

Madagascar's Lemurs

Naturetrek Tour Report

10 - 24 October 2014



Hubbard's Sportive Lemur



Verreaux's Sifaka



Male Short-horned Chameleon



Baby Ring-tailed Lemur, Enja

Report & cover images compiled by Ed Drewitt



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Introduction

Our packed adventure for two weeks in Madagascar led us to explore a range of habitats, landscapes and nature from the rainforests in the east to the hot, dry spiny forests in the south-west. These different environments enabled us to see unique birds, mammals, reptiles, plants and invertebrates found nowhere else in the world. We saw so much including the very secretive carnivore, the Fosa and the critically endangered Greater Bamboo Lemur. From the virtually invisible Mossy Leaf-tailed Geckos to the range of colourful, cryptic chameleons and frogs, and of course the huge range of other lemurs from Ring-tailed to the highly vocal and cuddly-looking Indri, there was so much to see and experience on the world's fourth largest island.

Day 1

Friday 10 October

London to Paris

Our first day for most of the group involved travelling to Paris for an overnight stay ready for the flight to Madagascar from France in the morning. We left London Heathrow in lovely sunshine in between showers and arrived in Paris, a little greyer as the light faded. After some well earned dinner in the evening at one of the hotel's restaurants, we headed for bed.

Day 2

Saturday 11 October

Paris to Antananarivo, Madagascar

We all met together at the hotel or airport and boarded the 11:20am flight from Paris to Antananarivo (more usually known as Tana). While Paris was very wet outside, we headed south across the city and had a pleasant 10-hour flight across The Alps in Switzerland, the sunny coastline of Croatia, over the mountains and autumn colours of Albania and Greece, and across the Mediterranean Sea into northern Africa. Here the terrain below became very hot and sandy; we passed over Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya before descending down towards Madagascar mid-evening landing at around 11pm. It was quite cool as we exited the plane and the distinctive smell of wood smoke permeated the air from nearby settlements. We spent some time working our way through

security, getting our visas, and collecting our luggage before meeting our guide on the ground, Claude. We picked up our currency and then, with the bus packed, headed down the road to a nearby hotel grabbing some well-earned sleep.

Day 3

Sunday 12 October

We all met at 8am for breakfast, tea and coffee, and headed out at just before 9am on a bright sunny day to the Lemur's Park just outside of Tana where we had the chance to see semi-wild lemurs up close, and to get our eye in on what to look for when we explored the forests later in the week. On the 80-minute drive there, we passed rice paddies where goats, cows, Cattle Egrets, lots of Great Egrets, Squacco Heron, Black Herons, Mascarene Swallows, and plenty of domestic ducks fed. We saw do-it-yourself brick kilns, some smoking away as fires inside cooked the clay bricks, and lots of people by the riverside washing their clothes. The kilns have become an important part of the house building industry, now there are so few trees to cut down.

At the lemur sanctuary, where a variety of species have been saved from the pet industry, we were able to explore the area both for lemurs as well as the birdlife, insects, and xerophytic plants (including the Elephant Foot plant) - many have been planted to show visitors the unique botanical species that live in the hot environments further south of the country. During our visit we saw various groups of nine species of lemur, from the very vocal Black and White Ruffed Lemurs to the sleepy, curled up forms of Greater Dwarf and Brown Mouse Lemurs. Coquerel's Sifakas were in small family groups with at least one baby each, either resting or feeding on the food provided. A single Crowned Sifaka snoozed in a tree away from the sunshine, while Brown and Red-fronted Brown Lemurs hid away in a thicket of bamboo. A young female Ring-tailed Lemur, recently rescued, came to say hello while we watched a group of Coquerel's Lemurs, and a little later on Mongoose, Brown and Coquerel's Lemurs were all quite active together in some trees and bamboo - three of the latter were playing together on the ground in the hot sunshine. Before we headed back for lunch, a family of Ring-tailed Lemurs were huddled together in the shade under a bush. Meanwhile, reptiles didn't shy away and, as we had entered the park at the beginning, an adult Spiny-tailed Iguana impressively sat on the entrance roof! A young, smaller version with a thick black collar sat obligingly on a rock later on. Our guide Hanja showed us Radiated, Spider and Hinge-backed Tortoises in a large pen, with one-year old Radiated Tortoises that were no bigger than the palm of your hand. And as we came back for lunch, a 10-inch juvenile Oustalet's Chameleon, sandy-brown with creamy diamond spot on its sides, grasped a branch hidden in a bush - it was the first chameleon some had ever seen in their lives. As we walked around, we were very aware of the birdlife particularly from their calls. Madagascar Cuckoo sang repeatedly and Madagascar Kestrel, Bulbul and Brush Warbler were all calling. Souimanga Sunbirds were feeding on the nectar of tree flowers, with their curved bills suited for probing into tubular flowers, and one male showed himself beautifully to us before singing away. A bright black and white Madagascar Stonechat with an orange throat appeared on one of the xerophytic trees, and a pair of Madagascan Bulbuls finally showed well - despite being loud they are often hard to see! Other birds included Madagascar White-eye, Brown-throated Martin, and Madagascan Fody. Some of the trees also held the huge and oversized stick nests of the Hamerkop for us to admire.

After a delicious and appetising three-course lunch we headed in glorious sunshine east. We passed more paddy fields spotting Dimorphic Egret (white phase), a dozen Great Egrets, Madagascan Kestrel, and a juvenile White-throated Rail (spotted by Jane). We headed south up into the hills along windy roads, with incredible views across the dramatic rocky landscape, now deforested and scattered with pine trees introduced from Mexico. Rice

paddy fields were positioned all along the road network, most recently ploughed and mixed with cow dung, waiting for the rains to sow another rice crop. On our journey, a large lake was dotted with distant Red-billed Teal and, in the hills, three Yellow-billed Kites drifted past together. We passed through villages bustling on a Sunday afternoon with people buying foods, whole communities watching and playing football, and others just relaxing with friends and family. As the sun began to drop, we had time to see a Hamerkop in a rice paddy pool and, further along the road, we spotted a Madagascar Wagtail, a France's Sparrowhawk flitting past, and a male Madagascar Stonechat. As the light faded we passed through villages without street lamps, where lots of people were still active outside after dark. We reached the town of Antsirabe (population 200,000) around 7pm and settled in to the delightful Royal Palace Hotel where we enjoyed a buffet dinner, drinks, and just after, our checklist of the wildlife we had seen for the day.

Day 4

Monday 13 October

We rose to a sunny morning and an early start with breakfast at 6.30am - some had Common Mynas singing on their outside windowsill. We were on the road an hour later and spent the day travelling south. We passed acres and acres of rice paddies while the granite mountains, the 'backbone' of Madagascar, were ever present and impressive to our right. We stopped to watch local people working their rice paddy fields - some were ploughing fields with two Zebu (domestic cow). Madagascar Kestrels were frequently seen including the darker phase individuals found in this part of the country. We also spotted Common Mynas, Great Egrets, Dimorphic Egret, Madagascar Wagtail, and Mascarene Martins. We stopped at a limestone cliff to see a small breeding colony of Madagascar Bee-eaters - their backs and tails shone bright green in the sunshine. They were visiting nest holes and feeding nearby. This was also a good spot for singing Madagascar Cisticola, Madagascar Cuckoo, kestrel and stonechat. We passed an area of native trees, *Tapia*, which have thickened bark to withstand natural fires on the sun baked Madagascan countryside. After a few hours, we stopped at some wood carving shops where the group were able to buy souvenirs (from lemur shirts to metal sculptures), have a toilet stop, and stretch legs. Simon spotted a Madagascar Kingfisher. Meanwhile, a small group of Alpine Swifts drifted over.

An hour or so later we stopped at a few (rare) freshwater pools and native woodland. A Madagascar Swamp Warbler was nearby in a bush, and later flew across the road - these are large warblers with long tails. At the back of the pools, half a dozen Red-billed Teals were resting - their bright red bills not visible when they slept. Nearby, Simon spotted another Madagascar Kingfisher, and we watched it standing on the end of a branch and dipping into the water to feed. Overhead, a Madagascar Buzzard, two Yellow-billed Kites, a few African Palm Swifts, and an Alpine Swift flew. From the trees, a cuckoo called and a Suimanga Sunbird was singing. A White-throated Rail called from the back, while large blue and red hawk dragonflies flew low over the water. Jane spotted a Crested Drongo, followed by an Ornate Girdled Lizard, the latter of which everyone got to see. It was four to five inches long, black with yellow lines down its back and yellow spots on its side.

We continued to travel throughout huge swathes of countryside subject to burning by man, grazing by Zebu, and shaping into a stepped watery landscape for rice paddies. We suddenly came to some semi-natural woodland with *Symphonia* trees in bright red flowers. It was time to turn off the road and stop for lunch. We walked 150 metres along a path through trees to the Ialatsara Forest Camp, spotting various large colourful butterflies on the way. We had a delicious hot lunch with goat's cheese tart for starters, Zebu with rice and vegetables, all home-grown, and pineapple turnover for pudding. Before we left, the gardeners had kindly found us some chameleons - we split into two groups to see two species. A male and female O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon were in one place -

the female was a light cream-sandy shade, while the larger male was bright green with beautiful yellow streaks towards his pelvis and back legs. He also had two short 'horns' on his nose. At the other site, we watched another male O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon and a male Blue-legged Chameleon. The latter was smaller and more finely coloured, while the former was changing colour to suit the branch on to which he was clinging. We had one further surprise before we headed back. As we entered into the trees, the gardeners pointed up into the bamboo - sitting there huddled up was a cat-size Ramanofana Bamboo Lemur (a type of Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur). We found a further three hidden up in the trees, their tails dangling and moving in a deliberate way to communicate to each other.

