

## **48<sup>th</sup> KUASS (Kyoto University African Studies Seminar)**

**Date and Time:** 4 March 2016 (Fri), 15:00—18:00

**Venue:** Kyoto University Inamori Memorial Building, 3rd Floor, #318 Seminar Room

**Title: Bird Conservation and People 's Livelihood in Madagascar**

**Speaker: Dr. HajanirinaFanomezantsoa Rakotomanana**  
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**Abstract:** The birds of Madagascar are old, perhaps due to the island's ancient isolation (at about 140 million years ago). Consequently, many of them have evolved into families and genera that are peculiar to Madagascar. Mainly, Malagasy birds are characterized by two points: (1) their relative poverty in terms of number of species (n=283 species); (2) their high level of endemism, in terms of both genera (24.6%) and species (43%) (nesting species). However, due to a rapid destruction of the natural environment, Madagascar unique and rich biodiversity are endangered and many endemic birds are particularly, vulnerable and sensitive to that significant ecosystem loss. The most widespread threats are: (1) Loss of native forests; (2) Conversion of wetland habitat to intensive rice production or drainage for upland crops; (3) Hunting of birds, particularly at nesting and moulting sites (Poaching); and (4) Overfishing, particularly using fine-mesh nets, affecting birds and turtles as well as endemic fish. Invasive alien species, especially plants, birds, fishes, frogs, etc. have also become abundant locally, altering the character and species composition of many wetlands, as well as contributing to extinctions of many endemic species. Often the rural poor people are struggling to ensure their livelihoods, who experience the highest opportunity costs from conservation actions that restrict the use of natural resources. In front of these problems, urgent, effective and sustainable actions should be undertaken in Madagascar.