



Centre ValBio Newsletter

April 2025

CVB News

Official Ranomafana National Park Fire Restoration Launch

Efforts to restore the burned areas of Ranomafana National Park from the forest fire in January are officially underway.

There was a ceremony in Amboditanimena where the newly elected Mayor of Ambalakindresy expressed his willingness to contribute to environmental education and publicly acknowledged the CVB Education Department's collaboration in a school reforestation program.



The Madagascar National Park (MNP) Director General, Ony Rakotoarisoa, stated that 123 hectares of forest was destroyed due to the fire. The Minister of Environment announced officially that the park entrance fee, which goes to the community, will be reinstated in September. Certificates were distributed to CVB, Pivot, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), schools, CSB, gendarme, the military, and associations who fought against the fire.

At an area 15 minutes away from the entrance of the Amboditanimena site, there was a native and resistant tree planting. A representative from MNP thanked CVB for providing some of the native trees.

We express our tremendous gratitude to everyone who fought the fire, major funders Pamela Hurst-Della Pietra, DO, and Stephen A. Della

Pietra, PhD, Plant and Sofianou Family Environmental Foundation, and Seneca Park Zoo, as well as other committed supporters who contributed to these efforts.

Photo credit: Lovasoa Razafindravony

Access to Clean Drinking Water in Two Villages

Two villages now have access to clean water. The village of Mangevo in the Vohimarina Fokontany in Ranomafana Commune and Andranomainty in Kelilalina Commune.



A ceremony was held in each village, and the village's respective Mayor expressed their gratitude for the respective wells. Thank you, Bergen Highlands/Ramsey Rotary, for financially sponsoring the construction. We also thank Ny Tanitsika carrying out the labor associated with this project.

Photo credit: Fabrice Arijaona and Lovasoa Razafindravony

Future of Centre ValBio Endowment Fund

Earlier this month, we shared news about the launch of the [Future of Centre ValBio Endowment Fund](#).

A pledge of \$100,000 or more to the Future of Centre ValBio Endowment Fund made before April 1, 2026 will be matched 2:1 through funds from New York State and 1:1 from the Simons Foundation—tripling the impact to \$300,000.



Half of the total will support Stony Brook University's general unrestricted endowment, and half will be designated specifically for CVB's endowed fund, securing the future of the research facility and strengthening its capabilities for years to come.

To explore ways your support can make a lasting impact, contact:

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Photo credit: Fabrice Arijaon

Director General of Madagascar National Parks Visits CVB

The Director General of Madagascar National Parks (MNP), Ony Rakotoarisoa, visited Centre ValBio on April 4 and was given a tour by Lovasoa Razafindravony, head of the CVB Education Department. Ms. Rakotoarisoa met department heads, researchers, and CVB staff, and they shared their work at CVB.



Ms. Rakotoarisoa expressed gratitude and an interest of CVB activities, saying she would like to return to learn more about CVB's efforts. Ms. Rakotoarisoa also said that CVB and MNP could collaborate in certain areas for a synergy of action.

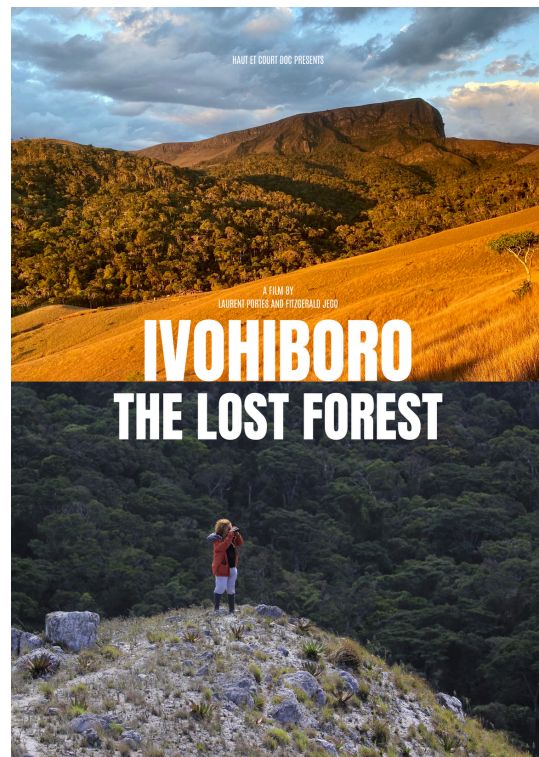
Photo credit: Lovasoa Razafindravony

"Ivohiboro: The Lost Forest" Screening in Sag Harbor

Over 200 people were in attendance this past Saturday at the Sag Harbor Cinema for the documentary screening of *Ivohiboro: The Lost Forest*.

Following the screening, there was a Q&A session with Dr. Patricia Wright and two researchers from the expedition, Dr. Mai Fahmy and Alexa Lightbourn.

The film follows Dr. Patricia Wright and an international team of researchers as they embark on a 30-day scientific exploration of biodiversity in a newly studied



rainforest, which is now part of the Ivohiboro Protected Area, in the High Plateau.

This screening was a collaborative program made possible by SOFO's Young Environmentalists Society (YES!) Director Mare Dianora, Stony Brook University's Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments (ICTE) and Centre ValBio, and Sag Harbor Cinema. We'd also like to thank the President of SOFO's Board of Directors Andy Sabin, ICTE's Program Coordinator Patricia Paladines, and SOFO's Education Director Melanie Meade for their efforts.

The film will be screened again on Monday, May 5, at 6 pm at [The Explorers Club](#) in New York City.

Read the SBU News story.

Photo credit: Haut et Court

Teaching Students Video Filming

The CVB Education Department went to Miandrivany and Ambodivoangy for a special expedition.

They trained and practiced video filming with students, planted trees, and led fun activities together with the students. The visit also included a meaningful exchange with the local Conservation Club in Miandrivany, where they discussed conservation strategies and future plans. To support local efforts, they donated native tree seeds for planting.



Photo credit: Fabrice Arijona

Fair Forest Management Theater Workshop

The VARUNA-Living Forest project aims to promote sustainable and equitable management of forest ecosystems by setting up territorial "Living Labs." The workshop's objective is to define collectively fair forest management methods.

During the theater workshop, participants presented solid communication and coordination between the actors involved in the fair forest management managed by the VOI Mitsinjo Ambatolahy.

It took place in Chez José, Ranomafana. Twenty-eight people participated, including Chief of the Fokontany Ambatolahy, VOI's President of Ambatolahy, member of the VOI Ambatolahy, and NGS's representatives of CVB and MNP.



Photo credit: Lovasoa Razafindravony

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