



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

Jaguar

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

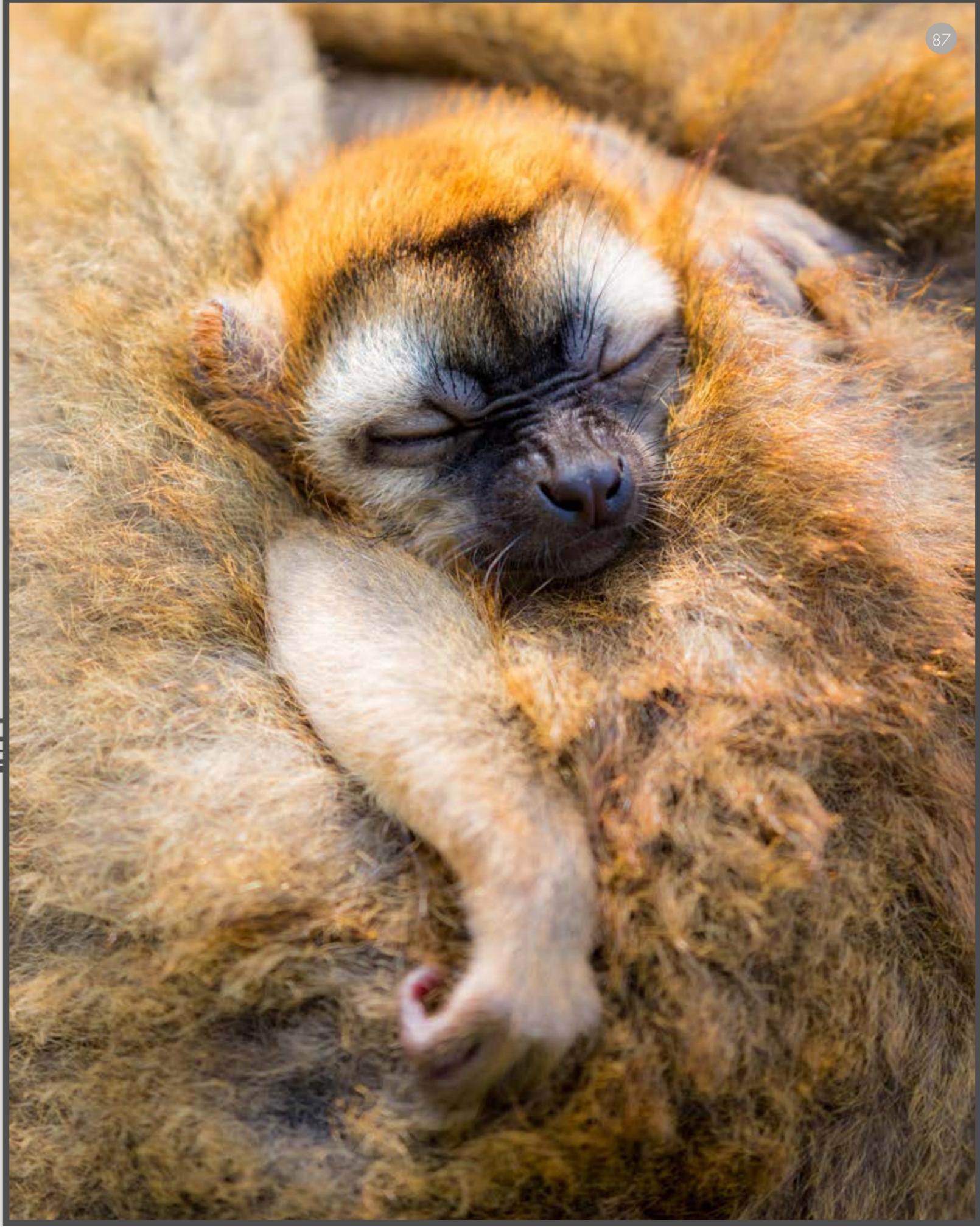
Photographing this baby Tapir was a real challenge. Parque Nacional Braulio Carillo, Costa Rica.