We left just after 3pm, stopping in a nearby village to see a large heronry containing tens of Dimorphic Egrets (both colour forms) with their splendid feathery 'aigrettes', Black-crowned Night Herons, and Cattle Egrets. Spotted young night herons were still in their nests while the other species were bringing in twigs and displaying.

After filling up on more fuel, we headed on for three hours to our hotel at Ramanofana. We arrived around 6.30pm and, despite the power cut, had a little light and candles in our rooms. We had dinner and, after the checklist, headed off to bed ready for an early start lemur watching.

Day 5

Tuesday 14 October

After breakfast at 5.45am, we set out at 6.30am on a bright sunny morning, having already spotted Madagascar Coucal, Wagtail and Bulbul around the hotel. We headed 20 minutes up the road to Ranomafana reserve, and spent the morning looking for lemurs, birds, orchids and geckos with our local guides! We weren't disappointed, and it wasn't long before we were watching our first lemurs, a male and female Red-bellied Lemur. They were busy up in a fig tree and, craning our necks upwards, we got good views as they moved around, including seeing one drop some height downwards to another branch. As they headed off, we worked our way up to another place, where a single Red-bellied Lemur was feeding by the dry stream. It was eating the soil to ingest minerals and to help neutralise any nasty chemicals it might have eaten from the plants. Not far round the corner we encountered a small family of fox-size Milne-Edwards' Sifakas - black and white lemurs with a black streak down the white back. They were huddled together on a branch, and a young baby was flitting between the adults. To finish off our morning, we headed upwards into the bamboo parts of the secondary forest, where our guides had spotted two very special residents - the critically endangered Greater Bamboo Lemur. We had the only two in this region of Madagascar - a father and daughter. There is another small population in another part of Madagascar but, despite reintroductions here, only these two remain. After a morning of eating bamboo, the two were resting in the trees, occasionally popping their heads up and revealing their white ear tufts. They had thick brown fur, hazel brown eyes, a slit nose, and fingers and nails just like ours. When they slept, they stretched out their arms to reach their toes; this helped them look like an ant's nest from a distance and no doubt to a potential predator, such as a Fosa.

Another special mammal had also treated us first thing - it was a Lowland Streaked Tenrec, an insectivore that has evolved black and yellow spines, a little like a hedgehog. Usually they are nocturnal, so this was a bonus seeing it in daylight. Above the entrance to the reserve, swifts including Madagascar Black, Alpine, and African Palm flew overhead, with a few Mascarene Martins and a Madagascar Kestrel. We spotted a secretive Pitta-like Ground Roller and a Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher while, in the trees above, white-eyes and bulbuls were noisily moving around. Further in the forest, we saw an incredible Madagascar Blue Vanga with a bright blue

back, white belly and light blue bill. Madagascar Magpie Robin, Madagascar Cuckoo, Common Newtonia, and Spectacled Tetraka (with a yellow eye ring) were all seen, while Common Jery, Cuckoo Roller, Blue Coua, and Madagascar Cuckoo were all heard.

Reptiles were in abundance too - our first was the grey-brown Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko that was almost invisible, while a Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko looked just like the tree bark, and even had mossy patterned green makings on its back! It blew us away. As we headed back, a Four-eyed Emerald Day Gecko was hiding on a bamboo stem and, back at the hotel, a few Lined Day Geckos, bright green with a red splotch on their backs and a dark line along its flanks, were on the walls above our dining area. Finally, a delicate rain forest grass snake, the Thiel's Snake, was amongst the leaf litter. This sandy-brown snake hunts for tiny leaf litter frogs.

The forest was alive with native bamboo, fig trees with bizarre clumps of fig fruit at various stages of growth, orchids and other epiphytic plants, tree ferns, lichens, and much more.

After a delicious three-course lunch outside under the shade, we headed out at 3.30pm to another part of the reserve. It wasn't long before we were listening to and spotted a single Common Jery, a small Chiffchaff-like bird whose song is a little like that of the Goldcrest. Cuckoos called almost continuously during our one and a half hour walk. Long-billed Tetraka was heard (and seen by a few) and a Nuthatch Vanga was seen by Sarina. As the woodland became more covered, we had wonderful views of a France's Sparrowhawk perched on a branch above us. It had a much whiter breast than our own Sparrowhawk, with a very blue-grey back. As we headed back, a small Madagascan Jumping Frog was on the path in front, and looked like the leaf litter. A stunning male Nelicourvi Weaver, with a bright yellow head, came nearby. To our surprise, a Spectacled Tetraka was sitting on a small, neat nest, on a small branch of a little shrub by the path. We must have walked past it on the way without realising, and were within inches of the adult bird incubating eggs. One further highlight was seeing the perfectly rolled leaf (almost like a cigar) made by the female Giraffe-necked Weevil - she lays a single egg in this, then severs the rolled leaf, which falls to the forest floor, to help the young weevil have the best chance of survival.

As the light faded, we went down the road in the bus, ready for a night walk. Even before the light had faded completely, a Brown Mouse Lemur came to feed on some banana smeared onto the bark of a tree. It was small, rat-sized but very round and cute, with large eyes ideal for night vision. We continued along the dark road with our head torches, and saw a juvenile Nose-horned Chameleon, a juvenile O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon, one adult and two juvenile Glaw's Chameleons (only found here on this reserve in the whole of Madagascar) as well as lots of Madagascar's largest tree frog, *Boophis madagascariensis*, and a smaller species, *B. rappiodes*. In the mix of night time creatures that we saw were also a large native land snail, huge orb-web spiders and a Kite Spider.

Day 6

Wednesday 15 October

After breakfast, we were out by 6.30am, back at the nearby forest reserve to look for more lemurs. On the bridge over the river we spotted two bright blue Madagascar Blue Pigeons, with red wattles, feeding on tree fruits. The Giraffe-necked Weevil was back in position on the leaf and, on the other side of the river, our guide pointed out an egg cocoon of a praying mantis, which looked like an oval-shaped honeycomb bar. A pair of Tylas Vangas was feeding above us in the trees, and one caught a large, juicy, hairy caterpillar and was wiping it against the tree.

They looked a little like oversized stonechats in colouration. Some of the group had a distant view of a Hook-billed Vanga, while Long-billed Tetrakas called overhead.

We scrambled up some steep wooded slopes amongst the bamboo, and were rewarded by a small group of Golden Bamboo Lemurs - there were three or four munching on bamboo stems and resting. Their 'blonde streaks' on their heads were marked and, in the sunlight, they looked much lighter and golden compared to the Greater Bamboo Lemurs we saw the previous day.

A little further through the forest, just off a main path, we had sightings of a huddle of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs together on a branch of a large tree. The male, grey with a black muzzle was standing up, looking out, while the three females remained huddled.

After some beautiful scenery at a viewpoint where we rested, we headed on for a further two hours, taking in the nature. Before we left, Dave and Liz found a bulbul visiting a nest in front of the viewing platform. The highlight was a male Velvet Asity, a Starling size bird that is black with a short tail, rounded wings, and light, faint edges to its breast and upper tail coverts. It was just coming into breeding plumage, and had a bright blue-green wattle extending above its eyes. Throughout the rest of the walk, we heard cuckoos, White-headed Vangas and Red-tailed Vangas (which sound like a wolf-whistle), and saw a female Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher and a Madagascar Cuckoo Shrike. Behind us, Jane and Stephanie saw a Madagascar Wood Rail scuttle across the path into cover. Before we got to the bus, we saw a shiny, black millipede curled up on a tree trunk over the path while, near the river bridge, we spotted the rolled leaf nest of a Giraffe-necked Weevil still attached to the plant stem.

We lunched at 12.30pm and relaxed for the afternoon, before meeting together again at 5pm for a later afternoon/early evening night walk. Some of the group had spent time in the nearby village or down by the river and outdoor pool. Just before we left, Stephanie, who studies crayfish, showed us two which she had rescued from a large bagful just collected by a local person from the river, and we got the chance to examine both a male and female together. The female was darker, larger and blue with some remaining eggs, while the smaller male was brown. They are vulnerable to over-harvesting, particularly as they grow slowly and are unable to recover quickly from large numbers being collected for eating. It was a great chance to see these underwater crustaceans at such close quarters!

After looking at the crayfish, we got on our way and, 15 minutes later in the bus, Danny, our driver, spotted something. We looked back and saw a small troop of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs crossing the road. We quickly got off the bus and watched the dozen or so lemurs climb a fig tree and begin to select the figs they wanted to eat, often at the end of a branch. There was a mix of males and females, and some were mothers with young babies clinging to their bellies. Meanwhile, three Chabert's Vangas flew overhead calling, and at least three Madagascar Cuckoos called around us, including one directly above us in a tree, but he was impossible to see! A tern-like Madagascar Pratincole also flew overhead - an unusual sighting - and, as the light faded a Blue Coua and a White-throated Rail could be heard along with the cuckoos. At least two Malagasy Mouse-eared Bats, about the size of a Daubenton's Bat in the UK, began flying above us. We spent some time in the dark, scanning amongst the leaves on a tree, finding two huge Madagascar Golden Orb-web spiders with intricate webs ideally suited for catching prey. The creatures were beautifully patterned black and yellow. Simon spotted our first chameleon, a female Blue-tailed Chameleon moulting some of her skin. We saw another female plus a Glaw's Chameleon and

an O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon. We headed back at 7pm for dinner at 7.30pm and then we were off to bed ready for an early start and a day's travelling.

