



# *PRIMATE INFRACTIONS 1989 - 1992*



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## WHY THIS REPORT IS SO LONG!

This report updates you on the major incidents of illegal primate trafficking that have come to IPPL's attention during the years since CITES '89. Sadly, the known incidents have increased in number, and we suspect that these incidents are just "the tip of the iceberg" - and that there are 100 incidents more for each incident that comes to light. That's why this, IPPL's second **Primate Infractions Report**, is so long!

Most illegal wildlife shipments pass unimpeded to their destinations. Wildlife smuggling syndicates operating worldwide are decimating species, **with near impunity**.

IPPL feels that the time has come for more international cooperation in law enforcement. Any country only sees a fraction of any animal smuggler's operations. If a smuggler is arrested, law enforcement authorities of other countries should be notified immediately to prevent a major law violator, sought by authorities in many countries, getting away with a token fine - for what may look on the surface like a single isolated offense.

Most animal smugglers are now operating as part of sophisticated, smooth-running, fast-moving syndicates. There are very few "free-lancers" left. Only cooperation and tracking of known or suspected wildlife smugglers' movements can stop this worldwide epidemic of species-destructive trafficking.

IPPL strongly recommends that countries cancel the passports of their own wildlife criminals, and that they "blacklist" foreign nationals convicted of wildlife offenses anywhere in the world, and ban them from residing in, or visiting, their countries.

We also think that mandatory minimum punishments that always include time in jail should be established. Animal smugglers now ridicule laws and law enforcement officials, and it is time to change their attitudes.

## THE "BANGKOK SIX"

On 20 February 1990, six baby orangutans and a siamang mother and baby were seized on Don Muang Airport, Bangkok, Thailand. The tiny animals were in terrible condition. They had been smuggled aboard Thai Airways Flight 414 leaving Changi Airport, Singapore, for Bangkok where they were to be transferred to a flight to Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

The orangutans were shipped in closed bird crates, three of them upside-down, and were only found when suspicious Thai airport officials x-rayed the crates. The unventilated crates had tiny air-holes, and have been compared to "living coffins."

### Crates labelled "Birds"

At that time, transit of smuggled wild animals through Thailand was completely legal. However, the crates were labeled "Birds," and false labelling is a violation of Thai law. So the animals were confiscated. If they had been labelled "orangutans," the crates would probably have proceeded to Eastern Europe, a well-established wildlife smugglers' pipeline.

However, shipping orangutans in open crates would have violated Singapore law. So the smugglers took their chances and stuffed the animals in closed bird crates. The orangutans were invisible. That is how three of them could be shipped upside-down - with nobody noticing.

The baby orangutans were in appalling physical and emotional condition.

### Mystery Letter from Yugoslavia

Shortly after the confiscation, Thai wildlife officials received a mysterious letter from Vuk Bojovic, Director of the Belgrade Zoo, Yugoslavia, requesting that "the monkeys confiscated from Mr. Schafer" be sent to him immediately.

The investigation of the "Bangkok Six" shipment opened a window into the shadowy world of organized wildlife crime. It has revealed the near-helplessness of governments to cope with wildlife crime effectively - and how well-entrenched and well-connected the smugglers are. It has shown that animal smugglers maintain elaborate intelligence networks and "profiles" of government officials involved in law enforcement activities.

### German Involved

"Mr. Schafer" turned out to be German smuggler Kurt Schafer, who had two convictions on cases involving smuggling



*Kurt Schafer*

of Australian birds. Schafer had taken up residence in Thailand as a young man of 19, to make his fortune from the tolerance Thailand then accorded to wildlife smugglers. Schafer associated with disreputable Thai dealers such as Daeng and Lek of Siam Farm, and Netr Bhengsri.

Investigation revealed that the orangutans were to be sent to the Soviet import company Prodintorg, but that the siamangs would remain at Belgrade Zoo as a "reward" to Vuk Bojovic for "laundering" the orangutans.

Later, Kurt Schafer reported that a first effort had been made to move the orangutans out of Singapore in late 1989. How they reached Singapore from Borneo in the first place is not clear. Schafer stated that the first effort involved loading the animals on an Aeroflot plane as "cargo," (Aeroflot rightly requires that wild animals be shipped as "cargo" not "personal baggage"), and that the animals had been "processed" through export formalities - **only to be thrown off the plane because there was no room for them!**

The smugglers went home with the orangutans and hatched up a new plan.

### Drama in Airport Cafeteria

At this point, said Schafer, the dealers behind the shipment asked him to help out, so he flew down to Singapore in February 1990 to pick up the orangutans. Schafer claims that he sat in the airport cafeteria, prominently carrying a newspaper so that the smugglers would recognize him. Then, he says, two men came and took away his ticket and passport, and checked in the crates with no trouble as Schafer's "personal baggage."

### *The "Bangkok Six" were on their way!*

In Bangkok, Schafer reported that he sat in the transit lounge for some hours, and then boarded his flight to Belgrade. To his surprise, his "personal baggage" (the orangutans and siamangs) did not appear on the luggage carousel on Belgrade Airport!

### German Government Investigates

German officials had always found Schafer's notorious bird dealings from his base in Thailand somewhat of an embarrassment, but they apparently got really exasperated about his involvement in orangutan smuggling. Schafer was hauled in by German wildlife authorities to whom he provided his version of the incident, along with documents which, he claimed, related to the orangutan deal.

One of these documents was a telex from a US animal dealer telling Schafer to put a contract number on the crates for an upcoming shipment - and this identical contract number was on the crates which carried "The Bangkok Six."

Schafer also claimed that dealers in several countries, including Indonesia, Singapore, and the United States were involved in the "Bangkok Six" deal.

### Schafer Fined in Singapore

Kurt Schafer went to Singapore where he received a trivial fine equivalent to US \$1200 for his role in smuggling the



*Victim of Trade*

"Bangkok Six" - even though a jail sentence was allowable under Singapore law. He did not name his accomplices, and was not banned from re-entering Singapore.

This fine amounted to \$200 per animal, which is a little more than Singapore fines people who fail to flush public toilets. Schafer was allowed to leave Singapore without naming his accomplices. This small fines means nothing, as, if the orangutan deal had gone through, it would have netted the smugglers tens of thousands of dollars. Only big fines and, especially, long jail sentences mean anything!

Thailand took no action at all against Kurt Schafer.

Schafer continued his smuggling activities and, fortunately, he was arrested and jailed in Germany in January 1992. It is not clear whether the orangutan shipment will be included in any charges German authorities may file, or have filed, against Schafer.

