



# The Communicator

A burning passion for nature and conservation motivates a young author from Costa Rica to share with all a message of hope

## *Álvaro Cubero - A Wildlife Photographer in His Own Words*

I was born in a small coastal village in Costa Rica, where I learnt to love nature since I was a child. Never I would have imagined the path which has taken me here. From the first moment I had a camera in my hands I started taking photos of wildlife, of animals, of ecosystems, all things alive and moving, and slowly I started to get specialized. Like all, I started taking pictures just for fun, to show others what I saw, but with the passing of time the fun turned into a challenge, and then the challenge became a veritable need, so that today I cannot think of my own very life without wildlife photography.

We are living difficult times for nature, since as human beings we are exhausting almost all resources of the planet - yet as a ultimate irony we are swamped and intoxicated by information. People are told so often to conserve and protect that their minds are shutting down. So I started to realize that photos are incredibly helpful to strike deep in people's minds and change their perception. When I saw the camera in my hand I then told myself that I was holding a tool, a tool which helps to communicate, to show the

facts, to show why it is important to conserve and why it is important to change our ways. Suddenly I wasn't a photographer of "pretty shots" anymore - I felt my images should carry a message, have a purpose.

This search to communicate and to share with the rest of the world has taken me to a great many places of my beloved Costa Rica and to many other countries where conservation is a real problem, such as Madagascar - where I learnt that now more than ever we must not give up and be defeated, that we need to be positive and transmit a message of hope, because if we lose hope than we shall give up the fight and everything will be lost forever.

I now am 27 years old, but this is not an obstacle for me to think for myself, for my kids, for my grandsons and granddaughters. We must protect and we must share. It is for this reason that wildlife photography is so important for me.

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### **Black Speckled Palm Viper**

I love snakes, incredible animals which fill me with adrenalin when I photograph them. This species is endemic to Costa Rica. Cordillera de Talamanca, Highlands of Costa Rica.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100mm f2.8L  
1/160  
F16  
ISO 640



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## Jaguar

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The queen of the Pantanal, this beautiful female was resting quietly on the shores of the rio San Lorenzo. Mato Grosso, Brazil.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 600mm f4  
L II  
1/250  
F4  
ISO 2500







**Satanic gecko**

My favorite reptile, a dream species which I photographed during my first trip to Madagascar. Andasibe National Park, Madagascar.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100mm f2.8L  
1/160  
F16  
ISO640

**African elephants**

The most amazing social behavior I ever observed - when a herd of elephants approached others at a waterhole in Etosha NP, Namibia. The interaction by rumbling, trunk touching and ear flapping was very special. Etosha National Park, Namibia.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100-400mm II  
1/320  
F5.6  
ISO 2500





**Spiny-headed  
Tree Frog**

This is a very special frog which is very difficult to encounter in its natural habitat. Parque Nacional Braulio Carillo, Costa Rica.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100mm  
f2.8L  
1/160  
F16  
ISO 640







## African elephants

Using a wide-angle with giant animals such as elephants is always difficult as these animals are dangerous to people. This image was taken from a reinforced hide. Okavango delta, Botswana.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 16-35mm  
f2.8 II  
1/1250  
F4  
ISO 640