Day 7

Thursday 16 October

Up early, we had breakfast at 5.45am and set off an hour later, after looking at a bright green male Belted Chameleon in the hotel's garden. We stopped on our way, further up the river and gorge, to look at the magnificent views of the water and geology before turning our attention to the range of ferns, liverworts, Madagascar Sundews, and Dancing Lady Orchid flowers growing on the moist rocky cliffs by the roadside. Despite being in a rainforest we didn't have any rain all week – however, these cliffs remain damp all year round from water leaching through the rocks and along small streams. At a bush stop a little further along, a Blue Coua called and a Chabert's Vanga sat at the top of a tree. Along our journey south, we passed Dimorphic Egrets, Great Egrets and a few Hamerkops in the rice paddies. We stopped briefly at a fuel station in Madagascar's second largest city Fianarantsoa, and picked up some familiar, as well as local, snacks. Just before our lunch stop, we paused above some vineyards looking out across open country and the granite outcrops. Madagascar Cisticola and Madagascar Lark were calling nearby. At 11.30am, we stopped for lunch and a visit to a papermaking factory in Ambalavao, where local people hand make paper from local Avoha tree bark. Claude talked us through how the women make the paper and, afterwards, we were able to buy the card and photo albums made from their handiwork. Lunch was next door, and by 1.15pm we were back on the road.

Our next stop was Anja, a local community-run woodland managed for the lemurs. In front of us was the imposing scenery of granite mountains, known as the 'inselbergs'. In fifteen years, the population of Ring-tailed Lemurs has risen from 100 individuals to 650 and, now more tourists are visiting, the money can be invested back in the area both for the lemurs, and infrastructure such as a school for the local village. A short walk led us into a small part of the woodland where a male Ring-tailed Lemur was by himself. A little further on, we encountered a group of a dozen lemurs, and we stayed with them for half an hour watching their antics. This was mainly a group of females with young, though one male was amongst them. One baby was ten days old, a tiny thing, while others were a few months old and beginning to play amongst the branches by themselves, with their watchful mothers nearby. One baby gave up and went back to suckling, while its mum groomed its feet and tail. The troop were generally relaxing, grooming their tails and feet, and came within metres of where we were standing. Occasionally something would spook them, and they would all be alert, before quickly settling down again. What an experience - a superb opportunity for everyone to see wild Ring-tailed Lemurs. Nearby, a huge male Oustalet's Chameleon had caught a very large locust, and continued to crunch and devour it while it made its way up a tree. Further along, another male was suitably camouflaged against the tree's bark and, on the path back to the car park, a smaller, green female was crossing and making her escape. Also, in one tree, Claude pointed out the larval form of Flatid Leaf Bugs - these wasp-size invertebrates have white, fluffy rear ends which, from afar, look just like small white flowers. They certainly had us fooled for a second. But then they began to move! The flower-like accessories are targeted by predators such as small birds, leaving the main animal intact if they are attacked.

We headed on for another four hours, and arrived at our luxury hotel, Le Jardin du Roy, near the Isalo National Park, around 7.30pm. On our journey we passed through breath-taking granite mountains and vast grassy plains, some on fire to encourage plant growth for the Zebu. As the sun set, we drove across the barren Horombe Plateau seeing mainly Pied Crows, Madagascar Cisticolas, Madagascar Larks, and lots of termite mounds.

After a refreshing welcome drink and towel, we met for a delightful three-course meal, before heading off to bed after a long day. As we returned to our rooms, it became clear we were surrounded by an impressive sandstone landscape, with huge eroded boulders by our lodges. The night sky was full of stars and constellations; a White-browed Owl hooted nearby, and White-throated Rails called with their whip-like sound all night.

Day 8

Friday 17 October

Some of the group met at 6am, and headed out for a cooler pre-breakfast walk, spotting Madagascar Turtle Dove, Crested Drongo, Madagascar Coucal, Madagascar Bulbuls, Grey-headed Lovebird, and the *pièce de résistance*, a singing male Benson's Rock Thrush, now considered to be the same species as the Forest Rock Thrush. He was singing from a lodge chimneystack. You could hear bits of Song Thrush and Blackbird in his song, a clue perhaps to his taxonomic relations to these species. A beautiful Broad-billed Roller, only here between September and April to breed, was showing off his purple-blue plumage and bright yellow bill. When Simon and Dave got back to their lodge, there was another rock thrush singing there too! It was clear as we walked around, how well placed the hotel was, surrounded by stunning, well-worn, sandstone hills.

After a refreshing breakfast of fruit, tea, juice and toasted bread, we headed out at 7.30am to the Namaza Canyon in the Isalo National Park, which is part of the impressive Isalo massif: Jurassic sandstone that has been carved by the wind and rain into spectacular gorges and gullies. Sara spotted a Madagascar Partridge on the way. Around the car park, Madagascar Red Fodies were foraging in the trees, a dozen or so were there, looking like male House Sparrows, but a little smaller. Two Madagascar Hoopoes were sitting in trees, and huge Madagascar Giant Swallowtail butterflies were gliding amongst the bushes. As we wandered into the canyon, our guide Rowland pointed out many of the native xerophytic plants and trees, that are adapted to the hot and dry conditions here, and are unique to Madagascar. Shield bugs, stick insects, a snout bug, and a praying mantis were all spotted, despite their incredible cryptic colours and body forms. A large male Oustalet's Chameleon also didn't escape detection, high up in a tree. A Crested Drongo sat on a nest in an exposed tree, while a female Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Chabert's Vanga, Madagascar Bee-eater, Broad-billed Rollers, Souimanga Sunbirds, and Common Jery fed or perched amongst the trees. We finally all got a view of a flying Madagascar Cuckoo, which promptly called when it landed, competing with a loud, vocal coucal.

After a kilometre, we entered a small camp where we spent an hour or so watching a troop of Ring-tailed Lemurs, a female Madagascar Button Quail scratching around amongst the leaf litter and dusty soil, and a very approachable Madagascar Wagtail, a male magpie robin, and an impressive male Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher showing off his long white central tail feathers and blue eye ring. A few white-eyes, a female Cuckoo Shrike and a rock thrush were feeding amongst the bushes just away from the camp. The lemurs were fascinating to watch as they rested in nearby trees and on the shaded rocks. Some of the females had young babies clinging on too. Near the toilets at the far end of the camp, a group of Red-fronted Brown Lemurs were hanging out in the fig trees. Some were resting, sometimes standing up when the breeze rocked their branch a little too much. After ten minutes or so, a few lemurs began feeding on a tree laden with figs - we watched them as they munched on the green fruits. We had to be careful we didn't get hit by their poo - the figs were no doubt keeping them regular! We headed back along the track and to the hotel where, after a short rest, we had a delicious three-course lunch together at 1pm.

We met together again at 4pm, and headed out behind the hotel with our guide Rowland to explore the canyon that was here. We had the chance to really see the sandstone cliffs up close, and observe the many layers of compacted sand. The rock was pitted with holes where small pebbles had dislodged, and weather had opened up where they had been sitting. Throughout the walk, Rowland pointed out many of the country's unique plants, from ferns to the Elephant Foot flowering plant. On some of the trees, shield bugs were packed in like ladybirds - most were bright shiny orange adults with a few larval forms, coloured like the bark of the stem. Rowland found a locust, which he caught and showed us up close, a yellow Lynx spider was hiding under a stem, and a native palm tree had perfect geometry, as its straight fronds fanned out into an amazing pattern. A spiky Mimosa tree entertained us as the leaves drew together when touched. A dozen Yellow-billed Kites floated in the sky above while, in the bushes, mainly bulbuls were present. As we walked down a sandstone hill, a White-browed Owl quietly called in from the woodland. As we neared the end of our walk, a few Broad-billed Rollers appeared and a Lesser Vasa Parrot, almost the size of a kite but with shorter, rounded wings, appeared above the tree line as it headed away from the hotel area. As the light faded and the temperature dropped, White-throated Rails began to call from the damp woodland nearby, and a Madagascar Nightjar sang a short distance away. Its song sounds like a marble dropping onto the ground and bouncing for a few seconds.

After another delicious dinner we headed for an early night, ready for a 4.30am start.

Day 9

Saturday 18 October

We set off at first light at 5am, as some of the birdlife began to wake and others such as nightjar were settling down for the day. On our way to the Zombitse National Park we stopped briefly at a river, reed bed, and paddies to see a few Green-backed Herons, White-throated Rails, a White-faced Whistling Duck in flight, and a few dozen Cattle Egrets coming out of roost to feed on the paddies.