### US Agents Travel

The alleged role of a US dealer in the orangutan shipment has now been under investigation for close to two years. In January 1991, two special agents of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) travelled to Europe and Asia to gather information about the orangutan shipment. During this assignment, the special agents, both based in Washington DC at the time, met with government and private parties, including Kurt Schafer, and gathered considerable documentation.

However, the case was taken away from these agents right after their return to the United States and sent to Region 4 of DLE. Region 4 is based in Atlanta.

### Schafer's Claims

Kurt Schafer has reported that the US dealer whom he alleged was ring-leader of the "Bangkok Six" shipment has boasted of very high-level political ties and that the US investigation has never been serious. He says that he feels that the US dealer is somehow "protected." As of the time of writing, there has been no US prosecution.

Schafer reports that, since the shipment, he has received several visits from the US suspect, and from high-priced Ameri-

can lawyers (one of whom he claims bought a brand-new Mercedes 600 car for his wife during one of his visits to Germany).

Schafer claims that he has received visits from "couriers" - warning him to shut up - and even threats of decapitation.

Schafer states that the US government does not want what he swears to be the truth about the orangutan shipment to come out. If charges filed against Schafer by German authorities include the "Bangkok Six" shipment, it is clear that the truth, whatever it is, might finally come out.

If the US Government really wants the truth out (which Schafer claims it doesn't), it will profit from the German investigation to get at the full facts. **IF** there were any US involvement, as Schafer claims, and **IF** the US Government indeed wants the story suppressed, would the US intervene with German authorities to see that Schafer is not charged in connection with the orangutan shipment?

Schafer has also claimed that he has been insulted by US prosecutors. The US investigation has been marked by a constant flow of leaks of evidence and information to the US suspect from an as-yet unidentified source or sources (such as the itinerary of the two travelling DLE agents), which do raise questions as to just what is going on in Region 4.

#### Yugoslav Zoo Director Sues

Yugoslav Zoo Director Bojovic, middleman in the "Bangkok Six" shipment, is still director of Belgrade Zoo. In a travesty of justice, Bojovic sued zoo volunteer Milka Knezevic-Ivaskovic for exposing an earlier Bojovic deal involving two baby orangutans ("Sanja" and "Vanja") that reached the zoo from Indonesia.

Milka was actually sentenced to three months in jail, later reduced to 3 years probation under a "gag order" barring her

from criticizing Bojovic. Milka is now appealing - and she has not shut up about Bojovic, either.

#### Private Detectives At Work!

A Singapore private detective firm ("Anthony's Special Investigative Services Private Limited") has reportedly been hired by an unknown party or parties (presumably animal smugglers or their agents) to work to sabotage the investigation of "The Bangkok Six" shipment, track down potential witnesses, get hold of documents, and get the names of people whose numbers are on IPPL's phone-bills (which animal smugglers somehow managed to obtain).

Other private detective agencies and squads of high-priced jet-set American lawyers (the kind who charge US \$300 per hour) are also said to be hard at work on the "Bangkok Six" affair!

#### Golden Opportunity

The jailing of Kurt Schafer by German authorities could provide the opportunity to get to the bottom of who was behind the "Bangkok Six" shipment. **But it is clear that powerful forces may be at work to make sure that the truth - whatever it is - never comes out.**

#### Conclusion

Meanwhile, four of "The Bangkok Six" orangutans died of the consequences of the appalling conditions in which they were shipped. Six mothers were shot so that they could be caught. We owe it to the (at least ten) dead orangutans to see that the truth is not buried with them - and to see that the perpetrators and protectors of this and similar appalling shipments receive the punishment they so richly deserve.

## IPPL PUNISHMENT POLL

Kurt Schafer, smuggler of the "Bangkok Six" orangutans, was given a token fine equivalent to US \$1200 for smuggling six baby orangutans from Singapore to Bangkok in February 1990. No other smuggler involved in this sordid deal received any punishment at all.

IPPL asked its members in its November 1991 **Newsletter** how they thought orangutan smugglers should be punished. IPPL members were not as "smuggler-friendly" as some of the world's judicial systems appear to be.

Members who participated in the IPPL poll are definite about what they want - **tough punishments for wildlife smugglers**. They want none of those meaningless trivial "fines," which are accepted by dealers as a form of "tax" on their untaxed millions stashed away in secret bank accounts around the world.

Here's what some of the 500+ IPPL members who responded to our "Punishment Poll" say:

**Five years in jail and I suggest that the punishment should include some awareness aspects, such as to focus on the deterioration in endangered wildlife species and to show the economic importance of wildlife resources and their cultural values.**

Salah Ahmed, Khartoum, Sudan

**People responsible for such atrocities should be punished severely. Yet I doubt very much that such punishment would be approved. It would mean that political and government officials would not be able to line their pockets with blood money. In this day and age it seems that money has more value than life.**

Natalie Philip, Illinois, USA

An apt and just punishment for orangutan (or any animal) smugglers would be to lock them in a room with me for 5 minutes (I'm a large man)!

James Clink, California, USA

These animals are our nearest relatives, therefore it is a heinous crime. Take away the liberty of the smugglers for at least 5 years. The punishments have to be deterrents.

Pat Maxwell, Nanaimo, Canada

\$50,000 plus life in jail. We feel it it's about time more dealers were made to pay a bigger price than a few months in jail and too small a fine.

Peggy Rogers, Kelowna, Canada

Stuff them into wooden boxes, nail the lid on tight, and turn them upside-down for a day.

Helen Metaxis, Athens, Greece

I feel that we need to make a penalty as drastic as possible to help discourage these people from doing this. These people who have no compassion are not going to stop just by us writing them letters. They need to be punished.

Lori Sanborn, New Jersey, USA

The smugglers belong in cages. My husband and I are deeply sad with the hurt and pain these animals are going through.

Mr. and Mrs. B East, New York, USA

\$50,000 fine and life in jail. These people are driving primates into extinction and should receive penalties with substance.

Carl Sloughten, Texas, USA

Solitary confinement in a small cage.

Dr. Reena Mathur, Jaipur, India

\$50,000 and life in jail. They should also be made, under strict supervision, to do some kind of work to protect animals. e.g. plant trees. God bless you.

Sister Mary Vianney, Florida, USA

Permanently bar non-citizens from entering country.

Adam Moledina, Singapore

Death by firing squad and no last cigarette. They shoot orangutan mothers and smugglers should be shot, too.

