

Maevatiana N. RATSIMBAZAFINDRANAHAKA, PhD

Chargé de recherche de classe normale (CRCN-DD)

*Research-track Assistant Professor equivalent

Joint Research Unit for Environmental Acoustics (UMRAE), Cerema, Université Gustave Eiffel

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PROFILE

Bioacoustician and **Behavioral ecologist** specializing in **animal communication** and **biologging**. My research integrates bioacoustics, ecoacoustics, movement ecology, and behavioral analysis to investigate social interactions, responses to predation and other threats, and the **impacts of anthropogenic disturbances** on marine and terrestrial vertebrates. I combine **field research**, **experimental** approaches, and advanced **quantitative** analyses within **interdisciplinary** academic and applied research projects.

RESEARCH & ACADEMIC ROLES

Permanent researcher (*Chargé de recherche*), UMRAE, Cerema, Univ. Gustave Eiffel, France | Jan 2026 – present

Affiliated Scientist (*Affiliierter Wissenschaftler*), Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, Germany | Feb 2026 – present

Research Associate, Cétamada NGO, Madagascar | Jan 2024 – present

Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, Germany | Jul 2024 – Dec 2025

Contractual Researcher, Cerema, France | Feb 2024 – May 2024

PhD Candidate, Paris Saclay Institute of Neurosciences (NeuroPSI), France | Oct 2020 – Dec 2023

CONSULTING, MISSIONS & OTHERS

Scientific Crew Member (Weddell Sea Expedition, Antarctica), SEDNA, France | Dec 2022 – Jan 2023

Consultant Biologist (Batrachology), Ecofauna NGO, Madagascar | 2020

Research Assistant (Mammalogy), Madagasikara Voakajy NGO, Madagascar | 2018

Research Assistant (Cetacean Biology, Master's Internship), Cétamada NGO, Madagascar | 2017 – 2019

EDUCATION

Doctorate (PhD), Life Sciences, Université Paris-Saclay, France & Zoology, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar | 2023

MSc, Animal Biology and Conservation, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar | 2019

Licentiate (BSc), Organismal and Ecosystem Biology, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar | 2016

SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Research Fellowship | 2024

Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM) Best Student Presentation Award | 2022

WIOMSA Marine Research Grant MARG I | 2021

Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM) Small Research Grant | 2021

Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) Seed Grant | 2021

Paris-Saclay IDEX ADI Doctoral Fellowship | 2020

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) Travel Grant | 2019

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Complete list: <https://rmaevatiana.com/publications/>

1. Pichot L., Ratsimbazafindranahaka MN et al. (2026). To flee or not to flee: anti-predator response of humpback whales on their breeding ground. *iScience*
2. Ratsimbazafindranahaka MN*, Adam O* et al. (2025). Behavioral data suggest adaptive buoyancy control during shallow dives in humpback whales. *Journal of Experimental Biology* (*Shared first authorship)
3. Ratsimbazafindranahaka MN et al. (2024). Behavioural context of call production in humpback whale calves: identification of potential begging calls in a mysticetes species. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*
4. Ratsimbazafindranahaka MN et al. (2024). Time budget and behavioral synchrony of humpback whale mother-calf pairs on a breeding ground in the southwestern Indian Ocean. *Marine Mammal Science*
5. Ratsimbazafindranahaka MN et al. (2023). Characterizing the suckling behavior by video and 3D-accelerometry in humpback whale calves on a breeding ground. *PeerJ*

TEACHING, SUPERVISION & MENTORING

Adjunct Lecturer, **Animal Behavior (MSc level)**, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar

Invited Lecturer, **Biologging Data Analysis (MSc level)**, Université Jean Monnet Saint-Étienne, France

Supervision and co-supervision of **Master's students** (total: 4), Madagascar, Germany & France

Supervision of marine **field teams** during humpback whale research campaigns, Cetamada NGO, Madagascar

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALK

Complete list: <https://rmaevatiana.com/conferences/>

International Primatological Society Congress 2025 (Antananarivo, Madagascar) – Oral presentation

Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals 2024 (Perth, Western Australia) – Oral presentation

Bio-Logging Symposium 2021 (Hawai'i, US / Online) – Oral presentation

Invited seminars in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Madagascar

SKILLS

Research methods: Bioacoustics, Biologging, Behavioral ecology, Ecoacoustics, Drone photogrammetry, Signal processing

Programming: R, Python, MATLAB

Others: SIG, Blender (3D modeling), Inkscape (scientific illustration), Certified UAV pilot (France, 2021)

Languages: Malagasy (native), French (fluent), English (fluent), German (basic)

SERVICE & SCIENCE OUTREACH

- Reviewer for international journals including Animal Behaviour, Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology, PeerJ, and others
- Trainer for whale-watching guides in Sainte Marie, Madagascar
- Public engagement through scientific outreach events, public lectures, documentaries, and media interviews (including Paysages in Marciac, Pariscience, RTS, IFLScience, and Cétamada outreach events)