### Baby Tapir

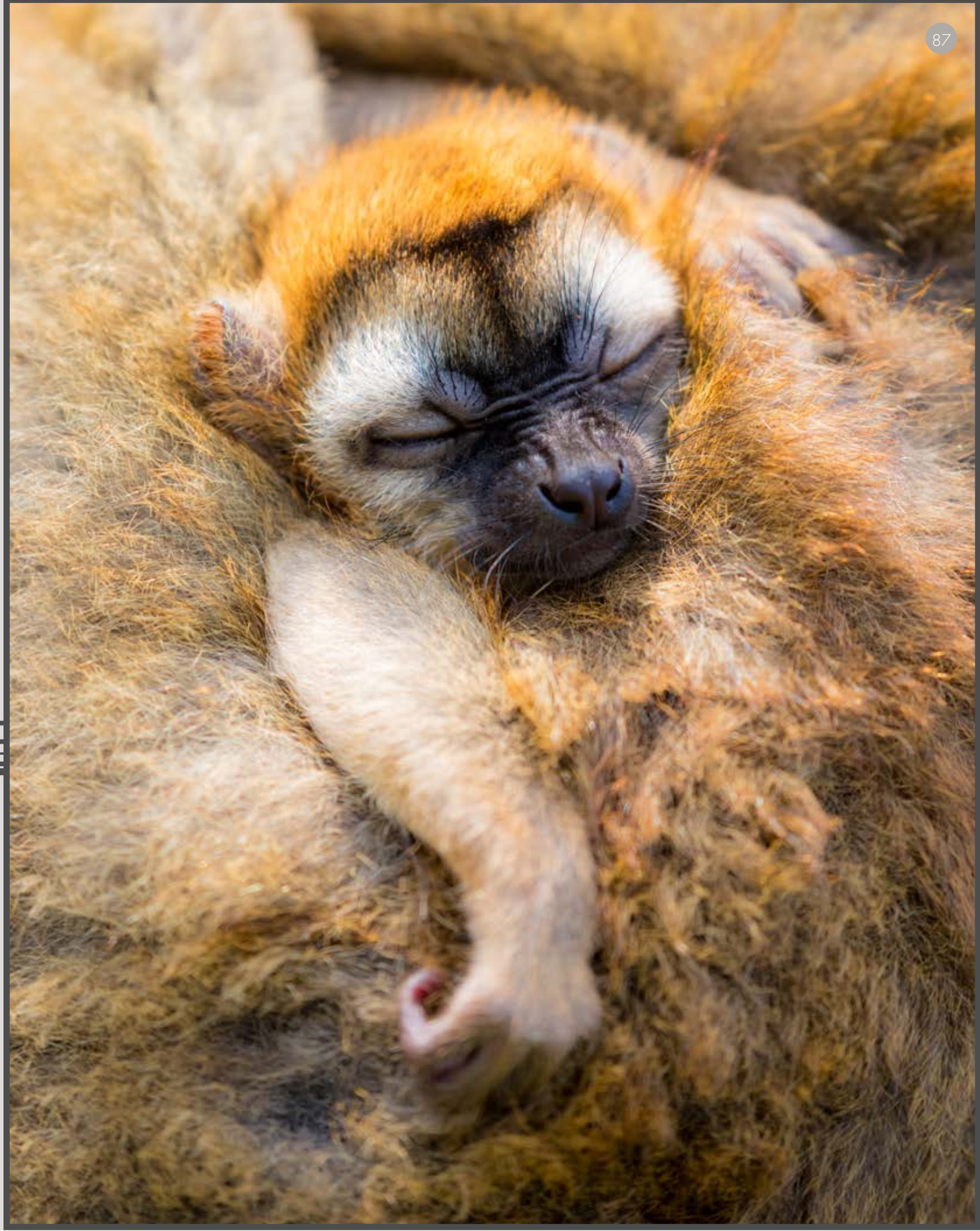
Photographing this baby Tapir was a real challenge. Parque Nacional Braulio Carillo, Costa Rica.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100-400mm II  
1/320  
F5.6  
ISO 3200

### Baby lemur

A symbol of hope in a sadly very endangered island. West Madagascar.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100-400mm II  
1/500  
F5.6  
ISO 2000