Pattie McReber, Georgia, USA

\$50,000 fine and 20 years jail. Banishment. Passport revoked. Censored, not printable!

Barbara Middlemas, California, USA

Life in jail for all the lives they have taken. They know it's illegal but they commit crimes over and over again with no regard to the sanctity of life. Inexcusable.

Traci Hoeltke, Wisconsin, USA

I would hang the bastards!

Ira Winkelman, New York, USA

Castration!

Corinne Fowler, California, USA

Death Penalty! More money for enforcement of all wildlife protection laws and more and stricter laws. No loopholes!

Margaret Halley, New York, USA

Personally, I would like to see them burned at the stake! But 20 years (no parole) and a \$50,000 fine would be a) acceptable to society and b) believable to the poachers.

Lona Lubin, Florida, USA

Fines are not much of a deterrent as such people have plenty of money. A few strokes of the rattan would help - may be.

Marjorie Doggett, Singapore

Life in jail, no parole, all passports should be revoked permanently... I am tempted to ask for a death penalty, but I must ask for compassion for these cruel people, and not give in to their reign of terror tactics.

Susan Yoh, Michigan, USA

These unscrupulous individuals must be dealt with harshly, and even the imposition of a hefty fine and life imprisonment are not severe enough penalties to match the crimes committed against these innocent creatures. In order to deter further atrocities such as these from being committed, the message must ring out loud and clear so that anyone who dares to, will wish to God they hadn't.

Barbara Pietrowiak, California

20 years in jail. These guys are nothing but scum.  
Nothing's too harsh!

Tania Anderson, Texas, USA

I would flog them, then jail them. They wouldn't be  
back for a second dose!

Mrs. B. Naylor, Manchester, England

Life in jail, I think a fine is a bad idea, they'd  
probably smuggle more orangutans to pay for it.

Barbara Quiller, Michigan, USA

Ship the offenders in a crate, preferably to Siberia,  
and leave them with their conscience for company.

Mrs. B. Richfield, St. Albans, England

Death penalty! Why should taxpayers have to pay to  
feed and give shelter to this scum? Strong feelings? You bet!

Carol Risser, California, USA

20 years in jail, the judicial system in all countries is  
far too lenient for all animal smuggling.

Susan McKay, Cairns, Australia

It is time that crimes against animals should be  
punished as severely as crimes against humans.

Miss S. Haylock, Bishop's Stortford, England

Life in jail or preferably execution. Until the punish-  
ment fits the crime, there will be no peace for any animal on  
earth.

Ann Aldridge, Florida, USA

They should be deprived of freedom in the same way  
as the poor creatures they smuggled lost their's, and, in some  
cases, their lives.

Joyce Harper, Worcester, England

Confiscation of all property and possessions, not to  
be returned. Prohibition from ever being a dealer in animals.

Eleanor Jones, Georgia, USA

20 years. Not only do they completely ruin the lives  
of the animals involved, but they also kill the mothers. So the  
life of the smugglers should be ruined as well.

Gert Van den Broeck, Belgium

Two years in a Turkish prison, along with the  
above, they should be publicly lashed 100 times with a  
bull-whip.

Craig Westfall, Georgia, USA

Life in jail with no parole. Murderers are murder-  
ers, regardless of species. It's even worse when the victims are  
endangered.

Dana Dell, Louisiana, USA

## WALTER SENSEN JAILED!

Notorious German gorilla smuggler Walter Sensen  
was jailed in Nuremberg in March 1990. Sensen was given  
a sentence of two years without parole on 5 charges.  
Unfortunately, he was let out after serving just 3 months in jail.

The charges against Sensen were:

**Organizing the "Cameroun Three" gorilla shipment in  
January 1987.**

Two of these young gorillas died miserable deaths of  
asphyxiation on the flight from Douala, Cameroun to  
Kinshasa, Zaire. The third animal proceeded via South  
Africa to Taipei Zoo, Taiwan.

The three gorillas were insured for a total of \$450,000  
with the Taisho Marine and Fire Company, Japan.

The shipment only came to light when a veterinarian  
asked by the insurance company to fly to Kinshasa to try to  
keep the survivor alive called IPPL, which started an  
investigation. Obviously the insurance company wanted to  
protect itself against another \$150,000 claim.

The three gorillas had been exported on Cameroun  
export papers calling them "monkeys." Sensen testified at  
his trial that he had paid \$25,000 for his "permit."

IPPL obtained copies of telexes between the animal  
dealers organizing the "Taiwan Three" shipment, which we  
had handed to German authorities.

**Organizing a shipment of gorillas to Mexico in June 1989**

As a result of the storm over the "Taiwan Three"  
shipment, Walter Sensen and his son Bernd left the Cameroun  
and moved to Equatorial Guinea. In June 1989, they  
managed to ship 3 gorillas out of that country as the  
"personal luggage" of Walter Sensen. Two of the gorillas  
were bought by the Guadalajara Zoo in Mexico. The Sensens'  
company "African Animal Export" was paid \$130,000 into  
a US bank account.

IPPL tried to get ethical zoos to protest the gorilla  
shipment by refusing to deal with the Guadalajara Zoo. The  
Santa Ana Zoo, California, USA, did cancel a lemur deal, but

recently the Winston Safari, Oregon, USA, shipped a pair of gibbons to the zoo with an export permit issued by the United States Government.

### **Offering gorillas for sale to a Swedish zoo and to a Saudi businessman**

Along with his offer to the Swedish zoo, Sensen circulated a photo of a European lady surrounded by African assistants holding a total of 8 baby gorillas - representing the slaughter of at least 50 gorillas in the capture operation.

### **Trafficking while under professional prohibition**

Earlier, Walter Sensen had been "banned" by the German Government from trafficking wildlife because of various illegal activities.

After the "ban," the notorious Sensen "price-lists" began to be issued from an address in Boxdorf, Germany. However, the fax and telex numbers were the same as on the old Sensen price-lists.

### **Illegal Importation of Wildlife to Germany**

Walter Sensen was charged with illegal importation of coatimundis, tree porcupines, and various other species to (then West) Germany.

Sensen pleaded guilty to all charges. He arrived at the Nuremberg court-house with his head covered by a hood! When sentenced, Sensen broke down weeping - because his liberty was being taken away from him.

Unfortunately, Sensen was let out of jail after serving less than three months in jail.

