



Venus

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Photo: ©Lucy Radford



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A Message from Pam

Dear IPPL Friend,

I wish you could enjoy this beautiful spring here in Summerville, South Carolina with me. I am already looking forward to sharing spring at the Biennial Conference 2024. And yes, we are already planning it! The exact date is still to be decided, but be on the lookout for it.

This first issue of *IPPL News* for 2023 features three articles on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) held in Panama last November. IPPL has been a participant for decades and we had a strong presence with two board members at the meeting and one who attended remotely from Africa. The third article reported on one of the two “side events” that IPPL co-hosted. I hope you enjoy reading three different perspectives from the authors.

As we have all dealt with the ever-changing weather, our gibbons have been swinging outdoors when it’s warm and then alternating watching TV indoors when temperatures drop. This issue gives readers a glimpse of a day at IPPL with our Animal Care team and two volunteers.

Please enjoy an article from one of our newest Global Partners, Itombwe Génération pour l'Humanité (IGH), about the conservation of Great Apes in the Itombwe mountains. We also have an update on the tragic kidnapping of three baby chimpanzees at J.A.C.K.

I almost did not mention that this is our year 50!! Look on our website (<https://ippl.org>) and Facebook to stay up to date on special happenings!

And as always, IPPL continues to appreciate your friendship and support which allows us to continue our important work to save primates.



Pam Mendosa
IPPL Chairperson



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IPPL News

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Joan Brooks

About the Cover



This issue of *IPPL News* features three different perspectives on the 2022 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). One side event at this two-week conference was entitled “Long-Tailed Macaques – population trends, conservation concerns and threats from trade.” It was organized by four organizations including IPPL and The Long-tailed Macaque Project which provided the engaging cover photo captured by Lucy Radford. This primate species is the most heavily traded primate in the CITES database, with this global trade almost exclusively for laboratory research (biomedical and toxicology). More information on the plight of these primates can be found on page 4.

IPPL: Who We Are

IPPL is an international grassroots wildlife protection organization. It was founded in 1973 by Dr. Shirley McGreal. Our mission is to promote the conservation and protection of *all* nonhuman primates, great and small.

IPPL has been operating a sanctuary in Summerville, South Carolina, since 1977. Here, 28 gibbons (the smallest of the apes) live in happy retirement.

IPPL also helps support a number of other wildlife groups and primate rescue centers in countries where monkeys and apes are native.

IPPL News is published
three times a year.

CITES and IPPL – 50 years and counting!

By Ian Redmond OBE, IPPL Board



I presented the trailer “A” Planet Without Apes”

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is 50 years old. This United Nations convention, designed to regulate trade in wildlife and prevent species in trade from being driven to extinction, was agreed on 3rd March 1973 at a meeting of delegates representing 80 countries. Coincidentally, that same year, Dr. Shirley McGreal founded the International Primate Protection League in response to seeing primates being shipped out of Thailand. As we celebrate a half-century of their existence, it is interesting to compare and contrast the two. Both organisations have affected each other and each, in its own way, has made a huge difference in the lives of countless animals

CITES is a legally-binding agreement, now between 187 signatory countries, or Parties, each of which has a national CITES office to apply this international law. The Secretariat is based in Switzerland and the highest decision-making body is the Conference of the Parties or CoP, which meets every three years to discuss amendments and agree upon actions needed to implement the convention.

IPPL is a non-governmental

organisation (NGO) with headquarters in South Carolina and a worldwide network of primate specialists. It has been an accredited observer NGO at almost every CITES CoP, with Shirley heading the delegation at all but one meeting. IPPL is also a founding member of the Species Survival Network (SSN) (www.ssn.org) – a coalition of like-minded NGOs working together within CITES to improve protection for all species in trade, from orchids to elephants. In addition, IPPL provides expertise to encourage debate in the main sessions. NGO's are able to hold side events where reports can be launched or panel discussions held to present the latest information on species populations, trade and other relevant topics.

Last November, Panama hosted CITES CoP19, the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties which I attended on behalf of IPPL along with fellow board member Dr. Siân Evans. This was my first visit to Panama, so I was excited by the natural history outside the convention centre (visiting the rainforest to see howler monkeys, capuchins, sloths and a tamandua was amazing!), but the two weeks inside the far-too-cold air-conditioned halls were all too familiar – I have been at

every CITES CoP since 1989. It was, however, very strange to be part of committees and side events without Shirley's lobbying delegates, making speeches and cheering the decisions in favour of wildlife – even some of those who disagreed with her stance on wildlife trade told me how much they respected her and were saddened by her passing.

There were 52 proposals to list species on the Appendices and 46 were approved. There are three Appendices to CITES: App. I prevents commercial international trade, App. II allows regulated trade as long as it is not detrimental to the species' survival, and App. III is for species that any country requests help in monitoring. There were also a record number of decisions taken – 365 – to deal with the complexities of trade in threatened fauna and flora (<https://cites.org/eng/news/record-number-of-species-to-be-regulated-by-cites-after-cop19>).

It was unusual for there to be no proposals or resolutions concerning primates on the formal agenda, but IPPL was there to add weight to the collective lobbying of SSN in support of other species as well as to participate in three side events. These raised concerns about



Our first speaker was Adams Cassinga, live from Kinshasa via video-link

the impact of trade, legal and illegal, on certain species of primates with a view to persuading delegates that these issues should be on the agenda at the next CoP.

The first event asked the question, “What is Sustainable in Wildlife Trade?” It was organised by the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (www.cbcdgdf.org), a remarkable Chinese NGO that plays an important role in conservation in China and around the world. The term ‘sustainable’ is much used in CITES discussions and is usually taken to mean that the number of animals killed or captured is less than the number born each year. I was delighted to be invited as a keynote speaker and put forward the view that in the face of the twin crises of climate breakdown and biodiversity loss, it is time to redefine “sustainable.” Animals such as primates and elephants are keystone species in their natural habitats which are in turn critical to global climate stability; thus, international efforts to stabilise the climate and restore ecosystems must focus on optimising the ecosystem services delivered by forests, savannahs, wetlands and marine ecosystems. Therefore, true sustainability requires us to leave wildlife in the wild to play the role in these ecosystems that each species evolved to play. That is true sustainability!