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

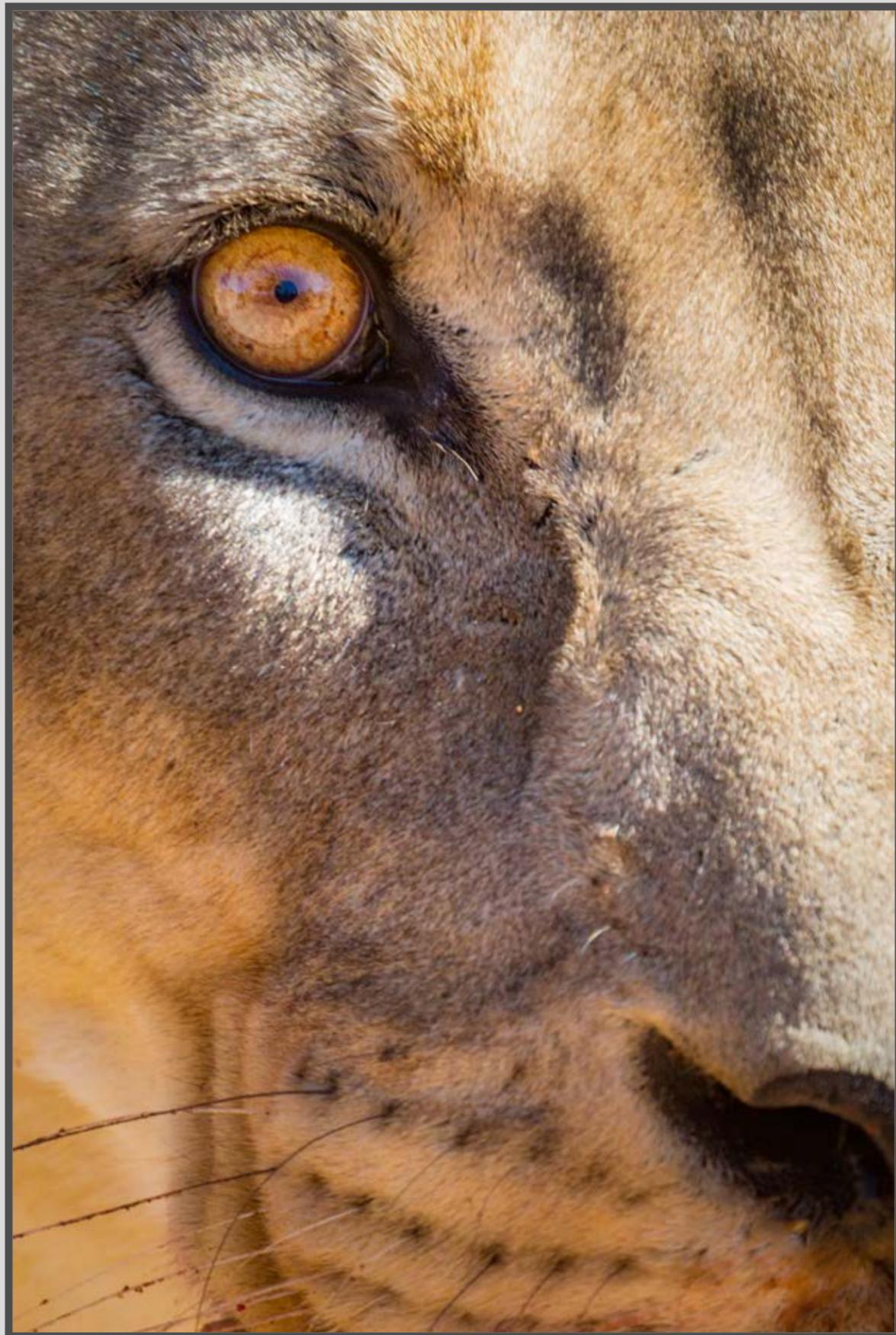




**Strawberry
Poison Frog**