In reducing the sentence, Judge Dieter Graff made the outrageous comment that:

*As an animal trafficker, Walter Sensen is used to freedom!*

So he let him out. Now Kurt Schafer and Guenther Ditttrich, both smugglers of orangutans and birds, are in jail in Germany (if they are not out already). Will they get off as lightly as Sensen, and be back in business soon?

## **ANIMAL SMUGGLERS CAUGHT FOR OTHER CRIMES**

Increasingly, animal smugglers are being caught committing other crimes. For example:

\* US primate trafficker **Michael Tsalickis**, who had operated his animal export business out of Colombia, South America, for over three decades, (he was even US Honorary Consul!) is now jailed for life in the United States for cocaine smuggling.

\* German smuggler **Guenther Ditttrich**, now jailed in Germany, was recently exposed by the US television network, ABC Nightly News, as a participant in a cruel and heartless scam.

There are many American servicemen missing as a result of the Vietnam war. Their desperate relatives will cling to any straw, in the hope their family member may still be alive.

An American resident of Bangkok has been circulating

photographs of purported survivors of the Vietnam war, and operates a "charity" to locate and rescue them, which has made over \$3 million in recent years. This American presented the photograph of a supposed "survivor" held captive in a Laotian prison camp to a hopeful family.

ABC News sent a crew to Thailand and identified the man in the photograph as Guenther Ditttrich - and the site of the photo as the premises of the notorious Thai wildlife smuggler Kampang Ploentharn. The "Laotian prison guards" were in fact Thais, Kampang admitted.

\* IPPL has received a report that some smugglers include already-dead animals in their shipments, including monkeys and other mammals, birds, and reptiles. Some of the bodies are said to contain packages of narcotics. IPPL was informed by the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service that dead animals' bodies are "released to the importer unless there is a legal basis for seizure."

## **THE PHILIPPINE BIRD FARM**

There are more Spix's macaws living at the Philippine Bird Farm in Quezon City than there are living free in the wild - where there is just one Spix left flying free. **The animal dealers caught all the rest.** The Bird Farm holds 6,150 birds, 95% of them non-native to the Philippines, and many belonging to CITES Appendix I species.

Many of the founder birds in this huge collection, (most acquired, according to the facility's management, in the late 1970s and early 1980s and said to be kept in excellent conditions), are of highly dubious origin.

At CITES '92, there are several proposals to downgrade species in the Bird Farm's collection to Appendix II status, so that

commercial trafficking can be allowed.

These species include:

### **Cuban Amazon parrot**

The sub-species *Amazona leucophala* is, according to the Philippine down-grading proposal, "confined to eastern and central Cuba." The source countries of the 10 founding birds are described in the proposal as: 2 from Singapore; 4 from Indonesia; 4 from California. An asterisk (\*) indicates that:

*Our source is not directly from the country of origin. We source mainly through middlemen and importers.*

Acquiring wildlife mainly from "middlemen and importers" may be a euphemistic way of saying the birds came "mainly from smugglers." These Cuban Amazons and their progeny should all be returned to Cuba for possible release/rehabilitation if the Farm cannot produce proof of legal origin.

### **Hyacinth macaw**

The hyacinth macaw comes mainly from Brazil and the far east of Bolivia. The Bird Farm founder stock consisted of 62 birds of which 6 died. The source countries were: 14 from Singapore; 12 from Thailand; 30 from the United States; 12 from the Netherlands. Not one reached the Farm from South America.

These birds were also acquired through "middlemen and importers."

### **Buffon's macaw**

This bird emanates from Central America and northern Colombia. However, not one of the Bird Farm's founding stock originated from the species' range states: sources for the 35 founder birds (of which 5 died) are listed in the down-grading proposal as: 4 from Thailand, 15 from Singapore, 6 from the Netherlands and 10 from the United States.

### **Red-fronted macaw**

This parrot lives solely in Bolivia, which did not provide one of the Bird Farm's founding stock of 20 birds (4 of whom died). Sources were: 5 from Thailand and 15 from the United States.

### **Salmon-crested cockatoo**

This species is native to Indonesia which supplied 18 of the founding stock consisting of 40 birds (63 acquired, 23 deaths). The origin of the remaining 22 birds was 10 from Singapore, 22 from Thailand, and 13 from an unspecified Philippine source.

### **Black palm cockatoo**

This spectacular parrot species is native to island Southeast Asia, including a few Indonesian islands, and northern Australia. The Farm's founding stock of 155 birds (mortality, 32) consisted of 62 birds brought in from Thailand, 36 from Singapore, and 57 from Indonesia.

Ironically, the Philippine down-grading proposal (author, unknown) lists "hunting, trapping, and the collecting of nestlings for the pet trade" as the cause of depletion of some of the species.

We hope that the Philippine Bird Farm will make public the origin of each and every endangered bird in its collection, and that it will identify any and all secret investors and/or owners.

In addition, all the Spix's macaws, along with any illegally acquired birds and their offspring, should be forthwith returned to their homelands for rehabilitation and/or release.

The Bird Farm also owns 6 orangutans. How these animals arrived in the Philippines is not clear since orangutans have been totally protected in their entire habitat since 1931.

## **"ENTEBBE FOUR" CHIMPS RETURN TO UGANDA**

On 10 September 1990, four chimpanzees were exported from Uganda to the Soviet Union, where they were acquired by a company called SAAEC, operated by Victor Shulman. The animals had been exported from Uganda by the Swedish animal dealer Ingemar Forss.

Uganda's front-line environmental journalist Ndyakira Amooti, who is covering CITES '92 for *New Vision*, covered the "Entebbe Four" exportation in an article "Minister Linked to Shady Chimp Deal," in which he exposed government officials who apparently had acted in collusion with Forss.

Following their arrival in the Soviet Union, the chimpanzees disappeared from public view - but they suddenly appeared in Italy in the summer of 1991 as part of a travelling circus. Efforts by TRAFFIC-Italy to get the animals confiscated failed.

The chimps were next moved to Austria, where free importation/exportation without CITES permits was allowed.

Then the chimpanzees were moved into Hungary where, **thanks to the efforts of Dr. Katalin Rodics**, they were seized and successfully returned to Uganda on 11 October 1991, with financial help from the Jane Goodall Institute, IPPL, and the Animal Welfare Institute. Two gibbons of unknown origin remain at a Hungarian zoo.

Swedish authorities took no action against Ingemar Forss because the chimpanzees had never set foot in Sweden, and Swedish law as currently written does not permit easy action against Swedish animal dealers operating outside Sweden. The Soviet Union took no action against any party involved.