We passed expanses of open land, where the woodland has been removed for firewood, slash and burn for Zebu, and mining for sapphires. Villages have turned into large, poor conurbations as people have flocked to the area to be part of the business. Standing out in the middle of nowhere were Baobab trees, once surrounded by scrub and other trees. As we came over the brow of a hill the sterile land suddenly became the good quality dry deciduous forest of the Zombitse National Park (where the Baobab trees were more naturally nestled amongst natural vegetation) and, by 7am, we were at the park and meeting our guides. Just before we arrived, two Greater Vasa Parrots were perched in a tree. We wandered into this special woodland, looking at a variety of trees, including baobabs and a tree with thin, peeling bark known as the Tourist Tree (as its skins peels like sunburnt western tourists). Our first stop was to see a Hubbard's (or Zombitse) Sportive Lemur at its roost tree - this was a little shy and only a few people saw it. However, a little further along, another was sitting right out of its tree crevice. About the size of a cat, this nocturnal lemur is sandy brown with large big eyes. Common Jerys called nearby, and we continued on through the woodland, looking briefly at a Marbled Emerald Day Gecko hidden in a hole in a tree. Soon however, we were watching a troop of nine Verreaux's Sifakas, some pacing through the trees with such ease, using their long legs and shorter arms. They separated into pairs, and kept warm in the cool, windy, overcast weather by huddling together on the tree branches, preening and licking each other's fur. These lemurs were white, with grey bellies and red-browns crowns. One or two were even perched just metres away, giving stunning views. As we headed back, a female Cuckoo Roller noisily flew overhead like a hawk, bouncing up and down in the wind.

As we headed further west and south the rain clouds darkened and heavy rain soon came. We passed very poor villages with simple wattle-and-daub huts - there was no rivers or pools here, so we watched local people collecting water from puddles by the road to wash their clothes, or simply taking all their clothes off and dancing in the rain. Some people were very happy, as this was the first rain the area had seen for months. It is very unusual to have rain this early – normally it comes in January or February, after ten months without any.

After a few hours drive, we arrived at Antsokay Arboretum at Toliara, in heavy rain. We paused a short while and looked in the shop, before biting the bullet and heading out around the arboretum with our guide Jeanto. He showed us some wonderful specimens of local spiny forest trees - it was a great opportunity to see how these xerophytic plants have adapted to the hot, dry environment with thick, succulent leaves and a bulb-like root system that stores water. Despite the rain, there was birdlife around - the highlight being an adult Madagascar Nightjar standing bedraggled over a half-grown chick. We were only five metres away. When the rain eased the adult left the baby and stood on top of a tall spiny plant shaking itself. The young nightjar was greyer and growing its main body and wing feathers. Towards the end of the walk, we saw another nightjar sitting on three eggs. Other birds adapted to an arid environment were also present, though it was rather different to see them in the rain! Subdesert Brush Warblers were heard, and Simon and Sara spotted one too, flashing its long tail. They also photographed a Big-eyed Grass Snake on their phone. A dark-coloured Spiny-backed or a Warty Chameleon was sitting in a bush - its spiny scales were clearly visible along its back. A superb Green-capped Coua, a pheasant-like bird with bright blue wattling around the eyes, was parading and foraging on the ground and gave very obliging views. Madagascar Hoopoe, male Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher, Chabert's Vanga, and Madagascar Magpie Robin were also seen. The robins were singing in the rain and, at lunch, a pair visited a nest with young, in an ornamental facemask on the restaurant wall. Male Souimanga Sunbirds were feeding on flowering bushes by the restaurant, allowing us the chance to see their full splendour up close. After an amazing lunch of smoked fish salad, fish or Zebu kebabs, and fruit salad we headed north up the coast to our seafront hotel.

The heavy rain and thunder continued as we headed along a now very muddy track, aka the main road Number 9. A white-rumped hirundine was most probably a very local Little Swift or perhaps an even rarer House Martin. The unusual rains may have brought either down as a migrant on the coast. Further along we stopped in-between heavy showers at some salt marshes to see 20 Curlew Sandpipers, a Whimbrel, a few Ringed Plovers, Greenshanks, two Black-winged Stilts, and lots of Kittlitz's Plovers (including a chick). Further along a White-fronted Plover was feeding on the track, and bee-eaters, larks, and mynas were common. Turnstones were also feeding along the tide-line, near where we passed mangroves. Half the area of mangroves had been chopped down for firewood, but a local initiative is helping to secure the future of the remaining trees.

We arrived at 5.30pm at our beach hotel, and quickly settled into our separate beach cabins before meeting for dinner at 7pm - food ranged from smoked fish salad to octopus, the national meat dish, to ice cream. Before dinner, there was a chance to have a quick dip in the Indian Ocean, find some colourful shells or watch nightjars feeding and resting behind the accommodation. After dinner, nightjars were still calling, and hermit crabs were walking around the sand and on the path back to our cabins.

Day 10

Sunday 19 October

Today we met at 5am, and enjoyed a morning cup of tea or coffee from some flasks that had been left out for us. Madagascar Nightjars were still calling as the light came up, and one was flying around by the reception building. Half an hour along the very bumpy and puddly road, we arrived at Reniala spiny forest reserve, to look at both the plants and birdlife. Our first bird was a male Sakalava Weaver by the main building - it was a male with a bright yellow head. Nearby, a male Madagascar Red Fody was sporting his red breast, which looked like it had been painted with a red felt-tip pen which was running out. Two Madagascar Hoopoes flashed past, and drongos were seen throughout the walk, their crests easily visible. We were surrounded by various baobab trees including the oldest, which was huge and measures 13 metres in circumference. There were also false baobab trees and many different xerophytic trees with leaves, stems and roots very well adapted to the hot environment. The main plants that dominated here were the spiny Octopus Trees. Being the dry season, they were lacking any green leaves poking out from the spines but were no less impressive, rising up like octopus tentacles, with many thorns inches in length.

We passed a family of Subdesert Tetrakas, and watched as they noisily foraged close by, while the male sang. The young were well fledged, though one still had some young fluff behind its eyes. The male's tail feathers had the distinct pale tips when viewed from below. Further along, we saw one of our key target species, a Long-tailed Roller. This Magpie-size ground feeding bird was five or six metres away, showing off his beautiful patterns and colours - almost nightjar like colours with a blue wing patch and black and white throat/neck markings. Dark grey and black millipedes were abundant all across the terrain, and curled into spiral balls if we disturbed one while walking. A little further along, a Green-capped Coua showed to some, but was outdone by another individual sat out on a tree branch sun bathing, lowering its wings to expose its back. You could tell that it is related to a cuckoo by its head, bill shape and its zygodactyl toes, where two point forward and two point back, even when perched. The sound of a crying baby was in fact Jay-size Sickle-billed Vangas, and some of the group watched three in the trees, including one foraging and using its long, down-curved bill to peck at and prise away dead wood in a branch, looking for grubs to eat. Common Newtonia, Archbold's Newtonia, Common Jery, Chabert's Vanga, Souimanga Sunbirds, magpie robins, and both species of vasa parrots were also sighted.

The crème de la crème was a Banded Kestrel, a rare falcon that was feeding and perched on an Octopus Tree. When it flew, everything made an alarm call. It settled on another spiny tree offering us excellent views of its cuckoo-like plumage, barred back (like a Peregrine's), banded belly and yellow eyes. It stood tall and upright, and was a little hawk-like in appearance. Nearby, a buzzard circled overhead, and Madagascar Kestrel was also seen. Crested Couas put in a few appearances, including what appeared to be a male impressing a potential mate, showing off his tail and calling. A Running Coua was also seen by some, but slipped away quickly. Before we finished our walk, we had views of a splendid Lafresnay's Vanga. This Jay-sized vanga was sitting on its nest with only its head and tail showing, but it gave us the opportunity to see its pale grey bill with a curved lower mandible, and striking head markings. We also saw the nest with eggs of a Subdesert Mesite. Our final animal was a Spiny-tailed Iguana camouflaged against tree bark. We arrived back at the bus at 9am, after an amazing morning seeing what is hidden amongst the spiny forest. After a late breakfast of fresh fruit, pastries and tea or coffee, we had the rest of morning to explore the beach, rest or swim before meeting for lunch at 1:30pm. Simon who hadn't been able to join us in the morning, had seen a small Three-eyed Lizard, and others were seen later in the day. He had also spotted a Green Sunbird, a first for the trip. As the tide came in the odd Lesser Crested Tern flew past.

At 4pm three of the group met Claude, Ed and Danny (our driver) and headed out to the nearby brackish pools, finding Kittlitz's Plover, a few stunning Banded Plovers, and the real rarity and endemic to the country, the Madagascar Plover. They are normally very difficult to find, but two were feeding together amongst the pools and flooded tyre tracks, giving superb views - their black breast band and peachy belly were diagnostic. Four Greenshanks, a Curlew Sandpiper and four Turnstones were also seen. On the track to the hotel, a Running Coua made an appearance, while another was seen by Dave near their cabin. Sakalava Weavers were feeding together on the ground near the hotel reception, where bee-eaters, bulbuls, sunbirds and other common birds were seen by different members of the group during the day. Red-coloured millipedes were also common along the track. At 6.15pm we met with the security and gardeners, for a walk around the hotel grounds as it got dark, catching up with a few more flying nightjars, coucals, and a real highlight, two different Grey-brown Mouse Lemurs that looked like oversize dormice dashing along the branches of trees.

We finished off the day in the restaurant for dinner and a local band with dancers using homemade guitars and drums.

