



News

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AUGUST 2000



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MONKEYS
SMUGGLED**

**BABY MONKEY
LAWSUIT**

**CHIMPANZEES
RETURN TO
FREEDOM**

Colobus monkey mother
and child
©Michael Turco

WARNING: Sensitive
photos on page 15!

GREAT NEWS - IPPL RECEIVES CHALLENGE GRANT

Dear IPPL Supporter,

I have some great news for you. The Arcus Foundation of Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA, has generously offered IPPL a challenge grant of \$25,000 to help construct an on-premises Animal Care Center for the IPPL gibbons, provided that we can raise an equivalent sum.

At the center we would have one area to handle quarantine of any incoming animals and provide needed treatments to resident animals. There would be a separate area for food storage and preparation. Two IPPL veterinarians kindly sent letters of support for our application.

We have one year to match this wonderful gift and raise other funds so that we can complete this exciting project!

*If you can help us meet this challenge, please make out a check to the "IPPL Challenge Fund" and mail it to **IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484 USA**. Thanks in advance.*

IPPL extends its sincere thanks to Jon Stryker, Rob Schram, and Linda May of the Arcus Foundation for taking the time to visit IPPL headquarters for our Year 2000 Members' Meeting. The foundation is dedicated to both human and nonhuman primate rights and dignity.

Shirley McNeal

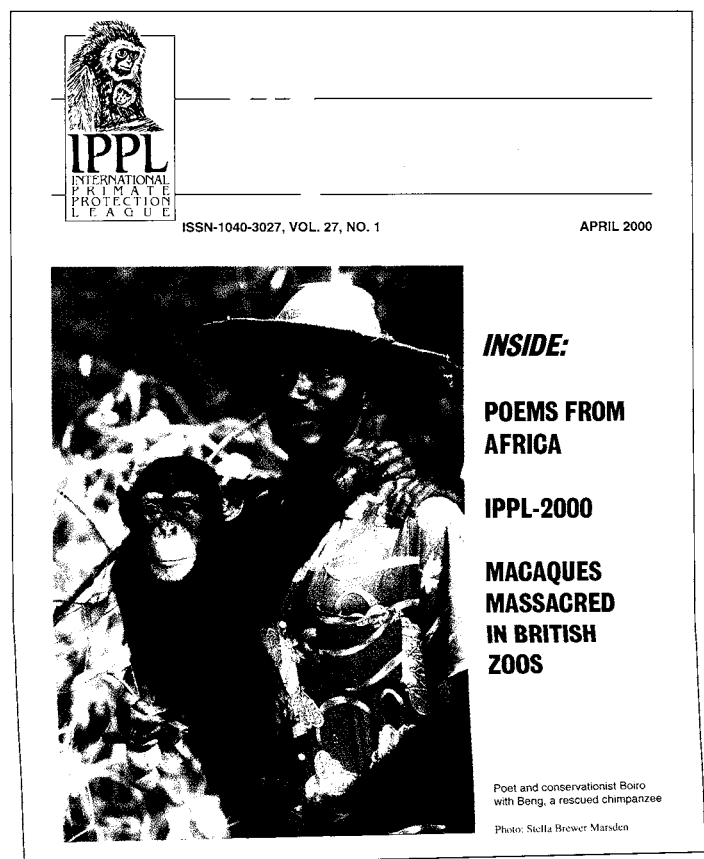
IPPL CONVERTS TO NEW MEMBERS' DATABASE

IPPL has just converted to a new database that will enable us to provide better service to our members.

Please take a look at the label on this issue of **IPPL News** (August 2000) and make sure that your name and address appear correctly. Please let us know if any changes are needed.

During the transition, some members may have received duplicate renewal notices and we apologize for this. The problem has been sorted out. It resulted from our old and outdated database proving very difficult to convert to the new system.

We hope all of you received the April issue of **IPPL News**. A copy of the cover appears alongside. If you did not receive your April issue, please let us know and a replacement copy will be sent to you immediately.



DIRTY COLOBUS MONKEY DEAL

Colobus monkeys are among the most spectacular of all monkeys, with their beautiful black and white coats, appealing faces, and long tails. In the past these monkeys were slaughtered for their lovely furry coats.

Colobus monkeys belong to the leaf monkey family. All leaf monkeys have great difficulty adjusting to life in captivity because of their very special diets and digestive systems.

Colobus monkeys live in troops. They have seldom been observed fighting. The white babies are passed around the entire family. Colobus monkeys can leap huge distances from tree to tree.

Seeing troops of colobus monkeys hurtling through the trees is a highlight of any tourist's visit to East Africa. I was lucky enough to see wild colobus monkeys in Kenya this April.

In the spring of 2000, a disastrous colobus monkey shipment took place.

Tanzanian dealer collects colobus monkeys

In May 2000 a Tanzanian animal dealer, whose name is not yet known to IPPL, had assembled a group of colobus monkeys for export. IPPL has learned that

some of the monkeys were very young.

We do not know yet how many colobus monkeys died in capture, or in the holding station before the animals left Africa for Asia.

We don't know yet what airline carried the doomed monkeys. We have just learned from the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species that Tanzania has stated that the monkeys were shipped without the required export permits.

The monkeys were jammed into shipping crates and flown to Thailand. These monkeys, used to living at high altitudes where the weather is cool, were sent to the city of Bangkok. The city of Bangkok is at sea level and the weather is always hot and humid and the air is always foul due to pollution.

Thai dealer imports monkeys

The **Bangkok Post** reported that the Thai animal dealer who imported the monkeys is named Chatchai Boonbamrer, who has the nickname "Lek." The company he runs is called "**Friendship Farm**." The farm deals in a variety of wildlife. "Lek" used to work closely with the German wildlife smuggler Kurt

Schafer, who in 1990 was involved in the sordid "Bangkok Six" orangutan deal.

On arrival in Thailand, two of the colobus monkeys died. An official of "Friendship Farm" told the press that he had packed the bodies of the dead monkeys in a bag and "left them at a public garbage bin."

IPPL learns about the shipment

IPPL first heard of the ill-fated shipment through a 24 May article in the **Nation**, a Bangkok newspaper. The article claimed that the Bangkok Zoo had obtained a group of seven colobus monkeys from an animal dealer, and that three of the monkeys the zoo had purchased were already dead.

Hysterical public reaction to phony AIDS claims

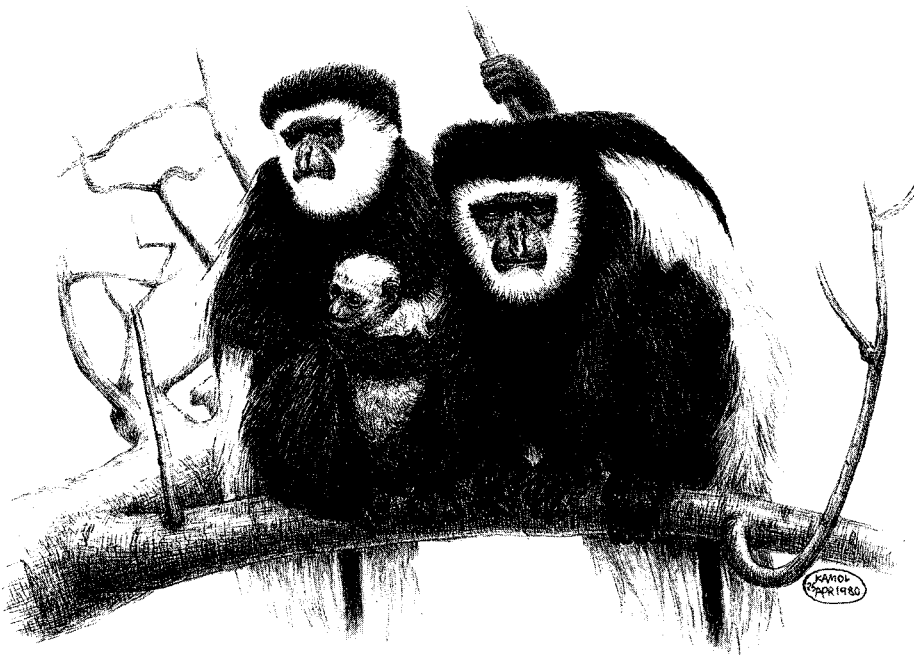
Amazingly, the newspaper claimed that the monkeys might have died of AIDS. No monkey has ever given AIDS to a human being and colobus monkeys don't even get AIDS. However, the story started a wave of national hysteria in Thailand.

The **Nation** quoted a "wildlife expert who asked not to be named" as saying that the dreaded disease could "spread throughout the country" because of the hapless colobus monkeys. A virologist contacted by IPPL said this "expert's" comment was total nonsense.

The tragic truth is that AIDS is very prevalent in Thailand but it is spread by humans - not by monkeys. Thailand has a largely unregulated "sex trade," which often involves young girls and boys whose parents sell their own offspring into prostitution to support their drug habits.

As a result of the publicity, people stayed away from the Bangkok Zoo in droves, terrified of getting AIDS from the colobus monkeys. One sensible caregiver at the zoo tried to calm the hysteria. Prayot Krasaeyot told the press that he had been caring for the zoo's monkeys for 20 years and that:

I've never been worried about monkeys having HIV. I'm doing my job as usual.



I feed the monkeys and clean their cages every day. A veterinarian has already confirmed that the three dead colobus died of pneumonia, not AIDS.

Surviving monkeys taken away to be killed

The hysteria grew. IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal sent letters to the Thai press and government officials, which were published. But it didn't help.

On 6 June 2000 the four surviving colobus monkeys were seized from the Bangkok Zoo by officials of the Thai Royal Forestry Department. The zoo had been unable to produce any quarantine certificates or import documents for the animals.

On 7 June the **Nation** told its readers:

The zoo's four remaining colobus monkeys have been taken from the zoo and will be put down, the Royal Forestry Department announced yesterday. Department director Plodprasop Suraswadi said the step was necessary to prevent humans getting AIDS.

Mr. Plodprasop stated that he had never set out to kill animals, but that, "Human safety is the first priority whenever I have to make a decision."

Director Plodprasop alleged that the monkeys had probably been smuggled into Thailand.

Bangkok Zoo's lack of ethics

The Director of the Organization of Thai Zoos told the **Bangkok Post** that he bought some of the colobus monkeys "out of compassion and did not bother to check whether they were legally obtained." He said that the zoo "needed rare species in order to attract visitors."

Local animal activist Soraida Walwala disagreed, saying that buying smuggled animals "would promote other illegal wildlife trading." IPPL agrees with Soraida Walwala. It is appalling that any zoo would use the services of dubious international animal dealers who greedily rape the world of its wildlife to line their pockets.

Colobus monkeys and other leaf monkeys have long been known for their

fragility. This is common knowledge in zoo circles.

In November 1975 Toronto Zoo in Canada purchased ten colobus monkeys from a US-based international animal dealer, to join two colobus already at the zoo. All twelve monkeys died.

The zoo, undeterred, ordered more. The second shipment consisted of twelve monkeys and arrived in May 1976. All these monkeys were dead within two weeks. More recently, Toronto Zoo has attempted to import proboscis monkeys, also fragile leaf-eaters, from Indonesia.