But at least the four chimpanzees are safely home in Uganda.



## ANIMAL DEALER TAKES FIFTH AMENDMENT

In August 1990, Worldwide Primates, an animal dealership in Miami, Florida, operated by Matthew Block, filed a lawsuit against Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, alleging that McGreal had circulated official US government documents critical of conditions at his Miami monkey warehouse - and demanding upwards of \$500,000 from McGreal as "punitive damages" because of cancelled deals and lost "credibility."

One of these government documents was an official US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Report showing dirty and unsanitary conditions at Block's warehouse, and informing Block that his company's license to import primates was suspended.

Several other importers lost their licenses around the same time, but none had anywhere near the 46 deficiencies found by CDC inspectors at the Miami monkey warehouse.

In US lawsuits, both parties exchange documents. However, McGreal's attorneys have received no documents from Worldwide Primates or Matthew Block, because the company has taken the "Fifth Amendment" against "self-incrimination."

In past cases, US lawsuits have been thrown out of court in similar circumstances.

The "incriminating" activities which caused Block's company to "take the 5th" were not specified, but the 49 document requests on which the company "took the 5th" included requests for documents pertaining to any "illegal transactions" in which the company may have been involved, and documents pertaining to the US Fish and Wildlife Service.



*Matthew Block*

Various McGreal documents pertaining to Matthew Block and Worldwide Primates were subpoenaed by a US federal grand jury in Miami investigating the famous "Bangkok Six" orangutan shipment.

Recently, McGreal's attorneys have filed "contempt of court" charges against Worldwide Primates, because Matthew Block failed to show up to give evidence in his own lawsuit!

## THE SPANISH BEACH CHIMP TRADE

With the world's chimpanzee population now estimated by Jane Goodall at 175,000 - and shrinking - any exploitation of wild-caught chimpanzees is undesirable - especially since at least 10 adult and baby chimpanzees die for each animal successfully brought into trade.

There is no excuse at all for the Spanish beach chimpanzee trade. For years, Spanish "beach photographers" have dragged chimpanzees around, getting gullible tourists to pay around \$10 to have their photograph taken with a baby chimpanzee.

The beach chimpanzees are horribly abused: often their teeth are filed to the gums or mutilated with pliers or chisels to make the inevitable bites less severe. The chimps are often drugged with valium to keep them docile. When their careers on the beaches are over, the chimpanzees are often killed by their ungrateful owners - who then buy a new baby.

Unfortunately, the beach chimp racket creates million-

aires, who drive home at night in Mercedes cars.

A few lucky beach chimpanzees have been rescued by Simon Templer and his late wife Peggy working with Jim Cronin of Monkey World in Dorset, England.

In spite of IPPL-UK's campaign to locate and rescue beach chimpanzees, the sordid racket continues - and beach chimps have been sighted in Italy, Israel and Mexico.

But nobody knows where the beach chimpanzees are coming from. Are their mothers shot in Zaire? In Senegal? In Sierra Leone? The only thing certain is that many of the chimpanzees enter Spain via the Canary Islands - and that they are doomed to lives of misery.

One hopeful sign: in January 1992, the town of Benidorm, Spain, enacted a regulation to stop the exploitation of any wild animals by beach photographers.

When will Spain enforce CITES and ban importation of chimpanzees by and for beach photographers?

## ATTENTION; GOVERNMENTS OF PRIMATE-EXPORTING COUNTRIES

If your country is exporting primates to the United States, you should know that many of the unlucky primates will be forced to live alone in tiny metal cages.

Efforts by the US Congress to improve living standards for research primates were thwarted by lobbyists for drug companies and others who want to make profitable products developed from, or tested on, primates - but who want to spend a minimum on providing them with proper environments where they can move around and live some semblance of the normal life they have lost.

In 1985, amendments to the US Animal Welfare Act called for laboratories to establish "a physical environment adequate to promote the psychological well-being of nonhuman

primates." Experimental extremists lobbied successfully to make sure that the resulting regulations were weak.

The new cage sizes announced for primates in US laboratories were include:

\* **Squirrel monkeys:** floor area 3.0 square feet (0.28 m<sup>2</sup>); height, 30 inches (76.2 cm.)

\* **Adult Macaques and baboons:** floor area 8.0 square feet (0.74 m<sup>2</sup>); height, 36 inches (91.44 cm.)

\* **Chimpanzees:** floor area 25.1 square feet (2.33 m<sup>2</sup>); height, 84 inches (213.36 cm.)

## "POLISH CONNECTION" CLOSED

Animal dealers like to run illegal wildlife through countries which will allow import and re-export. These are called "Connection Countries." In 1989 IPPL exposed the use of Poznan and Wroclaw Zoos in Poland by animal smugglers, including Marlies Slotta (Germany); Guenther Dittrich (Germany); Preecha Varavaishit (Thailand); and Ingemar Forss (Sweden).

Among the animals shipped via "The Polish Connection" were:

\* **At least 4 orangutans**, two now in Czechoslovakia and two at the St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad) Zoo in the Soviet Union:

\* **12 gibbons** (11 dead and the sole survivor now housed at Lesna Zoo, Czechoslovakia):

\* **Three Douc langurs**, of whom two died. The sole survivor was re-exported to Stuttgart Zoo, Germany, where he also died. One of the dead Doucs was stuffed and mounted on the wall of the Poznan Zoo Director's office!

In December 1989 Poland joined CITES, and animal smugglers shifted some of their activities to Yugoslavia. Due to political problems in Yugoslavia, smugglers are reportedly now setting their sights on other countries, including Bulgaria.

With many new countries forming from the old Soviet Union, further Eastern European "Connection Countries" may open up, a nightmarish prospect for CITES, governments, and conservation groups fighting illegal wildlife trade - and especially for endangered animals.

## THE "PREGNANT" FRENCHMAN

On 7 October 1990, a French man was stopped at Bangkok Airport as he was trying to smuggle three baby girl gibbons out of the country hidden in his coat. All the gibbons had their finger-nails painted scarlet.

The animals were confiscated, but Thai authorities did not arrest the smuggler and let him leave the country.

Two of the baby gibbons died. According to the Thai veterinarian who tried to save the animals, they had been "tortured to death." The teeth of one gibbon were filed down to the gums, and another's teeth had been pulled out with pliers.