Day 11

Monday 20 October

After a relatively later start, we had breakfast at 6.45am and headed out at 7.30am, back along the bumpy road to the airport, which we reached a few hours later. Along the way we spotted a few more Greenshanks, Kittlitz's Plovers and Whimbrel plus a coucal and a Chabert's Vanga close to the bus. After a quick, early three-course packed lunch we caught the plane, which was running early, mid-morning and arrived in Tana an hour later. Along the way, the flight took us over mountains, dried rivers, and open country - a chance to see just how much forest has disappeared, but still present in the mountain canyons and parts of the countryside. After the porters had collected our luggage, we stopped briefly at the supermarket to get some water, and then drove East for over four hours to the rainforest area of Andasibe. The journey was a real contrast to the west and became increasingly more hilly and green. After passing through Tana itself, watching the busy, bustling life of people and spotting Little Swifts and Mascarene Martins, we headed out past acres of rice paddies, forest and gushing rivers. Half an hour before we arrived at our hotel, we stopped at a fuel station in a town, where a nightjar was hawking overhead. We continued along dark windy roads through small villages, with people walking along the road, lit up by our bus headlights. Mist was rising off the warm road rather eerily after recent rain, while blanket lightning lit up the whole sky. We arrived at 7pm to the chorus of hundreds of frogs and later, after dinner, a Madagascar Scops Owl or Eastern Rainforest Scops Owl as it is also known, was calling - three simple hoots in succession followed by a pause. During the night it was pitch black in our rooms, while the frogs continued to sing outside and a whole variety of moths were attracted to our outside lamps.

Day 12

Tuesday 21 October

In the morning, dawn started early between 4am and 5am and, amongst the cockerels crowing, we could hear Madagascar Cuckoo, Madagascar Coucal and even an Indri, the largest of all the living lemurs. After breakfast, as we were heading out, we could hear more Indris from all around us and not too far from the hotel. What an amazing sound. At 7.30am we headed just down the road to the entrance of Analamazaotra nature reserve, part of the Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, and met our guide Maurice and his assistant Lalaina. Before we entered the reserve, Maurice took us back down the road in the bus to see a rather bedraggled adult Madagascar Long-eared Owl, still wet after yesterday's rain. We could still see its tufts, however. And nearby, a few trees away, were

two of its young, one showing its white fluffy front and dark eyes, and the other with its back to us, showing off its newly grown wing feathers. As we started to walk around, we could hear the far travelling sound of Indris - an incredible eerie howling sound. Madagascar Cuckoos were calling around, and Maurice explained that they had just arrived from their wintering grounds in Kenya to come to Madagascar's rainforest to breed. There was so much birdlife that, although we had only walked half a kilometre, we had already seen Stripe-throated Jery, Blue Vanga, and bulbuls, and heard Nelicourvi Weaver, Souimanga Sunbird, Madagascar Wood Rail, Crossley's Vanga, Chabert's Vanga, Lesser Vasa Parrot, and Madagascar Coucal. A Madagascar Harrier Hawk sat at the top of a half dead pine tree, sporting its reddish facial skin, grey body, black wing feathers and barred breast feathers. We had a real treat next, when we approached two Madagascar Tree Boas sunning themselves on some grassy vegetation. Both looked as though they had recently eaten, and were digesting their prey. Their skin was shiny with an oily blue sheen. Not too far away, in a stand of bamboo, at least three Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs were feasting, and one even came to the ground in front of some of us, and chewed open a bamboo stump before prising out the softer more delicious bits in the centre. Two coucals were sitting out in the open, while Madagascar Flufftails called from an open area of dense vegetation. Along this track, we spotted an oddly shaped spider called the Kite Spider was sitting in the middle of its web. A pair of white-eyes was busy foraging, and Simon spotted a Blue Coua flying overhead. We had superb views of a large female France's Sparrowhawk sat on a tree branch, shortly joined by a male who, despite his advances and hovering in front of her, was rejected and flew away to another perch. Greater Vasa Parrot was also heard.

With a little walking up and down along the rainforest paths, crossing through vines and thin trees, we caught up with a very special lemur, the Diademed Sifaka. Half a dozen of these beautiful white furry bundles came dancing through the trees, grabbing hold of one trunk metres from where we stood. They moved fast, even the one that was carrying a baby. We followed them down the wooded slope, and caught up with them on the other side of the path. Some had ventured onto the ground, and one was feeding only a metre or two away. The older baby, born in May, was jumping between adults while another, born in July, clung to its mother. We were able to look closely at their beautiful colours and dark faces with human-like eyes.

After another walk further up into the trees, we found what we had been hearing all morning, the Indri. There, clinging on to a tall Cryptocaria tree, was a black, white and grey teddy-like lemur. It climbed further up the tree to feed on fruits, revealing its long legs, tiny tail stump and black, fluffy ears. It was joined by another, eventually in the same tree. As it fed, we could see its pink inner lips and lemon-green eyes.

On this high note, and in the rising heat and humidity, we began to make our way back, but not before spotting an amazingly cryptic bird. Sitting on its eggs in the middle of a Bird's Nest Fern was a Collared Nightjar. Larger than the Madagascar Nightjar, this species specialises by living in the rainforest itself. The adult was superbly coloured to blend in with the dead leafy fronds that were dying away in the middle of the plant. Remarkable!

Continuing on our way, we passed orange stripy fungus known as Zebu Tongue Fungus. At least two drongos were seen on their nests too. Not to be outdone, a small group of Common Brown Lemurs were feeding above our heads, two at first, followed by another four including a mother with a young baby. Claude and Ed also spotted a Madagascar Wood Rail feeding at close range amongst the vegetation. What a morning. We arrived back at the bus just before 1pm, and travelled a short distance down the road to our lunch spot by a pool and forest. When we arrived back at our accommodation, a male Indri was sitting in the top of a tree above Sarina's room! Claude explained that males wander away from their families in search of a mate. This chap was most

probably on the move. When he finds another family, he will keep his distance and make love calls for up to four days to gain acceptance by the family's mum and dad, so he can access and pair up with one of their daughters. We watched him feeding and looking around in the sunshine - he seemed quite relaxed in our presence.

After a few hours rest, some of us headed out at 6.30pm for a night walk. We met our guides Lucy and Pierre, and headed into a reserve, one of very few that you can enter at night. Immediately they spotted two Crossley's Dwarf Lemurs feeding in a tree, followed by a tree frog. Jane found a male Giraffe-necked Weevil and throughout the rest of the walk, we were spotting crickets with long legs or super long antennae, a centipede, two scorpions, various frogs, very large tadpoles, a sleeping Citrus Swallowtail butterfly, two young Parson's Chameleons, a small Broad-browed Chameleon, a stick insect, and a sleeping Pygmy Kingfisher than didn't stir when lit up by head torches! During the walk the thunder and lightening provided an atmospheric night experience, and for most of the walk we had heavy rain. But it had certainly been worth it.

Day 13

Wednesday 22 October

This morning Ed woke to find an Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur outside his room, while the Indri was still in the same tree by Sarina's room, after sleeping the night. The dawn chorus was full of many different birds singing, including three or four cuckoos. As we left at 6am, other Indris in the forest began to call - their very own lemur dawn chorus. It sounded incredible. Two Madagascar Green Pigeons sat up in a tree and a Red-tailed Vanga called nearby.

After breakfast we spent a few hours driving along a bumpy track to Mantadia, part of the Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, gradually venturing further into good quality primary forest. Along the way we spotted a coucal, stonechat, curved overhanging bamboo, bracken, Purple Heron, white-eyes, Madagascar Plate Lizards, a bright red male Madagascar Fody, two buzzards, and lots of wonderful trees and tree ferns. We spent a few hours with our guides Morris and Lalaina, first spotting some big and small butterflies around the sun-exposed puddles near where we arrived. A group of four Lesser Vasa Parrots were feeding close by, while at least three Madagascar Cuckoos were calling all around us. A Stripe-throated Jery was also singing.

As we walked into the first past mahogany and fig trees we spotted a sparrow-size Red-tailed Vanga which from a distance had the head markings of a Great Tit. While a few of us had a pause, we watched a Nuthatch Vanga, with its dark blue-grey back, climbing up tree close to a Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher. Black and White Ruffed Lemurs barked away in the distance. Bulbuls flew overhead, and a magpie robin foraged nearby. The group approached a couple with another guide, and were excitedly informed that above our heads on a thick tree branch were two Fosas! Yes, two Fosas, a giant mongoose-like carnivore. These rarely seen carnivores that have a taste for lemurs, were larger than a domestic cat with a sandy grey coat, very long whiskers, and a strained, dog-like face. The two were no doubt a pair, as this period was the breeding season for Fosas. They both got up and went to rest (and perhaps mate), in peace and out of view, in a large Bird's Nest Fern. What a sighting! A female may stake out a particular tree or branch over many seasons, and in any one day could entertain up to six or seven males. Though today it didn't look like her mate was going anywhere too soon.

Feeling high, we continued our walk for another hour. Morris pointed into a Screw Pine Tree - perched and very well camouflaged below the fronds where the older, dead brown leafy bits lay, was an Eastern Rainforest Scops Owl. Its plumage made it completely disappear. Jane spotted an equally cryptic and small Broad-browed

Chameleon, that looked like a dead curled leaf that suddenly moved. While Broad-billed Rollers called overhead, Indris howled in the background. As we came back to the bus a Dwarf Plated Lizard was on the prowl for food.

We paused for a moment, and then headed on to a small lake ten minutes walk away. We passed a few young Pill Millipedes, tiny like a pill and green. Maurice then spotted something very special - a rarely seen tree snake, the Fandrefiala or Perinet Snake. It was 1.5 metres long with the first half yellow and the second half blending into a lovely warm brown colour. It was moving through the grass, presumably between areas of trees - Claude picked it up and put it into some saplings where we could see just how agile it was clinging on to the trees and aligning its long body with the straight, thin stems. A little further along in the grass, a juvenile Madagascar Tree Boa was curled up, and had lighter patches on its skin compared to the darker adults.

