

MADAGASCAR FROM A TO Z

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Over the last two years I have worked with two UF undergraduates and colleagues from the UF International Center and Madagascar to create, publish and distribute the children's book *Madagascar from A to Z*. The book began as a class project in my (Un)Common Read honors course on the book *Thank You, Madagascar: The Conservation Diaries of Alison Jolly*. Students Soleil Nguyen (illustrator) and Grace Gibson (writer) created the children's book as a means to teach children about the unique plants and animals of Madagascar, introduce them to the importance of conservation, and help them learn English.

From August of 2016 through April of 2018, I coordinated with the team to create

a book that was age and culturally appropriate, reworked the structure of the book so that it could be translated, and collaborated with Malagasy speakers to translate the book into that language. The book was published by the Library Press@UF in May, and we took approximately 300 copies of the book to Madagascar for my study abroad students to distribute in Summer B. We distributed the books free of charge to the Mobile Library of Madagascar, the NGOs Blue Ventures, Steph'Andava, Association Mitsinjo, and Centre Fihavanana, and the research center Centre ValBio. We are currently working with the education coordinator at Blue Ventures (Andavadoaka, Madagascar) to create a new edition of the book focusing on plants and

animals from the southwest of Madagascar, translated into the local dialect.

My colleagues and I presented posters on the book at Medical Library Association Annual Conference (May 2018) and at the American Library Association Annual Conference (June 2018).

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