**TCI IRES Program – Ecology and Conservation of Wildlife in Nosy Be, Madagascar**

The research goal of this program is to investigate the status of Nosy Be Island’s (Madagascar) endangered and charismatic terrestrial and marine species, and the threats driving them to decline. Students can choose to participate in one of two projects: Lemur Conservation or Marine Megafauna Conservation.

Lemur conservation project: Lemurs are potentially the most important flagship species in Madagascar. Endemic to the island, they have one of the highest rates of species diversity (20% of all primate species are lemurs) and decline (87% lemur species are threatened) among primates. Investigating the specific drivers of the decline of lemurs is a global conservation priority that will help preserve this iconic primate, ensure the viability of the forests they inhabit, and secure the continuity of tourism, an important revenue to Madagascar's economy. The goals of this project are to (1) assess the relative abundance and distribution of endangered lemurs living on Nosy Be island, (2) investigate the main drivers of the decline of these species, and (3) identify the most effective mitigation strategies that could contribute to population growth. We will focus on three species, the vulnerable black lemur (*Eulemur macaco*) and two critically endangered species, Nosy Be sportive lemur (*Lepilemur tymerlachsonorum*) and Claire's mouse lemur (*Microcebus mamiratra*).

Marine Megafauna Conservation project: The waters around Nosy Be are remarkable for a diversity of marine species, including coral reefs and associated fish communities, and marine megafauna, including sea turtles, cetaceans (whales and dolphins) and elasmobranchs (sharks and rays). However, growing human pressures on coastal habitats in the Nosy Be region has resulted in increasing artisanal fishing and bycatch, habitat destruction, tourism disturbance and climate change which has put the local marine biodiversity at risk. The goal of this project is to understand why such an abundance of large and charismatic species are drawn to Nosy Be, and how these species are affected by both lethal and sub-lethal cumulative impacts. Our project will help inform conservation management that not only conserve these species, but help develop local capacity to manage them sustainably as an economic resource in otherwise impoverished communities. We will focus on two key coastal marine species that are currently threatened (IUCN Red List) nationally and globally: the Indian Ocean humpback dolphin (*Sousa plumbea*, Endangered) and the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*, Critically Endangered).

**APPLICATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

University: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Year in Study: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Career Goal\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Project of Interest: Lemur conservation: \_\_\_\_ Marine megafauna conservation: \_\_\_ Either: \_\_\_\_