By the pool, there were lots of dragonflies, from the Emperor to other small blue and red species. A few Moorhens were picking around at the back of the lake, while in the trees above a Madagascar Starling was seen, along with some Chabert's Vangas and a Blue Coua. Two Buzzards soared overhead with one of the Vangas chasing one of them away. Back on the pool, a Madagascar Little Grebe was diving and a Madagascar Swamp Warbler was singing by the water's edge. Three Nelicourvi Weaver nests were hanging from a bush overhanging the water - the tunnel entrances were lined with fresh green leaves and we watched a male bringing some in. These may be for display to impress females, or even as an insecticide to clear the nest of any pests or parasites. A Spine-tailed Swift flew between the trees, and Mascarene Martins fed overhead. As we walked a Cuckoo Roller called nearby in the forest.

After a packed lunch and fresh, ripe mangos we headed back along the track for a few hours and spent the afternoon relaxing.

Day 14

Thursday 23 October

After checking out, we headed down the road to order lunch, and then stopped at the Analamazaotra nature reserve that we visited a few days ago, and met our guide Morris and his assistant Lalaina. We first visited some bushes to get close views of a male and a female Short-horned Chameleon. Maurice collected three grasshoppers separately and placed them on a branch nearby. We watched the male chameleon prepare his tongue and then, as quick as the blink of an eye, extend his long tongue to snatch up the insects. The female meanwhile had spotted her own breakfast, a resting butterfly that hadn't yet warmed up for the day. She slowly approached it and then quickly lapped it up with her tongue. Nearby Morris showed us a tiny Pandan's Tree Frog hiding along the frond of a Screw Pine Tree.

In the forest, we saw a female Madagascar Green Sunbird, larger than the Souimanga Sunbird with a longer, curved bill. Meanwhile, a male Madagascar Cuckoo was calling from a tall tree - after some effort we finally saw this shy bird before he flew off. A flufftail and a cisticola called nearby and, as we walked along, Maurice spotted a new bird for us, two Red-fronted Couas. They looked like dark green pheasants with brick-orange foreheads and blue skin near the eye. One of the adults picked up a grasshopper but, rather than swallowing it, carried on foraging. Perhaps it had a nest nearby and chicks? A little further along, three Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemurs were feeding near to the ground.

As we went into deeper forest, there was a huge variety of birdlife feeding in the trees including Madagascar Magpie Robin, Nuthatch Vanga, Blue Vanga, Common Newtonia, Madagascar Turtle Dove, Common Jery, Madagascar Wood Rail, Souimanga Sunbird, and a Pied Flycatcher-like Ward's Flycatcher or Vanga flying out to catch insects.

Up the hill and into the trees, and at least two Indris were resting in the trees and as we approached them they began their territorial calls - right above our heads. We listened to their loud, eerie calls travelling across to other groups of Indris as a territorial signal. We could hear others calling or responding further away.

Not far away, a small family of Diademed Sifakas were feeding. We watched them for 20 minutes or so feeding, grooming and resting. There were two males and a female with a small baby. We got brilliant views as they hung upside down, rested with their very long legs outstretched, licked each other's fur, and fed on leaves. One of the males sniffed some leaves, perhaps smelling scent from the female. As she came close to him he moved away - no doubt she was a little more dominant. As they moved on, we continued walking, with Maurice pausing every so often to point out a variety of species of plants such as the Rosewood Trees that take hundreds of years to mature and are very sought after in the illegal logging trade, and plants that are used as healing agents. Some were related to palms and others to coffee.

We arrived back at 11.15am and headed for our lunch spot, where there was a little time to buy some souvenirs before food arrived. Sitting on the shaded balcony by a natural pool and stream, we listened to nearby Indri calling, no doubt our last for the holiday. We set off back for Tana at 1.15pm, spending just over five hours on the road, with stops, and passing through a range of habitats and settlements along the way. Various egrets and herons were common and, as it got dark, a few Black-crowned Night Herons also made an appearance. A group of Madagascar Black Swifts were screaming on the edge of Tana as dark round clouds loomed over the city and brought with them a deluge! Driving down the side roads, we saw a busy, bustling Tana with lots of small street shops and restaurants selling everything from fruit to meat, grain to spare bike parts. We spent an hour at the Orchid Hotel, before departing to a very nice nearby restaurant, and then heading for the airport for check in ready for our early morning flight. Check in and security was all straightforward and relatively quick, and we boarded our plane back to the UK via a change in Paris and headed on to our different parts of Britain.

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Species List

Lemurs (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only; C = Captivity/semi-wild)

	Common name	Scientific name	October											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Cheirogaleidae												
1	Grey-brown Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus griseorufus</i>									2			
2	Grey Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus murinus</i>												
3	Brown (Rufous) Mouse Lemur	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>	C		2									
4	Greater Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus major</i>	C											
5	Crossley's (Furry-eared) Dwarf Lemur	<i>Cheirogalus crossleyi</i>										2		
		Lepilemuridae												
6	Hubbard's (Zombitse) Sportive Lemur	<i>Lepilemur hubbardorum</i>							2					
		Lemuridae												
7	Eastern Grey Bamboo Lemur	<i>Haplemur griseus</i>		4									1	3
8	Golden Bamboo Lemur	<i>Haplemur aureus</i>				4								
9	Greater Bamboo Lemur	<i>Haplemur simus</i>			2									
10	Ring-tailed Lemur	<i>Lemur catta</i>					12	12						
11	Common Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur fulvus</i>										6		
12	Red-fronted Brown Lemur	<i>Eulemur rufus</i>				4		8						
13	Red-bellied Lemur	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>			3									
14	Black-and-White Ruffed Lemur	<i>Varecia variegata variegata</i>	C										H	
		Indridae												
15	Crowned Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coronata</i>	C											
16	Verreaux's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus verreauxi</i>												
17	Diademed Sifaka	<i>Propithecus diadema</i>			4							6		4
18	Milne-Edwards' Sifaka	<i>Propithecus edwardsi</i>												
19	Coquerel's Sifaka	<i>Propithecus coquereli</i>	C											
20	Indri	<i>Indri indri</i>										3	1	2
24	OTHER MAMMALS:													
25	Fosa	<i>Cryptoprocta ferox</i>											2	
27	Lowland Streaked Tenrec	<i>Hemicentetes semispinosus</i>			1									

	Common name	Scientific name	October											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	Malagasy Mouse-eared Bat	<i>Myotis goudoti</i>				2								

Birds

1	Madagascar Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus pelzelinii</i>												1	
2	Common Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	1									2			
3	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>													
4	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		12											3
5	Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>								2					3
6	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	20	10			6								4
7	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	20	50					20		20			✓	7
8	Black Egret	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>	6				✓				15				
9	Dimorphic Heron	<i>Egretta dimorpha</i>	1	20			6				2				2
10	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>												1	1
11	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>	1				3				Nest				4
12	Red-billed Teal	<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	100	6											
13	White-faced Duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>							1		30				
14	Madagascar Harrier- Hawk	<i>Polyboroides radiatus</i>											1		
15	Madagascar Buzzard	<i>Buteo brachypterus</i>		2			1	1		1				4	
16	Yellow-billed Kite	<i>Milvus aegyptus</i>	3	6	1		15	1	6		✓				1
17	Banded Kestrel	<i>Falco zoniventris</i>									1				
18	Frances's Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter francesiae</i>	1		1								2		1
19	Madagascar Kestrel	<i>Falco newtoni</i>	3	8	3	H	1	3	2	1	1				2
20	Madagascar Partridge	<i>Margaroperdix madagascariensis</i>						1							
21	Helmeted Guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>							6						
22	Madagascar Wood Rail	<i>Canirallus kioloides</i>			1								1		H
23	Madagascar Button-quail	<i>Turnix nigricollis</i>						3		1					
24	White-throated Rail	<i>Dryolimnas cuvieri</i>	1	H		H			2						
25	Madagascar Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura insularis</i>													H
26	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>												2	
27	Madagascar Pratincole	<i>Glareola ocularis</i>				1									

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
28	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								4	4	2			
29	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								2					
30	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								6					
31	Madagascar Plover	<i>Gallinago macrodactyla</i>										2			
32	Kittlitz's Plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>								20	2	2			
33	White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>								1		1			
34	Three-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>									2				
35	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								1	2	2			
36	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								6	4	6			
37	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>								3					
38	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>													
39	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>													
40	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								20	1	1			
41	Lesser Crested Tern	<i>Sterna bengalensis</i>									2				
42	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	20	50				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
43	Namaqua Dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>								6	✓	✓	6		
44	Madagascar Blue Pigeon	<i>Alectroenas madagascariensis</i>				2							1		1
45	Madagascar Green Pigeon	<i>Treron australis</i>											1	2	
46	Madagascar Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia picturata</i>							1						1
47	Grey-headed Lovebird	<i>Agapornis canus</i>							1		2	3			
48	Greater Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis vasa</i>								2	1		1		
49	Lesser Vasa Parrot	<i>Coracopsis nigra</i>								2	1		1	4	
50	Madagascar Coucal	<i>Centropus toulou</i>			1	1	H	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
51	Thick-billed Cuckoo	<i>Pachycoccyx audeberti</i>													
52	Madagascar Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus rochii</i>	H	H	1	H	1	1	H				H	H	1
53	Green-capped Coua	<i>Coua olivaceiceps</i>								1	2				
54	Running Coua	<i>Coua cursor</i>									3				
55	Red-fronted Coua	<i>Coua reynaudii</i>													2
56	Blue Coua	<i>Coua caerulea</i>			H		H	H					1		2
57	Crested Coua	<i>Coua cristata</i>									2				

