



EIDPS028



**Submit by Monday 30 January 2012**

## APPLICATION FOR DARWIN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME ROUND 18

Please read the Guidance Notes before completing this form. Where no word limits are given, the size of the box is a guide to the amount of information required. Information to be extracted to the database is highlighted blue.

**1. Name and address of UK Host organisation** (NB: Notification of results will be by email and addressed to the main UK Expert listed in Section 5)

<b>Name: School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography, Bangor University</b>	Address: Deiniol Road, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2UW Tel: +44 (0) 1248 382281 Dr Julia Jones Senior lecturer in Conservation School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography Bangor University Deniol Road LL 57 2UW
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**2. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Fellow** (include email and telephone details where available)

Voahirana Claudia Randriamamonjy, Madagasikara Voakajy, B. P. 5181, Antananarivo (101), Madagascar
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**3. Project dates, duration and total Darwin Initiative Grant requested**

Proposed start date: 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2012		Duration of project: 1 year	End date: 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2013
Darwin funding requested	2012/13 £18845	2013/14 £2100	Total £20945

**4. Summary of proposed Fellowship (no more than 100 words)** ie Purpose and expected outputs and outcome

<b>Voahirana is a Malagasy conservation scientist with exceptional potential. The fellowship will give her an international perspective on conservation while honing her ability in research design and writing academic quality English. Voahirana will return to Madagasikara Voakajy, a conservation NGO which grew out of previous Darwin grants, where her new skills will be essential as this excellent organisation blossoms to full independence. Her dissertation will address priorities in bushmeat research identified in a current Darwin grant and will be co-funded by the National Zoo of Wales. Their involvement will improve the research and cement the emerging link with MV.</b>
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**5. Principals in the Project.** Please give the details of the individuals from the UK host organisations (and other institutions if relevant) who would be directly involved in supervising/working with the Darwin Fellow. Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals. You may copy and paste this table if you need to provide details of more than one overseas project partner.

Details	Main UK expert	Other expert	Other expert	Other expert
Surname	Jones	Omed	Razafimanahaka	Harcourt
Forename(s)	Julia Patricia Gordon	Hussain	Hanta Julie	Caroline
Post held	Senior lecturer in conservation	Course director	Executive Director	Trustee
Institution (if different to UK Host)	Bangor University	Bangor University	Madagasikara Voakajy	National Zoo of Wales
Department	School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography (SENRGy)	SENRGy	NA	n/a
Telephone				
Email				

**6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the UK Host organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department) (150 words)**

The School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography (SENRGy) has the highest possible independent rating for the quality of teaching, and a world-class reputation in research (with particular expertise in forest ecology, biodiversity conservation and tropical ecosystems). Our location next to Snowdonia National Park, and close links with local and national conservation organisations, provides unique opportunities for studying conservation and land use.

SENRGy has a long experience of training MSC students from tropical countries who go back to their countries to make a difference working in NGOs, statutory organisations and academia. For example we currently have nearly 100 post-graduate students from 25 countries.

We have particularly close links with Malagasy conservation and have hosted Malagasy conservation scientists on short courses, for MScs and PhDs. For the last three years we have hosted staff and students from MV on 1 month internships to develop specific skills and analyse data

**7. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the proposed Darwin Fellow's employing organisation. (Large institutions please note that this should describe your unit or department) (150 words)**

Madagasikara Voakajy (MV) is a Malagasy organisation dedicated to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources in Madagascar. It was created in May 2005 to consolidate the investment in capacity building from previous Darwin Initiative grants through providing career opportunities for Malagasy biologists to become leaders in a research-driven national conservation organisation. In 2009, they received two grants from the Darwin Initiative to (i) evaluate the trade of chameleons in Madagascar and its impact on conservation and (ii) understand the threats posed by bushmeat hunting to Malagasy wildlife and identify possible solutions. During that time MV have led the IUCN evaluation of the conservation status of Malagasy reptiles and amphibians, published high impact papers raising awareness of the issue of bushmeat hunting, trained over 30 university students, carried out education programmes in 60 schools, and produced radio programmes and posters to spread conservation messages.

