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## **MWC - MADAGASCAR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER**

[www.mwc-info.net](http://www.mwc-info.net)

### ▪ MWC IS ONLINE!

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Madagascar Wildlife Conservation is a group of students from Madagascar, Switzerland and Germany who would like to contribute to the protection and conservation of the unique nature of the island of Madagascar. On June 20<sup>th</sup> 2004 we therefore launched a site on the internet: [www.mwc-info.net](http://www.mwc-info.net). We noticed that many organizations as well as private persons today are working in Madagascar on conservation and humanitarian purposes, while others are planning or at least are interested to do so. The goal of our website is therefore to give an overview on ongoing conservation and humanitarian work on the island of Madagascar and at the same time to provide a platform for information exchange in order to bundle these efforts and to enhance their effect.

But while the site of MWC is now online, as you might have seen, some sections are still in development. This concerns the project database, the news section but also lists of links and literature. We are working hard on this in order to provide you with this information as soon as possible. Furthermore we are currently evaluating the possibility to expand our service in the future with a section about ecotourism and opportunities for volunteering.

### ▪ THE FUTURE OF MWC

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Besides our internet site, we also have plans to start our own conservation work in Madagascar. For this purpose we will first have to become an association. Three of our Swiss members will go to Madagascar in September/October 2004, where they will meet the Malagasy MWC members to discuss this topic. If we indeed decide to turn Madagascar Wildlife Conservation into an association, we will do so in Antananarivo, and this way become a Malagasy Organization. This is because we do not want to act as another foreign organization working in Madagascar, but to give Malagasy people the idea and opportunity to act themselves, which is presumably easier if we are "Malagasy" too.

As a first project we envisage the protection of the Alaotran Gentle Lemur. The population of this very special lemur species living exclusively on and around the Lac Alaotra in the centre of Madagascar, is constantly declining in number and is today highly endangered (see also the case study on our website). We have no exact plans yet on how to achieve this goal, but we hope to have news for you on the subject, when we will return from Antananarivo at the end of the year.

In the meantime we would be happy, if you would visit our website from time to time.

Best  
MWC-Team