IPPL tries to save the surviving colobus monkeys

IPPL sent an urgent request to the Thai government not to kill the surviving monkeys. We do not know their fate - but we hope they were not killed.

IPPL also began an investigation into the shipment. We began to get e-mail messages from someone apparently well-informed about the events, and have provided information to law enforcement authorities of several countries and to Interpol's Wildlife Crime Group and the CITES Secretariat.

IPPL members Linda Howard and renowned colobus monkey expert Dr. Carolyn Bocian visited the Tanzanian Embassy in the United States to request an investigation of the circumstances of the shipment - and that the Tanzanian perpetrators be prosecuted. IPPL has learned that the monkey shipment did not have the proper paperwork to be moved internationally.

Colobus monkeys are listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

(CITES), of which both Thailand and Tanzania are members. They cannot leave Tanzania without export permits. Thailand is required to check the paperwork before clearing the shipment for entry into the country. The Government of Tanzania has recently alleged that the monkeys were smuggled.

Why it's so important that you act

It requires a special effort to get law enforcement officials and the public interested in what happens to nine monkeys.

If nine chimpanzees or gorillas had died in similar circumstances, there would have been a huge public outcry.

This is why IPPL plays such an important role. We work on cases like this one although our work doesn't make headlines.

We rely on our letter-writing members to help us get justice for ALL primates - and punishment for those who treat them cruelly.

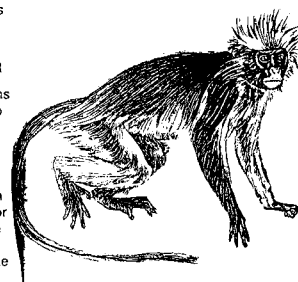
H. E. Mr. Prapat Pothasuthon
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Rajdamnoen Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand

PLEASE PUNISH COLOBUS SMUGGLER

I have learned about the tragic deaths of several colobus monkeys imported to Thailand from Tanzania. Tanzanian authorities say that these animals were smuggled out of their country.

Please take firm action against the Thai importer, including imprisoning him if he broke Thai law and banning him for ever from animal dealing. Please require him to name his Tanzanian supplier so that the Tanzanian Government can take action.

Colobus are beautiful fragile monkeys and belong in Africa.



Name	Street	City	Zip
William T. Ford	[REDACTED]	St. Louis MO	63119
Steve Kirkham	[REDACTED]	Johnston RI	02119
C. Anna Malone	[REDACTED]	Hanover MA	01926
May Helmer	[REDACTED]	Limassol Cyprus	
Will BATEX	[REDACTED]	Austin TX	78727
Palmira	[REDACTED]	Marysville WA	98271
Melissa Wu	[REDACTED]	Boca Raton FL	33433
Scheri Acher	[REDACTED]	Reston VA	22090

Air mail postage to Thailand is 60 cents per half-ounce, \$1 per ounce

IPPL colobus monkey petition

LETTERS NEEDED!

Please send letters to Tanzanian officials expressing your sorrow at the deaths of several colobus monkeys exported to Thailand and requesting an investigation of the incident. Ask that any surviving colobus monkeys be returned to Tanzania and that any Tanzanian or foreign dealer found guilty of smuggling the monkeys out of Tanzania be sent to prison.

*H. E. President Benjamin William Mkapa
State House, Magogoni Road
POB 9120
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania*

*The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism
NBC House, Samora Avenue
POB 9352
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania*

Here are some Tanzanian embassies to contact. If the embassy in your country is not on the list, a letter to the Ambassador in the capital city of your country of origin should arrive safely.

*The Ambassador of Tanzania
2139 R St. NW
Washington DC 20008, USA
Fax: 202-797-7408*

*The Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania
50 Range Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8J4, Canada*

*The High Commission of the
United Republic of Tanzania
43 Hertford Street
London W1Y, England*

*The High Commission of the
United Republic of Tanzania
32A Oxford Street East
Sydney, NSW 2101, Australia*

Please send a letter to Thailand's Minister of Agriculture requesting that the Thai animal dealer who imported the colobus monkeys be investigated and prosecuted, if the evidence warrants.

*H. E. Mr. Prapat Pothasuthon
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Rajdamnoen Nok Avenue
Bangkok 10200, Thailand*

Here are some Thai embassy addresses. Address all letters to "His Excellency the Ambassador of Thailand," followed by the address.

*Royal Thai Embassy
1024 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 401
Washington DC 20007, USA
Fax: 202-944-3611*

*Royal Thai Embassy
180 Island Park Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 0A2, Canada*

*Royal Thai Embassy
29-30 Queen's Gate
London SW7, England*

*Royal Thai Embassy
111 Empire CCT
Yarralumla ACT 2600, Australia
Fax 06-273-1149*

Overseas air mail postage to both Thailand and Tanzania costs:

From the US: 60 cents per half ounce, \$1 per ounce

From England: 65 pence per 20 grams

From Australia: \$1.00 (2 pages)

From Canada: 95 cents for 0-20 grams, \$1.45 for 20-50 grams

IPPL has a stock of colobus monkey petitions and postcards. Contact either our US Headquarters or IPPL-UK (116 Judd Street, London WC1H 9NS, England) for your petitions and postcards.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

IPPL REPRESENTED AT WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species holds a Conference of the Parties every two and a half years. Member nations meet to discuss what species of wildlife should be entirely or partially protected from trade, and what measures should be taken to implement the treaty.

The 11th Conferences of the Parties was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 10-20 April 2000. IPPL was represented by Chairwoman Shirley McGreal and Dianne Taylor-Snow. Shirley McGreal has attended every CITES conference since 1979.

Thanks mainly to generous gifts from members attending the 2000 IPPL Members Meeting, we were able to sponsor the attendance of the Indonesian animal protection group, KSBK. Yana Qomariana and Dedi Kurniawan represented KSBK. Thanks to IPPL member Hans Iluk of Alam Indah Travel in Ubud, Bali, for making Yana and Dedi's travel arrangements.

During conferences, non-governmental organizations like IPPL have the chance to meet foreign government officials and discuss the primate trade. We also have the right to speak from the floor and participate in committees and working groups.

Two issues affecting primates were on the agenda of CITES-2000. One was

the bushmeat trade, the other related to the international trade in wildlife tissues and serum.

The "Bushmeat" crisis

Primates, despite their similarity to humans, have long been a food source in many parts of the world. The massive increase in worldwide logging has led to the construction of logging camps and roads. These roads enable loggers to remove the trees from the rainforests of the world.

Many of the logging camps do not provide protein for their employees and encourage them to hunt wildlife. In addition poachers supplying city markets can enter the forests and bring out dead wildlife to feed urban residents.

In recent years the problem has been extensively documented, especially by wildlife photographer Karl Ammann. However, solutions are not in sight.

Even though most of the primate trade is internal, "bushmeat" reaches some European countries with African expatriate populations. Some years ago cargo handlers working for the Spanish airline Iberia refused to carry shipments of "bushmeat" from Equatorial Guinea due to the stench of rotting flesh. There is also some trade across African borders (e.g. bushmeat moves from Sierra Leone to

Liberia).

The British government prepared a working document for CITES-2000 (Doc. 11.44, anyone wanting a free copy should contact IPPL).

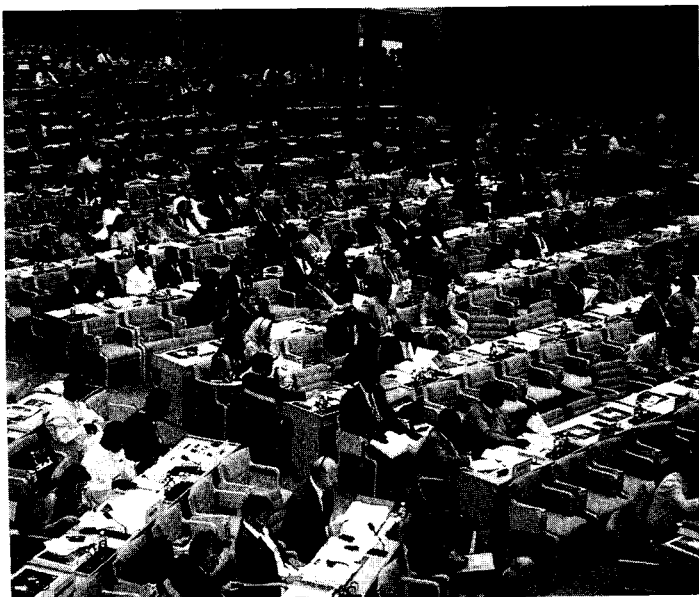
The document notes that the problem is worldwide and affects rare species such as gorillas and chimpanzees and many other CITES-listed species. Control of trade at the international level would encourage range states to implement more effective conservation of wildlife. Furthermore, most of the logging companies causing the problems are foreign companies.

The Ape Alliance, a consortium of wildlife protection organizations, of which IPPL is a member, is working to try to get timber companies to adopt Codes of Conduct to help regulate the trade.

The British paper notes that:

The overwhelming evidence, particularly from long term studies in Equatorial Africa, is of a vastly increasing off-take. Most such harvesting is unregulated and unmanaged in an environment to which access is increasingly being facilitated and therefore such harvest appears to be increasingly unsustainable.

The easy availability of modern wire snares and arms and ammunition has made it easier to obtain wild animals, a



The crowded conference hall



The bushmeat discussion group

situation aggravated by civil war in many parts of Africa.

Many of the animals killed for their meat are important seed dispersers in the forests.

Great Britain suggested that external funding could combine interested donor countries and organizations with the relevant range states.

Throughout CITES-2000, meetings on the bushmeat trade were held. There was high attendance by wildlife chiefs. Many were extremely concerned and lamented that their departments were under-funded and under-staffed. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) reported with regret that the eastern part of the country, which is home to Eastern Lowland gorillas, is under rebel control.

Among the CITES-listed primate species affected by the African bushmeat trade are:

Appendix I

Diana monkey

Gorilla

Drill

Mandrill

Bonobo

Chimpanzee

Appendix II

Moustached monkey

Red-bellied guenon

Red-eared guenon

Owl-faced monkey

De Brazza's monkey

Greater white-nosed monkey

Crowned guenon

Preuss guenon

Sclater's guenon

Sun-tailed guenon

Black colobus

King colobus

Grey-cheeked mangabey

Red colobus

Other affected animals include leopards and many small cats, pangolins and a wide range of antelopes and duikers.

The United Kingdom agreed to fund a Working Group of interested African nations and an initial meeting will be held later this year.



Dianne Taylor-Snow with Theophilus Freeman of Liberia



Shirley McGreal with Bourama Niagate of Mali (left) and Dominique N'Sosso of the Congo Republic



On Safari! From left, Dedi, Shirley, Tonny Soehartono of Indonesia, Yana, Bourama and George Saputra

Tissue and serum samples

Document 11.45.1, proposed by Switzerland, Germany and the United Kingdom, was entitled "Concerning diagnostic samples, samples for identification, research and taxonomic purposes, and cell cultures and serum for biomedical research."