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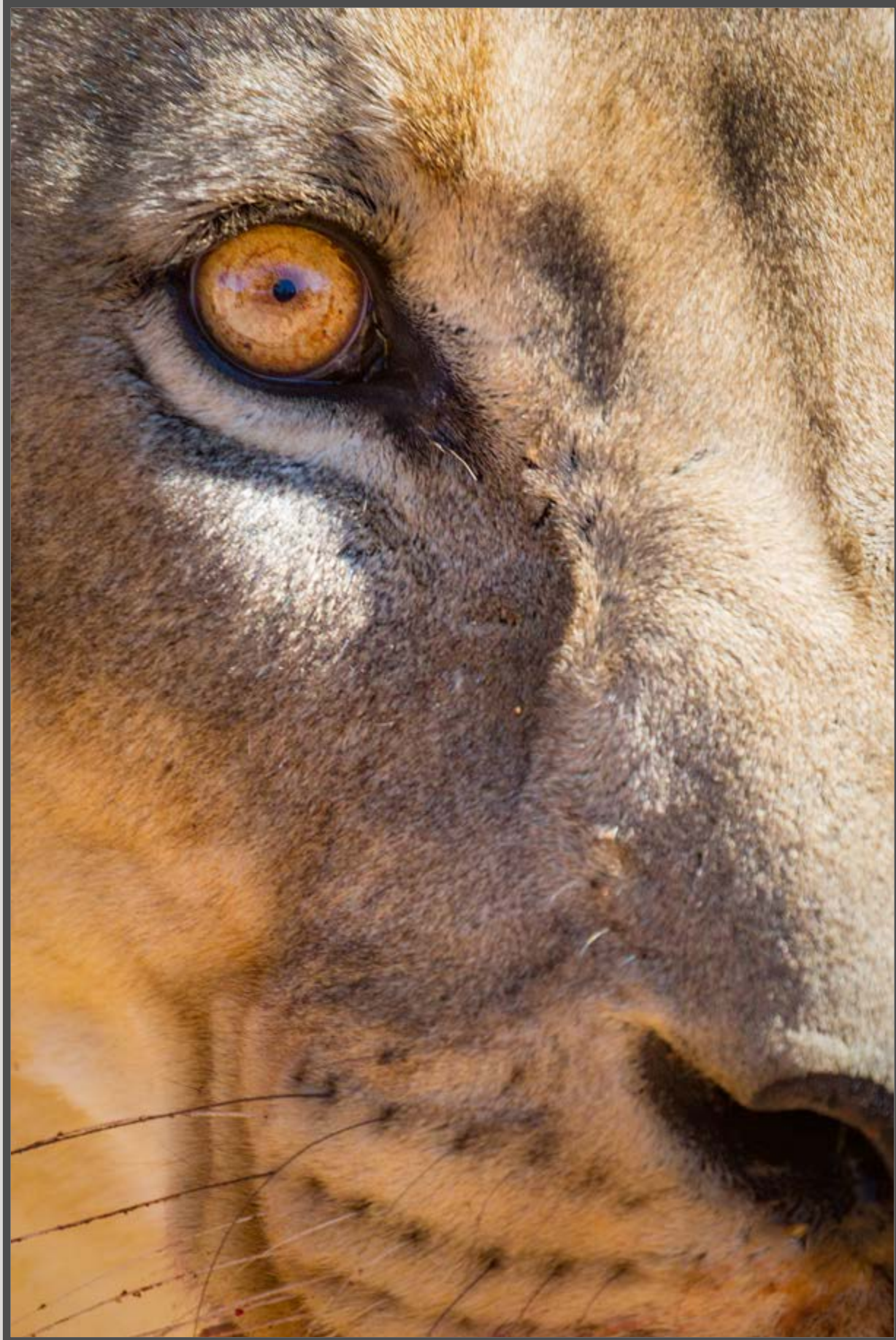
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**Strawberry  
Poison Frog**

One of the best-known diurnal frogs - for being toxic and for its "blue jeans" - which is easily encountered in the rain forest of the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Guápiles, Costa Rica.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100mm  
F2.8 L  
1/160  
F16  
ISO 640