The second side event was entitled “Long-Tailed Macaques – population trends, conservation concerns and threats from trade,” organised jointly

by the Born Free Foundation, IPPL, SSN, Action for Primates and the Long-tailed Macaque Project. The event, which I chaired, included Dr. Siân Evans among the six speakers. Our strategy was to bring the following statistics to the attention of delegates, urging stronger

protection for wild populations. IPPL opposes the use of primates in biomedical research (Siân spoke eloquently on the 3 R’s – the need to reduce, refine and replace primates in labs) but that is not an issue CITES covers so we focused on the impact of trade on wild populations. Here is a summary of the information presented:

Long-tailed macaques are a geographically widespread species, found across 12 countries in Asia. Their flexibility, synanthropic nature and preference for the forest edge, along with deforestation and habitat fragmentation, draw them to human settlements, where their high visibility can lead to a false impression of overabundance, and their presence results in negative interactions with humans.

This species is the most heavily traded primate in the CITES database, with this global trade almost exclusively for laboratory research (biomedical and toxicology). According to the CITES Trade Database in the decade 2011-2020, CITES Parties declared gross exports of almost 5 million “specimens” and more than 600,000 “live” individuals. The majority were exported under purpose code ‘M’ (medical) or “T” (commercial). Almost all of those declared as “live” were exported using source code “C” (captive bred) or “F” (born in captivity). The figure for 2020, at almost 165,000 live specimens, was the highest of any year during that decade, possibly indicating increased demand for research animals resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Updated assessments for the IUCN Red List based on recent population surveys and the current exploitation levels have been undertaken for the type species and nine subspecies. As a result, the type species is now classified as Endangered with a decreasing population trend, with three of the nine subspecies now classified as Critically Endangered, due to the level of decline and magnitude of ongoing threats.

Concerns regarding the validity of the trade reported to have been bred in captivity have been circulating for many years following the rapid development and expansion of farms



I had the pleasure to introduce a video in tribute to Shirley McGreal

in South East Asia. These concerns include: misuse of source codes through fraudulent claims that wild-caught are bred in captivity; shifts and fluctuations between different captive-production source codes for; the capture of wild to supply farms, with negative implications for conservation; and illegal trade in wild-caught, laundered without permits or with falsified ones.

We highlighted the recent IUCN Red List assessments, explored the ongoing impacts of trade on the conservation status of the species, and urged the range of state delegates present to consider what additional measures might be taken under CITES to ensure that international trade does not further threaten wild populations.

The third side event asked “How do we stop the trade in primates?” Organised by Ericka Ceballos, founder

and CEO, CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society (CEWS), and IPPL, it brought together six speakers, including two IPPL board members Adams Cassinga, (live from Kinshasa via video-link), me, and two recipients of IPPL grants – Ofir Drori of the EAGLE Network, live from Nairobi and Jenny Desmond of Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue, a last-minute addition after the poster had been designed.

I introduced two moving videos, one from Dr. Jane Goodall DBE urging CITES to take the trade in primates seriously, and the second – which I recorded at the IPPL members meeting in 2018 – of Shirley summarizing the history of IPPL, watched by her beloved gibbons. It was wonderful to see her on the big screen and the applause was a resounding tribute to her life’s work. We heard of dangerous, dramatic

investigations, inspiring rescues of monkeys and apes, and were shown shocking videos of primates for sale on social media platforms. Clearly, there is much to do and IPPL with the help of our members and allies around the world is determined to carry on the work of our founder to expose the dealers, rescue the victims and give them a second chance at life in the wild where possible or where that is not possible, lifetime care in a sanctuary.

We can only do that with your help, so if you are reading this – thank you for your support. One thing we can all do to reduce the demand for primates as pets is to comment on “pet monkey” social media posts with the hashtags #CruelNotCute, #PrimatesAreNotPets, they are #GardenersoftheForest, #NotaPet!



Patricia Tricorache showed shocking video of apes being trafficked in Middle East



Jane Goodall video



Moving Soon? Let Us Know!

Millions of people around the world change their place of residence every year. That makes it hard to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. You can help us lower our postage costs by telling us of your new address in advance. Just send us an e-mail (info@ippl.org) or postcard with your old and new addresses. That way we can spend less money on overhead and more money on primates! (And you won't miss a single issue of *IPPL News*!)



Read more updates about IPPL's activities on our Facebook page. "Like" us!

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague)

[InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague)



See more images from the sanctuary and IPPL activities.

Follow us on Instagram!

www.instagram.com/ippl_summerville



Conservation of Great Apes in Itombwe Mountains, Democratic Republic of Congo

By Léonard M. EO, Executive Director of IGH

Our Organization

Itombwe Génération pour l'Humanité (IGH) was created in 2014. We're the largest and the only community-based non-profit organizations in the Democratic Republic of Congo whose sole mission is to protect biodiversity and the forest of the Itombwe Mountains to care for nature and fight climate change. We are committed to protecting 826,287 hectares (2,041,799 acres) of largely intact wilderness that makes up the Itombwe nature reserve and a network of surrounding community forest areas. This is to ensure that native Itombwe wildlife species and their forest habitat survive and thrive for future generations.

Site Description and Main Threats to the Area

Itombwe Mountains run north-south beside the Albertine Rift to the west of the northernmost stretch of Lake Tanganyika in eastern DR Congo. Itombwe is a rainforest recognized as a priority site for the conservation of biodiversity in

general, and of two species of great apes: the Eastern chimpanzee and the Grauer's gorillas. However, gorillas and chimpanzees in Itombwe are drastically declining because of increased poaching. Another factor exacerbating the decline of great apes in Itombwe is habitat loss caused by agriculture, logging and artisanal mining (using basic tools by hand).