Currently CITES permits are required for the international shipment of such samples.

The proposers argued that having to obtain CITES documents to transport such samples was "an impediment to research and legitimate trade."

Many national delegations and non-governmental observers raised questions about the draft resolution. Mexico and several other nations objected on the grounds that genetic materials could be patented and used for commercial purposes.

Shirley McGreal of IPPL raised the question of the potential harm that could be caused by efforts to obtain

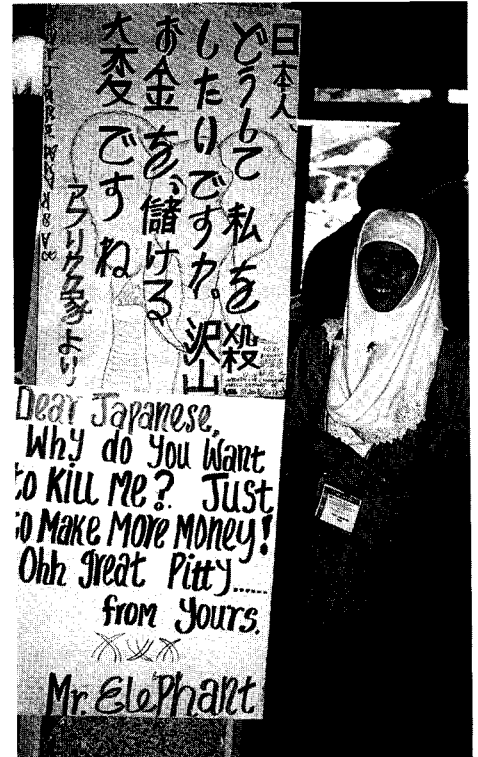
serum from free-living primates since it would be impossible for national authorities to monitor the ground operations of capture/release teams.

Such activities could easily result in stress, injuries or even fatalities to CITES-protected primates, as well as there being a potential for captors to infect wild primates with human infectious diseases.

Serum from wild primates is currently in heavy demand by experimenters looking for the origins of certain viruses. Several African delegations agreed with IPPL's position.

Zoo lobbies supported the resolution, for purposes of species identification and disease diagnosis. Law enforcement officials wanted to be able to move samples rapidly for identification.

However, the resolution as written was determined to be far too broad a loophole and was doomed to failure. A working group was established to work to create a narrower exception.



Yana likes the elephants' message to Japan

A THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM YANA AND DEDI

KSBK would like to thank IPPL and its members for the donations which enabled two KSBK staff members, namely Dedi Kurniawan and Yana Qomariana, to attend the 11th Conference of the CITES parties held in Kenya in April 2000.

This was the first time a pro-animal Indonesian non-governmental organization attended a CITES conference. Previously Indonesia was only represented by official government delegates and animal traders and their lobbyists.

Without IPPL support, it would have been impossible for us to participate in this very important meeting. Let's hope that KSBK will have the chance to participate in the next CITES conference!

JOHN ASPINALL DIES

John Aspinall, a British national who made a fortune in the casino gambling business and later became interested in wildlife, died on 29 June 2000, after a long battle with cancer.

Aspinall operated two zoos, Howletts and Port Lympne, and a gorilla rescue and rehabilitation center in Africa.

The zoos were controversial because Aspinall required animal caregivers to go into cages with even the most dangerous animals such as tigers. Five animal caregivers were killed as a result of this practice. Aspinall himself enjoyed entering the gorillas' enclosures.

Some species such as gorillas and black

rhinos bred successfully, but the imported Sumatran rhinos fared poorly and did not breed.

Aspinall's work was always mired in controversy. IPPL opposed his plan to send four male gorillas to an Indonesian safari park in return for one female Sumatran rhino. Fortunately the plan has not yet materialized.

STOP PRESS: *The Proceedings of the Primates for Primates (Australia) conference held at Parliament House, Sydney, in November 1999 are now on-line at: <http://www.lisp.com.au/~primate/index.htm>*

AR-2000 CONFERENCE

Thanks IPPL members Linda Howard and Noam Lazarus, IPPL maintained a booth at the Animal Rights 2000 conference, held in McLean, Virginia, USA, from 30 June to 4 July 2000. Shirley McGreal attended the meeting. The conference was organized by the Farm Animal Reform Movement.

We distributed IPPL literature and asked people to sign three petitions. Two petitions related to the Colobus monkey shipment discussed in this issue, and asked Tanzanian and Thai authorities to take action.

The other petition was addressed to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and requested action in the "Baby Monkey" case (see "Baby monkey case leads to lawsuit," page 25 of this issue). Hundreds of activists signed these petitions and they have been forwarded to the relevant authorities.

We also sold IPPL t-shirts and stickers.

During the conference Shirley McGreal, Linda Howard and Lee Hall of



Shirley and Noam staff IPPL booth

the Great Ape Standing and Personhood Project (GRASP) were interviewed for Ramola D's Public Access television program. This is shown on Channel 33 in

Arlington, Virginia, and made available to other stations around the nation.

Thanks to Linda and Noam for setting up and staffing IPPL's booth!

TAKING CARE OF PRIMATES - NOW AND FOR EVER

Over the years, IPPL has greatly benefitted from thoughtful caring supporters who have remembered IPPL in their wills. Thanks to those wonderful people, IPPL can continue and expand its program of investigations and is able to help horribly abused primates in rescue centers in Africa and Asia. We assist groups working to help wildlife in remote parts of the world, and take care of the 31 wonderful gibbons, many research veterans, living at our headquarters sanctuary.

In 1999 we were able to build a much-needed education center, thanks to a bequest from Swan and Mary Henningson.

One kind member left a special gift for Igor, our lab gibbon who had spent 21 years behind black plexiglass because he self-mutilated at the sight of another gibbon. Igor has now spent 13 years in "retirement" with IPPL.

We also care for our gentle blind gibbon Beanie (right, with his friend Bullet, our rescued blind dog).

These departed members' compassion and thoughtfulness survives their leaving this world.

We hope that you will consider including IPPL in your estate plans, to ensure that primates in need will have our hard-working and experienced organization to stand by them now and in the future.

Please contact IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA, if you would like a pamphlet about providing enduring help for IPPL.



ORANGUTANS RETURN TO INDONESIA

by Dr. Akira Suzuki, IPPL's Japanese representative since 1976

On 24 May 1999, four smuggled orangutans, one siamang, and six African monkeys were confiscated from the Wan Wan Land pet shop in Osaka, Japan. Six months later five smugglers were arrested.

The primates were kept for several months at the Ouji Zoo in Kobe. In February 2000 the animals were returned to Indonesia, and now live at the Wanariset Center in East Kalimantan.

Five Japanese non-governmental organizations started a campaign to get Japan's wildlife protection laws enforced. Complaints were addressed to the government and the media.

The Japanese groups involved were the Japan-Indonesia Orangutan Conservation and Research Committee, the Kakap Fund, the Pet Monkey Laboratory-Japan, the Japan Wildlife Conservation Society, and All Life in a Viable Environment (ALIVE).

On 29 January 2000, the Orangutan Conference Committee chaired by myself held a symposium "On the return of four orangutans to Indonesia - conservation of endangered orangutans and their habitats."

The symposium was held at the Japan Press Center in collaboration with the Embassy of Indonesia in Tokyo.

Among the subjects discussed were the need for study of the sub-species of orangutans in Kalimantan, the current plight of the species and protected areas, and rehabilitation strategies.

Population and distribution of orangutans

I did aerial surveys of the population and distribution of wild orangutans in 1997-98. During this time we observed the forest fires of 1997-98. The area affected was about the same as that affected by the big 1983 fires: 5 million hectares.

As for the reduction in numbers of the orangutans of Kalimantan, development plans do much more harm than even the fires. Even after the forest fires, orangutans can survive. There was a negligible reduction in the animals in my study group in the Kutai National Park.

Orangutan rehabilitation

Wanariset Orangutan Rehabilitation Center was established in 1991. Unfortunately the mortality rate has been quite high. According to the Embassy of Indonesia the center has received over 700 orangutans. However the figure may be considerably higher.

The baby orangutans' journey from the forest to the marketplace can be arduous and the conservative estimate is that only one out of three juveniles survives the experience. The population of orangutans in East Kalimantan is 2,000-3,000 individuals. If conservation methods do not improve, fatal damage could be done to the area's orangutans.

Rehabilitation strategy

At present Wanariset releases orangutans into the Meratus Mountains, following a pre-release program. Currently no wild orangutans live in this area. The vegetation and elevation are different from the animals' original homes.

Three subspecies

According to Dr. Colin Groves, there are really three subspecies of orangutans in Kalimantan: one found in the northwest, one in the Southwest, and one in the Northeast and in the nation of Sabah.

DNA investigation is needed to clarify this question.

At Wanariset, all released orangutans are currently sent to one area.

Return of the babies

The four orangutans are now at the Wanariset Center. Through no fault of Wanariset, the number of individuals reaching the facility after being removed from the wild is so high that it reflects greatly decreasing populations.

As early as 1989 I called for orangutans not to be released in areas inhabited by free-living animals because of fears of contaminating the local population genetically and spreading disease to wild orangutans.

Orangutans' needs

Careful choice of release areas is necessary. There is an urgent need to patrol protected areas and apply the law strictly to orangutan poachers. The entire structure of the national parks, protected areas and buffer zones needs to be redesigned.

This is a shortened version of a much longer article by Dr. Suzuki which we don't have space to run. A free copy is available from IPPL's US Headquarters.



Confiscated orangutans

UPDATE FROM THE LIMBE WILDLIFE CENTRE

by Dan Sullivan, Limbe volunteer

The Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) is located in the town of Limbe on the Atlantic coast in Southeast Cameroon. The Centre has entered the new century on a prosperous note. Thanks to the generous donations from so many IPPL members, the Centre had sufficient funds to bring many projects to completion in 1999, as well as embark upon many new ones.

Furthermore, the collaboration between **Pandrillus** (the Nigeria-based organization that established the Limbe project) and Cameroon's Ministry of Environment and Forests (MINEF) is becoming ever more fruitful.

The year has so far been dominated by new arrivals. In May the Limbe Wildlife Centre combined forces with In Defense of Animals (IDA) and Yaounde Zoo in an official confiscation of animals from Luna Park near Yaounde. Luna Park is a fun fair where chimpanzees and other primates were collared on short lengths of heavy chain, with insufficient food and water.

The Centre has been involved in confiscations from Luna Park before. This time, thanks to the assistance of MINEF, game guards and local law enforcement officers, the animals have been seized and the hotel resort is no longer using endangered animals for the entertainment of visitors. The Limbe Wildlife Center now provides a healthy and social environment for three of these confiscated animals; Kanna, an agile mangabey; Eboa, an infant mandrill; and Luna, an olive baboon. [IPPL Note: IDA took in Dorothy and Nama, two confiscated chimpanzees].

Most of our animals reach the Centre through donations, often from people who have visited the Centre and either encourage others to donate their animals, or bring animals to us first-hand. The latter regularly occurs when an infant primate, having lost his or her mother to the bushmeat industry, is put up for sale as a pet, or for display in a hotel or restaurant.

