



Madagascar is a jewel!

This island, and in particular the lemurs, has been a fascination of mine ever since I was fortunate enough to travel there while making a documentary about lemurs in Madagascar, each time seeing something new and exciting. The beautiful country, outstanding scenery, unique animals and plants, and the welcoming people, make Madagascar one of the great treasures of the world.

However, I am fully aware of the countless challenges that Madagascar faces and so whenever possible I actively support conservation initiatives on the island. I hope I have done my bit to help, and I am delighted to be able to do so. Last year I was particularly touched when a recently discovered species of lemur was named after me; *Avahi cleesei*. Fame at last!

I also support the work of responsible zoos, zoos that are using their facilities to improve the survival chances of threatened species in the wild through conservation breeding, fundraising, *in situ* projects and many more activities. These zoos also work with local peoples, ensuring those people a stake in the future of their wildlife. So, it should be no surprise that a project combining Madagascar and responsible zoos would be a cause to which I could lend my efforts.

The EAZA Madagascar Campaign will bring this extraordinary island to millions of visitors throughout the EAZA network, stimulating, we hope, a positive surge of energy and interest that will generate funds for the vital projects featured.

The EAZA Madagascar Campaign has my full support, it has the full support of the President of Madagascar, and it's hoping for yours.

I ask you to join the campaign. It fully supports the work of the government of Madagascar and we should all do our best to assist them in their great endeavour, the 'Durban Vision'. The EAZA Madagascar Campaign will do its bit to help... but only if as many institutions as possible participate.

So, Arovako i Madagasikara, Conserve Madagascar!

**John Cleese**  
**Patron, EAZA Madagascar Campaign 2006/7**