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

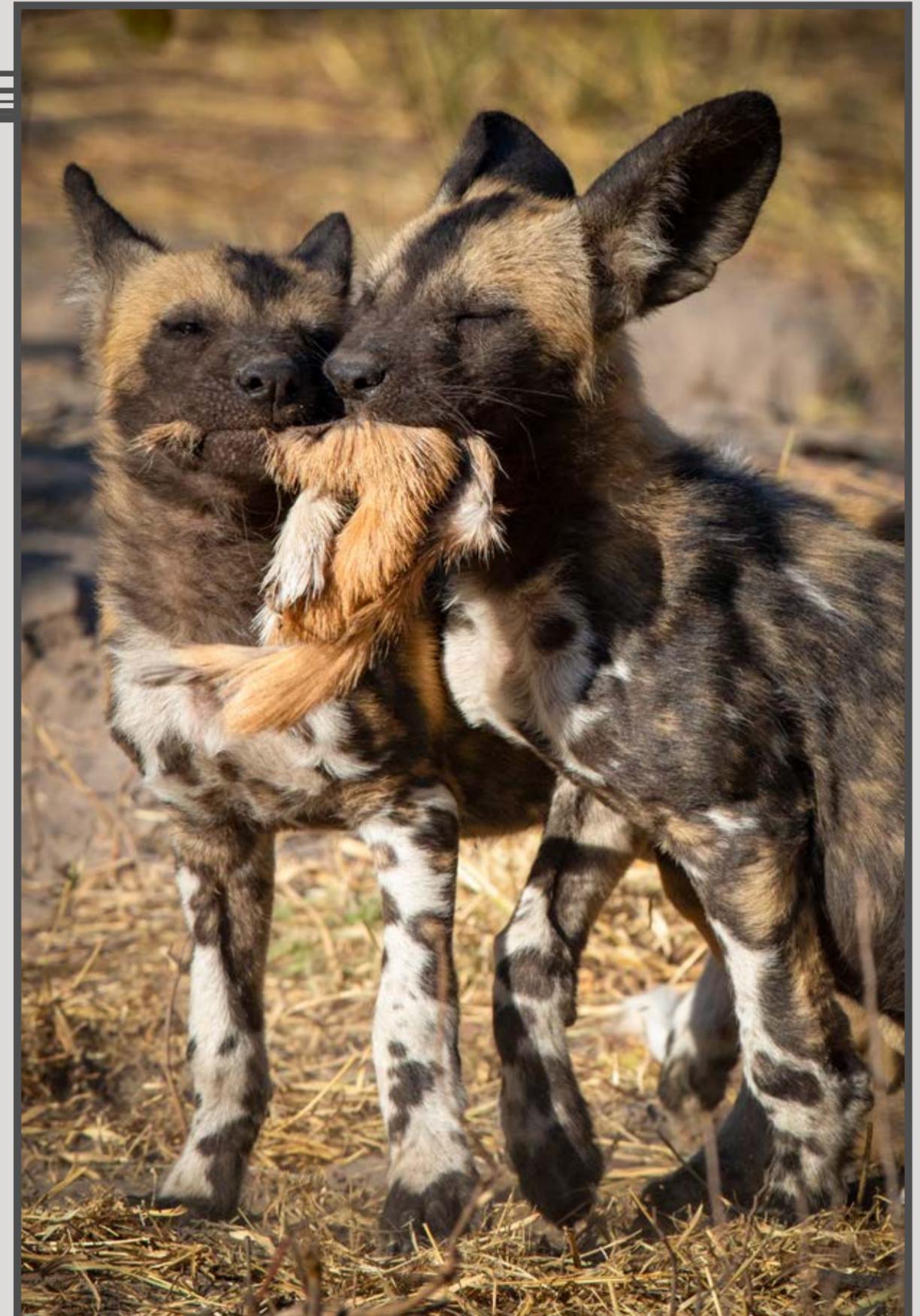


Wild dogs

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.