Near Limbe there are several beaches that attract such sales. Fortunately, as a result of our spreading the message, they

often end up being brought to us. Jackson and Jahmana, for example, both came from Eleven Mile Beach.

Jackson

Jackson is an infant chimpanzee who arrived at the Centre in early October last year. Jackson was spotted for sale at the beach by Mr. Steidle, who realized that without his mother, the six-month-old ape could only be looked after by the next best thing to a mother, the staff of the LWC.

Having been tied to a rope, his waist had been rubbed raw and he was generally weak. He quickly recovered and grew rapidly. He is now being introduced to the other infant chimps in the nursery. Our visitors are always entertained by his playful antics, and they are surprised to see how human-like his interactions with the other chimps can be.

Loko, in particular, can remember what it was like to be the "new chimp on the block" and, together with A-J, has become a playmate for Jackson. Maya remains the

mother figure within the chimp nursery, but she will soon join the older chimps who are incredibly happy in their new and enlarged enclosure.

Jahmana

Found in exactly the same location as Jackson, Jahmana, a baby Preuss' guenon, was recovered by the General Manager of Wackenhut (a local firm that has given the project regular support over the years) and his wife.

At such a young age, these animals are adorable balls of fluff, the effect enhanced by the large white ruff under the chin and big worried-looking eyes. Jahmana may be the only male Preuss' guenon in captivity in the world and, with our two resident females, there may one day be the hope of adding to the world's dwindling population that is concentrated on the slopes of nearby Mount Cameroon.

Our other guenon populations have also grown, with similar bundles of fluff in the shape of Mokoko (a small Mona



The Limbe gorillas have really grown!

Photo: Jacqueline Hanrahan

monkey) and Zulu (a putty-nose guenon). We currently house our three putty-noses and four Monas together, due to space limitations. We may soon be able to release them on a geographically isolated hill within the Limbe Botanic Gardens. The hill adjoins the Centre.

It would be educational for visitors to Limbe to see these primates in a quasi-natural environment.

Dynamic Drills

22 April 2000 was a sad day for all who have been involved with the Limbe Wildlife Centre since it began. Okon, forever the docile old man of the drill section, passed away. He had been part of the Centre's primate population before **Pandrillus** even arrived. Everyone had come to love him, particularly our drill-keepers Simon and Stephen, from whom he commanded much respect.

Fittingly, he was buried under the site of the new drill enclosure.

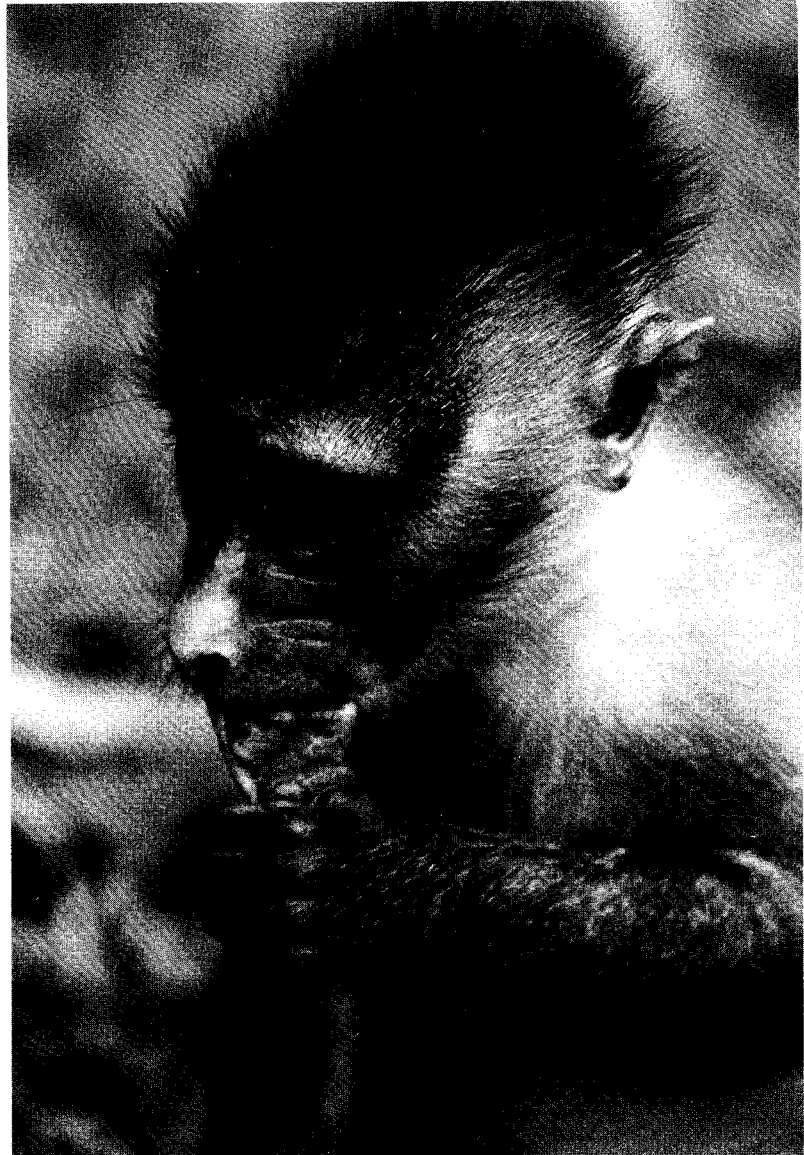
The following month, Christian Strehlke, a young Austrian who had been working on a conservation project to the west of Limbe, arrived clutching a two-month old drill who had already been named "Koko." Koko's mother had been killed by hunters only a few hours before he was rescued.

He was thus thoroughly bewildered on arrival, but fortunately in good condition. It did not take him long to gain confidence. In just one and a half months he has grown an incredible amount and is becoming a handful for the keepers! If he is not asleep, then he is hyperactive, with nothing in between!

Once Koko has finished his quarantine, he can look forward to moving into the new and much larger drill enclosure.

A Happy Reunion!

Whilst construction is taking place to re-house our drills and baboons, Man Alone, the lovable male mandrill, can expect to inherit a refurbished drill enclosure, along with our other four mandrills. Preparatory work has already been done by enlarging his current section. This has enabled him to be part of a contented family once again, with his



Koko, the rambunctious drill baby

mate, the now healthy Moussa, and their fast developing son Speede.

Growing Gorillas

The seven Limbe gorillas, all rescued from the bushmeat trade, remain a star attraction at the Centre. They never fail to delight visitors. Whilst Jumbo continually plays on the faucet, Chella chases Evindi and Benito round and round the enclosure until they end up mauling each other in a playful heap.

Meanwhile, Nyango keeps a close eye on Pitchou, who still thrives on all the attention. Pitchou whines if any of the others dare pick on her. Throughout all this, Emma surveys all the goings-on from her bipedal vantage point.

All are becoming bigger and bigger

by the day. Bama and Wilson's uniforms are slowly disintegrating under the weight of gorillas clambering over them during the daily clean-up of the enclosure! Chella has become a boisterous six-year-old who is clearly looking forward to the time when he outgrows Nyango and can displace her position as matriarch to become the silverback in charge of them all.

As if through jealousy of the luxurious new chimp enclosure next door, the pair of them are also becoming anxious for ever more room. Chella rides on Nyango's back in the hope of clutching on to something to help here clamber out. Nyango, for her part, keeps an ever-watchful eye on the keepers to check they're doing their job in main-

taining the fence. Perhaps one day they can be granted a much larger enclosure!

Wilson

In May 2000, a conference of African chimpanzee sanctuary directors was held in Entebbe, Uganda. We were fortunate enough to be represented by Wilson, our long-time chimp and gorilla keeper.

In response to some alarming footage concerning the commercial bushmeat trade, emphasizing Cameroon's role, Wilson spoke passionately about what we were trying to achieve in Limbe and his role therein. He won the hearts of many people, to the extent that the next conference will be held in Cameroon.

During his time in Uganda, Wilson was able to visit the island chimp sanctuary there and gather ideas that can be put to work at Limbe. On his return he gave a presentation to the rest of the staff so that they too could benefit from his experience. The keepers are making great advances in their knowledge and approach to their animals.

Enclosure enrichment and diet is becoming ever more species specific, much to the benefit of the animals whose natural behaviors are emerging all the time.

In addition to the above, the staff are also becoming more and more adept with veterinary procedures when the need arises. The former manager, Jackie Belle, paved the way for the staff to assist Egbetade Niyi, a Nigerian veterinarian working for Drill Ranch, who came to help the Centre for ten weeks earlier this year. Now Adrian Mutlow has joined the team from Britain. The animals have never had so much close attention!

Education

Educating all those that visit the Centre (as well as those that may never have such an opportunity) remains the heart of our work. New displays have been installed throughout the Centre detailing exactly how all our animals arrived at the Centre and what we are trying to achieve.

A new education pavilion ("boukarou") has been built near the entrance as part of the long-term plans for visitor facilities and an education venue. Indeed, the Nature Club gathers there every weekend for its activities. The club members' singing really impresses our visitors, who also learned a lot through the lyrics of our Nature Club coordinator, Mah Fese.

The outreach program saw an exciting collaboration with the "Mount Cameroon Project" and the "Mokoko Wildlife Management Association", with the development of a "hunters' game" to illustrate the devastating effects of over-hunting. More outreach work will go ahead later in the year following the Limbe Wildlife Centre's third annual education workshop, which this year will tackle the commercial bushmeat crisis as its theme.

Limbe Wildlife Centre has come a long way in less than a decade. Most of that is thanks to you, the members of IPPL. Our resident primates are growing in numbers all the time, but there are many more outside that still need help.

Although we need the resources to enlarge and improve our quarantine facility in order to cope, we are still trying to rescue as many animals as possible. It will be a long time before there are no orphaned primates to rescue in the first place, but there is so much potential in the future to make a real difference where it is most needed. With your continued support nothing is impossible.

From all the staff and animals at the Limbe Wildlife Centre, thank you for all your help!

HELPING LIMBE WILDLIFE CENTER

IPPL has been providing major financial assistance to the Limbe Wildlife Centre since 1995. During 1999 we and the Barbara Delano Foundation provided the majority of the support received by the centre. Recently Jacqui Groves Sunderland, a former Limbe volunteer, returned to Cameroon to pursue her studies of the wild gorillas and revisit the center. Jacqui wrote, *"The animals are very healthy and the staff doing well. Thanks for everything - it is great to come back and see that the IPPL grants have made such a difference."*

Please keep the Limbe donations coming. The guenons, drills, chimpanzees and gorillas need you!

CHIMPANZEES STRANDED IN JAPAN

According to the 24 July issue of the Japanese newspaper **Yomiuri Shimbun**, the Sanwa Kagaku Kenyusho Company of Japan owns over 100 chimpanzees which it no longer wants to care for as they have become a financial liability.

Most of the chimpanzees were wild-caught in Africa and reached Japan in

1975 for use in development of hepatitis vaccines. The animals were not killed at the end of experiments conducted by Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry, because of fear of public criticism.

