

PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: Toronto Zoo Conservation in Action: Lake Tseny, Madagascar

PURPOSE:

To provide matching funds for zoo keeper Tim McCaskie to participate in the Madagascar conservation program in Madagascar in October, 2014.

PROJECT OUTLINE:

In 2014 with the support of ESRF, the objective is to conduct a mark-recapture study in Lake Tseny and census the cichlid community in October. The second objective for 2014 field season to study *Sauvagella robusta* (Clupeidae). Very little is known of this fish. Initial investigations will study habitat and census the local fishers for information. The Toronto Zoo and Denver Zoo team have a partnership with local biologists Madagasikara Voakajy and Antananarivo University. Our information will be used by the Madagascar government biologists to manage the Lake Tseny fishery.

We plan to provide Madagasikara Voakajy- (Madagascar NGO for animal conservation) <http://www.madagasikara-voakajy.org> with our results and harvesting guidelines so they can be used to implement a fishery plan with the Malagasy government. Our team has considerable history working with this NGO over the several years of this *in situ* conservation project.

BACKGROUND:

The unique fauna and flora of Madagascar are considered a global conservation priority as these ecosystems face unsustainable resource use. This proposal builds upon the work of Dr. Paul Loiselle, a leading ichthyologist at the New York Aquarium. He has worked on Malagasy fishes for close to two decades and is a champion within the zoo and aquarium community for these endangered freshwater fishes. In 2004, a cichlid species of fish (*Paretroplus menarambo*) was considered extinct in Madagascar. In 2008, it was rediscovered. This fish is listed as critically endangered by IUCN and is an SSP of the new AZA Madagascar Fishes Program.

The Toronto Zoo has participated in the Madagascar conservation breeding program for 8 years by sustaining a viable population of one species of *Bedotia*, one species of *Ptychochromis* and one species of *Pachypanchax*. This is an AZA recognized conservation program which has 15 years of field work.

In 2013, Tim McCaskie travelled to Madagascar with London Zoological Society staff and focused on *Paretroplus menarambo*. This was his third trip to Madagascar to study the fish there.

Each year, Tim McCaskie presents Zoo Lunch and Learn and Volunteer Night events. He has written an article about his research in the Toronto Zoo's Collection's magazine as well as a refereed journal (2011). He has given presentations at the RAW, AZA and CAZA conferences.

In 2014, fishing guideline posters and flyers will be created and distributed to villages surrounding Lake Tseny.

BUDGET:

Note: T. McCaskie works hard to fundraise for all in situ efforts (4 years). He uses his vacation time, supplemented with part-time keeper hired with his fundraising money to replace the hours remaining.

Expense	CDN\$
Flight from Toronto to Antananarivo:	\$3,000
Vehicle and gas	\$1 000
Housing & food	\$1 900
Field supplies & guide costs	\$1,500
Medical, insurance, permits	<u>\$1,550</u>
TOTAL:	\$8,950

Revenue	
Fundraising: 4 events	\$2,900
Grants - confirmed	\$1,400
Pending applications	\$2,200
ESRF	<u>\$2,500</u>
Total:	\$8,800

Proposal

FUNDING:

Endangered Species Reserve Fund Grant \$3,000 CDN
The Grant will be paid upon execution of this Agreement.