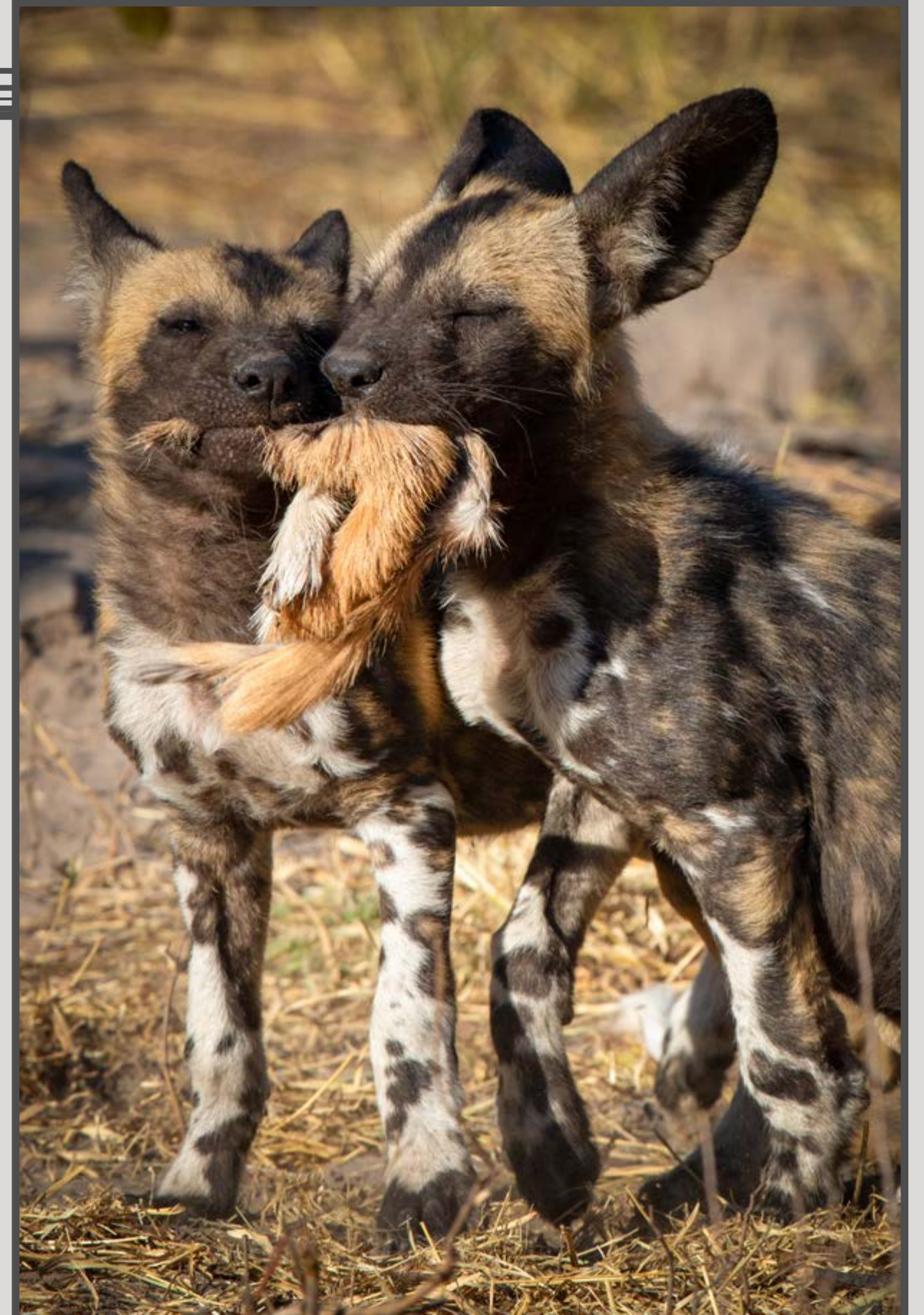


### Wild dogs

African Wild dogs are very successful hunters - these cubs were playing with the remains of an impala in a scene which was tender and grotesque at the same time.

Okavango delta,  
Botswana.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 600mm f4 L II  
1/500  
F4  
ISO 1250



### Lioness

A 50% crop of the eye of a lioness offers interesting details and composition. Namibia, Africa.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100-400mm II  
1/2000  
F5.6  
ISO 320





### Vicuñas

These relatives of camels can be frequently encountered in the paramos around the Chimborazo volcano, as their numbers are luckily on the rise. Volcán Chimborazo, Ecuador.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100-400mm II  
1/2000  
F5.6  
ISO 200



**Bamboo lemur**

The Bamboo lemur is severely endangered, and being able to photograph one was a real blessing for me. Andasibe National Park, Madagascar.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100-400mm II  
1/200  
F5.6  
ISO 800

