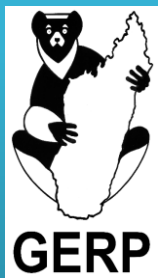




The magic tree of Maromizaha



www.gerp.mg
gerp.squarespace.com

Children's story written and illustrated by
Catherine RHIAT

Discovery of
the fauna and flora of Madagascar

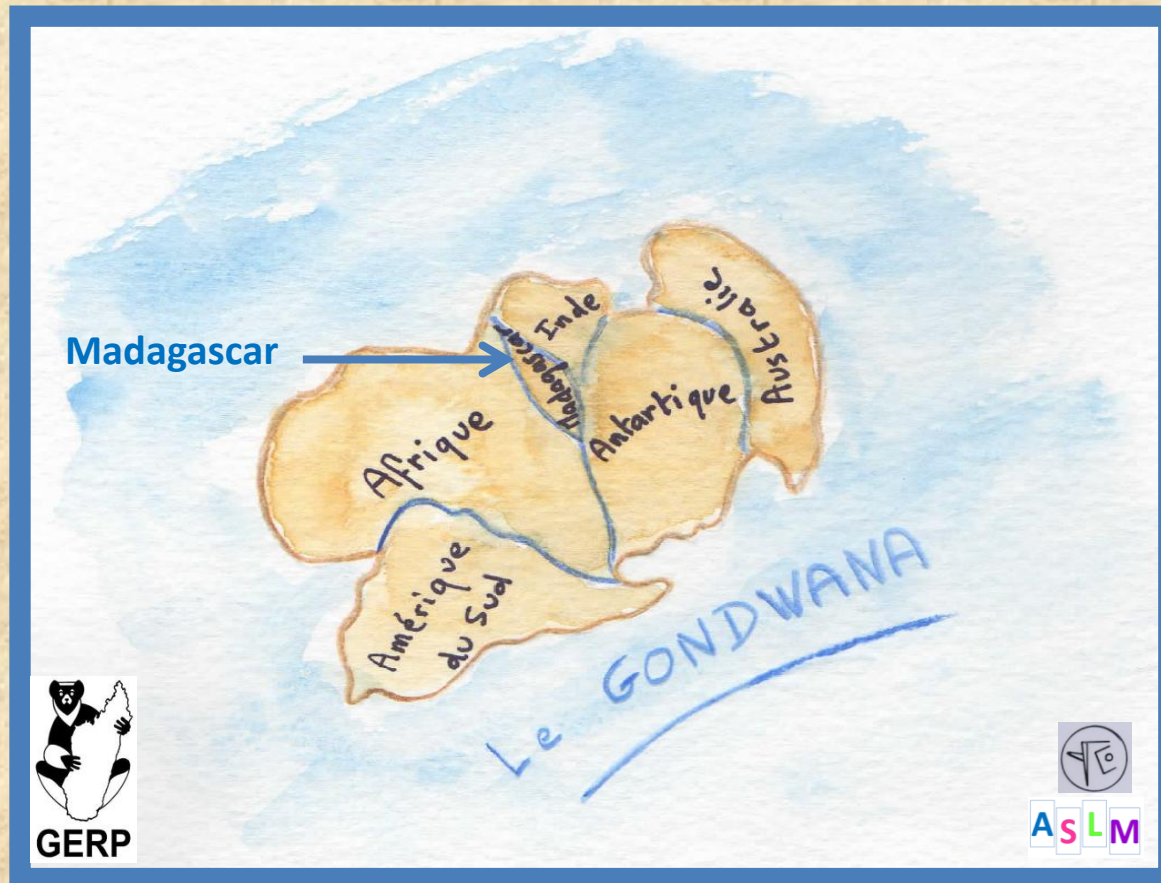
May 2020

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



aslm-lemuriens.com

In very ancient times,
Madagascar was part of a super-continent :
the **GONDWANA**.



**It was populated
by many animals.**

**Among them,
ancestors of the lemurs
lived.**

**They lived in the forest
feeding
leaves, seeds and fruits.**





© David C Azor

<https://www.especies-menacees.fr/vari-noir-et-blanc-ou-lemur-vari/>

**They like
to meet
around a big tree,
a rosewood
that overlooked
the other trees.**



© Catherine RHIAT



**They called it
"the magic tree"**

**because
according to legend,
it was enough
to make a wish
so that this one
to become true.**

Photo Catherine RHIAT – Madagascar 2019



GERP



© Catherine RHIAT

**Some animals
who want to rule this earth,
hunted lemurs.**



**Peaceful, the lemurs
gathered around
the magic tree and
made a wish :
be away from these animals.**



The magic tree made their wish come true :



**Madagascar
broke away from Africa
and became
an island.**



On this island,
many animals and
plants species
have developed..



Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur

https://www.routard.com/photos/madagascar/1413012-vari_noir_et_blanc.htm

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flore_de_Madagascar



© Catherine RHIAT

Baobab



These species did not exist
anywhere else all over the world,
they are called
endemic species.



<http://fr.bigpoint.com/zoomumba/board/threads/vos-idees-sur-dautres-tours-du-monde.6718/>

Fosa



http://www.zoo.lyon.fr/zoo/sections/fr/les_animaux/la_liste_des_especes/les_mammiferes/le_vari_blanc_et_noir/

Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur



<http://quilaztli.over-blog.com/2015/09/le-scarabee-girafe-de-madagascar-trachelophorus-giraffa.html>

Giraffe weevil



https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coua_hupp%C3%A9

Crested Coua



http://www.routard.com/photos/madagascar/1447634-grenouille_endemique_de_madagascar.htm

Madagascan Mantella



© Catherine RHIAT

**Then the man arrived
in Madagascar.**

**At the beginning,
everything went well,
men respected nature.**



**But the men
were not satisfied so
they wanted more land.**

**They burned the forest
to cultivate the land and
raise zebus**

...