Snares removed by local anti-poaching patrol

Conservation Activities Undertaken by IGH to Conserve Great Apes in the Itombwe Mountains

Since its inception in 2014, IGH has worked to ensure the survival of chimpanzees and gorillas and gradually to increase their population number in Itombwe. Our many conservation efforts are described in the following paragraphs.

Community Patrol Operations

The first conservation action undertaken by IGH in Itombwe Mountains was the initiation of community patrol operations with members of local communities. Community patrol teams made up of trained and highly disciplined local people conduct the day-to-day patrol operations to combat deforestation and poaching within Itombwe Mountains, focusing on Itombwe nature reserve (a single protected area already existing in Itombwe Mountains). Years of patrol efforts to protect biodiversity and wildlife habitat have resulted in the removal of 2632 snares, the destruction of 485



Anti-poaching patrol observing tracks left by gorilla troop



Seedlings being raised to restore degraded areas

poaching camps and the arrest of 267 offenders in the Itombwe nature reserve. These patrols have also enabled the creation of jobs for people living in and around the Itombwe nature reserve by improving their economic situation as well.

Monitoring of Great Apes

Community monitoring of chimpanzees and gorillas carried out by IGH in Itombwe Mountains involves gathering information on temporal changes in population size and any major threats that endanger their long-term survival. Without monitoring data, we may lose the opportunity to properly conserve and increase great ape populations in Itombwe. Each month of the year, we collect data in the field using indirect traces of great ape presence (including nests, dung, footprints and food remains). This indirect approach is used because great

apes in Itombwe are not yet habituated to human presence. Information gained through an ongoing monitoring scheme is used for appropriate management response to improve the conservation status of these animal species in Itombwe Mountains.

Tree Planting and Restoration of Degraded Forest Habitat

For several years, IGH has been working with local communities to plant trees and restore deforested land and degraded habitat in order to reconnect previously fragmented forest patches in Itombwe. Thanks to support from local communities, we have ensured that 1,240,000 trees from 13 local species are planted to date in Itombwe

Mountains. Now the saplings that were planted previously are growing and transforming what had been degraded areas, bereft



Meeting with a local community to discuss how to improve gorilla conservation and survival

of trees, into dense forests which contribute to repairing damaged ecosystems, sequestering carbon, protecting biodiversity and supporting local livelihoods and the economy.

Education on Wildlife and Environmental Conservation

The most critical issues exacerbating the loss of wildlife and forest in Itombwe Mountains are that local communities have limited knowledge and awareness of globally-threatened species that call Itombwe Mountains their home. Also, local communities don't know how they can help save these species from extinction. IGH developed conservation education with the aim to engage local communities to find innovative solutions to complex conservation problems in Itombwe Mountains. More than 368 conservation education events have been organized since 2014, including community meetings in local villages and workshops. In addition to this, over 44,326 posters on wildlife and natural forest have also been distributed to local communities since our program began. As a result, local communities are taking action to save native-threatened wildlife and forest habitat in Itombwe Mountains now and in the future.

Conclusion

To give greater protection to the remaining gorillas and chimpanzees living in Itombwe Mountains, it is imperative that local communities living in and around this area are

involved in all activities. For this purpose, IGH has thus developed a participatory approach by using local people to carry out the protection and monitoring of great apes and their forest habitat in Itombwe Mountains. Participation of local communities in tree planting and restoration of the degraded forest is increasing and expanding the habitat for great apes and allowing their population to have more space to move and thrive while lifting local communities out of the scarcity of forest resources. At the same time, increased awareness and knowledge gained from our conservation education program is now helping the local community to avoid the poaching of great apes and the destruction of the forest habitat. Such results are reinforcing community ownership and attitudes for the conservation and protection of wildlife and forest habitat in Itombwe. However, illegal activities are still problematic in Itombwe. Most of the local communities in the area are extremely poor and rely on bush meat poaching and the exploitation of natural resources to survive. Ongoing intensive conservation work is thus required in Itombwe Mountains.

We thank the local community of Itombwe Mountains who are working with us to protect biodiversity and forest to care for nature and fight climate change. Our sincere gratitude goes to IPPL for their incredible support to ensure the long-term survival of wildlife and rainforest within Itombwe Mountains in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Beautiful intact habitat for gorillas

An Overview of Attending a CITES Meeting

By Siân Evans, IPPL Board of Directors

I arrived for the CITES meeting in Panama City (Panama) just as the second week was beginning (CITES meetings are lengthy and this one was no exception and spanned a period of two weeks). On the drive from the airport, I passed several tall modern apartment buildings, evidence of Panama City's importance as a financial center. I chose not to stay in one of the conference hotels (maybe a mistake in retrospect) but instead in the older part of the city. The conference hotels were international chains and expensive.

The IPPL delegation (led by Ian Redmond) was smaller than intended. Visa and other problems prevented two other board members, Angela Maldonado and Adams Cassinga, from joining us as planned. Following the agenda of this CITES meeting was a challenge for a newbie like me, so I was relieved that Ian was there to show me the ropes and help explain the proceedings.

The next morning when I set out to order an Uber to transport me to the convention, there was initially confusion about which convention center I meant. Thankfully, I arrived at the correct Convention Center, and I was puzzled at the reason for the confusion. The Amador Convention Center was beautiful, having opened in 2020, and the layout was clearly designed to host trade conventions and suited the purpose of CITES very well. There were two cavernous meeting rooms (each discussing complementary issues of the trade in endangered or threatened fauna and flora) that easily accommodated the delegates. Country delegates sat at the front of the room and delegates of observer organizations (like IPPL) were further back. On the stage was the chair of the session and translation devices were freely available. The atmosphere was exceedingly cordial and delegates seemed well-prepared with thoughtfully prepared proposals.

