



CVB News

National Director Pascal Rabeson Selected for GIS Training



Earlier this month, we welcomed Pascal Rabeson back to Madagascar after a month-long training in GIS through the [Society for Conservation GIS Global Scholarship Program](#). Held in California, the training provided Pascal the opportunity to network with leading GIS experts, attend Esri's User Conference—the largest annual celebration of GIS technology—and reconnect with old colleagues and friends. Aside from his role as CVB's National Director, Pascal is the current president of the SCGIS-Madagascar and is eager to apply and share what he learned back home in Madagascar!

Check out the link below for Pascal's reflections on his experience and his plans for expanding CVB's GIS capacity [👉](#)

[Read the article here](#)

Welcoming the New Director of Development for ICTE



It is with great excitement that we welcome Jennifer Levine, our new Senior Director of Development, to our team at the Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments! Jennifer is an accomplished professional in the field of nonprofit development with a passion for advancing conservation and philanthropic endeavors. With a diverse background spanning multiple sectors, including at the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the New York Philharmonic, and the Park

Avenue Armory, she has carved a unique path that has led her to Stony Brook University's Advancement team, where she will focus her expertise on Centre ValBio and the [Turkana Basin Institute](#), two of Stony Brook's international research institutions. Jennifer is thrilled to support the endeavors of Centre ValBio, channeling her enthusiasm and expertise to drive Centre ValBio's mission of fostering a greater understanding of conservation's significance both locally in Madagascar and on a global scale. Please join us in welcoming Jennifer into her new role at ICTE!

Forest Regeneration & Preventing Pandemics

In collaboration with [Health in Harmony](#), [Zoo New England](#), [Duke University](#), and [Mahaliana Labs](#), CVB is working to understand how community-designed efforts in forest regeneration might help prevent pandemics by reducing human-wildlife conflict and zoonotic spillover. As part of a 10-year [One Health](#) research initiative, seven researchers and veterinarians from these 5 organizations surveyed biodiversity and wildlife health last month in Manombo Special Reserve in southeastern Madagascar. CVB technicians were responsible for darting and trapping lemurs for medical examinations and viral presence screening. Understanding and preventing the transfer of zoonotic diseases is crucial for helping human communities live alongside wildlife and for informing effective health and conservation practices across Madagascar.

[Read more about the expedition here](#)



Photo courtesy of Health in Harmony

Researcher Spotlight: Dr. Mai Fahmy



In 2008, Dr. Patricia Wright and a team of researchers excavated crocodile bones from a deposit in south-central Madagascar called Christmas River. The deposit dates back more than 9,000 years and included the bones of now-extinct giant lemurs, giant elephant birds, a giant tortoise, and Malagasy hippopotami. The local community in the surrounding area had long spoken of two species of crocodiles present in the river, but only one—the Nile crocodile—was ever formally recognized and described by the Western scientific community. With the help of Dr. Evon Hekkala at Fordham University, the bones of the second species, the horned crocodile (*Voay robustus*) were identified and described, including the largest horn of a horned crocodile ever found in Madagascar!