**8. Describe briefly the proposed Fellow's current role within their organisation and their link to a Darwin project (If applicable), including the project reference number, his/her role in that project and any ongoing involvement. (200 words)**

The proposed Darwin Fellow is currently a sustainability and outreach programme assistant with MV. She joined the organization in 2009 as a DEA student from the University of Antananarivo, under the Darwin project 17-006 led by Dr Julia Jones (Bangor University). For her thesis, she did an evaluation of the knowledge of hunting rules by environmental managers (government and NGO) based in Antananarivo. She proved an excellent student and was recruited to be a member of staff as soon as she finished her thesis in November 2010. She continued to work for the Darwin bushmeat project as leader of the fieldworks in the Alaotra-Mangoro region. This involves managing two to five members of staff, maintaining the database for the project and supervising students in the field. She has been heavily involved in analysing data from a study on the impact of mining on bushmeat hunting and will be a co-author on the paper which results. She will continue her involvement in the project until its end in March 2012, and will contribute to writing the project report. She is working to raise funds to develop the bushmeat work within MV after the Darwin project ends.

**9. Provide a concept note on the Darwin Fellowship (maximum 1,000 words). This should include:**

- a clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Fellowship
- the role of the UK Host organisation, and others where relevant (including contacts)
- where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards sustainable development or sustainable livelihoods ie what the expected outcome of the Fellowship will be, with regard to the higher goals of the Darwin Initiative

**Rational**

Weak capacity is a major obstacle to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources. Madagasikara Voakajy is a young Malagasy organisation dedicated to the conservation of endemic vertebrates and their habitats. MV grew out of links with UK Universities (funded by the Darwin Initiative). It has recently appointed its first Malagasy director (a Darwin fellow in 2007) but recognises the need to further develop the capacity of its staff. Voahirana has been identified as a key member of staff well placed to benefit from higher education and training and with the skills and personality to ensure that what she learns is shared and communicated within the organisation.

As well as improved capacity, MV needs to expand and build on its international funding base. The National Zoo of Wales have recently built a state-of-the-art walk-through lemur enclosure and are keen to expand their in-situ conservation work by supporting lemur conservation in Madagascar. They recently decided to support the work of Madagasikara Voakajy through donations raised through their members and an exhibition and collection box at the lemur exhibit.

**Fellowship aim and objectives**

The aim of this fellowship is to build capacity within Madagasikara Voakajy to address biodiversity conservation issues while considering sustainable development and local livelihoods. The objectives are:

- 1) For Voahirana Randriamamonjy to receive high-level training and research instruction (at a level not available on Malagasy post-graduate courses).
- 2) For Voahirana to obtain an MSc in Conservation and Land Management from Bangor University (the qualification itself having a value in addition to the training it represents).
- 3) To build the incipient link between the National Zoo of Wales and MV and engage the members of the Zoological Society of Wales and visitors to the zoo in lemur conservation issues.
- 4) To conduct bushmeat research on strategic priorities identified as part of the Darwin grant (17-1127).

The one-year course in Conservation and Land Management at Bangor University aims to provide students with a broad and balanced understanding of the fundamental science, and applied challenges, underpinning conservation and land use. It is very international in its intake (this year we have students from Africa, south America, Asia and Europe). It has two parts:

Part 1: runs from September 2012 to May 2013 and involves taught modules and research planning. **Conservation Biology** (covers the key interdisciplinary concepts which underpin the conservation and management of single species, habitats and ecosystems), **Evidence-Based Practice in Conservation** (concerns the interface between conservation science, policy and practice and introduces students to the concept of evidence-based practice, the theoretical basis and methodological approach, through to dissemination of information and its practical application), **Agriculture and Environment** (sustainable use of the countryside, incentives schemes such as Payment for Ecosystem Services), **Management Planning for Conservation** (how different information sources and considerations can be best integrated to make a spatial plan for management of an area), **Research methods module** (principals of research design, statistics and planning), **Field visit module** (to investigate the range of approaches used by UK conservation organisations, the constraints they face and how they deal with them).