I was pleased that the lofty atrium was well-served

with large tables full of booklets and information (in several languages), and it was by reading these that I understood a little more of the massive agenda. The Species Survival Network held a "pep" talk each morning that outlined the daily proceedings in an informal and supportive way. I was glad to sit in on several of these.

IPPL had sponsored two side events: one held after the main business of the day had been completed and the other during the recess for lunch (Ian admirably chaired both sessions). I contributed to the side event on Long-tailed macaques (cosponsored by several other observer organizations). The Long-tailed Macaque Project (an IPPL-supported organization) had sounded the alarm that numbers of this once-considered plentiful monkey were dropping sharply, and the trade for their use in biomedical research was responsible.

The very recent arrest of one Cambodian delegate at JFK airport for his involvement in the illegal export of Long-tailed macaques served as a backdrop for this event because he was on his way to the CITES meeting!

Delegates from Cambodia, the US, and Indonesia attended the event. Mark Jones of Born Free masterfully presented detailed information that highlighted the reason for the concern, and my role was to suggest ways in which demand could be reduced, in the short term, while waiting for CITES to address the matter. The second side

event highlighted the glaring absence from the agenda of the illegal trade in infant great apes. Ofir Drori and Adams Cassinga were skillfully beamed in from Africa, and Ofir Drori presented evidence on how fraudulent CITES permits are readily available. The evidence he presented should have been heard by every delegate at the meeting. It was remarkable how easily CITES can be circumnavigated. Those poor infant apes.

I had dearly wanted to visit Barro Colorado Island (the site of so many important primate studies) as it was close by, but it was not open because of the pandemic. So I had to be content with an excursion to the Panama Canal, and I enjoyed learning about its history and importance.

I had only attended one other CITES meeting (in Fort Lauderdale in 1996) and Shirley had been there, and that meeting had consequently been a quite different personal experience. So many people expressed their sadness that Shirley was not at the current meeting, but her presence was felt by many and shared publicly on many occasions. While I struggled to understand the proceedings, it is important that Shirley's legacy of attending CITES continues. My wish is for Ian, who is so comfortable at CITES, to mentor a younger board member to begin to develop a similar network of connections that Shirley so formidably established over many years.



This side event invitation was designed by Siân Evans' students at the Department of Biological Sciences and the Honors College at Florida University.

A Day in the Life at IPPL!



Window service! Caregiver Maribella Hagen handing Jade a special treat; this aerial tube goes right up to our Animal Care kitchen, giving Jade and Ahimsa a chance to preview all of their meals. Food prep is a big part of our day, and along with the base diet of greens, vegetables and fruit that would be their normal diet in the wild, we like to add other healthy options. Pastas, egg bakes, and muffins made with primate chow crumbs are some popular choices.

Welcome to IPPL's Sanctuary! As many of you know, the sanctuary houses 28 white-handed gibbons and 5 Asian short-clawed otters, which makes a busy day for our team. Currently, there are seven caregivers that work together to ensure our animals are healthy and happy. Each team member is an important asset for completing our daily tasks. A "typical" day in Animal Care starts at 7:30 AM.

Upon arrival, gibbon breakfast prep for the next day is started in the Animal Care kitchen (the current day's breakfast has already been prepared from the previous day and is in the refrigerator). Otters are fed and their meals are prepped for the day. Gibbons are given their morning grape as well as a brief visual health check before being let out of their night houses at 8:30 AM when they get their breakfast.

Then, depending on the day, we work on a variety of projects. Every day requires meal prep, cleaning indoor and outdoor enclosures, scrubbing otter ponds, and daily log updates. Other responsibilities include enrichment activities, a weekly shopping trip for groceries and supplies, and most recently, a new gibbon training

program designed to facilitate the interaction between our caregivers and our gibbons. And there are always extras we need to fit in, like working in the medical room to assist in the treatment of an animal or in preparation for a visit from the vet, daily staff meetings to discuss animal health and status updates as well as weekly staff meetings to brainstorm new ideas and continuing development/in-house training. Additionally, we have a small group of dedicated volunteers, who choose to commit their time in various areas around the sanctuary – they are also a vital part of our team and we appreciate their assistance.

Our day ends at 3:30 PM, however; each caregiver has an assigned night to come back and put our gibbons to bed. This is our last official check of the animals for the day, and it allows special one-on-one time between caregiver and animal. During this time, we feed otters their dinner, pick up and wash food buckets used during the day, and give every gibbon a bedtime banana. After securing everyone safely in their houses for the night, we lock down the remaining

sanctuary buildings and gates.

It takes a great team to successfully accomplish "A Day in the Life at IPPL" and provide our animals with the best care possible and our Animal Care team delivers – every day!



Here they are...the masterminds behind our incredible social media posts! Standing closest to Michael are senior caregivers Brooke Jewett and Amanda Kelley. Keeping our supporters involved with the lives of our gibbons and otters is important to us, and we are lucky to have Brooke's and Amanda's creativity.



Caregiver Kel Keen prepping otter food and adding supplements. Their latest favorite is tilapia...you would not believe how much food our little otters can eat every day and they let us know when they want more!



Caregiver Stephanie Dalrymple is hard at work scrubbing one of the indoor enclosures. We clean these enclosures daily, and deep clean weekly. Taking care of the sanctuary includes a lot of elbow grease and our team of caregivers is up to the task!



Left, Caregiver Jennifer deMedici taking a morning enrichment delivery to the gibbons. Enrichment is an important part of any healthy captive animal program; it keeps the animals thinking, engaged and working – as a bonus, it's just plain fun for them!



Caregivers also assist our longtime veterinarian, Dr. John Ohlandt, in onsite procedures. Medical procedures and keeping up with medical records are also a large part of our week. Our dedicated team of caregivers all participate in keeping our animals healthy. *From left to right, Bella Hagen, Jennifer deMedici, Stephanie Dalrymple, Trish McCoy, Dr. "O", and Amanda Kelley.*

While the gibbons get aerial tubes, our otters have more earthly options...when Martini gets the "zoomies" he loves to run through his tunnels!



