

Kathy West, MS

Wildlife Conservation Photographer

Founder and Director, "Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation" 501(c)3

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KathyWestStudios.com

photographyinspiringconservation.org

About: <https://kathyweststudios.com/about/>

Education

MS 1980 – 1981 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Graduate Group in Ecology, Field Primatology (Ketambe, Gunung Leuser, Sumatra); Thesis "Ecology, Communication and Behavior of Siamang Apes in Sumatra (*Symphalangus syndactylus*)", IUCN: Endangered

BS 1975 – 1978 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Major: Zoology, Animal Behavior

Relevant Awards and Recognition

- 2024 Photography image honored in Showcase 2024 Top 250, North American Nature Photography Assoc.
- 2023 Photography image honored in Showcase 2023 Top 100, North American Nature Photography Assoc.
- 2023 Anniversary Winner and [Featured Photographer](#) for Bevisgear, March 2023
- 2022 Photography image honored in Showcase 2022 Top 250, North American Nature Photography Assoc.
- 2022 Golden State Art's [Artist Spotlight](#), November 2022
- 2021 Photography image semi-finalist, Mkapá African Wildlife, Nature's Best Photography Int'l Competition
- 2021 Photography images (2) honored in Showcase 2021 Top 250, North American Nature Photography Assoc.
- 2020 Photography image semi-finalist, Nature's Best Photography International Competition, Smithsonian
- 2020 Photography image (1) honored in Showcase 2020 Top 250, North American Nature Photography Assoc.
- 2019 Recipient of Kyes Award for Excellence in Outreach, for Significant Contributions to Primatology Outreach, American Society of Primatologists. "Awarded to recognize a long history of excellence in primatology outreach, using best practices, creativity, and cultural sensitivity while demonstrating meaningful impact".
- 2018 American Society of Primatologists Conservation Grant – "Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation"
- 2017 Photography image semi-finalist, Nature's Best Photography International Competition, Smithsonian

Relevant Experience

CONSERVATION PHOTOGRAPHER AND OUTREACH SPECIALIST

- 2026 Conducted PICC sessions with over 200 children in 3 remote villages in NE Madagascar. Managed travel, logistics, resources, finances, and teaching. 3 volunteers and 1 Malagasy staff. Project report pending.
- 2025 Led PICC sessions in Azuero, Panamá: Youth, and Pro Eco Azuero (University students) Conservation Photography Workshops. <https://bit.ly/3p1N8iF>
- 2024 "Unforgettable Maasai Mara" by Kathy West, Africa Geographic Stories: <https://bit.ly/AfricaGeo2024>
- 2024 Developed video [interview](#) with Maasai guide Benson Muli (Kenya) for PICC workshops with youth-in-training
- 2024 Developed teaching materials, directed and funded 5 session of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) in Rwanda and Uganda in collaboration with local PICC team and PICC partners [Conservation Heritage](#), [Sahaya Wildlife](#), [Save Wildlife Uganda](#), and [BACHO](#). Conducted photography and guide workshop with local youth, retired rangers and other community leaders. Funded a gorilla trekking and photography experience for 4 local youth from Buhoma and Batwa communities.
- 2023 Donated images to Dr. Harry Greene for conservation publication: Heart of the Wild, Princeton Univ. Press 2023
- 2023 Conservation outreach, peer-reviewed journal: "An overdue catalyst: Limitations imposed by COVID-19 improved capacity building in community-led environmental education in Madagascar" West, et al. American Journal of Primatology, Vol 85, Special Issue: New Ideas in Conservation Education. May 2023
- 2023 Authored, illustrated and published hard copy and pdf of "[Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Jauaperi Extractive Reserve, Brazil Edition](#)". Co-authored by Brazilian primatologist Dr. G. de faria Oliveira; 42 pp, in English and Portuguese