Instead the chimpanzees, then numbering 59, were transferred to Sanwa Kagaku and breeding was allowed. Currently the

chimpanzee colony totals 117 animals.

A company official told the newspaper:

For a company with about 30 billion yen in annual sales, it is a heavy burden. We cannot carry out a restructuring plan for the chimpanzees. The only thing we can do is curb their breeding habits. We really want the government to take care of them.

CIRCUS CHIMPANZEES KEPT IN SMALL CAGES

On 27 December 1999, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that it was considering an application filed by Johnny Lam and Mitchell Kalmanson to import and re-export three captive-born chimpanzees and one captive-born orangutan over a three-year period.

IPPL and several other groups filed statements of opposition to the permit. The animals were ostensibly to be imported for the purpose of "conservation education." IPPL was appalled at the caliber of the "educational material" attached to the application which included a multiple choice quiz about chimpanzees to be answered by six members of the audience invited into the ring.

The permit review was assigned to Anna Barry, a "senior biologist" at the Office of Management Authority of USFWS, who had earlier issued a retroactive permit for the baby orangutan Tango, now starring in TV commercials for the drink "Tang."

Tango was apparently donated by a Florida dealer to a California entertainer pending issuance of a permit permitting money to change hands.

Ms. Barry ignored public concerns and issued the requested permit for the three chimpanzees and they are currently travelling with the "Universoul Circus." The status of the orangutan application is unknown to IPPL.

If any IPPL member visits the Universoul Circus, please look out for

the chimps and evaluate the value of the "educational quiz" - if it is used.

On 6 April 2000 a routine inspection of the Universoul Circus (Licensee 58-C-0505) was conducted by Lisa Bellamy, Veterinary Medical Officer, USDA/APHIS Animal Care. The circus was then performing at the Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Bellamy checked out the chimpanzees, whose names are Johnny, Coco, and Pepe. She identified three Category III non-compliant items:

VETERINARY CARE 2.40(a)(1).

Because this chimpanzee act was recently added, the program of veterinary care needs to be amended to reflect the health care given these animals. The program also needs to state how often regularly scheduled visits will be done by the veterinarian.

To be corrected by: 5-7-00.

SPACE 3.80(b)(2)(1). *The minimum floor space to be provided each great ape is 25.1 square feet with a height of 7 feet. Each chimp has an individual cage measuring 44" by 47" (14.36 square feet) and 6 feet of height.*

Besides training periods and performing twice a day, the chimps are allowed out in pairs for play periods inside the trailer, which provides at least 150 square feet of additional space. This is done several times a day. Because of the time the chimps spend outside of their cages, an exemption from these stan-

dards may be requested by the licensee and attending veterinarian from the APHIS Administrator.

To be corrected by 6-7-00.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT

3.81. *At this time the written plan for Primate Enrichment is in a draft stage. This program has to be approved by the attending veterinarian, and the specific parts of it implemented. More manipulation and foraging type activities are encouraged, along with the socialization and human interactions being done.*

To be corrected by 5-7-00.

IPPL is totally opposed to the use of chimpanzees as travelling public entertainment spectacles.

That said, we are appalled that Dr. Lisa Bellamy suggested that the circus apply to APHIS for a waiver of what are, in our opinion, very minimal cage sizes. In fact APHIS has no way to verify how much time the chimps spend inside and outside their tiny cages.

Presumably Bellamy's information came from circus employees. Dr. Bellamy was not acting as an advocate for the chimpanzees when she informed the circus of a "way out" of providing larger cages.

IPPL has learned that, possibly as a result of animal-lovers' protests, the circus did not get its requested waiver of cage sizes for the three chimpanzees. We do not yet know if USDA has conducted a follow-up inspection.

JAPANESE COMPANY SETS UP PRIMATE LAB IN US

Shin Nippon Biomedical Laboratories performs experiments on primates in Japan. In January 2000 the firm opened a lab in Everett, Washington, USA.

Shortly before the arrival of an initial shipment of 119 monkeys,

executives performed a Shinto ceremony to bless the animals the company was going to kill. The premises are surrounded with 8 foot tall chain link fence, in case protesters try to rescue any animals.

The laboratory plans to perform work for private companies whose identities the company is keeping secret. Laboratory director Steven Gilbert told the **Seattle Times** that most of the monkeys would be singly housed.

CONFERENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA

The Culture and Animals Foundation will hold its 15th Annual Compassionate Living Festival from 6-8 October in Raleigh, North Carolina. Among the speakers will be Steven Wise speaking about "Towards Legal Rights for Animals"; Tom Regan on "Understanding Animal Liberation"; Heidi Prescott on "Speaking for those who can't," and many more.

For further information contact **Dr. Tom Regan, Culture and Animals Foundation, 3509 Eden Croft Drive, Raleigh NC 27612; phone: 919-782-3729; fax: 919-782-6464.**

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF A PILEATED GIBBON



There are less than 10,000 Pileated gibbons remaining in the world. This beautiful animal is found only in Cambodia and Thailand. Every single pileated gibbon counts. If the species is to survive, each surviving animal must be protected.

In July 2000 IPPL learned from Ian Baird of a senseless tragedy that took the

precious life of a gibbon. Because we work with gibbons, the news was doubly sad for all of us at IPPL.

Baird reported that, in April 2000, hunters set up camp in the Cardamom Mountains in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia. At dawn the lovely song of a female pileated gibbon resounded through the jungle. That sound was the gibbon's death warrant. A hunter went into the forest and brought back the lifeless body of the now and forever silent gibbon. The gibbon would be eaten and maybe her gall bladder would be sold for "medicinal" purposes.

Ian took these photos and asked IPPL to use them to help us save more pileated gibbons from such a terrible fate. Ian reports that Fauna and Flora International is working to get the Cardamom Mountains declared a million-hectare protected area.

As most readers will know, Cambodia was ravaged for years by war and land mines. The country is beautiful and was once a major tourist attraction known for

its lovely temples and forests and gentle smiling people. Cambodia could be a travelers' dream destination again. It never will be if the forests and wildlife are destroyed.

Please send letters to the addresses that follow. Please remember that the Cambodian government is under-funded and is beset by many other problems, so be friendly and diplomatic.

Please request that the Cambodian Government declare the Cardamom Mountains a protected area. Request that steps be taken to identify the man who shot the pileated gibbon (enclose a copy of the photo) and other poachers, and to educate all area residents about the need to obey wildlife laws.

*His Excellency Hun Sen
Prime Minister of Cambodia
Office of the Prime Minister
Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

*His Excellency Dr. Mok Mareth
Minister of the Environment
Phnom Penh, Cambodia*

*H. E. the Ambassador of Cambodia
Royal Cambodian Embassy
4500 16th St. NW
Washington DC 20011*

E-mail: cambodia@embassy.org

*The Cambodian Ambassador to the UN
855 United Nations Plaza, Room 420
New York NY 10017, USA*



NEWS FROM KSBK - BIRD MARKETS RAIDED

Over the past four years IPPL has been supporting KSBK's work conducting primate trade monitoring in Indonesia and motivating law enforcement of primate protection.

KSBK members all over Indonesia periodically visit bird markets to record number, species, price, and origin of primates which are traded. At this time, KSBK is monitoring the primate trade in East Java, Bali, and Sumatra.

Data collected is sent to the Director General of Nature Preservation and Conservation (PKA) which is the government institution charged with Indonesian wildlife preservation.

KSBK's monitoring of the wildlife trade at the bird markets has been very successful, since at some bird markets the report is soon followed by a confiscation operation conducted by the PKA Forestry Department.

One of the operations was done at the Malang bird market, one of the five biggest bird markets in Indonesia.

During the surprise confiscation, conducted on 26 March 2000, two personnel from KSBK were involved. They were KSBK staffer Dedi Kurniawan and member Risdan Prajaka.

KSBK's involvement in this operation is to ensure that all protected species being traded are confiscated. Also in March, KSBK members in Bali were involved in the confiscation of wild animals kept as pets in Bali.

Previously, raids were conducted several times at the Malang bird market, but the strange thing was that the protected species were never found.

Even some of the traders asked, "How could protected species be found, when, the morning before the raid took place,

an official came by and warned us that there would be a raid?"

Secret Operation

The traders at Malang bird market were taken by surprise by the March raid. Before the confiscation began, some BKSDA (Forestry Department) officials surveyed the location of protected species. When the locations were definitely found, the target locations were immediately raided.

Six slow loris, one Javan leaf monkey, five leopard cats and three black-winged starlings were confiscated. This raid was led by the chief of the local Malang Forestry Department.

In a letter dated 15 April 2000 addressed to KSBK, Sampurno Budi, Chief of the East Java Forestry Department, stated that the animals confiscated from Malang bird market were taken

back to Belawan Forest and Kerincing Mountain in Bondowoso-East Java. Some of them were taken to an animal park named Taman Safari Prigen. One slow loris died.

KSBK now is developing an education program to teach Indonesian children about Indonesian primate protection. The purpose of this program is to stop the Indonesian tradition of buying primates as pets, especially by educating young people.

The activities in this education program consist of training young people to observe wild primates, supplying them with books about primates, holding exhibitions, and making visits to schools.

KSBK needs more books about primates to support its educational program. Information about primate protection is hard to get in Indonesia.



KSBK demonstrators block road to ask Forestry Minister to protect primates

US EXPERIMENTERS OPPOSE IMPROVEMENTS FOR LAB PRIMATES

In July 1999, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) proposed new policies to improve the lives of laboratory primates, such as emphasizing pair or group housing and providing larger cages. IPPL sent a letter of support for the new policies, but the powerful experimental extremist lobby and its supporters deluged USDA with letters of opposition, complaining about the expense of making improvements for the animals whose suffering and death makes possible their lifestyle. A decision has not yet been made by USDA.

THE FINAL STEP TO FREEDOM

CONKOUATI CHIMPANZEES RETURNED TO THE WILD

by Kay H. Farmer

The last time IPPL members will have heard from me was way back in the August 1995 issue of **IPPL News**. I had spent a year working in Cameroon helping Peter Jenkins (of **Pandrillus**) to establish the Limbe Wildlife Centre.

As members will have seen over the years since then, the Limbe sanctuary has made great progress, most of it being made possible thanks to the support of IPPL and your kind donations.

More recently I have been involved in a chimpanzee reintroduction project in the Republic of Congo (Congo - Brazzaville).

I have worked in primate sanctuaries whose ultimate, but often difficult-to-achieve, aim is to rehabilitate as many animals as possible back to the wild. This innovative project "Habitat Ecologique et Liberté des Primates" (HELP), run by Aliette Jamart, has been reintroducing chimpanzees back to the wild since 1996.

For me, this was the ultimate opportunity to see if it was possible to do this, after so many years of thinking it was an impossibility due to the problems that confronted Stella Brewer in the 1970s.

Stella had managed to encourage her chimpanzees to eat wild plants and fruits, and build nests, but after the animals were released, they were attacked by a group of wild chimpanzees and had to be recaptured.

