

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/376303149>

Non-Traditional Ways of Raising Awareness for Frog Conservation: Guido Daniele's Handimal of *Boophis luteus* From Madagascar

Article · January 2015

CITATIONS

0

READS

106

1 author:



[Franco Andreone](#)

Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali in Turin (Italy)

538 PUBLICATIONS 7,759 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

Issue number 113 (Winter 2015)

ISSN: 1026-0269

eISSN: 1817-3934

FrogLog

www.amphibians.org

Volume 23, number 1

Promoting Conservation, Research and
Education for the World's Amphibians

SPECIAL EDITION

Scaling up the Global
Response to Emerging
Amphibian Diseases

Scientists Turn to Genetics
to Solve Chytrid's Puzzle

Trouble in the Aquatic
World: How Wildlife
Professionals are Battling
Amphibian Declines

Recent Publications

And Much More!



Boophis luteus handimal, created by Guido Daniele and Ginevra Daniele. Hand models: Giulia Fossati and Serena Crystal Andreone. Photos: Michael James Daniele and Franco Andreone.

Non-Traditional Ways of Raising Awareness for Frog Conservation: Guido Daniele’s Handimal of *Boophis luteus* From Madagascar

By Franco Andreone

Considerable momentum behind addressing the conservation status of the nearly 500 Malagasy frog species, of which only 300 have been described so far, has come out of the ACSAM2 workshop held in Ranomafana’s Centre ValBio, Madagascar back in November, 2015. So far approximately 300 species have been described and there are at least another 200 to be assessed as possible candidate species.

Making an emotional connection with common people and stakeholders often creates a much stronger awareness of the conservation needs of amphibians than pure science, lectures and meetings in both Madagascar and elsewhere. As such, one of the most creative outcomes from the Ranomafana meeting has been a recent collaborative project with one of the most renowned body painters in the world.

Guido Daniele is well known for the creation of his “handimals,” which are hands painted in a way that mimic animals, many of which are threatened. Together with the assistance of Guido’s sons Ginevra and Michael James, a rich and populated park of animals is born out of his delicate brushes. This process is typically carried out in collaboration with conservationists and zoologists.

Guido’s most recent exhibit, “Handimals” at the New York Rockefeller Center from 15–25 January, was dedicated to the great prima-

tologist and conservationist Jane Goodall.

Now, through ACSAM Guido has created a handimal that is dedicated to one of the most outstanding frogs of Madagascar—*Boophis luteus*. While this species is far from being classified as under threat on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, it is a true symbol of Madagascar’s frog wildlife. It is a typical “skeleton” frog, with a delicate body profile and arboreal habitat and is closely associated with the fragile and vanishing rainforests of Madagascar’s eastern belt. Even more wonderful is the fact that its three major color shades, green of the body and red-white of the protruding eyes, are also the colors of Madagascar’s national flag. This species was also the logo of both editions of ACSAM (in 2006 in Antananarivo and in 2014 in Ranomafana). These same colors have a magical effect on the hands of the two models who gave life to this new handimal.

Guido has created this artwork for free, which he often does when there are clear conservation benefits and also because of his passion for Madagascar, a country he has visited several times.



Photo: Franco Andreone.