IPPL Volunteers Are Our Heroes!

IPPL's volunteers are truly our heroes. From working in our "gibbon gardens" to providing fresh fruit and vegetables to working in the kitchen preparing meals and delivering food to the gibbons – all these tasks are such a big help to our staff. And, as you can see, the volunteers seem to enjoy what they do while being entertained by the singing and antics of our gibbons!

Lynn Williams



I became a volunteer at IPPL in the fall of 2020. I moved to Summerville from south Florida in June 2020. One day I met a lady who had a t-shirt on with the letters IPPL on the shirt. I asked what they mean and we started talking. I had been an x-ray tech all my life and thought in retirement, I wanted to volunteer

for something. In Florida, I lived close to "Save the Chimps" in Ft Pierce, Fl. I often participated in projects to benefit the chimps, and thought, for sure, I would end up in their volunteer program. But fate had me moving to Summerville, S.C. I was so very excited to connect with Meg and find out about this wonderful opportunity to help at this amazing International Primate Protection League.

I started helping out in the above-ground gardens. We started the beds with soil and plants and then fencing and red yarn to deter deer, took shifts to water the plants, then picked the weeds, and eventually collected the produce. I was given the opportunity to see the gibbons in their habitat and learn about IPPL's history and just who was Dr. Shirley McGreal. I am so proud to be a part of this beautiful place and its mission. I now help prepare the food for the gibbons and learn more and more every day.

What I have learned is this place is filled with Heart. I enjoy knowing that everything or anything I do as a volunteer helps. It helps the gibbons, the staff, and their mission to

protect, and it helps the community with knowledge of how they can help, too.

Cathy Rice



After having worked for three Presidents at the White House and then moving to the private sector as a C-level executive in Government contracting for the past 30+ years in a very high-stress job, I was finally able to retire in 2022. After some months of de-stressing, I was looking for volunteer work when my dear

friend Lynn Williams introduced me to IPPL. I was immediately interested in helping out after learning about their mission and the good work that this organization has done for 50 years. Once I met the dedicated Animal Care team, as well as the amazing gibbons for which they are responsible, I was hooked! I have always had a passion for animals and this is a way to give back that is such hard work and yet so rewarding. Now I am able to do something that I "want" to do rather than something I "have" to do and it's amazing. I have complete and total respect for the hard-working caregivers at IPPL. Their work is invaluable and you can see the results of their efforts in the faces of the gibbons every day.

I started working at IPPL in September 2022 and have been volunteering two full days/week doing food prep (breakfasts and lunch) and feeding the gibbons. It is truly an honor...

Beyond working with a great team, the moments when I go to feed the gibbons are magical. This is the time that I can interact with them individually, get to know their unique personalities, and form connections. They have good days and bad days, are happy and sad, or just plain goofy and mischievous and ALL OF THAT is amazing to witness! I hope that what I bring is a little bit of joy to their world, as they certainly bring it to mine.

IPPL's gibbons stay stimulated with enrichment of many kinds including original "swings"



Speedy and Paen enjoying another great day at IPPL

Wanted Dead or Alive - How do we stop the trade of primates?

Ericka Ceballos, CEO and Founder, CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society (CEWS)



Organized by CEWS and IPPL, Ian and I welcome guests to this side event held at CITES CoP19.

Ian Redmond OBE and board member of the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) hosted the event and started by introducing a trailer for the award-winning true crime documentary about the international wildlife trade titled, “A Planet Without Apes” featuring himself, Dr. Jane Goodall, and Adams Cassinga.

Dr. Goodall sent a video for our side event, which was very anticipated by the delegates. She spoke about the mass extinction of primates, the importance to educate about the facts to reduce the demand and urged to end wildlife trafficking to stop zoonotic diseases.

Ian then introduced a wonderful video in memory of Shirley McGreal OBE, founder of IPPL and her amazing journey to help protect gibbons and other primates.

Adams Cassinga of Conserv Congo joined from Kinshasa, DRC. He spoke about the challenges in trying to stop such a large quantity of primates from being exported and sold all over Africa. He explained that there are about 80 armed groups in Virunga with numerous poachers. Food insecurity leads people to consume primates as bush meat which causes zoonotic diseases.

He elaborated on the importance of expanding communication strategies between conservation agencies. Adams asked we all lend a voice to primates by beginning to understand the problems from the people who are on the front lines, to deal with this ape traffic as it is out of hand. With joint efforts, we can help our cousins in the wild.

My presentation unveiled the e-commerce monitoring of primates’ main results of over three years work. CEWS found European and North American trade in primate fur and skulls. Live apes and other primates are widely found in each researched country. The trend to buy infant primates to keep as “human babies” is increasing globally, especially chimpanzees in Germany, Spain, Italy, the UK, Russia, and North America. Primate sellers use social media platforms, classified sites and exotic websites. I found human bones and teeth openly sold in North America. CEWS urges enforcement authorities to tackle this problem and encourages social media managers to collaborate with authorities. Stealing and murdering primates needs to stop before entire primate populations are exterminated.

Ian commented that the findings by CEWS were extremely disturbing and that primates have become a commodity and a money-making opportunity.