I departed for the Congo in November 1998 to follow the release and reintroduction of HELP's next "reintroduce-ees."

My aim was to stay for one year to collect data on the chimpanzees' adaptation following their release back to the wild for my doctorate thesis.

Such research should be an essential component of any reintroduction because for many species time is running out and we cannot afford the luxury of having to discover repeatedly how to reintroduce species back to the wild.

Why the project is needed

Regular readers of **IPPL News** will know the problem well. Wild chimpanzee populations in Africa are rapidly declining due to deforestation, habitat fragmentation and the bushmeat trade. One study in northern Congo found that 5-7% of chimpanzee and gorilla populations were killed each year (Ape Alliance, 1998). The story is not a new one.

In 1989 Aliette Jamart, a French expatriate, created the Congolese charity HELP, in response to an increasing number of orphaned chimpanzees confiscated by the Congolese authorities with nowhere to place them.

In 1991 when Aliette's house could not cope with any more chimpanzees swinging from the rafters, the charity was given permission by the Ministry of Water and Forests to create a sanctuary on the shore of the Conkouati Lagoon, 180 km north of Pointe-Noire.

Since 1991, three islands off the mainland have become home to 48 chimpanzees. However, Aliette's dream had always been one of returning the chimpanzees back to the forest from where they once came. The islands were large enough to allow the chimpanzees to exhibit most natural behaviors; for example, learning how to build nests and developing social relationships.

However, although it was possible for the chimpanzees to gain some knowledge of edible plant and fruit species on the island, they were not sufficiently large to allow the chimpanzees to be self-sufficient and they needed supplementary food.

Therefore in 1994 and 1996, primatologist Dr. Caroline Tutin was asked to assess the possibility of the reintroduction and to find a suitable release site; a site able to provide sufficient resources for the released chimpanzees, without adversely affecting wild chimpanzees and other species present.

A site was selected within the protected Conkouati Reserve known as the "Triangle," aptly named, as it is an area of 21 km² surrounded by river boundaries.

However, these natural boundaries do not isolate the site completely from the rest of the reserve (100,000 hectares) as overhanging and fallen trees act as natural bridges, allowing animals to cross the rivers.

Surveys concluded that the low population density of wild chimpanzees and high diversity and abundance of chimpanzee foods meant that the area could support additional chimpanzees without negatively impacting on the native fauna and flora. Aliette's dream was rapidly turning into a reality!

The reintroduction process - pre-release tactics

I arrived at Conkouati 3 months before the release was due to take place so that I could get to know the chimpanzees and the chimpanzees could get to know me.

The chimpanzees were to be taken from an island known as "Yombe's." It was named after the dominant male chimpanzee on the island. This island was the largest of the three (50 hectares) and home to 15 chimpanzees with ages ranging from 9 to 15 years.

Yombe and another older male had made it difficult for people to enter the island for many years, so the majority of contact occurred at feeding time.

We would take a boat to the edge of the island and encourage the chimpanzees to wade into the water to receive their tins of cerelac (a baby food type substance) mixed with rice and milk - a delicious recipe full of vitamins!

I worked with Emmanuel, my Congolese counterpart and "father" figure to many of the chimpanzees. His amazing rapport with these adolescent chimpanzees also allowed me to get close to them. This relationship was extremely

important so that the chimpanzees would accept us following them in the forest after their release.

We watched the chimpanzees to see who associated with whom the most often. We ideally wanted to release animals together who had strong existing associations so that they would be able to support one another during what could be a potentially difficult and stressful experience for the chimpanzees.

For example, not long after arriving, Sophie, a female chimpanzee, gave birth to a baby (a female later named Valentine) and we noticed that David, one of the male chimpanzees, would frequently be seen following Sophie around and poking curiously at Valentine. Releasing these two together could potentially offer Sophie and her baby protection.

For the chimpanzees to have a good chance of survival we needed to be sure that they would be able to find food and avoid natural predators, and some chimpanzees were simply judged not suitable to be released.

For example, Charlotte, one of the older females, has a hip problem that means she cannot move quickly and is frequently on her own because she cannot keep up with the group.

If she were released, this would mean that she might not be able to find adequate amounts of food and would have trouble keeping up with the rest of the group - making her more susceptible to predators. Hard decisions had to be made.

Preparing for capture

Twice a day every day we fed the chimpanzees and tried to prepare them for what was about to happen. We took plastic syringes to the island and treated them as water pistols - we wanted the chimpanzees to see these instruments as objects of play and not be scared when later confronted with them. We squirted the chimpanzees with water and pretended to inject them in the thigh and arm areas where during the capture they would be injected for real.

They needed little practical training for the release; this was due to the ideal nature of their pre-release environment.



David and Emmanuelle wading



Drs. Jorge Paredes and Carmen Vidal placing radio collar on Sophie



Agathe in the forest eating wild marantaceae

They had developed close social bonds and very similar behavior to wild chimpanzees. They knew how to build nests, which were frequently seen from the periphery of the island. They also had a limited knowledge of wild edible plant and fruit species that occurred naturally on the island - food species that they would find at the release site and that wild chimpanzees are known to eat.

Frequently not all the chimpanzees would arrive when called at feeding times. This suggested that they were able to substantially supplement their diet from the naturally growing vegetation. They were very much responsible for their own rehabilitation!

The Triangle

At the same time as we were doing this, a small holding cage was being built in the Triangle. It was necessary to provide a safe setting where the chimpanzees could wake up properly from the anesthetic following capture before being released into the forest.

The site within the Triangle where the cage was built was selected for various reasons. Firstly, it was close to known feeding sources at that time of year.

Secondly, it was towards the north of the Triangle where it was hoped the likelihood of encountering wild chimpanzees would be reduced.

Thirdly, the cage was built along the east side of the Triangle where there were no natural bridges for the chimpanzees to cross out of the Triangle - we wanted to habituate them to this area initially as seasonal food sources were better known and the area easily navigable.

In January a team of vets arrived to help capture and move the chimpanzees. A preventative medical program and evaluation had been implemented in 1996 for each chimpanzee and this was due to be repeated again following their capture but prior to their release.

The veterinary team visited the island on a daily basis to accustom the chimpanzees to all the additional people hanging around - normally they were used to only two people being with them at feeding time. With a film crew in tow,

the number of persons soon increased to 10 and the chimpanzees became quite wary, knowing that something was about to happen!

The capture - Day 1

The capture was scheduled to coincide with normal morning feeding time so that as many chimpanzees as possible would arrive when called. My job was to try and encourage the chimpanzees to enter an area where it would be easier to capture them and to keep the other chimpanzees distracted.

The first chimpanzee to emerge was David (age 10 years), a very sociable chimpanzee who, as previously mentioned, had close associations with Sophie. We needed the capture to be as calm as possible so that David would not call and alarm the rest of the group. He was given a tranquillizer in a chocolate spread, which he ate greedily.

Quite a while later when he was showing signs of getting drowsy, he was given an injection of anaesthetic, quickly placed in the boat and taken back to the camp. At the camp David was given a complete repeat medical examination, as mentioned previously, and fitted with a radio collar.

Back at the island, Agathe, a nine year old female chimpanzee, was captured. While one of the vets played with her, another quickly gave her the anaesthetic.

Two other nearby chimpanzees were kept occupied with a "spicy" bread and did not seem to notice what had occurred.

As with David, Agathe was taken to camp for medical treatment and evaluation. She was fitted with a radio collar with a different frequency to David's.

Each collar had a different frequency so that we could distinguish the location of the different chimpanzees in the forest. They were then transported by boat to the Triangle and placed in the release cage.

The capture - Day 2

On the following day, whilst David and Agathe were becoming accustomed to their holding cage, we set off once again to the island to see if we could capture

some more chimpanzees.

The first to arrive at the feeding session was Koutou, a very sociable and intelligent male chimpanzee (age 9 years). He was encouraged to play in and around the boat. Playing in the boat is something that the chimpanzees are not normally allowed to do although frequently they try. Koutou readily obliged!

Caught unaware, he was quickly anaesthetized and taken back to camp. Just after Koutou had been taken away, nine year old Sophie arrived, carrying her one month old baby. Sophie is a very sociable character and readily approached us. She was also quickly anaesthetized and taken back to camp, where both chimpanzees were given their medical examinations and fitted with radio collars.

Koutou and Sophie were then taken by boat to the holding cage. By this time David and Agathe were fully awake, but the compartments in the cage allowed the other two chimpanzees to be placed in the cage. Once all were fully awake, the compartments were removed so that they could all be together once again.

The release: D-day

Once all the chimpanzees had fully awakened from the anaesthetic, a group of previously released chimpanzees were encouraged to come around the holding cage. Two of these chimpanzees had been captured from the same island as David, Agathe, Sophie and Koutou, two years previously.

It was hoped that, if they all joined together, the previously released chimpanzees could introduce the more recent "reintroduce-ees" to the forest. After two days in the holding cage, the doors were opened.

David, Agathe and Sophie immediately headed off into the forest. Koutou hung around for a short while seeking reassurance from people, but then he too followed the route the others had taken.

For the first couple of days we followed the chimpanzees at a great distance - allowing them to explore and not wanting to scare them. Since then the

chimpanzees have been followed on a daily basis from early morning to early evening (from nest to nest).

Data is being collected on what they are doing, where they are going, and what they are eating.

Every day, armed with check-sheets, my Congolese counterpart (frequently Emmanuel) and I would locate the chimpanzees by radio telemetry and then spend the day following them, noting their behavior every 10 minutes.

This is what my study is all about, their adaptation to the wild.

So what has happened to David, Agathe, Sophie and Koutou?

From the first day in the forest all the chimpanzees became nutritionally self-sufficient - they knew what to eat and could locate it, with no noticeable weight loss. They all made nests every night before dusk like their wild counterparts.

They immediately began to explore the forest and unfortunately for us seemed to particularly like the swamps.

On several occasions we came up close and personal to the infamous leech, and have a few "African Queen" stories to tell! The chimps all adapted immediately to their free-living conditions, but unfortunately about four months after their release, David and Sophie's baby Valentine disappeared.

As David had previously taken off his radio collar and it had been impossible to get one to stay on him, it was not possible to look for him using radio telemetry. It seems likely that David took Valentine, who is certainly dead.

Although there were intensive searches for David, he has not been seen since.

Thankfully, their departure did not seem to affect the group but, if anything, has made them more cohesive. They continue to roam freely in the Conkouati Reserve, and the latest bit of news is that Sophie may be pregnant!

Has the reintroduction worked?

The unequivocal response has to be YES! Since 1996 HELP has released 18 female and 5 male chimpanzees back to the wild, including David, Agathe,

Sophie and Koutou. Of the 23, 17 are certainly alive and well, including the first five, almost three and a half years post-release.

Two of the chimpanzees have died; a juvenile male who fled immediately after being released, and an infant (Valentine). Three females fled immediately after being released and have not been seen since. It is possible that they have integrated into the wild population.

The remaining 17 chimpanzees are all regularly followed by observers, have adapted to free-living conditions and are all healthy. That is a confirmed 74% success rate and a possible 87%!