## GIBBONS CONFISCATED ON PHILIPPINE BIRD MARKET

On 8 January 1991, IPPL was notified of the presence of two baby white-handed (Lar) gibbons, one beige and one black, on Cartimar Market in Pasay City outside Manila. IPPL immediately contacted the Haribon Society asking that they confirm whether the report was true.

On getting confirmation, we and Haribon noticed Philippine wildlife authorities who **immediately** confiscated the baby gibbons. Over a year later, both the gibbons are doing well.

Congratulations to the Philippine Government and the Haribon Society on their speedy and effective action!

## ORANGUTANS ALL OVER TAIWAN

Estimates made by the Orangutan Foundation indicate that there are between 800-1000 orangutans living on Taiwan, all probably of illegal origin. Orangutans are seen exploited by Chinese medicine hawkers on Taiwan's notorious "Snake Alley."

A popular show on Taiwan TV "starring" a pet orangutan started a fad for pet orangutans (much the same as the US TV show "Baretta" started a mania for pet cockatoos - to the detriment of free-living birds).

## ON "COURIERS"

The word "courier" conjures up the clean image of a man or woman carrying a diplomatic passport and secret government documents around the world.

A less desirable type of person now describes himself as a "courier," - that is, the animal smuggler carrying wildlife stuffed in his clothing or in the hold of a plane as "personal baggage." Rather than a diplomatic passport, this kind of self-styled "courier" often carries a fake passport.

"Couriers" often call their sordid operations "rescue missions."

## DECODING A SMUGGLER'S TELEX

Can you figure out this coded telex? If you can, you really know the wildlife smugglers' dirty tricks!  
If not, here's the solution!

22202 KAMPANG TH  
BKK OCT 09 88 1136

867618 HSO D.  
NEUWIED. 8-10-1988. NR. 413

DEAR MR. KAMPANG. GUENTHER FLY TONIGHT BCK TO BGK -  
TRANSP.: 2 RED BIRDS OK. 11 GIBBON LOADED FROM DEAD TO IN AIRR.  
IN NEXT 24H DEAD ANOTHER 3 HEADS, 1 DEAD JUST NOW. ALL TOGETHER  
ALREADY 6 DEAD. ANOTHER 5 IN CRITICLE STAGE. - GUNTHER WILL  
INFORM YOU.

MR. VAGNER STAY TILL TOMR. IN WROCLAW. MONDAY BACK GERMANY. WILL  
INF. YOU THEN.  
RGDS.

MS. SLOTTA  
NEUWIED. 1 8-10-1988. 14:00

22282 KAMPANG TH  
867618 HSO D.

Neuwied = German town

Kampang = Kampang Ploentham, Thai wildlife smuggler

Guenther = Guenther Dittrich, German wildlife smuggler, jailed in New Zealand for attempted smuggling of keas, a protected bird species, and now jailed in Germany

Bgk = Bangkok, point of departure for "Guenther" and the animals

"Red Birds" = smugglers' code name for orangutans

Gibbons = small apes caught by mother-killing, with an estimated 20 mothers and babies dying for each one successfully brought into captivity

Mr. Vagner = animal dealer, works with Marlies Slotta of Slotta Interzoo of Neuwied, Germany

Wroclaw = Polish Zoo that handled the orangutan/gibbon shipment

Ms. Slotta = Mrs. Marlies Slotta, German animal dealer - now understandably nervous that she might get jailed because of this dubious deal!

# A SMUGGLER SPEAKS

Notorious Thai wildlife smuggler Preecha Varavaishit of Pimjai Birds has caused suffering and death to Thailand's wildlife for two decades. He was responsible for a 1973 shipment of 10 baby gibbons which were shipped from Thailand via Canada to the United States. Six of the baby gibbons died of pneumonia. Autopsy revealed a shotgun pellet lodged in one gibbon's skull.

Preecha was responsible for several more shipments of gibbons, including one in which all ten gibbons died in flight between Frankfurt, Germany and Montreal, Canada.

In spite of IPPL's determined efforts, nobody in Thailand, Canada, or the United States was ever punished.

**A career was on its way - that of Pimjai Birds, a career that brought Preecha millions, but which has brought suffering and death to thousands of animals.**

Besides exporting wildlife directly from Thailand, Preecha maintained an export station at a deserted military camp in Laos. This camp was a center for marketing wildlife poached in Thailand and smuggled across the Mekong River to Laos for onward export to the West (the so-called "Laotian Connection").

On 26 August 1990, Pichai Chuensuksawadi and Supradit Kanwanich of the **Bangkok Post** succeeded in obtaining a journalistic "scoop" - the first ever interview with the secretive Khun Preecha. They were stunned by Preecha's arrogant posturing and boasts. Said Preecha:

*Thai government officials have never questioned me and they don't dare. Why don't the senior officials arrest me if I did wrong? The Forestry people can stop the trade, if they want to, and they have the authority to do so. But then if you issue more laws, they can get more [Preecha did not say more of what] . . . I get a [windfall] and who, I ask, authorizes this? If government officials did not give their cooperation, I would not be able to do business. Don't blame me alone. They work as a team. If they take legal action against me, I will reveal everything!*

IPPL has protested for years to Thai authorities about Preecha's activities, but, said Preecha:

*I'm bored with them and I have nothing to say to them... Whatever is distributed ends up in my hands anyhow.*

To which Khun Phairothe Suvannakorn, then Director-General of Thailand's Royal Forestry Department, replied:

*I admit there are corrupt officials who facilitated wildlife smuggling, but hardly any of them could now provide assistance to the gangs.*

Mr. Preecha has not started naming names - yet. He has gone into the real estate business, and claims that he has made millions.

Fortunately, in the face of a CITES embargo initiated on 22 April 1991, Thailand has just passed new laws to implement CITES, and hopefully this will end the activities of Thailand's native smugglers - as well as those of the foreign wildlife traffickers who have settled in Thailand in recent years to enrich themselves by:

- \* **importing** endangered species of other nations (such as parrots and chimpanzees) to Thailand, where facilities such as the Safari World and Patta Department Store have engaged in large-scale acquisition of wildlife in recent years,

- \* **smuggling** of Thai wildlife overseas,

- \* **using** Thailand as a way-station to the West for smuggled Australian and New Zealand birds such as gang-gang and Major Mitchell's cockatoos.

**Congratulations and ten loud cheers to the CITES Standing Committee on its decision to embargo Thai wildlife shipments!**

## THE DISASTROUS DOUC LANGUR SHIPMENT

Douc langurs are among the most beautiful and endangered of all primate species. Their Indochinese habitat suffered greatly from the bombing and defoliation of their homelands at the hands of the US military. Doucs are very fragile and few survive more than a few days or weeks in captivity.

