs and their habitat**

for the documentary

"the hidden treasure of Lake Alaotra" in which is denounced
the destruction of the natural habitat of **bandro**,
this small lemur critical extinction that must be saved ...

and for the valuable advice he lavished on me.

**Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Primates
de Madagascar**