Their high diversity in diet is similar to that observed in wild chimpanzees.

There have been many positive encounters between the released female chimpanzees and wild chimpanzees, although it has been more difficult for the males.

During periods of estrus two of the released females have been known to disappear with a wild group for days and weeks at a time!

In fact Bou, one of the first female chimpanzees to be released and who likes to fraternize with the wild chimpanzees, has recently returned from one of her expeditions and is also thought to be pregnant!

Future plans

Aliette's dream has been realized but there are another 20 chimpanzees to be returned to the forests from where they came.

In the past month another three chimpanzees have been released into the "Triangle" and are doing well - but this is an ongoing process. When Aliette first started this project in 1989 she financed it herself, but over the years has received small donations from IPPL, the Brigitte Bardot Foundation, and WSPA.

Since 1996 the reintroduction was financed by the Global Environment Fund of the World Bank, but last year the World Bank withdrew its support from all projects in the Congo, meaning that once more Aliette is facing the full financial burden of supporting the project.

This innovative project, the first to successfully reintroduce chimpanzees back to the wild, still has a lot of work to do and **HELP needs YOUR help to do this!**



Emmanuel using telemetry to find chimp

PLEASE HELP "HELP"!

If you would like to make a donation please send your check to *IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484 USA*, or *IPPL-UK, 116 Judd Street, London WC1H9NS, England*. Mark the checks for **HELP**.

If you would like more information on the work of **HELP**, or to volunteer at the project, please contact:

**Romain Calaque, President
HELP International
26 rue du Capitaine Ferber
750020 Paris, France
E-mail: romain.calaque@free.fr
Web: www.help-primates.org**

MEET THE LION TAILED MACAQUES OF INDIA

by J. Mangalaraj Johnson, Member, IPPL Advisory Board

It was the afternoon of Saturday February 13th, 1971. I was on the way to the top of Agasthiar Peak and passing through Kannikatty Forest's Ashambu Hills when I first saw lion-tailed macaques. The troop consisted of twenty-one members.

Among the Western Ghats of India lie the Ashambu hills and the "Sholas", virgin wet evergreen forests. In the background I saw the peaks of Ainthalai Pothigai, with their cliffs and patches of yellow-green grass.

Anthony, a Kani tribal member, was guiding me through the forest. It was raining that day. While the multiple-storeyed forest canopies bore the impact of the pouring rain, water dripped gently along trunks and branches on the layers of leaf litter, which was in several stages of disintegration.

This litter filters the water, while spongy humus underneath holds it, to feed the rivers throughout the year. These

rivers help people grow rice in the plains, giving the district its name: Tirunelveli ("paddy lands").

When the mist lifted itself and moved off, shafts of golden sunlight brightened the interior of the canopy and revealed to me a loving family of twenty-one lion tailed macaques in their arboreal home.

The leader male was leaning against the trunk, sitting on a wide horizontal branch. Females were grooming him and mothers were holding infants. Juveniles were jumping about and chasing insects and others were feeding seriously on a wide variety of fruits and flowers.

I watched them until it became dark and also the whole of the next day. Later, I wrote a dissertation based on this wonderful species and worked as Wildlife Warden of the region between 1977 and 1981. My guide Anthony had unfortunately become a determined poacher and smuggler.

The Macaque with the Tail of a Lion

I sometimes wonder, what is there in a name? Why not call lions "macaque tailed cats"? It might have been so, if humans had seen this macaque first and the lions later!

The lion tailed macaque is about two feet long with another foot of tufted tail. They are stout-limbed animals and look squarish in profile.

The face of an adult is gracefully surrounded by a gray white ruff of long whiskers. Except for this halo-like ruff, the color of the coat and hairless face is black.

With his dark face ringed by snowy frills, the bearing of the leader male is dignified and majestic. There is a sort of patrician elegance and aristocratic aloofness about these animals who dwell in the dizzy heights of the sholas.

Even the East African Colobus monkey, with its coveted mantle of long



Baby lion tailed macaque



Juvenile with fluffy mane



Nilgiri langur family
Photo B. Kaverappa

white hair and bushy white tail, cannot compete in grandeur with the lion tailed macaque!

Life in the Highlands

The lion tailed macaque is a distinct species of primate, living only in the Western Ghats of India and only in the tropical wet evergreen forests.

There are several species of macaques, from the Barbary Apes of Gibraltar to the snow monkeys of Japan, who live part of their lives on the ground.

Among all the macaque species of the world, only the lion tailed macaques are truly arboreal - at home in the trees.

The Western Ghats are a strip of mountains a thousand miles long, beginning north of Mumbai (Bombay) and extending to the tip of the peninsula. These mountains lie close to the Arabian Sea. The highest mountain is Anaimudi, 8841 feet high.

Several plant and animal species are isolated in these mountains. Peninsular India broke loose from the primeval continent of Gondwanaland some 200 million years ago.

Only a few ancient creatures of Gondwanaland survive today, such as freshwater sponges and hydroids with affinities to those of mainland Africa and the island of Madagascar.

Thirty million years later Peninsular India met Northern Asia with a great force, a force that is still crumpling the Himalayas. New animals invaded the peninsula from the north, traveling over a bridge of highlands, including birds like the Fairy Bluebird and the Great Hornbill.

The Slender Loris is unique among the newcomers. It is a prosimian, a "pre-monkey" left over from the dawn of the primate line. This loris creeps around the branches, hunting insects during the night.

Besides the lion tailed macaque and the slender loris, the other non-human primates of the Western Ghats and adjacent areas are the bonnet macaque, the Hanuman langur, and the Nilgiri langur.

The bonnet macaques and the Hanuman langur live in dry deciduous forests of the lowlands and around human habitations.

The lion tailed macaque and Nilgiri langur dwell in the cool wet evergreen forests of the highlands. Their home itself is the finest climax forest. Some trees reach heights of 150 feet or more. Plank buttresses, epiphytes, ferns, orchids and mosses are seen on the trees.

Indian evergreen forests are more fragile than identical forests found in other parts of the world because they have a long period of about 130 consecutive days without rain. Once they are clear-felled, it is impossible to regenerate them.

Birds of the area

Birds that share the habitat of the lion tailed macaque include the Laughing Thrush, the Mountain Large Woodshrike, the Fairy Bluebird, the Yellow Backed Sunbird, the Spider Hunter, three species of woodpeckers, the Nilgiri Speckled Piculet and the Blue Bearded Bee-eater.

A varied diet

The lion tailed macaques enjoy a diverse diet that includes fruit and occasionally leaves. The Nilgiri langur is a leaf-eater only, so does not compete with the lion tailed macaque for food.

The lion tailed macaque lives mainly on fruits of the top and second storey trees. However they also eat a varied diet consisting of nectar-rich flowers and fruits, grass, and the leaves of several small trees and shrubs.

They also forage on insects, larvae, lizards, tree frogs, bird eggs and nestlings, as well as fungi from foliage and from the bark of dead and dying trees.

Racket tailed drongos and raptors like shikra accompany a feeding troupe of lion

tailed macaques to snatch up lizards and insects disturbed by the movement of the macaques.

Lion tailed macaques have capacious mouth pouches for storing food hurriedly eaten. Sometimes they take out and examine the stored food and either eat it or throw it away.

Because of their whiskers, their mouth pouches are not noticeable, even when full.

During rainy months they drink water collected in the hollows of branches and in bowls in the forks of trees, and lick it off wet leaf surfaces, seldom descending from the trees. But during drought and dry months they are forced to leave the trees to quench their thirst at streams and rivulets, becoming susceptible to predator attacks.

Mortality due to predation by land predators like the panther, tiger, wild dog or python is negligible. Birds like the Black Eagle may account for the death of an occasional infant.

Living in cohesive communities of individuals numbering from five to thirty, belonging to three generations or more, their social behavior is highly

developed, with intimate bonding between individuals.

Competition for food is rare and feeding ranges of different troupes overlap peripherally. Each troop has a home range of 500 hectares (1200 acres).

Conservation

Today the lion tailed macaque is considered a flagship species and a large amount of public awareness has been created. National and international symposiums have been held regarding the plight of the species.

The Indian government is concerned with these macaques and their habitat, and the whole region is now protected as a national park.

The conservation of the lion tailed macaque is inseparable from the preservation of the remaining continuous virgin vegetation, namely the Sholas - the tropical wet evergreen forests of India.

BITING CHIMPANZEE PLACED WITH ANIMAL DEALER

In July 2000 an eleven year old chimpanzee named Suko was confiscated from a man named Mark Archigo by Jackson County Animal Control in Missouri, USA. Suko had bitten one woman and thrown another one to the ground.

IPPL member Margaret Cook of Kansas City, Missouri, drew our attention to the confiscation after seeing a TV news story about the incident.

Following Ms. Cook's call, Shirley McGreal phoned Mr. Ray Campfield of Jackson County Animal Control to enquire about the situation. Campfield refused to say where the chimpanzee had been taken, except to say that it was a wonderful place.

Ms. Cook learned from another source that the animal had been sent to an animal facility in Pleasant Hill, Missouri, run by someone called "Danny."

The facility turned out to be run by Danny and Debbie Kolwyck, who are registered with the US Department of Agriculture as Class B animal dealers, doing business as "Blitzen."

Kolwyck regularly advertises baby monkeys for sale and, according to a Charleston family, she sold them a baby vervet monkey (Baby Jasmine, see the August 1999 issue of **IPPL News**).

The couple brought their "acquisition" to IPPL Headquarters. While well-meaning, the couple clearly lacked knowledge of primate care.

They claimed that the baby was just two weeks old on the day of her arrival in Charleston on "Delta Dash."

IPPL contacted Jackson County Animal Control, requesting that the confiscated chimpanzee be sent to a sanctuary, rather than remaining in the

hands of an animal dealer who could sell her or use her to breed babies for profit. Several sanctuaries have offered Suko a home.

Suko herself was the product of the breeding of chimpanzees for profit. She was bred by Missouri animal dealer Connie Braun, who supplies large numbers of chimpanzees to private individuals and entertainers.

Archigo has already pled guilty to possession of a dangerous animal. A sentencing hearing will be held on 8 August 2000 at Independence, Missouri.

IPPL has contacted the prosecutor requesting that the chimpanzee Suko be placed in a sanctuary where she will live with other chimpanzees and will not produce any baby chimpanzees to augment a new generation of the exotic animal trade.

CITES RESOLUTION ON “PERSISTENT OFFENDERS” GOES DOWN

In an attempt to reduce wildlife smuggling, the Government of Israel submitted a resolution to CITES-2000 requesting that the CITES Secretariat maintain a roster of “persistent offenders.”

“Persistent offenders” would be defined as “persons, businesses or organizations that have received at least three civil convictions, or one criminal conviction, involving violation of the Convention during the preceding seven years.”

The resolution called on nations to provide the CITES Secretariat with a list of offenders, including their aliases, and called on Management Authorities not to accept “any CITES permit upon which a

persistent offender is identified as the importer, exporter, or re-exporter.”

Currently wildlife criminals prowl the world doing their dirty business. They can usually enter victim countries freely as immigration authorities have no idea of their backgrounds and wave them on.