Now a new breed of destroyers has moved into Vietnam to destroy the recovery chances of Douc langurs and other Vietnamese species - **unethical animal traffickers**.

In one appalling incident recently brought to light,

the Thai smuggler Kampang Ploentham brought over 100 Douc langurs into Thailand in 1988. An eye-witness counted 96 Doucs on Kampang's premises on just one day in 1988, and also saw and photographed a young orangutan.

Seven of the Doucs were purchased by the Safari World outside Bangkok and **every single one of them died in rapid succession**. Five Doucs were shipped to Singapore, and two of these animals died. As far as IPPL can determine, these three animals in Singapore are the only survivors of "The Douc Disaster."

# THE "CAMBODIAN CONNECTION"

Thai smuggler Kampang Ploentham has conducted his career of looting Thailand's, and other nations', wildlife for two decades. One of Kampang's latest rackets was "The Cambodian Connection."

Kampang had fancy stationery printed up in February 1988, and sent a letter to fellow-smuggler Walter Sensen of Germany announcing that:

*Our new station is Koh Khong Province  
Zoological Garden in Cambodia.*

Kampang also had Cambodian "export permits" printed up, which were almost identical to the Laotian "export permits" he prepared for an equally non-existent zoo that he operated in Laos. Kampang even had a fake veterinarian sign fake Cambodian "veterinary certificates!"

Of course there was and is no "Koh Khong Zoo": in fact, there were and are no zoos at all in Cambodia! However, greedy would-be purchasers of endangered animals didn't appear to care or to check up.

Not one of the endangered animals passing through this non-existent zoo ever set foot in Cambodia. What is known about the shipments that took place is probably just "the tip of the iceberg." To cite a few:

\* **TWO** Sumatran orangutans shipped from Thailand via Wroclaw Zoo, Poland, to St. Petersburg (then Leningrad) Zoo, in the then Soviet Union, in September 1988.

\* **TWELVE** tiny gibbons also shipped from Thailand to Wroclaw Zoo, Poland, in September 1988: these baby gibbons were extremely small and extremely sick, and only one survived: she is now housed at the Lesna Zoo in Czechoslovakia.

\* **TWO** Sumatran orangutans shipped from Thailand in February 1989 to Czechoslovakia: it is not clear whether these animals were shipped directly or via Yugoslavia or Poland.

\* **FIVE** Douc langurs shipped from Thailand to Singapore Zoo in May 1989. These animals were shipped by air from Bangkok to Singapore. Singapore Zoo should have known that there was no "Koh Khong Zoo" - and so should Singapore

PEOPLE REPUBLIC OF KAMPUCHEA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY,  
IRRIGATION AND CO-OPERATIVES,  
DIRECTORATE OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
CONSERVATION.

No. 011

EXPORT PERMIT

Permission is granted for the export of the wildlife described below. This shipment is in accordance with the laws of Kampuchea and will not be detrimental to the survival of the species in the wild. This shipment will be transported in a manner which will minimize the risks of injury, damage to health or be subjected to cruel treatment.

SPECIES		QUANTITY
COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	
Sumatran Orangutan Name: Du Tak ESTD: 11.3.1987	Pongo pygmaeus abelii	1/one male
Sumatran Orangutan Name: Monk Tram ESTD: 11.5.1987	Pongo pygmaeus abelii	1/one female
Both above mentioned Orangutans are born in captivity in Kohkong Province Zoological Garden.		

DATE OF ISSUE: 11th September 1988

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EXPORTER:  
Kohkong Province Zoological Garden

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION:  
Poland

*Both these orang-utans were shipped to Moscow Zoo, USSR, as return of deposit of Mr. Slotta Indonesia*

DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
CONSERVATION.

authorities. The shipment was clearly commercial, as two commercial firms (Kampang and Universal Tropical Enterprises) were involved.

All these primates belonged to CITES Appendix I species and cannot be commercially traded. By setting up fake zoos and falsely claiming that wild-caught animals are captive-born, animal smugglers are able to evade CITES.

Sometimes the buyers are naive, but sometimes they are so greedy to lay their hands on animals that they encourage or "wink an eye" at illegalities.

**THE INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE WILL BE PLEASED TO TRY TO VERIFY WHETHER ANY "ZOO" OFFERING WILDLIFE FOR SALE IS A LEGITIMATE ZOO OR A "DEALER ZOO."**

**CONTACT IPPL BY MAIL AT POB 766, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29484, USA OR BY FAX AT 803-871-7988.**

# CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS HELD ON WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT

On 3 February 1992, the US House of Representatives Oversight Sub-committee of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs held a hearing on the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

This sub-committee is chaired by Congressman Richard Lehman of California.

Witnesses from conservation non-governmental organizations (Shirley McGreal and Dianne Taylor-Snow of the International Primate Protection League, Christine Stevens of the Society for Animal Protective Legislation and Ginette Hemley of TRAFFIC-USA) expressed concern over a variety of problems including:

- \* lack of funds;
- \* the small number of special agents (only 200 nationwide to enforce 11 laws and treaties including CITES);
- \* the disorganization of the agency (the Division is divided into regions, over which the Chief of Law Enforcement does not have line control).

In spite of their presence being requested by Congressman Lehman, John Turner, Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Monty Halcomb, head of the troubled Region 4 (Atlanta), did not testify at the hearings.

## WHERE'S THE CHIEF?

The Division of Law Enforcement (DLE) of the US Fish and Wildlife Service has a new Chief, John Doggett, who recently replaced the late Clark Bavin, who attended several CITES conferences.

As of the time of writing, the US tentative delegation numbered 28.

But the US delegation is sorely lacking in "muscle," as

it included only one representative of the DLE at the time of writing.

Many of the world's wildlife chiefs would surely like to meet the US's new leader in the battle to protect the world's wildlife from trade-related depletion and extinction.

Unless there is a last-minute change of plans, IPPL asks, "Where's the Chief?"