- 2023 Developed teaching materials, directed and funded 3 session of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) in Panamá (Azuerio peninsula) in collaboration with local PICC team
- 2022 Developed teaching materials, directed and funded 3 sessions of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) in Uganda, in collaboration with PICC partners Sahaya Wildlife and BACHO
- 2022 Authored, illustrated and published hard copy and pdf of "Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Mountain Gorillas"; with gorilla natural history and conservation issues, West, 44 pp., in English and Rukiga
- 2022 Invited Speaker, Biology and Art Departments, Notre Dame of Maryland University. May 5, 2022. "*Long and Winding Trails Intertwined: Science and Art as One*"
- 2022 Developed teaching materials, directed and funded session of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) in Panamá (Azuerio peninsula) in collaboration with local PICC team
- 2022 Designed and authored new webpage to reflect international expansion of nonprofit organization– Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation
- 2021-22 Authored, illustrated and published hard copy and pdf of "Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Azuerio, Panama"; primate natural history and conservation issues, focus on 3 endangered primate species, West, Hooper and Rowe; 54 pp., in English and Spanish
- 2021 Invited speaker, American Society of Primatologists Annual Conference, Nov 2021 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. *Special session in education outreach: "An overdue catalyst: Limitations imposed by COVID-19 improved capacity building in community-led environmental education in Madagascar"*
- 2020–23 Developed teaching materials, directed and funded 7 sessions of Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC) (from US) in NE Madagascar, 2020-2023 in collaboration with Malagasy PICC Team member, Pascal Elison
- 2020 Authored, illustrated and published hard copy and pdf of "Book Two: Lemur Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Masoala NP"; with natural history, lemur conservation, and translations customized for NE Madagascar. West and Elison, 44 pp., in English and local Malagasy dialect
- 2019 Poster presented at American Society of Primatologists Conference, Aug 2019 Madison, WI; "*Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation (PICC): A Primate Extinction Crisis Outreach Project*"
- 2018-19 PICC project progress summary: submitted 4 grant applications, produced introduction videos (with Dr. Jaclyn Aliperti), established Malagasy team members for Masoala Session (Our Team)
- 2019 Invited talks – Photography Club of Davis (6/2019), Woodland Camera Forum (3/2019), Rotary Club of Davis (9/2019). Presented select photographs from international sites, with information for each species on IUCN status and conservation issues. Introduced audiences to PICC program and conservation actions.
- 2018 Designed, illustrated, co-wrote and published hard copy and pdf of "Book One: Lemur Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Berenty", in English and Malagasy. Provided 500 books to co-author Dr. Amber Walker-Bolton for Madagascar school programs, conservation clubs and with international primate researchers. Book is open-source online and through social media (link to PDF)
- 2018 Conducted PICC program with children in Suriname as part of US Fulbright "*Suriname Forest Fragments Project*", in collaboration with Dr. Marilyn Norconk. (PICC in Suriname)
- 2016-17 Founded "*Photography Inspiring Children in Conservation*" (PICC) program, curriculum, website and materials (<https://photographyinspiringconservation.org>)

PHOTOGRAPHS APPEARING ON JOURNAL AND BOOK COVERS

- "Primate Socioecology: Back to the Basics" by L. Isbell, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024, cover
- American J of Primatology, Sep 2019, Vol 81 Issue 9
- J of Virology, August 2018, V92
- J Nature, Lab Animal, June 2017, Vol 46
- J of Hormones and Behavior, Nov 2016, Vol 86
- American J of Primatology, Mar 2016, Vol 78
- Science: Translational Medicine, Sept 2014
- NY Times, cover photo for lead story, Science section, November 6, 2014
- American J of Primatology, Oct 2012, Vol 74
- J of Medical Primatology, April 2009, Vol 38

SENIOR OFFICER: COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH AND PHOTOGRAPHY, 2000 – 2016

California National Primate Research Center, University of California, Davis, California

Program Founder, Director and Educator, K–12 Education Outreach Program, 2003 – 2016

Principal Photographer, Scientific Illustrator, and Graphic Artist, 2000 – 2016

Chair, Founder, NIH Nonhuman Primate Consortium Outreach Working Group, National Primate Research Centers / NIH Office of the Director, 2011 – 2016

Senior Officer, Media Relations and Social Media, 2010 – 2016

Webmaster, Designer, and Content Editor, CNPRC.ucdavis.edu, 2009 – 2016

Editor, Science Writer, and Production Manager, Biannual public newsletter, 2007 – 2016

Program Representative: Marketing and Promotion, 2006 – 2016

FREELANCE SCIENTIFIC, NATURAL SCIENCE AND MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR, 1984 – PRESENT

I provide accurate and engaging scientific, natural science, and medical illustrations for a broad range of research and conservation projects from molecular to ecosystem level. Clients in government, NGOs, conservation organizations, academic institutions, private commissions.

SELECT JOURNAL AND NEWS ILLUSTRATIONS

- Illustrations for USGS Sacramento, Dr. E. Preece, riverways graphic illustration for scientific conference, 2024
- Illustrations and graphics for *"Primate Socioecology: Back to the Basics"* by L. Isbell, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024
- Illustrations for Academic Monograph *"Hummingbird (Family Trochilidae) Research: Welfare-conscious Study Techniques for Live Hummingbirds and Processing of Hummingbird Specimens"*. Tell et al. Special Publ, Museum of Texas Tech Univ., No. 76, 19 Jan 2021
- Illustrations for *"Behavioral responses around conspecific corpses in adult eastern gorillas (*Gorilla beringei* spp.)"*. Porter et al. PeerJ, Apr '19, <https://peerj.com/articles/6655/>
- Illustrations for *"Use of RFID technology to characterize feeder visitations and contact network of hummingbirds in urban habitats"*. Bandivadekar, et al. PLoS Dec 12, 2018
- Illustration for UCD Medical School, Sept 3, 2014 news release: *"Breast-fed and Bottle-fed Infant Rhesus Macaques Develop Distinct Gut Microbiotas and Immune Systems"*, Ardeshir et al. Science Translational Medicine, Sep 2014:Vol. 6, Issue 252.
- Illustration for *"Abnormal Early Cleavage Events Predict Early Embryo Demise: Sperm Oxidative Stress and Early Abnormal Cleavage"*. Burrue et al. Figure 1, Nature, 2014
- Illustrations for H1N1 bird flu prevention educational materials (Senegal) for DAI and UC Davis; *"Stamping Out Pandemic and Avian Influenza (STOP AI)"*. Used cultural understanding of lifestyles and activities to produce educational materials to inform a non-literate population in disease prevention. 2007–2008