Part 2: is the dissertation phase and runs from end of May 2013 to September 2013. Voahirana will return to Madagascar (to the Mangabay forest) during this phase. Her dissertation will address questions which emerge as priorities out of the stakeholder meeting to develop an ongoing bushmeat strategy planned for the end of the current Darwin bushmeat project (17-1127). We expect it to focus on investigating possible approaches to reducing lemur hunting in the Mangabay forest but other related topics are possible. Dr Julia Jones will act as the academic supervisor, supported by Dr Caroline Harcourt of the National Zoo of Wales.

### **Role of the UK Host organization and other partners**

SENRGy will provide training and administer the project funds. Dr Hussain Omed is responsible for all CLM students (as course director) and will act as Voahirana's personal tutor. Voahirana will have a special link with Dr Julia Jones (PI of the current DI bushmeat grant and who has more than 10 year's experience of Malagasy conservation) who will supervise her MSc project. The National Zoo of Wales will provide matched funding to cover the costs of Voahirana's field work in Madagascar. Dr Caroline Harcourt, a primatologist and trustee of the National Zoo of Wales, will also support and advise Voahirana and discuss her plans as they develop. Voahirana will apply to present the work she did during the Darwin project 17-1127 at the Cambridge Conference of Conservation Science. We won't know if this application is successful until part way through the fellowship but include a request for travel to Cambridge and registration and subsistence (subsidised).

### **Sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods**

In a country as poor as Madagascar but as rich in biodiversity, sustainable development must be a major priority. This fellowship will contribute to sustainable development and sustainable livelihoods in a number of ways; both directly and indirectly. Directly: Madagascar's biodiversity, including its world famous lemurs, are vital to the country's economic development and to its future. Ecotourism is a major earner of foreign income and provides particularly valuable sources of income in remote rural areas. Many people visit the country to see the lemurs and therefore lemurs are worth much more to the economy alive than as bushmeat. The research Voahirana will do as part of this fellowship will build on the work initiated as part of Darwin project 17-1127 which is identifying priorities for addressing the lemur hunting issue in Madagascar. Indirectly: One of the 4 branches of MV's mission is to 'promote the sustainable use of biodiversity to support and improve livelihoods'. By building the capacity of MV, the fellowship will allow the organisation to continue to flourish and grow and improve its ability to deliver on its mission.

**10. Legacy. Provide information on how the Darwin Fellow will utilise, promote and disseminate the benefits of the Fellowship on return to his/her home country. Will a strategy be developed during the Fellowship to ensure this is achieved? (200 words)**

The main legacy will be in the increased capacity among MV staff in research design, analysis and formal written English. These skills are essential to the organisation as MV pride themselves in being a research-led conservation organisation and they need more in-house skills to maintain the quality of their research and international communication. When Voahirana returns she will be a vital resource within MV (especially the sustainable use and outreach programme), helping to supervise Malagasy MSc and undergraduate students, advising colleagues on how to improve their research design, and commenting on proposals etc. Immediately on her return she will give a presentation to her colleagues, MV students and former academic supervisors on the salient points learned during the MSc. She will write an article on MV's website on the benefits of the Fellowship and hopes to organise a meeting with the Honorary representative of the British High Commission. She will also speak through the media to talk about the benefits of the Fellowship. Another important legacy will be improved links between Madagasikara Voakajy and the National Zoo of Wales (NZW). While in the UK Voahirana will work with the NZW to develop a strategy for building this relationship.

**11. How will the Fellowship assist the Fellow's organisation and/or local communities and/or home country in working towards the objectives (or implementation) of the CBD/CITES/CMS? Please refer to specific Articles or cross cutting themes as appropriate. (200 words)**

The aim of this fellowship is to build capacity within Madagasikara Voakajy to address biodiversity conservation issues in Madagascar while considering sustainable development and local livelihoods. It will help Madagascar work towards articles 6, 10, 12 and 13 of the Convention of Biological Diversity.

The skills the fellow will develop during her fellowship will help MV continue its work with the CBD contact person in Madagascar supporting the Ministry of Environment and Forests in delivering its commitments under Article 6 (General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use) and Article 10 (Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity).

Article 12 concerns research and training. This fellowship directly addresses the limited capacity for research and training in many organisations in Madagascar by increasing substantially the level of capacity of a key individual within an active Malagasy conservation organisation. MV are dedicated to training and Voahirana has already contributed to the training of Malagasy undergraduate students. Following her fellowship she will increase this part of her role and contribute to graduate training.