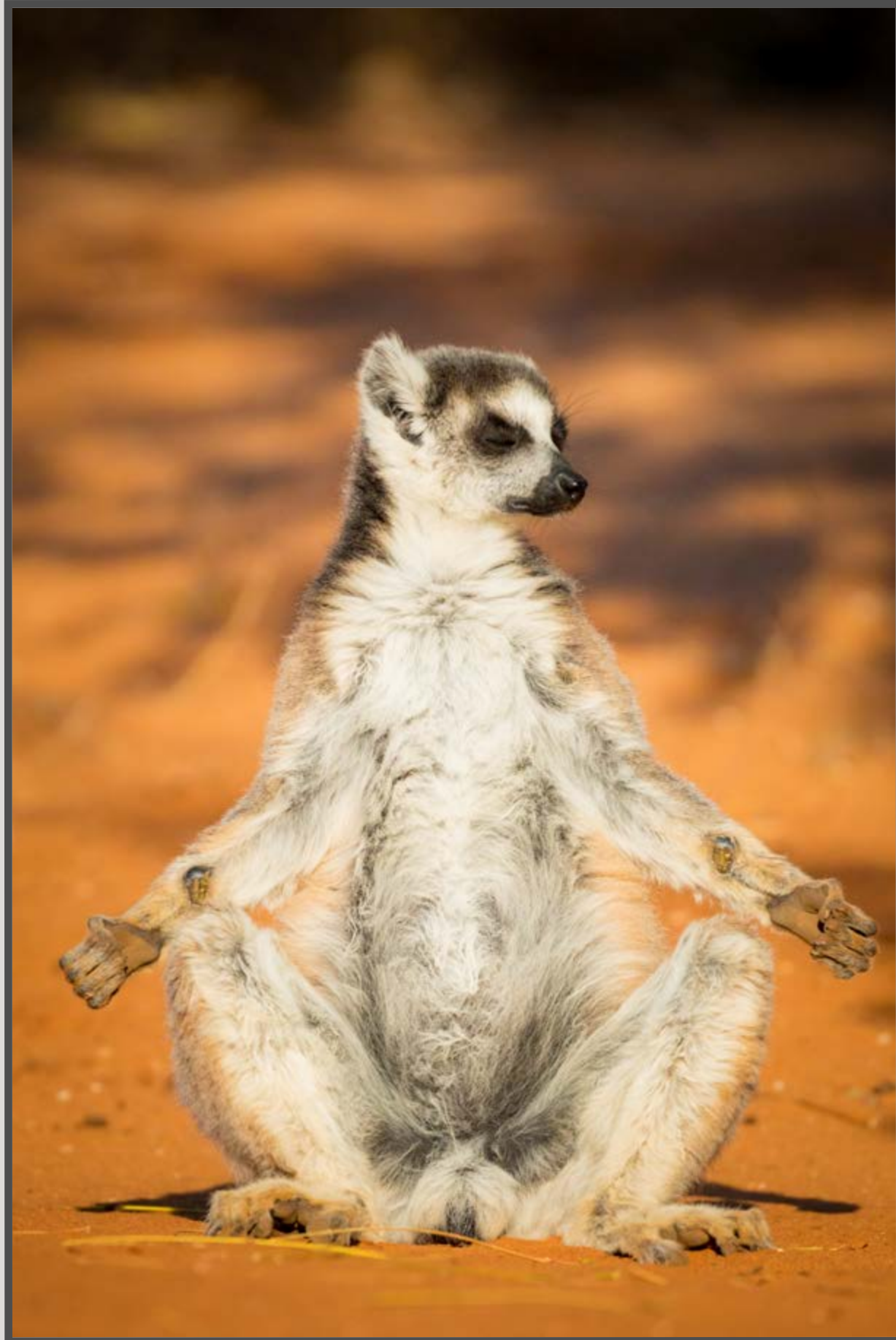


**Red-eyed Frogs**

The mating embrace (*amplexus*) of the most famous frog species of Costa Rica. Sarapiquí, Costa Rica

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100mm F2.8 L  
1/160  
F16  
ISO 640





**Lemur**

This lemur looks like it's doing yoga but in fact it is simply sunning itself. Berenty Reserve, Madagascar.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
 Canon 100-400mm II  
 1/2000  
 F5.6  
 ISO 200

**Elk**

A Canadian elk resting on a hotel golf course. Banff, Alberta, Canada.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
 Lente Canon 100-400mm II  
 1/800  
 F5.6  
 ISO 2000







## Hippos

A mother hippo and her baby - a very tender scene which is also quite powerful, as this species is the most dangerous of Africa. Chobe river, Botswana.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 600mm f4 II  
1/320  
F4  
ISO 1250