**first a little
then
more and more.**





Lemurs
have been seen
their territory shrunk.

To survive,
they had fewer young.

But it was not enough.



<https://www.futura-sciences.com/planete/actualites/zoologie-menace-extinction-intensifie-primates-16367/>

<https://www.nicematin.com/index.php/faits-divers/video-un-bebe-lemurien-est-ne-au-parc-phoenix-a-nice-313953>

**Highly threatened by destruction of the forest,
the lemurs gathered around the magic tree and
made a wish :
be understood by humans
in order to live in peace with them in the forest.**



**The magic tree
again granted
their wish.**



<https://www.diconimoz.com/animaux/maki-vari-noir-et-blanc/>



**Jonah, a student
at the University of Antananarivo,
had a dream in which
a black and white vari
asked him to go to Maromizaha.**

Upon awakening, Jonah went to Maromizaha and discovered a magnificent forest.



Photo Catherine RHIAT – Maromizaha 2019

He was amazed by different species of lemurs that lived there.



https://www.ecoheros.ca/blogue_sauvage/super-heros-pollinisateurs/le-top-10-des-pollinisateurs-les-plus-cool-2/
Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur



Photo réalisée par Miaro RAMIANDRASOA
Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur



Photo réalisée par Miaro RAMIANDRASOA
Indri



<https://wanderlord.com/aye-aye-amazing-living-thing/aye-aye-24/>
Aye-aye



<https://picbabun.com/place/424917384382735>
Diademed Sifaka

**It was also sad to see places where
the forest had disappeared.**



Photo Catherine RHIAT – Madagascar 2019

**The black and white vari that he had seen in his dream
then appeared.**

**He beckoned to him and guided him to a tree :
the magic tree.**



At its foot were gathered
some lemurs.



He sat down next them, closed his eyes
and he understood that his mission on Earth was
to protect the lemurs.



**He knew Berthe,
a primatologist
who wanted to create
an association
to protect lemurs.**



So he joined her and other scientists to create
GERP,
Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Primates
de Madagascar.



© Catherine RHIAT

**Its objective
is to save lemurs
by protecting
the forest
of Madagascar
while allowing
villagers
to live better.**



Photo Catherine RHIAT – Madagascar 2019



GERP settled in Maromizaha and enabled Maromizaha to become a protected area.



Photo Catherine RHIAT - Maromizaha 2019



**A protected area is a forest in which
men are prohibited
from cutting down trees,
burning parts of the forest,
killing or imprisoning
a lemurs or any other protected animals.**



**In the protected area,
there was no need
to burn forest
to have good harvests
because
different agricultures
had been put in place.**



https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10226084712774195&set=pb.1528573332.-2207520000&type=3&locale=fr_FR



Photo Catherine RHIAT – Maromizaha 2019



© Catherine RHIAT

In addition, beekeeping was developed there so that bees pollinate flowers and produce many fruits and vegetables.



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ks8AEm5CXIRDt_WR7e07orYhXHLZZUpY/view

As for Jonah, he travels across Madagascar and over the world to explain that lemurs are in great danger, it is still possible to save them but we must act quickly.



<http://www.midi-madagasikara.mg/economie/2014/09/02/festival-lemuriens-manifestation-protection-du-patrimoine-national/>

**Tourists come from all over the world
to see lemurs in the forest.
They are amazed by these rare animals.**



**And the arrival of these tourists
gives work
to the villagers.**

**Some become guides
and discover
endemic species of Madagascar,
not only lemurs, but birds,
chameleons, frogs,
rosewoods, etc...**



Rphoto Catherine RHIAT – Maromizaha 2019

The villagers understood the value of conserving their forest.

**Aware of
the urgency of the situation,
the villagers are working hard
to repair the damage
caused by their ancestors.**

**For the greater good of
future generations,
they replant
many endemic trees
on cleared areas.**



Rapport GERP 2017



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gRx6cG3u9JC31n_-qLj9WVIAI69oAXqB/view



This allows lemurs to have more territory to feed on and therefore to have more children.



<https://www.pinterest.fr/pin/470626229809844762/>



http://www.gerp.mg/?page_id=15

http://planete.simiesque.free.fr/planeteSimiesque/prosimiens/presentation/presentation_lemuriformes.php



GERP

© Catherine RHIAT

<https://www.zoonaute.net/2015/02/24/nouvellesaisonnalleesinges-3/>

Furthermore, members of the GERP introduce children to the richness of their environment because these children are the adults of tomorrow, heirs and future protectors of this extraordinary biodiversity.



**Since then, lemurs are no longer alone,
Jonah and the GERP are no longer alone,
we are at their side.**

**Together we can act to reverse the trend,
we can protect lemurs so they never disappear.**



**And, we can always
ask the magical
Maromizaha tree
to help us
by granting
our wishes.**



Protecting Madagascar's biodiversity for future generations requires knowledge of the Malagasy flora and fauna.



Catherine Rhiat

Author and President of the Association



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

Through this story, I wanted to honor the work carried out by



Jonah Ratsimbazafy

Primatologist,

Founding member and President of the GERP of Madagascar,

and

Berthe Rakotosamimanana,

Primatologist

Initiator and founding member of GERP Madagascar



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



*Lemurs are unique animals in the world,
they only exist in Madagascar.*

They are disappearing and urgent action is needed to save them.