Article 13 concerns public education and awareness. Voahirana will work to ensure that the results of the research she will do as part of the fellowship are communicated to the public.

**12. What collaboration has there been with the Darwin Fellow to date in developing the proposal, and what collaboration is planned for the duration of the Fellowship? Where relevant, describe any consultation or collaboration by the proposed Fellow within his/her own country. (200 words)**

The proposal was initially developed by the candidate (with support from Julie H. Razafimanahaka of MV who was a Darwin Fellow in 2007 and currently is the Executive Director of Madagasikara Voakajy). Julie spent a month in Bangor as part of the current Darwin bushmeat grant in September 2011 and has attended (and given!) some lectures in the MSc in Conservation and Land Management and so she suggested this course for Voahirana. MV are just in the process of developing a link with the National Zoo of Wales and Julie approached Dr Caroline Harcourt (a lemur expert) there to see if they would be interested in supporting Voahirana's field work. Dr Richard Jenkins (former Director of MV) and Dr Julia Jones (Bangor University) then became closely involved in finalizing the proposal. When in the UK Voahirana will be closely supervised by Dr Julia Jones (as a tutor on her course and likely MSc supervisor) and will also be in regular contact with Dr Harcourt. Voahirana will also keep regular contact with Julie Razafimanahaka and her colleagues at MV during the fellowship.

**13. Where will the Darwin Fellow be based? Please be specific with organisational details and dates (where more than one location). (200 words)**

Voahirana will be based at the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography, Bangor University, during the first part of the course (September 12 2012 – May 13 2013). During her time in the UK she will visit the National Zoo of Wales in Colwyn Bay regularly (30 minutes on the bus from Bangor). She will then return to Madagascar for her fieldwork during which time she will be based out of Madagasikara Voakajy's Moramanga office but doing field work in the Mangabay forest. We have discussed the possibility of her returning to Bangor to write the dissertation but feel the cost isn't justified (she would need an extra £1300 travel money and would need to continue to pay rent in the UK for the time she were in the field). The head of school at SENRGy has agreed that she can write up from the MV office in Antananarivo where she will have full access to computers and fast internet. Using skype, we envisage that Voahirana won't be disadvantaged by being in a different place from her supervisor. We also hope that Julia Jones will be able to arrange a trip to Madagascar during the time Voahirana is writing up.

14. Provide a programme of work, including key milestones, through the duration of the Fellowship

Activity	Duration	2012/2013									2013/2014					
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Welcome week and induction activities at BU																
Visits to National Zoo of Wales (regular visits)																
Formal courses and exams																
Research planning																
Complete strategy for collaboration with National Zoo of Wales																
Student tour (with other BU students)																
Field research																
Analysis and write-up of dissertation																
Submit thesis																
Attending Cambridge Student Conference of Conservation																

**15. Financial Aspects. Please use UK Government Financial Years ie April 2012 – March 2013 etc)**

<b>Fellow payment</b>				
	12/13	13/14	2012/13	2013/14
London: £1200/month	Number of months			
UK (outside London): £1000/month	8	0		
Overseas location £200/month*	0	4		
<b>Host Organisations' costs</b>				
UK: £0/month	Number of months			
Overseas location: £50/month*	0	4		
<b>A. Total Fellow &amp; Host Organisation Costs</b>				

<b>Actual travel costs (Return journey to Fellowship location)</b>	
Return airfare. <i>Details</i> from Tana-Manchester	
Travel to/from airports. <i>Details</i> Tanà-Ivato <b>£10x2, Manchester-Bangor £40.20 x2)</b>	
Visas etc. <i>Details</i> Visa fee <b>£90, Courier £80</b>	
<b>B. Total Fellowship Travel Costs (Actual costs up to £2,000 will be paid)</b>	

<b>Actual travel costs 'Additional Travel'</b>	
<b>Maximum £500 within country of Fellowship location, £1,500 for international travel.</b>	
<b>Specify purpose:</b>	
<i>Airfares Details</i>	
<i>Subsistence Details (including number of days)</i> 4 night (£25) accommodation in Cambridge and £75 conference fee	
<i>Travel. Details</i> £50 to cover travel to and from National Zoo of Wales, £50 for return advance travel to Cambridge for conference	
<i>Visas etc. Details</i>	
<b>C. Total (Other travel) costs</b>	