**Tapir**

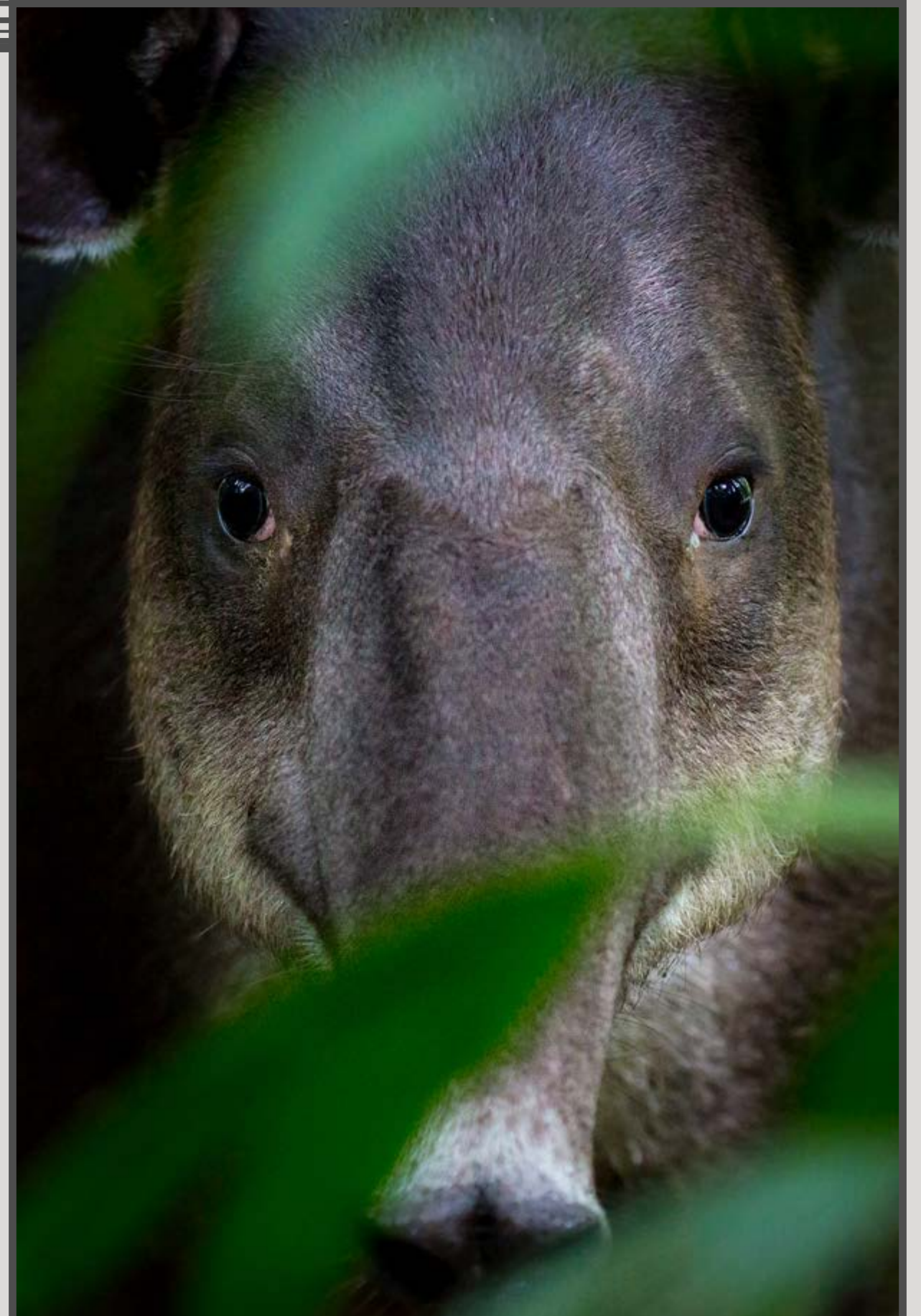
One of the most difficult photos I have ever taken, as tapirs are very fast and shy forest animals. Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo, Costa Rica.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
 Canon 100-400mm II  
 1/125  
 F5.6  
 ISO 3200

**Ring-tailed lemur**

One of the most charismatic and photogenic lemur species. Berenty Reserve, Madagascar.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
 Canon 100-400mm II  
 1/1000  
 F5.6  
 ISO 800





**Common iguana**

As photographers we can show others - under a different light - common things which they would not normally observe, such as the eye of an animal which is everywhere in my native Costa Rica, the Green iguana. San Carlos, Costa Rica.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100mm F2.8 L  
1/160  
F16  
ISO 640



**African sunset**

African sunsets can be unbelievable, and this one with the elephants of the river Chobe is one of my favorite images - everytime I see this photo I remember that incredible moment. Chobe National Park, Botswana.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 600mm f4 II  
1/1000  
F4  
ISO 500



**Diadem Sifaka**

One of the most endangered lemur species in the world.  
Andasibe National Park, Madagascar.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
Canon 100-400mm II  
1/250  
F5.6  
ISO 3200







### Young Baboon

Taken with the so-called Rim light backlighting, a technique I love. Chobe, Botswana.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
 Canon 600mm f4  
 L II  
 1/3200  
 F4  
 ISO 320

### Mountain goat

A mountain goat - a very challenging subject. If you look closely you'll see the mountains behind me reflected in its eye. Jasper National Park, Canada.

Canon 5D Mark IV  
 Canon 100-400mm  
 II  
 1/500  
 F5.6  
 ISO 800