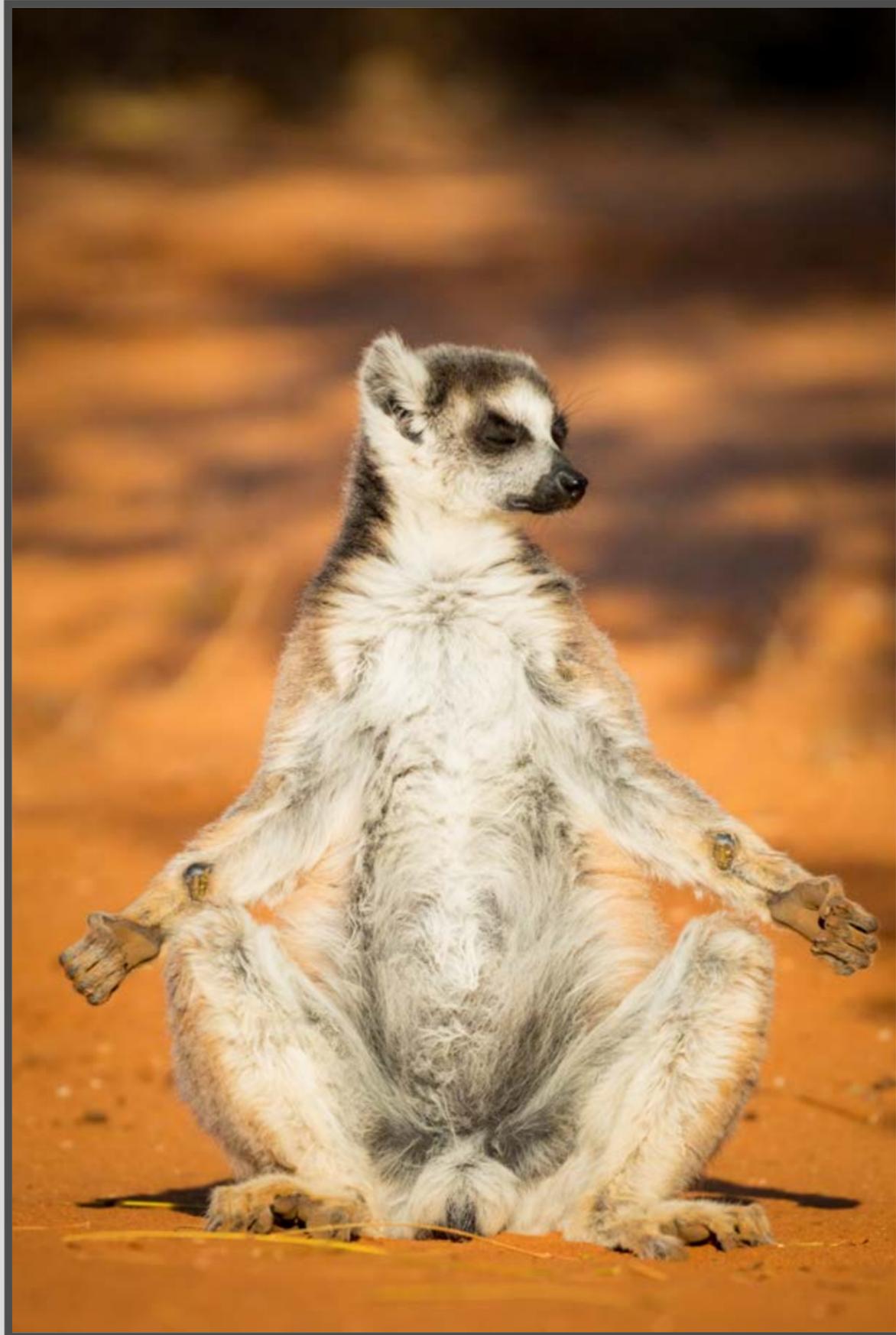
Canon 5D Mark IV
 Canon 100-400mm II
 1/200
 F5.6
 ISO 800