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
58	Madagascar Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio madagascariensis</i>											3		
59	White-browed Owl	<i>Ninox supercilialis</i>					H	H							
60	African Marsh Owl	<i>Asio capensis</i>													
61	Rainforest Scops Owl	<i>Otus rutilus</i>									H			1	
62	Collared Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus enarratus</i>											1		
63	Madagascar Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus madagascariensis</i>						H	5	1	1				
64	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>		6											
65	Madagascar Black Swift	<i>Apus balstoni</i>		20	6						3	1			20
66	Madagascar Spine-tailed Swift	<i>Zoonavena grandidieri</i>												1	
67	African Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>		2	6	2	2	2	2				2		
68	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>									2				
69	Brown-throated Sand Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	2												
70	Mascarene Martin	<i>Phedina borbonica</i>	20	20	6				2		✓			6	
71	Madagascar Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo vintsioides</i>		3				1							
72	Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx madagascariensis</i>											1		
73	Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>		12			12	6	2	6	✓				1
74	Broad-billed Roller	<i>Eurystomus glaucurus</i>						4							2
75	Madagascar Cuckoo Roller	<i>Leptosomus discolor</i>							1				2	H	H
76	Pitta-like Ground-Roller	<i>Atelornis pittoides</i>			2										
77	Long-tailed Ground Roller	<i>Uratelornis chimaera</i>								1					
78	Velvet Asity	<i>Philepitta castanea</i>			H	1									
79	Madagascar Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes madagascariensis</i>	4	1	4	4	6	6	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Long-billed Bernieria (Tetraka)	<i>Bernieria madagascariensis</i>			1										
81	Spectacled Tetraka	<i>Bernieria zosterops</i>			2	H									
82	Subdesert Tetraka	<i>Thamnornis chloropetoides</i>									4				
83	Madagascar Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus albospectularis</i>			3		2	2	6	6	✓			1	1
84	Madagascar Hoopoe	<i>Upupa marginata</i>						2	2	2	1				
85	Benson's Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola sharpei bensoni</i>						3							
86	Madagascar Stonechat	<i>Saxicola sibilla</i>	3	6				1			1			1	5
87	Madagascar Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flaviventris</i>	1	1	6	4	4	1			2			2	

	Common name	Scientific name	October											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
88	Madagascar Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone mutata</i>			1	1		3	1	2			1	
89	Ward's Flycatcher	<i>Pseudobias wardi</i>								1				1
90	Common Newtonia	<i>Newtonia brunneicauda</i>			H	H	H	H						H
91	Archbold's Newtonia	<i>Newtonia archboldi</i>								1				
92	Madagascar Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cherina</i>		H			8	H		H	✓			H
93	Madagascar Bush Lark	<i>Mirafrja hova</i>	2				4	1	4	6	✓			H
94	Madagascar Swamp Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus newtoni</i>		4									1	
95	Madagascar Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas typica</i>	1	H	H	H	H							H
96	Subdesert Brush Warbler	<i>Nesillas lantzii</i>							2					
97	Common Jery	<i>Neomixis tenella</i>			1		1	2	2	6	✓			H
98	Stripe-throated Jery	<i>Neomixis striatigula</i>										1	H	
99	Madagascar White-eye	<i>Zosterops maderaspatanus</i>	1		2	2		2				2	2	
100	Madagascar Green Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia notata</i>								2		H		1
101	Souimanga Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia sovimanga</i>	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	✓	✓	H	H	H
102	Nuthatch Vanga	<i>Hypositta corallirostris</i>			1								1	1
103	Chabert's Vanga	<i>Leptopterus chabert</i>				3	1	1	1	4	1	H	3	
104	Madagascar Blue Vanga	<i>Cyanolanius madagascarinus</i>			1	1						1		1
105	Sickle-billed Vanga	<i>Falculea palliata</i>								3				
106	Red-tailed Vanga	<i>Calicalicus madagascariensis</i>				H							1	H
107	Lafresnaye's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris xenopirostris</i>								1				
108	Hook-billed Vanga	<i>Vanga curvirostris</i>				1								
109	Pollen's Vanga	<i>Xenopirostris polleni</i>												
110	Tylas Vanga	<i>Tylas eduardi</i>				2								
111	Crossley's Vanga	<i>Mystacornis crossleyi</i>										H		
112	Madagascar Cuckoo Shrike	<i>Coracina cinerea</i>				1						2		
113	Madagascar Starling	<i>Saroglossa aurata</i>											1	
114	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓	✓	2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			100
115	Crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus forficatus</i>		1	2			2	2	6	✓	4	1	1
116	Pied Crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>	1	6			30	4	✓	✓	✓			
117	Madagascar Fody	<i>Foudia madagascariensis</i>	6	✓				12		1			1	

	Common name	Scientific name	October												
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
118	Forest Fody	<i>Foudia eminentissima</i>				1									
119	Sakalava Weaver	<i>Ploceus sakalava</i>									12	4			
120	Nelicourvi Weaver	<i>Ploceus nelicourvi</i>			1								H	1	Nest
121	Madagascar Mannikin	<i>Lonchura nana</i>		2											

Reptiles & Amphibians (C = Captivity/in pen)

1	Pandan's Tree Frog	<i>Guibemantis pulcher</i>													2
2	Madagascar Jumping Frog	<i>Aglypodactylus madagascariensis</i>			1										
3	a Tree Frog	<i>Boophis madagascariensis</i>			8								2		
4	a Tree Frog	<i>Boophis rappiodes</i>			1								1		
5	a Frog	<i>Scaphiophryne marmorata</i>										1	2		
6	A Frog	<i>Boophis tuberosa</i>											1		
7	Broad-browed Chameleon	<i>Brookesia superciliaris</i>											1	1	
8	O'Shaughnessy's Chameleon	<i>Calumma oshaughnessyi</i>		3	1	1									
9	Short-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma brevicornis</i>													2
10	Parson's Chameleon	<i>Calumma parsonii</i>											2		
11	Nose-horned Chameleon	<i>Calumma nasuta</i>			1										
12	Blue-legged Chameleon	<i>Calumma crypticum</i>		1		2									
13	Spiny-backed Chameleon	<i>Furcifer verrucosus</i>								1					
14	Oustalet's Chameleon	<i>Furcifer oustaleti</i>	1				3	2							
15	Belted Chameleon	<i>Furcifer balteatus</i>				1	1								
16	Glaw's Chameleon	<i>Calumma glaw</i>			2										
17	Three-eyed Lizard	<i>Chalerodon madagascariensis</i>									✓				
18	Spiny-tailed Iguanid	<i>Oplurus cyclurus</i>	2							1	1				
19	Four-lined Iguanid	<i>Oplurus quadrimaculatus</i>								1					
20	Satanic Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus phantasticus</i>			1	1									
21	Mossy Leaf-tailed Gecko	<i>Uroplatus sikorae</i>			1										
22	Dwarf Plated Lizard	<i>Trachelyoptichus madagascariensis</i>												1	
23	Lined Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma lineata bifasciata</i>			2	2							2		2
24	Four-eyed Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma quadriocellata</i>			2										

	Common name	Scientific name	October											
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	Marbled Emerald Day Gecko	<i>Phelsuma standingi</i>								1				
26	Pitta Plated Lizard	<i>Tracheloptychus pittasi</i>								1				
27	Broad-tailed Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus laticaudatus</i>												
28	Ornate Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus ornatus</i>		1		1								
29	Madagascar Girdled Lizard	<i>Zonosaurus madagascariensis</i>				1							4	
30	Perinet Snake	<i>Ithyocyphus perineti</i>											1	
31	Big-eyed Grass Snake	<i>Mimophis mahafalensis</i>								1				
32	Thiel's Lined Snake	<i>Liopholidophis thieli</i>			2									
33	Madagascar Ground Boa	<i>Acrantophis madagascariensis</i>										2	1	
34	Bell's Hinged Tortoise	<i>Kinixys belliana</i>	C											
35	Radiated Tortoise	<i>Geochelone radiata</i>	C				C		C	C				
36	Spider Tortoise	<i>Pyxis arachnoids</i>	C						C					

Butterflies

African Swallowtail, *Papilio dardanus*

Swallowtail sp., *Papilio mangoura*

Brilliant Blue, *Junonia rhadema*

Small Yellow Grass, *Eurema brigitta*

Brown species of butterfly, *Strabena sp.*

Citrus Swallowtail, *Papilio demodocus*

Madagascar Giant Swallowtail, *Pharmacophagus antenor*

African Monarch, *Danaus chrysippus*

Malagasy Grass Yellow, *Eurema floricola*

Forest species of butterfly, *Saribia tepahi*

Swallowtail sp., *Papilio delalandei*

Blue Pansy, *Junonia orythia*

Orange species of butterfly, *Acraea zizja*

Angled Grass Yellow, *Eurema desjardinsii*

Moths

A Hummingbird Hawkmoth, *Macroglossum aosalon*

Other Invertebrates

Red Darter Type Dragonfly, *Tritthemis selika*

Dragonfly (Dark wing marks), *Thermothemis madagascariensis*

Small blue-type damselfly, *Azuragrion sp.*

Praying Mantis (3 species), *Mantis sp.*

Flatid Leaf-bug, *Phromnia rosea*

Red Darter Type Dragonfly, *Crocothemis sp.*

Dragonfly by sundews, *Zygonyx ranavalonae*

Emperor Dragonfly, *Anax imperator*

Stick Insect, -

Firefly, *Lampyridae sp.*

Skimmer Type Dragonfly, *Orthetrum azureum*

Grizzled Pintail, *Aeisoma panorpoides ascalaphoides*

Locust (2 species), *Locusta spp.*

Giraffe-necked Weevil, *Trachelophorus giraffa*

Pill Millipede (Green), *Sphaerotherium sp.*

Giant Black Millipede, *Archispirostreptus sp.*
Centipede, *Scolopendra sp.*
Thorn Spider (Orange), *Gasteracanthinae sp.*
Glow Worm, -
Hermit Crab, *Coenobita sp.*