Ofir Drori, founder and director of the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA), joined from Nairobi with a presentation titled “Illegal Trade in Great Apes – a CITES issue”. Ofir argued that poverty is not the root of this problem, the rich and powerful facilitated by CITES are to blame since it is such a lucrative, organized, and centralized illegal trade. Fraudsters realize that they can make more money selling ape parts, rather than scamming people. This is a transnational and transcontinental problem associated with drug cartels who realize they can fetch more money selling ape parts than drugs. Ofir explained that just one drug trafficker sold more than 500 chimpanzees made possible due to serious gaps in law enforcement. Ofir mentioned he contacted the Spanish government to warn them of a ship bringing chimpanzees from Africa mixed with legal parrots. However, Spanish authorities did nothing to stop it, as is often the case with governments around the world. Dealers are legal bird traders but make their money from



The very anticipated video of Dame Jane Goodall sent for our event

illegal trade. Ofir explained that the head of CITES Guinea trafficked 130 chimpanzees, 12 gorillas and bonobos in 3 years, which was common knowledge in the CITES database. Also, how a Japanese wildlife trafficker started the illegal trade in African manatees with his CITES contacts. The corruption of CITES authorities, not just in Africa but all over the world is an ongoing problem. Legal animal dealers are found to be involved in the illegal trade in wildlife. African crime families exchange CITES permits and among dealers in many other countries. This means that instead of protecting wildlife, CITES is protecting dealers. The corruption within CITES must be exposed and dealt with as a CITES issue.

Ofir mentioned the Cambodian CITES official arrested in the US traveling to the CITES CoP19, as he was part of an international primate smuggling ring that sold thousands of macaques to the US representing them

as captive bred. Ofir ended by stating that many corrupt CITES officials roam the halls of CITES CoP19 when instead, they should be placed behind bars.

Patricia Tricorache of the Cheetah Conservation Fund showed disturbing social media videos of gorillas, orangutans, bonobos, and chimpanzees trafficked in the Middle East, which she found while monitoring the e-commerce of Cheetahs.

Ian questioned why CITES in 50 years hasn't succeeded to stop the ape trade. He had surveyed apes being traded in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo in 1999 for IPPL. One lady caring for confiscated infant orphans lost four out of every five. Not only are the gorilla parents being killed, but most of the captured offspring die as well. Ian calculated that for every ape that is traded, about 14 others die. He mentioned that now there are about 24 ape sanctuaries in Africa that also admit confiscated primates.

Jenny Desmond from Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue & Protection explained that before LCRP there were no primate confiscations and rescues in Liberia. She gave a brief overview of the terrible conditions that chimpanzees are rescued from and that confiscated female chimpanzees do not contribute to adding newborns to their diminishing wild populations. LCRP has a multiagency collaboration to make the Liberian enforcement authorities more effective with awareness.

The event was attended by around 65 people, which was a great turnout given in consideration that there were seven other parallel side events during the lunch break. The overall reaction of the delegates and observers participating at our side event was shock, frustration, and anger during our presentations. There was no time for Q&A, but we were approached that day and after the CoP19 with questions and concerns of delegates about the international ape trade.



Presentation by Ericka Ceballos



Presentation by Ofir Drori



On September 9, 2022, around 3 am, a gang broke into J.A.C.K.'s facility and kidnapped three baby chimpanzees. They demanded a ransom of \$200,000 and received death threats. These chimps were orphans due to animal trafficking before J.A.C.K. rescued them. Since then, sick with worry and with heavy hearts, Roxane and Franck continue to care for the chimpanzees and other primates at their sanctuary. Roxane stays in touch with IPPL from time to time and we thought we would share some of what she has told us.

In late December, Roxane wrote: "Today, it has been 108 days since I have heard from Monga, César and Hussein. Are they still alive, are they still in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), or were they sold by these thieves? As you know, like all the animals we rescue, the three babies are the property of the Congolese State and only they have the right to carry out investigations to find them. J.A.C.K. is only the "guardian" of these animals. Unfortunately, evil people decided otherwise on the fate of these three innocent orphans and plunged them once again into a life of fear and suffering.

The Congolese State arrested five people from J.A.C.K., two were released and three were imprisoned for reasons unknown to us. Therefore, we had to hire new staff and train them. For more than two months, I worked at least eight hours a day, seven days a week, to watch over the project and our residents. Since the babies were removed with internal complicity, traitors could still be around me to spy on us further. And since we refused to pay the \$200,000 ransom and I had death threats and I was followed by a car at night on my way home, so Franck insisted on getting a bodyguard for me. He follows me like my shadow.

Since the kidnapping, our life has literally changed and we live on constant alert. Not in fear, but alert. The sanctuary, thanks to generous people like you, has been reinforced in terms of

security. Barbed wires, surveillance cameras, padlocks, new door locks, four new armed eco-guards). J.A.C.K. today looks like a real prison but we actually don't have much choice. When you want to enforce the laws and dedicate yourself to the conservation of endangered and highly coveted species, you don't just make friends! Today, three months after the abduction of the three babies, we continue to search for them and remain hopeful of finding them.

I am writing these few lines not only to give you some news but also to thank you from the bottom of my heart for caring about J.A.C.K. and its residents! Your gesture has allowed us to further secure our sanctuary. Thanks to your generosity, we feel less alone and we also find courage. Our sanctuary currently takes care of a hundred primates who need our full attention. In addition, there are around twenty other big and small primates who are awaiting transfer to J.A.C.K. We must be strong for them to ensure them a decent future!"

Since the kidnapping, our JACK sanctuary looks like a real prison with barbed wires, surveillance cameras, a double-armed Rangers team, and more. Because the four armed eco-guards patrol day and night at J.A.C.K., a house with sanitary facilities was built for them on site.



Barbed wire, surveillance cameras, padlocks, door locks and eco-guards

Some parts of the site where the night enclosures are near the boundary walls of J.A.C.K. are covered with layers of barbed wire on the roofs.

A whole system, both technical and human, has been put in place to strengthen J.A.C.K.'s security.

Good-bye to Our Sweet Chloe



Our hearts are broken at the sudden passing of sweet Chloe on March 22nd. Originally a family pet, Chloe's canine teeth were removed leaving her with a permanent deformity. This is a cruel but common practice to avoid being bitten by wild primates that people have bought and then tried to domesticate. But they didn't keep her. Instead, she was sent to a primate facility where she endured harsh conditions for two years.

In 2007 Chloe's life changed when she and 11 other gibbons arrived at IPPL. In March 2010, Chloe was placed with an elderly, deaf, widower gibbon named Blackie. They were playful companions until Blackie died in September 2019. After that, Chloe would entertain herself by spinning on her poles and watching her neighbor, Gary. That changed in March 2022 when Gary and Chloe were introduced. Hitting it off – they became very happy companions!