<b>D. ACADEMIC FEES</b> <i>Details</i> NB the usual fee is £12800, BU has agreed to a fee reduction of £2800 in this case (see below)	
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<b>TOTAL FELLOWSHIP COSTS (A + B + C + D)</b>	<b>£18845</b>	<b>£2100</b>
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\* Figures available from the Darwin Applications Unit Tel: 0131 440 5181



**16. Other sources of funding: provide details and amounts**

Bangor University has agreed to cover £2800 of the usual fee for an international student attending the MSC in Conservation and Land Management (£12800) this is in recognition of the on-going collaboration with MV and the likelihood that research publications will arise from the research the fellow will do.

The National Zoo of Wales has agreed to fund the field work in the Mangabay forest which Voahirana will do for her MSc dissertation. The estimated cost is £2000 (full budget available on request but it is based on 45 days in the field, and covers the cost of a field assistant, porters where necessary, vehicle hire, travel (from Tana to Moramanga), food costs, photocopying, field equipment (including for the assistant).

**FCO NOTIFICATION**

Please check the box if you think that there are sensitivities that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will need to be aware of should they want to publicise details of the Darwin Fellowship and the resultant work in the UK or the Darwin Fellow's home country

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the project schedule should this application be successful.

I enclose CVs for project principals and letters of support as requested in the Guidance Notes. Our most recent audited accounts and annual report are also enclosed/can be found at *(delete as appropriate)*:

<b>Name (block capitals)</b>	
<b>Position in the organisation</b>	

<b>Signed</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Name of proposed Fellow</b>	Voahirana Claudia Randriamamonjy		

## Fellowship Application - Checklist for submission

	Check
Have you provided actual start and end dates for the Fellowship?	Yes
Have you provided your budget based on UK government financial years ie 1 April – 31 March?	Yes
Have you checked that your budget is complete, correctly adds up and that you have included the correct final total on the top page of the application?	Yes
Is the concept note within 1,000 words?	Yes
Has your application been signed by a suitably authorised individual? <b>(clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable)</b>	Yes
Have you included a 1 page CV for the proposed Fellow and the UK experts listed in Section 5?	Yes
Have you provided the relevant letters of support?	Yes
Have you included a copy of your most recent annual report and accounts? <b>An electronic link to a website is acceptable-see below.</b>	Yes
Have you read the Guidance Notes?	Yes
Have you checked the Darwin website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates?	Yes

**Bangor University annual report and accounts are available: <http://www.bangor.ac.uk/ccm/annual.php.en>**

Once you have answered Yes to the questions above, please submit the application, not later than 2359h GMT on **Monday 30 January 2012** to [Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Applications@ltsi.co.uk) using the name of the proposed Fellow as the subject of your email. If you are e-mailing supporting documentation separately please include in the subject line an indication of the number of e-mails you are sending (eg whether the e-mail is 1 of 2, 2 of 3 etc). In addition, a hard copy of the wet signature page should be submitted to the Darwin Applications Management Unit, LTS International, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Penicuik EH26 0PL postmarked not later than **Tuesday 31 January 2012**.

**DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998:** Applicants for grant funding must agree to any disclosure or exchange of information supplied on the application form (including the content of a declaration or undertaking) which the Department considers necessary for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of the Darwin Initiative. Application form data will also be held by contractors dealing with Darwin Initiative monitoring and evaluation. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that personal data can be supplied to the Department for the uses described in this paragraph. A completed application form will be taken as an agreement by the applicant and the grant/award recipient also to the following:- putting certain details (ie name, contact details and location of project work) on the Darwin Initiative and Defra websites(details relating to financial awards will not be put on the websites if requested in writing by the grant/award recipient); using personal data for the Darwin Initiative postal circulation list; and sending data to Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts outside the United Kingdom, including posts outside the European Economic Area. Confidential information relating to the project or its results and any personal data may be released on request, including under the Environmental Information Regulations, the code of Practice on Access to Government Information and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.