Madagascar Fire Millipede, *Aphistogoniulus sp.*
Golden Orb-web Spider, *Nephila madagascariensis*
Lynx Spider, *Pencetia madagascariensis*
Shield Bugs (3 species), -
Crayfish (Orambato), *Astacoides granulimanus*

Grey-type Millipede, *Helicochetus sp.*
Orb-web Spider, *Nephila sp.*
Scorpion, *Opisthacanthus madagascariensis*
Ghost Crab, *Ocypode sp.*



Glaw's Chameleon, Ranomafana



Collared Nightjar

Plants

Key:

RE = Reniala
 Z = Zombitse
 J = Jardin de Roy

M = Mantadia
 RF = Ramanofana
 ✓ = Recorded

I = Isalo
 AG = Analagodri

Scientific name	Common name	Location
LYCOPODIOPSIDA		
CLUBMOSES & QUILLWORTS		
Lycopodiaceae	Clubmoss Family	
<i>Lycopodium sp.</i>	-	✓
Selaginellaceae	Lesser Clubmoss Family	
<i>Selaginella sp.</i>	-	RF
PTERIDOPHYTES		
FERNS & ALLIES		
Adiantaceae	Maidenhair Fern Family	
<i>Adiantopsis linearis</i>		RF, AG, M
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family	
<i>Asplenium nudis</i>		RF, AG, M
Blechnaceae	Hard Fern Family	
<i>Blechnum sp.</i>	A Hard Fern	RF, AG, M
Cyatheaceae	Tree Fern Family	
<i>Cyathea sp.</i>	A Tree Fern	Three species RF, M, AG
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	RF, AG, M
Schizaeaceae	Climbing Fern Family	
<i>Lygodium sp.</i>	-	RF, M
MAGNOLIIDAE (Dicotyledons)		
FLOWERING PLANTS		
Anacardiaceae	Sumac Family	
<i>Operculicarya pachypus</i>	Elephants Skin	✓
<i>Protorhus abrahainia</i>	"Coffin" Tree	✓
Aphloiaceae		
<i>Aphloia theiformis</i>		M
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family	
<i>Pachypodium rosulatum ssp. gracilis</i>	an Elephant's Foot	J
<i>Pachypodium rosulatum ssp. rosulatum</i>	an Elephant's Foot	J
<i>Petchia erythrocarpa</i>	-	J

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Asclepediaceae	Milkweed Family	
<i>Folotsia madagascariensis</i>		RE, AG, M
<i>Pervilia veninata</i>		J
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	-	RM
<i>Ageratum sp</i>	-	T, M, AG, RM, M
<i>Psiadia altissima</i>	-	RF, AG, M
<i>Psiadia angustifolia</i>	-	RF, AG, M
<i>Dicoma incarna</i>		I
Buddlejaceae	Butterfly-bush Family	
<i>Buddleja madagascariensis</i>	-	RM, AG
Cactaceae	Cactus Family	
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Barbary Fig	RF, AG, M
<i>Rhipsalis baccifera subsp. mauritiana</i>	Mistletoe Cactus	M
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Lobelia sp</i>	-	RM
Capparaceae	Caper Family	
<i>Maerua caffra</i>		A
Combretaceae	Comberetum Family	
<i>Terminalia mantaly</i>		X, RM, M
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family	
<i>Kalanchoe sp</i>		RM, AG, M
Cunoniaceae	Weinmannia Family	
<i>Weinmannia sp</i>		RM, AG
Didiereaceae	Octopus Tree Family	
<i>Alluaudia procera</i>	-	RE
<i>Didierea madagascariensis</i>	Octopus Tree	RE
<i>Didierea trollii</i>	-	✓
Droseraceae	Sundew Family	
<i>Drosera madagascariensis</i>	Sundew	RM
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Alchornea greveana</i>		M
<i>Euphorbia stenoclada (E. famata)</i>	-	RE
<i>Euphorbia sp</i>	Balsa Tree	✓
<i>Uapaca bojeri</i>	Tapia	I
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Abus precatorius</i>		M
<i>Albizia gummifera</i>	-	J
<i>Crotalaria sp (Yellow)</i>	-	I
<i>Dalbergia baronii</i>	Yellow Flame Tree	I, M
<i>Delonix decaryi</i>	-	RE

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Indigofera</i> sp	-	RF
<i>Sesbania</i> sp	-	I
Hypericaceae (was Clusiaceae)	St.John's-wort Family	
<i>Harunga madagascariensis</i>	-	RM
<i>Symphonia fasciculata</i>	-	RM, AG, M, X
Loranthaceae	Mistletoe Family	
<i>Bakerella</i> sp	-	RM, AG, M
Lauraceae	Laurel Family	
<i>Cassytha filiformis</i>		I
Malvaceae (incl Bombacaceae)	Mallow Family (includes Baobabs)	
<i>Adansonia rubrostipa</i>	Red-stipuled Baobab	RE
<i>Adansonia za</i>	-	RE
Melastomataceae	Melastoma Family	
<i>Clidemia hirta</i>		RM, AG, M
Meliaceae	Indian Bead Tree Family	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Persian Lily	A
Mimosaceae	Acacia Family	
<i>Mimosa delicatula</i>		I
Monimiaceae	Schrameckia Family	
<i>Tambourissa</i> sp	-	RM, AG, M
Moraceae	Fig Family	
<i>Ficus pyrifolia</i>	Strangler Fig	RF, M
<i>Ficus</i> sp	-	RF, M, AG
<i>Ficus grevei</i>	-	I
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family	
<i>Eugenia jambos</i>	-	RF, Z, AG
<i>Esc. camaldulensis</i>		RF
<i>Psidium catalinum</i>	Chinese Guava	RM, AG, M
<i>Psidium guavanua</i>		RM, AG, M
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Jasminum</i> sp	Jasmine	RF
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>		M
Passifloraceae	Passion Flower Family	
<i>Adenia olaboiensis</i>	-	RE
<i>Passiflora</i> sp	-	AG, M
Pedaliaceae	Uncarina Family	
<i>Uncarina liandri</i>	-	Z
Proteaceae	Protea Family	
<i>Grevilla</i> sp	-	RM, AG, M

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Rosaceae <i>Rubus moluccanus</i>	Rose Family -	RM, AG, M
Rubiaceae <i>Psychotria sp</i>	Bedstraw Family	I
Salicaceae <i>Populus sp</i>	Willow Family	M
Sapotaceae <i>Chrysophyllum boivinianum</i>	Sapodilla Family	M
Scrophulariaceae <i>Scrophularia sp.</i>	Figwort Family	RE, J, I
Solanaceae <i>Datura stamonium</i>	Nightshade Family Thorn Apple	I
Sphaerosepalaceae <i>Dombeya laurifolium</i> <i>Dombeya sp</i> <i>Dombeya insidia</i>	Rhopalocarpus Family -	J, M, RM RM, M M
Strelitziaceae <i>Ravenala madagascariensis</i>	Strelitzia Family Traveller Palm	RM, M
Verbanaceae <i>Verbena boneriensis</i>	Verbena Family	M
LILIIDAE (Monocotyledons)		
Arecaceae <i>Baccariophoenix madagascariensis</i> <i>Bismarkia nobilis</i> <i>Ravenea rivularis</i> <i>Dypsis lutescens</i>	Palm Family Marula Palm - - Bamboo Palm	I I J, M M
Cyperaceae <i>Cyperus papyrus</i>	Sedge Family Papyrus	I, X, RM
Liliaceae <i>Aloe cortinqua</i> <i>Dracaena sp</i> <i>Dracaena reflexus</i>	Lily Family - - -	J I M
Orchidaceae <i>Oeonia rosea</i> <i>Vanilla madagascariensis</i> <i>Cynorkis purpurescens</i> <i>Aerangis articulata</i>	Orchid Family - a Vanilla Orchid Dancing Ladies	RM, AG, M RM M
Pandanaceae <i>Pandanus pucher (Branched)</i>	Pandanus Family Screwpine	I, M, RM, AG

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Pandanus sp 1</i>	Spiral Screwpine	I, M, RM, AG
<i>Pandanus xerophyta</i>	Screwpine	Z
<i>Pandanus sp</i>		3 Species RM
Phormiaceae	New Zealand Flax Family	
<i>Dianella ensifolia</i>	-	AG, M
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Phragmites sp</i>	a Reed	A, I, RM
<i>Catharostachys madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Giant bamboo	RM
<i>Pennisetum sp</i>		RM, AG, M



Group shot at Ranomafana



Fosa by Bill Tognarelli