Even though Chloe was one of our older gibbons, she was incredibly lively and loved spinning around the vertical support poles in her enclosure. She tended to be very picky with her affections, only allowing certain people to scratch her back but she always came over for an extra ripe banana - her favorite treat.

Chloe had her own unique personality. She could be very grumpy (she was not a morning person!) but had the potential to be one of the sweetest gibbons. She had a habit of putting out her hands to request a massage. She also loved to have her hair brushed. (One of her nicknames was Princess.)

Sadly, our little Princess is gone. We will miss her every day but will continue to cherish the special memories she left. Chloe was 47.



Gary (left) and Chloe sharing a drink of water



Chloe about to enjoy a quail egg

A Sad Farewell to Our Very Social Palu-Palu



Palu-Palu was wild caught, smuggled to Hawaii and purchased to be a pet of Sam Pryor, the former vice-president of Pan America airlines, who had a number of gibbons as pets. Pryor had asked IPPL to take all of his gibbons upon his death but unfortunately didn't put his wishes down in writing, so his gibbons were split up and sent to multiple zoos. When Pryor died, Palu was sent to the Maui Zoo and paired with Jade. In 1996 the zoo was shut down and Palu, Jade, and their son, Maui came to IPPL. Palu-Palu adjusted to life at IPPL quickly and appointed himself as "office manager." His aerial runway was alongside the windows of IPPL's office where he would keep a watchful eye on the staff. He was a big attraction at IPPL's biennial conferences. Palu would lie in wait for the perfect moment when visitors would walk by. Then he would shake the

biggest branch he could reach to make sure they would notice him. Palu loved the rain and would often be seen under a canopy in his aerial runway as the rain came pouring down!

Born on January 20, 1985, Palu-Palu passed away unexpectedly overnight on October 18, 2022, at 37. Palu and Jade were one of our most loving couples: they were regularly seen sharing, laying down together and playing footsies. This special gibbon couple was together for over thirty years.

We will remember Palu for his affection for Jade, his mischievous interactions with caregivers, and his permanent look of wide-eyed wonder. Although heartbroken, we are so grateful to have been a part of this sweet gibbon's life for many years.



Palu loved the rain!



Jade (left) with Palu sharing a pumpkin

IPPL Celebrates 50 Years!



It all began in 1973 when Shirley McGreal founded the International Primate Protection League. Since then countless primates around the world have benefited from IPPL's dedication to rescuing and saving their lives. In addition, IPPL has partnered with many primate organizations to mentor and provide critical financial assistance.

A 50th Anniversary issue of *IPPL News* will come out this summer to celebrate this landmark achievement.

Special Gifts to IPPL Given by:

- **Anonymous** in memory of Auristella Valle
- **Anonymous** in honor of Carol Leenstra
- **Anonymous** in memory of Betty
- **Miriam Bisbing** in memory of Charles and Kay Clausing
- **Barbara & Joe Bruno** in honor of Toni Tischler
- **Rochelle Cohen** in honor of Diana and Prof. Roberts S. O. Harding
- **Madeline Hastings-Frank** in memory of my husband, Richard Frank
- **David and Maureen Honiss** in memory of our dog, Ruby Honiss
- **Mary Jane Low** in memory of Little Precious Emsie
- **James Martin** in memory of Samuel Martin
- **Brenda Parks** in honor of my sister, Liz Bills
- **Emily Schweitzer** in memory of Pharanee Deters
- **Bernardo Tan** in memory of Dr. Benito Tan
- **Karen Thompson** in memory of Tucker
- **Marcia Toth** in memory of Stefie Pasman
- **Friedrich Wendl** in honor of Whoop Whoop

Gifts made in memory of Shirley McGreal are posted on our website

<https://ippl.org/about-us/dr-shirley-mcgreal-founder/shirley-memorial/>

Leave a Lasting Legacy...

...for the Primates You Love

Over the years, IPPL has benefitted greatly from bequests left to us by departed supporters. Their thoughtfulness has allowed IPPL to...

- ◆ build new gibbon houses and outdoor enclosures at our sanctuary;
- ◆ acquire new sanctuary land, now totaling 45 acres, which not only creates space for our gibbons but provides a buffer zone that shelters local wildlife;
- ◆ construct a much-in-demand guest cottage for our visitors, known as “Swan and Mary’s Cottage” after the lovely couple who left IPPL the funds to build it;
- ◆ provide support to dozens of primate sanctuaries and rescue organizations around the world, wherever primates are native.



Ahimsa, son of Arun Rangsi and Shanti

Some of our bequests have come from people who have only been able to make small donations during their lifetimes. Others honor friends. For some, there are tax advantages to making bequests to charities.

Your bequest to IPPL will ensure that our unique work can carry on long into the future. Our address to include in your will is: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA. Our U.S. federal tax ID number is 51-0194013.

If you are thinking about remembering IPPL in your will or trust, know that your love for primates will continue to live on through your generosity.



Gary, retired from a tourist venue

IPPL Supporter's Donation Form



If you have received this magazine and are not currently an IPPL supporter, you can help sustain the important work of IPPL on behalf of the world's primates by making a financial contribution. By sending in a donation, you will be sure to continue receiving thrice-yearly issues of IPPL *News*. You may also donate online, if you wish, on IPPL's secure Web site (www.ippl.org). All donations are welcome!

Please accept my contribution to support the work of IPPL. I have enclosed the following donation:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other amount: \$ _____

I wish to honor someone special with a Tribute Gift:

This donation is ... ☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of _____

Please note: We acknowledge tribute gifts in each issue of IPPL *News*

☐ I will be paying via a check or money order made payable to IPPL.

☐ I will be paying via credit card (circle): Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

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Please mail form and payment to: IPPL ♦ P.O. Box 766 ♦ Summerville, SC 29484 ♦ USA. **Thank you!**

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Primate Paraphernalia!