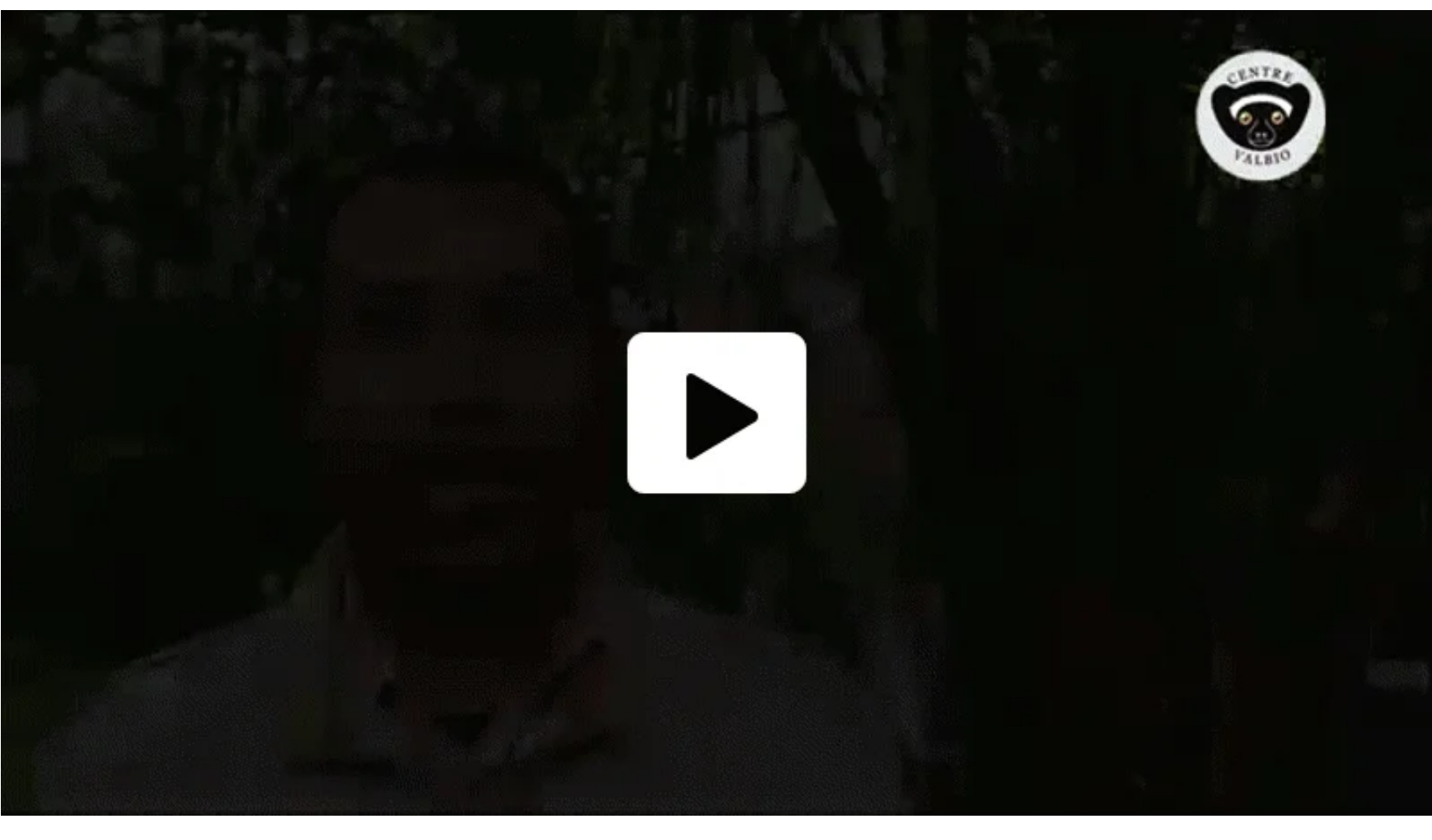
Dr. Mai Fahmy is a postdoc working in Dr. Hekkala's lab. She's here at CVB to scan the Christmas River crocodile subfossils for the purpose of building an online repository of crocodile-related data. By combining diverse data types—including DNA, archival footage, and cultural iconography—into the database, the goal is to place an emphasis on centering and attributing Traditional Knowledge in the study of Madagascar's natural history.

Read below to learn more about the database, the subfossil collection here at CVB, and Dr. Fahmy's own enduring connection to Madagascar, starting as a study abroad student at CVB in 2014!

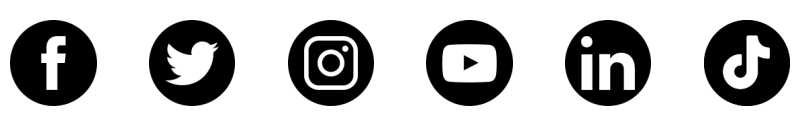
[Read our interview with Dr. Fahmy here](#)

New video from the Education Team!

From July 10–14, CVB invited teachers from Ranomafana to take part in a training on how to incorporate lessons on biodiversity, environmental management, and more into their curriculums, with an emphasis on positive education strategies. Watch the full video about the training below [👉](#)



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