



### CVB News

#### SBU Students at the University of Fianarantsoa

On June 28th, our SBU Summer Study Abroad students presented the results of their independent research projects to faculty, staff, and students at the University of Fianarantsoa. At the end of the event, each student was given a certificate of completion for the program. It was certainly a proud day for CVB! Read their project abstracts [here](#).



#### Pivot Hosts Bioinformatics Workshop @ CVB



From July 10th to 14th, CVB and our partner [Pivot](#) held an enlightening bioinformatics and genomics workshop at CVB, inviting 16 scientists and professionals from across Madagascar to take part in the training. The workshop covered topics like sequence assembly, sample processing, and phylogenetic tree construction, with a particular emphasis on the phylogenetic analysis of viruses, specifically SARS-CoV-2—the virus that caused COVID-19. This workshop was a landmark capacity-building event and we hope to continue providing these tools to Malagasy researchers across scientific fields each year. Read more about the workshop [here](#).

#### Madagascar Independence Day

On June 26th, CVB staff celebrated Independence Day with parades and marches in Ifanadiana and Ranomafana. The excitement was furthered by the CVB soccer team's win in the Ranomanafana Commune Championship that same day! Congratulations go out to the players!



The CVB Soccer Team celebrates their win with Dede Randrianarista, CVB Head of Logistics, and Prisca Andriambinitsoa, Head of Administration. *Photo courtesy of Dede Randrianarista*

### Director's House

The construction of the new Director's House on CVB's campus is well underway! The project began in September 2022 and is overseen by Jim Ehle-Meyer, a contractor from Connecticut, Mahefa Andriamalala, the on-site engineer, and Dede Randrianarista, CVB's Head of Logistics. The house is designed to be a stand-alone, sustainable structure while remaining integrated with CVB's Lower Campus. "We're incorporating a number of new design concepts for this part [of the region]," Ehle-Meyer says. Water heated by the sun will be stored and redirected into the radiant heating system in the flooring, allowing the house to stay warm during the region's cold winter months. Passive heating is also achieved by carefully considering the angle of the house's windows and skylights. Photovoltaic panels installed on the roof will provide electricity, while large rainwater cisterns collect and store fresh water.



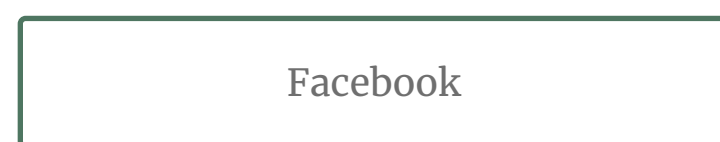
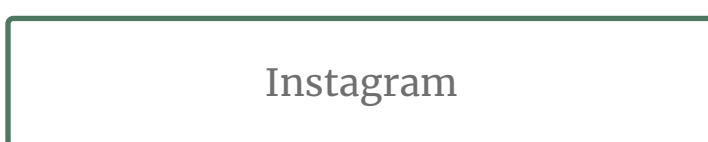
Mahefa Andriamalala, Benjamin Andriamihaja, and Jim Ehle-Meyer in front of the new Director's house. *Photo courtesy of Jim Ehle-Meyer*

### Alain Rasolo's Gallery

Alain Rasolo, CVB's Artist-in-Residence, creator of [studio oloNala](#), and [Safina Center Fellow](#), has opened an art gallery and shop by the entrance to Ranomafana National Park! The gallery houses his wildlife paintings, many of which have been used as education and outreach materials in local schools and environmental education programs. Also featured are woodcarvings by local woodworker Fidi Joseph. The opening was attended by CVB staff, representatives of Madagascar National Parks, and VOI Mitsinjo.



Find Alain and studio oloNala on:



### Our Final Translocation Update

**Centre ValBio - CVB**  
2023-07-15

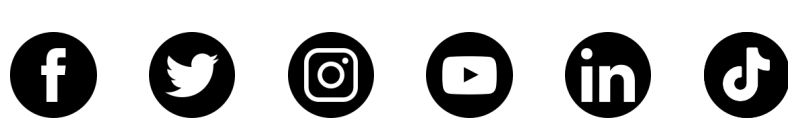
We are sad to announce that last week, one of the two remaining translocated greater bamboo lemur females was killed after having left the park boundary. The other female has since traveled out of the range of our radio receiver. Simone remains healthy and continues to be observed interacting with one particular golden bamboo lemur group.

The loss of the translocated greater bamboo lemur group from Ranomafana National Park is an undeniably tragic and unfortunate situation. The success of translocations as a conservation strategy, while used worldwide, remains incredibly variable across species and habitats. This particular attempt was a necessary measure for trying to protect the greater bamboo lemur population in southeastern Madagascar, where extreme habitat degradation and pressure from hunting had resulted in severe population decline. However, as is often the case in similar translocation attempts, factors outside of our control made it difficult to predict the outcome. Despite this, translocations remain an important tool for moving individuals out of areas of highly-degraded habitat into intact and protected habitats, with the intention of long-term monitoring and conservation. In sharing the story of this translocation effort, we aim to illuminate the real challenges inherent in conservation efforts. We are constantly learning and remain dedicated to the protection of Madagascar's biodiversity.



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