Life in Madagascar today
Madagascar by the numbers

Madagascar, carnet de voyage
Madagascar by the numbers

- Over 21 million people
- GDP = $8.59 billion
- GDP per capita = $438
- Average daily income < $1.25
- Fourth poorest country
Madagascar by the numbers

- Education
  - 70% literacy
    - lower in rural populations

- Health care
  - 2.9 doctors per 10,000 people
    - lower in rural populations
  - Malaria, plague, schistosomiasis, food and water borne illnesses

- Madagascar Ankizy Fund
- ICTE

Photos courtesy of Dave Krause, Madagascar Ankizy Fund
The capital: Antananarivo

- 2 million people
- ~25% of population lives in urban areas
The capital: Antananarivo
Daily life in Tana
Getting around cities: taxi
Getting around cities: taxi be
Getting around cities: pousse pousse
Long-distance travel
Long-distance travel
Long-distance travel
Long-distance travel
Long-distance travel
Getting around local: ox carts
Getting around local: alternatives
Getting around local: alternatives
Getting around local: alternatives
Getting around local: alternatives
Enjoying Malagasy cuisine
Enjoying Malagasy cuisine: Rice
Enjoying Malagasy cuisine: Meat
Enjoying Malagasy cuisine: Meat
Enjoying Malagasy cuisine: Fish
Enjoying Malagasy cuisine: **Beans**
Enjoying Malagasy cuisine: Coffee
Enjoying Malagasy cuisine: Vanilla
Enjoying Malagasy cuisine: Mmm...
Dance

- Very diverse
- Central feature of many Malagasy social occasions
  - Tromba and Salamanga: religious-magical dances
  - Joros: sacrifice dances
  - Fampithana: dances that assure social relationships
Dance

- Expressions of performer’s sentiments and group identity
- Transmit traditional histories and knowledge
  - Arrangement of hands, feet, and body poses
  - Ornamented robes, shirts, pants
    - E.g., lamba symbolizes prestige and power
Dance: Hiragasy

- Merina people
- Began in the 18th century by Merina prince Andrianampoinimerina
- Used to draw crowd for political speeches known as kabary
- Specific structure
Dance
Dance: Ranomafana

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Dance: Ranomafana

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Dance
Marriage

- Polygyny common prior to colonization
- Marriage ceremonies vary across ethnic groups
  - Sakalava: no ceremony, just move in together
  - Betsileo: marriage only after careful scrutiny of the spouse’s family, astrologers consulted to set date
  - Bara: marriage between cousins is common, can be decreed by grandmother, ceremony involves animal sacrifice
About 50% of the total populations continue to adhere to traditional religious beliefs

40% of the population is Christian

7% of the population is Muslim
Fady

- Taboos, often associated with the use of particular substances (e.g., food)
- Passed down family and ethnic lines
- Examples:
  - Entering sacred ground in Vatovavy without first asking permission of ancestors
Burial
Burial: Mahafaly tombs
Famadihana: Turning of the bones

- Part 1: Famadihana
- Part 2: Famadihana
Questions?