T-shirts with Swinging Gibbons 100% available in a variety of color combinations and **IPPL Swinging Gibbon Roomy Totes** with a side pocket and an inside pocket



Two-sided Gibbon T-shirt: 100% cotton T-shirt with gibbon design front and back.



Shop our online store for more colors and sizes

www.ippl.org/store

Meet the Gibbons Available for Adoption



Courtney loves to cheat when playing tag with the staff. She would also love you to adopt her!

Courtney was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving this tiny infant with a terribly mangled leg. Since she could not be returned to her mother, she was hand-raised by IPPL staff, special night-nannies, and volunteers for over six years. Many caregivers took turns feeding her, playing with her, and taking her for walks around the sanctuary grounds. Always curious and energetic, she was a real handful! Courtney has made an amazing recovery since the difficult time of her early life. She now runs, swings, and climbs so well you would never guess how badly she had been injured. Despite Courtney's high level of activity, she is the biggest gibbon in our sanctuary. If asked what her favorite food is, we would have to say "grapes, and well... everything!" Since May 2009, Courtney has been paired with a former lab gibbon by the name of Whoop-Whoop. His mild-mannered personality is a good match for her wild ways as he always lets her have first dibs at their lunch pail. We hope you will consider adopting this spunky and determined "not so little" ape!



Peppy loves his bedtime banana. If you adopt him – he will love you too!

Peppy was born in 1979 at a cancer lab run by the University of California at Davis, where the gibbons were used in painful and usually fatal viral cancer experiments. When the lab closed, he was sent to another research facility, the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York. Fortunately, LEMSIP closed in 1982 and he and his companion-for-life, Helen, came to IPPL. They lived together at our sanctuary for 35 years until Helen suddenly died of cancer. Peppy sucked his thumb the day he arrived and has never "kicked this habit."

Peppy is the only gibbon who favors veggies over fruit, and in the morning, in addition to looking forward to breakfast, Peppy has his own ritual. When let out of his night quarters, Peppy begins every single day by running from one end of his outdoor enclosure to the other—the whole length of it, arms flung up, out of sheer excitement: it's as though every day he's grateful not to be stuck in a lab! Wouldn't you like to adopt this grateful little guy?



Visit IPPL.org for more information



Val gets excited to see the fruit bucket. He would also be excited to see an adoption application from you!

Val was born at a wildlife park in southern Florida where he lived with his parents and a few siblings. In the fall of 2017, the facility suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Irma and fell on hard times. We got a call in October of 2017 asking if we could take in two of their gibbons and after some quick preparations two staff members drove down to Florida, picked Val up, and brought him to his new home in November. Val's father, Snowy, followed a month later. After the long drive back to IPPL, Val quickly bonded with the animal care staff. We got him settled into his night house and he even presented his back for grooming.

Today, Val is one of the most engaging and entertaining gibbons out on the grounds. He loves interacting with the staff and demands that they play tag with him! He spends his mornings swinging through his enclosure and, when a staff member approaches, he drops down in front of them to get their attention. Once he has them focused on him, he'll hop and roll around on the ground, swing upside down from his ropes and reach out for them, then the chase is on! His enthusiasm for the game quickly wears out the staff and he doesn't seem to understand why we need to take breaks to catch our breath! Wouldn't you love to bring some more excitement to Val's life by adopting him?



Shanti is a fan of backrubs. Adopt her and she will be your fan too!

Shanti, whose name means "Peace" in Sanskrit, was born on June 24, 1978 at the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York. IPPL was looking for a potential mate for IPPL's very first rescued lab gibbon, Arun Rangsi (Rui). In 1983, Shirley and a former animal caregiver drove to New York to bring Shanti back to IPPL to begin her new life at our sanctuary. They found her living alone in a small cage—what a change she was about to have! Once at IPPL, we observed that Shanti had a very laid-back disposition. Her favorite food became figs and her favorite pastime became picking fresh figs from trees next to her outdoor habitat. When she was introduced to Rui – it was love at first sight. For over three decades they rarely left each other's side and even shared food. Sadly, in December 2018 Rui became very sick and he was gently put to sleep. After all the years that he and Shanti spent together, we thought it was fitting to offer Shanti as our newest gibbon available for adoption. We have a feeling that Rui would approve and hope that many of you will want to make Shanti your new adopted gibbon!



Adoptions make wonderful and unique gifts – all year long!



P.O. Box 766
Summerville SC 29484
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



PRINTED MATTER

Time to catch up with our handsome Louie-Louie!

Louie came to IPPL from the LUBEE Foundation in Florida in 1991, when he was just a few months old. Due to his young age, he stayed with his parents until maturity, which with gibbons is about seven years. During that time, like humans, gibbons will learn from their parents, and when Louie was old enough to live on his own, he was paired with Michelle. They lived together for many years. After her passing Louie-Louie was introduced to several other females however none of them were the perfect match he had with Michelle!

Currently, Louie is a bachelor and enjoys spending time swinging across his enclosure, laying in the sun, and of course, eating. He also seems to like observing the grounds at IPPL from his tower, a special place in most enclosures that gives our gibbons a view that



is similar to being in the tall trees of the wild. Another favorite

pastime of both gibbons (and caregivers!) are enrichment activities, including puzzle feeders, forage tubs, and fresh-cut bamboo that grows on IPPL property. Treat bags are also popular, and even for a gibbon, Louie has great big hands that are perfect for getting extra-large handfuls of nutritious goodies! His big hands are also skilled in catching food items tossed to him by the caregivers. He has one of the biggest appetites at IPPL, and enjoys almost everything with enthusiasm, but does seem to have a taste for kiwis and mangos. He also loves his nighttime banana and is often already inside waiting for the caregiver to deliver this special treat and put him to bed. We know he sleeps really well because sometimes when we go to wake him up – Louie has bedhead in the morning!