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

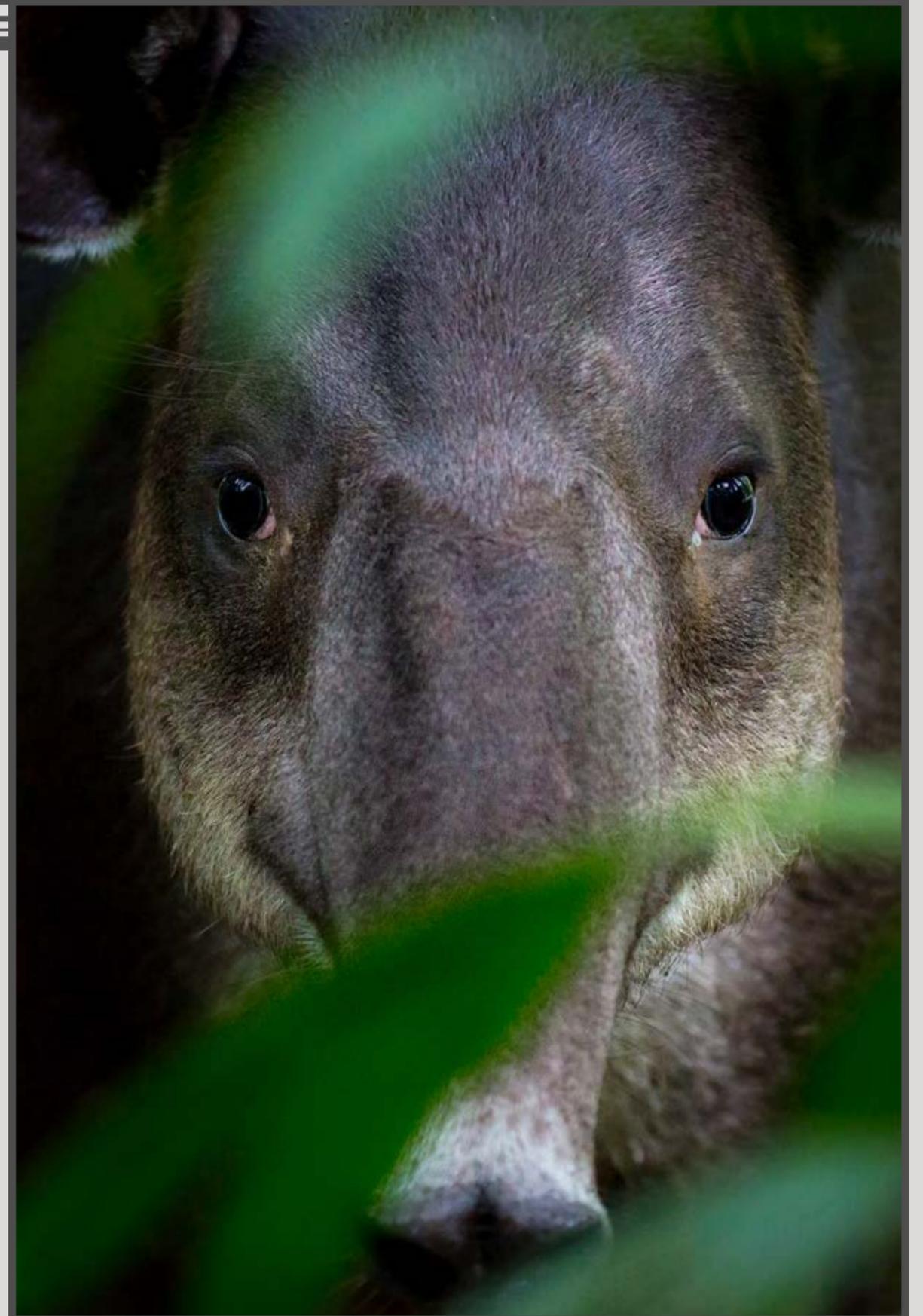
One of the most difficult photos I have ever taken, as tapirs are very fast and shy forest animals. Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo, Costa Rica.

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

