1950s	Jean-Jacques Petter and Arlette Petter-Rousseaux began studying lemurs
1966	Duke Primate Center (now called the Duke Lemur Center) established
1970	•Conférence Internationale sur la Conservation de la Nature et de ses Ressources à Madagascar
1975	Start of Lt. Comm. Didier Ratsiraka's Second Republic Creation of Bezà Mahafaly reserve
1979	WWF office in Madagascar established Académie Malgache international meeting on lemur biology
1980	 World Conservation Strategy introduced concept of sustainable development Madagascar government signed first International Monetary Fund agreement A World Like Our Own published
1983	 Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust meeting WWF/Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique Accord & Annex
1984	American Space Shuttle Discovery satellite image of Madagascar Madagascar's World Conservation Union National Conservation Strategy issued
1985	Conférence de Madagascar sur la Conservation des Ressources Naturelles au Service du Développement
1986	 Discovery of the golden bamboo lemur National Forum on BioDiversity Madagascar identified as one of the top six most mega-diverse countries W. Alton Jones Foundation trip New York Zoological Society meeting on St. Catherine's Island
1987	 World Bank president Barber Conable announces environmental initiative St. Catherine's meeting on the Promotion of Ecology, Conservation and Development in Madagascar Convention on Collaboration with Respect to Endangered Malagasy Fauna signed World Bank National Environmental Action Plan planning missions and working groups began
1988	 Madagascar Fauna Group formed Madagascar named one of the world's top ten biodiversity hotspots World Bank Task Force on Biodiversity Smithsonian Madagascar meetings began Madagascar NEAP published
1989	World Bank and Donor Implementation Missions began
1991	•First Phase of the Environment Program began

Figure S1 . Timeline of significant events