



Help South Africa's Baboons; Good News for IPPL's Gibbons!

November 6, 2008

Dear E-Friend,

The baboons of South Africa are still fighting for their lives—so I'm asking you to please **sign a petition** to protest the most recent killings.

Recently, I heard from IPPL member and primatologist Dr. Carolyn Bocian about the latest battlefield in the war against these animals. According to eyewitness reports, the timber companies York Timbers and Komatiland Forests—despite having been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council for sustainable harvesting practices—are killing hundreds of free-ranging baboons on their timber plantations for allegedly damaging the bark of the non-native pine trees there.

IPPL has reported on the terrible “**vermin** laws” that country uses to enable people to shoot and poison their “inconvenient” native baboon neighbors. You may remember reading in *IPPL News* (6/2006, p. 5) about Rita **Miljo**, whose work IPPL has **supported** for years. She's the dedicated founder of the South African baboon sanctuary CARE, where injured animals can be rehabilitated and, in some cases, released back into protected wilderness areas. Rita has made it clear the timber plantation baboons could be relocated, but this suggestion has been rejected.



Meanwhile, back here at the IPPL gibbon sanctuary in South Carolina, we are excited to watch the progress on our latest construction project: a special two-unit “introduction” house that will be used to help form permanent compatible pairs of gibbons out of animals who are currently single-housed.

Although we do not breed gibbons at the sanctuary (and in fact most of our males have had vasectomies to prevent this), we feel that it is important to allow the animals to form pairs to keep each other company, as would happen in the wild.

Now the indoor night quarters are almost finished, and the sturdy mesh forming the outdoor enclosures is currently being welded together. We're trying to decide who will be the first lucky gibbon couple!

Sincerely,

Dr. Shirley McGreal OBE, IPPL Founder



Photo courtesy Linda Barnes

▲ A group of some of South Africa's persecuted baboons.

Action Item: Please go online to sign the petition protesting the killing of South Africa's baboons by timber companies (<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/mass-killing-of-baboons-by-timber-companies-in-south-africa>).

▼ IPPL gibbon Nicholas enjoys supervising the construction of another gibbon house.



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