Conservation Work and Image Services

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| 2024 | Donated images to Africa Geographic for outreach and conservation |
| 2024 | Donated images to American Society of Primatologists for online and education use |
| 2024 | Donated images to Pangolin Rescue Center, Rugando village, Buhoma-Bwindi, Uganda |
| 2023 | Donated images of primates to American Society of Primatologists (ASP) Board of Directors; and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for SSC Primate Specialist Group special report; |
| 2020 | Donated images of primates to American Society of Primatologists – Conservation Action Network; and SEED Madagascar conservation program |
| 2019 | Donated images to C. Borgerson for J. Madagascar Conservation and Development online publ., V.14, No.1 |
| 2019 | Donated copies of <i>"Book One: Lemur Conservation Coloring Books: Berenty (West and Walker-Bolton)"</i> to conservation researchers at American Society of Primatologists conference |
| 2017–24 | Annual donation of photography prints and merchandise to American Society of Primatologists conservation auctions. Over \$2,000 raised for conservation programs |
| 2019 | Founding member of #Primatweeps, an outreach Twitter group for engaging public audiences in primatology and conservation. Provided large set of photographs for unlimited use |
| 2017–23 | Provided content and images for @PICCmadagascar (primate conservation) Twitter, FB and Instagram accounts |

- 2019 Donated photography art to Dr. Brett Frye for journal publication / cover of AJP; Donated photograph to American Psychological Association for Congressional briefing and visits poster, and informational materials
- 2019 Developed coloring book pages for Dr. C. Borgerson (National Geographic report publ); alternative food sources for conservation in the Masoala NP, translated to local dialect
- 2018 Donated photographs and photography services in Suriname; Xenarthra Rehabilitation Center and Sanctuary, Monique Pool, Director, Green Heritage Fund Suriname, Member IUCN/SSC Anteater, Sloth and Armadillo Spec. Gp & IUCN/ SSC Sirenia Spec. Gp; and to Marine Mammal Center, Sausalito, CA for use in outreach and education
- 2018 Provided at request, hardcopies of "Book One: Lemur Conservation Coloring and Activity Book: Berenty" to Lemur Conservation Network
- 2018 Designed and created graphics for Dr. Amy Porter, Dian Fossey Foundation journal publication (in-kind donation), PeerJ, Apr '19, <https://peerj.com/articles/6655/>
- 2018 Donated lemur images for online use to Lemur Conservation Network and American Soc. of Primatologists
- 2017 Volunteer photography services, Workshop for Women Biol. Anthropologists, Santa Clara Univ., Calif
- 2017 Donated graphics and illustration skills to University of California, Davis, hummingbird conservation and education program materials
- 2017 Provided photography services to UC Davis PREDICT Program (Phase II, rural Cambodia). Documented program activities, local PREDICT scientists and residents, scientific techniques; Provided requested photos from bat research specialist, Dr. Neil Furrey, Centre for Biodiversity Conservation, Royal University of Phnom Penh
- 2016 Provided photographs at request to Dr. Katie Hinde for TEDWomen 2016
- 2016 Donated photography art prints to American Society of Primatologists and International Primatological Society joint conservation auction. Raised over \$600 for conservation funds.
- 2014 Provided bat photos and video (taken at Tiputini Biodiversity Station) to Ecuadorian bat biologist, Dr. Jaime Guerra, University de San Francisco, Quito

Organization Memberships

- North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA), since 2019
- International Primatological Society, since 2016
- American Society of Primatologists (member since 2010); contributing member to: ASP Education Committee (2010–); ASP Conservation Committee (2019–); ASP – Conservation Action Network (2019–); ASP Media and Public Engagement Committee (2016–2019)
- Society for Conservation Biology, since 2023
- Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, since 1984

References

- Dr. Cortni Borgerson, National Geographic Explorer, Board Member of IUCN Primate Specialist Group and NGO MAHERY, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Montclair State University, cortniborgerson@gmail.com
- Dr. Harry Greene, Emeritus Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow, Cornell University; Adjunct Professor of Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin
- Dr. Amanda Dettmer, Associate Research Scientist, Child Study Center & Department of Pediatrics Yale School of Medicine; adettmer@gmail.com
- Dr. Katie Hinde, Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Senior Sustainability Scientist at Arizona State University; katiehinde@gmail.com

"Kathy's work is utterly wonderful, reflecting outstanding technical expertise, extensive training in biology, and a special knack for capturing details, a talent I suppose must come from some deep love of natural history. My regard for Kathy's award-winning work is all the higher because of her commitment to conservation, especially through education." ~Dr. Harry W. Greene, 2019

"Kathy has not only captured incredible and compelling imagery, but she has spent the last two years working to empower the children in Malagasy communities to become dedicated conservationists....Kathy not only empowers the international community to care about lemurs, she empowers local communities to save them." ~Dr. Cortni Borgerson, 2021