## ZOO DIRECTOR'S SHOPPING LIST

In 1991, Enrique Romero, Director of the Buenos Aires Zoo, Argentina, sent a fax to the German animal dealer Marlies Slotta (an accomplice of Kampang in his "Cambodian Connection" shipments). Romero requested:

- 1.1. orangutans
- Chimpanzee breeding group
- 1.1. White tigers
- 1.1. Pygmy hippo
- 1.1. gorilla

Plus a variety of other endangered species! Romero commented:

*As you can see, we are looking for "star animals." because in July are our winter holidays when we hope to receive 1 million visitors in a month . . . so you can include in this list other animals that in your mind deserve the status of "star animals."*

James Drysdale commented in the Buenos Aires Herald:

*Incredible! Animals in the wild all over the world must be queuing up to attain the status of "star animals" in our zoo!*

## OSCAR DE SOUZA'S SHOCKING PRICE LIST

The wildlife and forests of Burma/Myanmar are being decimated by Burma's military government which desperately needs funds to support its war on the people of Burma, who are fighting for democracy. This presents a wonderful opportunity which parasitic animal traffickers are trying to exploit for profit.

In March 1991 Singapore animal dealer Oscar de Souza circulated a price-list in which he offered 12 endangered gibbons (6 hoolock and 6 lar) for sale. On receiving a copy of this price-list, IPPL contacted Singapore authorities, who told De Souza off in a tough warning letter dated 20 June 1991.

## CONFISCATIONS

**One red-backed squirrel monkey**, a member of a highly endangered Central American species, by US wildlife authorities in Boston, USA,

**Four pygmy marmosets** smuggled from Brazil in the knapsack of a Swiss tourist,

**Four baby common marmosets** seized from a Swiss tourist returning from a Brazilian vacation by Swiss authorities,

**Sixty-four slow lorises** smuggled from Thailand to Japan in May 1989: only 4 of the 64 survived to make the trip home to Thailand in December 1989,

**Three baby chimpanzees** in wicker-baskets found on a luggage carousel on Nairobi Airport, Kenya: the two survivors of the shipment, which originated in Rwanda, are alive and well at the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage run by Dave and Sheila Siddle in Zambia.

**A group of baby rhesus monkeys**, confiscated in June 1991 from a Korean ship in Chittagong Harbor, Bangladesh.

## ATTENTION AFRICAN DELEGATES

Since 1990, your nation's chimpanzees have been partly protected by Section 214 of Public Law 101-166, which states that:

*No funds appropriated under this act shall be used by the National Institutes of Health or any other federal agency or recipient of federal funds on any project that entails the capture or procurement of chimpanzees obtained from the wild.*

A quiet attempt is now under way to get rid of this ban. In a sneaky addition to pending US appropriations legislation, the embargo on US funding of research on wild-caught chimps would be eliminated.

Should this happen, US funds could be spent on overseas research involving wild-caught chimpanzees - and organizations outside the United States wanting to get US dollars might start acquiring chimpanzees by fair means or foul - thus adding a further incentive for poachers and smugglers and complicating the already complicated lives of beleaguered African officials seeking to enforce local laws and CITES.

Please ask members of the US delegation to CITES '92 to help protect the world's chimpanzees by seeing that this valuable protection for wild chimpanzees remains intact!

## DUBIOUS OFFERS

Among the many dubious offers provided to IPPL by recipients and government agencies in the last few years are:

\* **Gorillas and chimpanzees** offered by Simon Nwanak, of Yaounde, Cameroun,

\* **Chimpanzees** for \$10,000, **colobus monkeys** for \$500, **cheetahs** for \$4,000, and other endangered species by the Tanzanian Wildlife Corporation (TAWICO) in a January 1990 price-list.

## SIGHTINGS

A 3-year old **chimpanzee** at a falconry in Malindi, Kenya,

A **chimpanzee** dressed up as Santa Claus on Marbella Beach, Spain,

A performing **orangutan** at Galas nightclub in Salou, Tarragona, Spain,

**Monkey and elephant meat** offered by a restaurant in Brussels, Belgium,

**Orangutan skulls** for sale to Japanese and German tourists, in shops around Balikpapan and Samarinda, Kalimantan, Indonesia,

Live **bonobos** and **chimpanzees** on boats on Zaire River, final destination unknown,

Lopburi, Thailand: **500 monkeys** enjoying a nine-course banquet put out for them by a wealthy Thai animal-lover

A baby **orangutan**, two **monkeys**, and many **birds** at a pet shop in the Gion area of Kyoto, Japan: observer described shop as a "claustrophobic menagerie, the animals kept inches from each other, the feces from above dropping into the cages of the unfortunate animals below."

## SARAWAK ORANGUTANS HIT BY SMUGGLERS

The **Borneo Bulletin** reported on 18 July 1991 that the Sarawak Forestry Department was conducting a full-scale investigation into the smuggling of 7 orangutans out of Sarawak, and that the Sarawak Anti-Corruption Bureau had joined the investigation because of suspected collusion by dishonest government officials.

# MARKETS AND MORE MARKETS

Around the world, the sale of primates on open public markets continues. Some of these market animals are bought for local purposes, but it is likely that some animals, especially those belonging to endangered species, are located by smugglers and exported. Among the high, or low, spots:

\* **Pramuka Market, Jakarta, Indonesia**, where a BBC film crew was able to buy a baby orangutan, and where other protected species including gibbons, siamangs, and rare langurs are regularly found. All the primates, rare or common, and all the birds, suffer atrociously in the heat and humidity, and lifeless bodies are a common sight.

\* **The Animal Market, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam** (formerly Saigon). A recent visitor to this market found baby long-tailed macaques crammed into tiny cages, a heap of dead long-tailed macaques, a stuffed Concolor gibbon, and a stuffed sea turtle.

\* **Chatujak Weekend Market, Bangkok, Thailand**, a general market selling almost everything - but which is noted for the ghastly conditions in which wildlife, rare or

common, is traded, including orphaned baby gibbons and slow lorises with their teeth filed to the gums. Will Thailand's new laws stop this animal abuse? Let's hope so. Suppliers of wildlife to this infamous market include Netr Bhengsri and Kurt Schafer.

\* **Tabatinga Market, Brazil**, located in the town of Tabatinga on the Colombia/Peru/Brazil border, sells primates at meat stalls. So dirty are the conditions at this and some other markets in Colombia, Peru, and Brazil that filthy meat markets are thought to be a cause of the current disastrous outbreak of cholera in South America.

\* **The Fetish Market, Brazzaville, Congo Republic**, offers gorilla and chimpanzee parts, including skulls and hands, for perverted Westerners and believers in traditional medicine.

IPPL has just learned of the existence of a Bird Market on the island of Biak off the coast of Irian Jaya, Indonesia, which is served by Garuda Airlines. Some endangered birds have been sighted on this market: it is not clear whether their destination is overseas or local, or both.



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