Amazingly, the CITES Secretariat opposed the resolution on the grounds that maintaining such a list “may be contrary to the rights of individuals.”

Nation after nation spoke up against the resolution, most saying that it would violate the privacy of wildlife criminals to have their names on a blacklist. It did not pass.

Israel also proposed that nations seizing suspect shipments of imported wildlife should provide information to the country of origin “for investigation and enforcement purposes” and, if a foreign national were involved, to provide details of the violation to the Management Authority of the suspect’s country of residence.

The CITES Secretariat also opposed this proposal as “contrary to natural justice” and suggested that “it might be most appropriate to use already existing lines of communication between law enforcement agencies.” Again, the resolution did not pass.

MORE FREEDOM FOR CHIMFUNSHI CHIMPS

The long-awaited transfer of 40 chimpanzees into two 500-acre enclosures at the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage, outside Chingola in northern Zambia took place from 14-17 April.

This was a major event in captive primate history. These two enclosures are the largest area ever set aside for captive primates!

The enclosures, which were officially opened on April 15, include thick forests, fruit groves and open grassland. The chimps will be able to forage and roam, much as they would in the wild.

Chimfunshi officials organized the three-day transfer, aided by a seven-member team of veterinarians from the University of Pretoria at Ondestepoort in South Africa, and two veterinarians from Zambia.

The chimpanzees, many of whom were rescued from poachers or liberated from run-down zoos and circuses before coming to Chimfunshi, were anesthetized, then given thorough medical examinations, dental check-ups and weigh-ins. Sandy, a 15 year old male, was the heaviest at 75 kilograms (165 pounds).

Kept comfortable on mattresses and cool in the shade of the trees, the chimps were then loaded on trucks, covered with blankets, and shuttled to the new enclosures approximately six kilometers west of Chimfunshi’s original compound. Veterinarians kept a close watch on the animals while they were being transported, ensuring that the chimps were comfortable and not overheating.

“We are absolutely delighted this day has finally come,” said Sheila Siddle, who founded the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage along with her husband, David, in 1983.

The 500-acre enclosures, which are ringed by an eight foot high (2.5 meters) electric fence, are roughly the combined size of ten zoos!

They are also the closest these chimps will ever come to the wild. Although Chimfunshi officials would prefer rehabilitating the chimpanzees for release back into the forests, continued poaching and civil strife in Africa makes it unlikely that they would survive.

At one of the new enclosures, an 18 year old male named Tobar, was the first chimp

to exit the handling facility, followed closely by Pal and Spencer. All three then screamed and hugged one another excitedly before striding off into the bush.

Milla, a 28 year old female who spent almost two decades as a bar-room attraction, spent a long time peeking cautiously out the door before finally stepping out and walking upright on two legs towards the trees.

Unfortunately, Sandy, a well-known escape artist, leaped the fence at the new enclosure within minutes of being released, forcing Chimfunshi officials to return him to the handling facility at the 14-acre enclosure.

A crowd of over 150 guests, VIPs and supporters attended the opening of the new enclosures, along with TV crews from England and South Africa. They were entertained by a local women’s dance troupe.

Speeches were made by Chimfunshi Co-founder David Siddle, Trustee Stephan Louis, Tusk Trust Director Charles Mayhew, and Arthur M. Yoyo, Zambia’s Permanent Secretary to the Copperbelt. Mr. Yoyo then cut the ribbon to officially open the new facilities.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SHEILA AND DAVE SIDDLE
AND EVERYONE AT CHIMFUNSHI!**

"BABY MONKEY CASE" LEADS TO LAWSUIT

Long-time readers of **IPPL News** will be familiar with the "**Baby Monkey**" shipments of 1997. At least two shipments, each consisting of over 250 monkeys, and each containing babies as young as 3-4 weeks old, reached O'Hare Airport, Chicago, USA in April and May 1997.

The monkeys had started their trip in Indonesia and were on their way to the firm LABS of Virginia, with its facilities based at Yemassee, South Carolina.

LABS had been in existence for three decades. In May 1996 the Bionetics Company purchased LABS from then-owner David Taub. The company took the name LABS of Virginia. Taub stayed on as President.

Part of the town of Yemassee is in Beaufort County and part is in Hampton County.

At the time of the 1997 shipments, LABS had over a thousand monkeys on Morgan Island in St. Helena Sound, over 1,000 in the town of Yemassee, and over 1,000 at a compound in the rural community of Early Branch in Hampton County.

The dismissal of three employees led to lawsuits against LABS which are still in progress.

Court documents filed in connection with this litigation showed that LABS has received federal funding from the National Institutes of Health, the National Center for Research Resources, and the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

LABS' primary occupation is to import, quarantine and breed monkeys for sale to research facilities.

IPPL has recently learned that two of

the three dismissed employees won a huge \$2.3 million court judgment against LABS.

Although IPPL has worked on the "**Baby Monkey**" case since May 1997, we were not informed that there was any lawsuit filed as a result of the case.

Unfortunately we do know that nobody has been indicted after three years of purported US government "**investigation.**"

David Taub and other LABS officials protesting Holmes' dismissal. On 12 December 1997 Mehlman and his wife Alecia Lilly were fired. Lilly's letter explained that she was being fired "in light of Patrick's termination."

Mehlman alleged that, after his dismissal, Taub circulated a poster stating that if Mehlman were ever seen on LABS property, this should immediately be reported.

Lawsuit Filed In Early 1998

Mehlman and Lilly filed suit against LABS of Virginia and David Taub. The suit was numbered 98-CP-25-64. Court documents show that the defendants viewed their dismissal as related to the "**Baby Monkey**" investigation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Mehlman and Lilly asked LABS to produce many documents, including:

List of individual animals, with weights and ages, for all Macaca fascicularis (cynomolgus) monkeys exported from Indonesia to LABS of Virginia in 1997. Include list of dates of each shipment, port of entry and copies of Fish and Wildlife importation permits...

LABS' Lawyers Quit

The Ogletree law firm of Charleston initially handled LABS' defense but asked a judge for permission to withdraw from the case in June 1999.

The judge allowed the firm to leave, agreeing that LABS had refused to pay for the firm's legal services and that LABS had refused to sign a conflict waiver.

The same law firm was representing



Mother and baby, Photo: Shirley McGreal

LABS Employees Dismissed

On 5 December 1997 LABS animal caretaker Keri Holmes was fired by David Taub, who was at the time President of LABS and Mayor of the small town of Beaufort.

On 9 December 1997 LABS scientist Dr. Patrick Mehlman sent a letter to

both David Taub and the company and law firms do not like to defend two parties in the same case.

Lawsuit Documents

In its defense LABS alleged that the plaintiffs used "shock collars" on two monkeys and that they had practiced unauthorized veterinary medicine, including using "non-approved disinfectants."

LABS further alleged that Dr. Mehlman "performed many disloyal acts while still employed by LABS in an attempt to cause Defendant LABS to lose business."

LABS also alleged that Mehlman had downloaded pornography from the Internet; that Lilly had failed to report Keri Holmes getting bitten by a monkey; and that Lilly had buried, rather than incinerated, some dead monkeys she liked - and that she even held funerals for some of the animals.

"Shock Collar" Investigation

In January 1998, shortly after Mehlman, Lilly and Holmes were fired, LABS organized an "Investigation of the Alleged Inappropriate Use of Shock Collars at LABS." The incident in question had occurred in late 1996.

The investigation was conducted by an "ad hoc investigative committee" consisting of Jefferson Carraway, DVM, Richelieu Johnson, and William Roudebush, Ph. D, of the Medical University of South Carolina. Roudebush is also Treasurer of the International Primatological Society.

Twelve current employees of LABS were interviewed.

These included Mary Kay Izzard Ph.D, a strong supporter of LABS, who reported back to LABS when IPPL asked her what was going on after first hearing of the "Baby Monkey" shipments.

Also interviewed were two veterinarians, several administrative staff, veterinary technicians and animal caretakers.

All the people interviewed, except for the LABS "Head of Security" and the "Head of the Operations Division" were taken by surprise.

On entering the interview room, people to be grilled were "presented with a

written request from Dr. Taub to co-operate with [the committee's] enquiries."

The committee concluded that two collars of the type used for remote control of aggressive behavior in dogs had been used on two highly aggressive pigtail macaques over a 2-4 week period and that Lilly had tried the collar out on herself.

LABS filed a counter-suit against Mehlman and Lilly. All the charges were thrown out by the case judge.

Taub Settles

In January 2000, just before the trial of the case began, Taub was dismissed as a defendant. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Taub had obtained a doctor's note to get out of a second examination. His doctor, William Besterman, noted that;

[Taub suffered from] "severe anxiety and depression...the stress of a deposition would aggravate his condition at this time...I would expect this to apply for 3-4 more months.

Taub was apparently able to perform his duties as Mayor of Beaufort.

LABS Tries to Exclude Witness

The trial date was set for 10 January 2000. Animal dealer Paul Houghton, who is active in Indonesia, agreed to serve as a witness in regard to the "Baby Monkey" shipments. LABS fought hard to get Houghton excluded, stating:

In the years prior to the termination of the plaintiffs, the defendant imported a breeding colony of monkeys. The importation of foreign-born animals is highly regulated and can only be done in concert with various divisions of the United States government.

During the course of one of the shipments of monkeys, the US Fish and Wildlife Department became concerned that certain regulations concerning shipment of unweaned infants may have been violated. It is anticipated that the Plaintiffs may contend that they were fired because they might be viewed as an impediment to future shipments.

As an initial point there is no evidence

supporting this conspiracy theory. More importantly, for this theory to be advanced, the court must allow the jury to assume that the importation was illegal, a conclusion which has not yet been reached by any court or prosecuting agency.

The plaintiffs will seek to overcome this fact by introducing the testimony of monkey broker Paul Houghton, that in his opinion the importation violated the laws of Indonesia and the United States. Such evidence is irrelevant.

LABS also claimed that the evidence would be prejudicial to the company and continued:

The Defendants respectfully request that the Court issue an Order excluding any evidence relating to or regarding governmental investigations into LABS' importation of animals into the United States, as well as any evidence, including expert witness testimony, regarding the legality of LABS' importation practices.

In another document LABS complained:

From the inception of the government's investigation two and a half years ago until the present day, no charges have been filed, no indictments brought... Despite the fact that the government has never formally accused LABS of any wrong-doing (indeed the fact that no charges have been filed indicates the opposite) the Defendants anticipate that the plaintiffs will attempt to introduce evidence regarding the government's investigation.

Despite LABS' lawyers' efforts to suppress testimony about the "Baby Monkey" shipments, the judge allowed it.

Jury Selection

In an effort to keep out jurors who might be concerned about animals, potential jurors were asked:

Are you or is any member of your family a member of any animal rights group? What?

Do you or any members of your family hold any strong beliefs as to the use of

animals, in particular monkeys and apes, for any medical research?

The Trial

IPPL had no knowledge that there was any ongoing lawsuit about the “**Baby Monkey Case**.” The trial took place from 10-14 January 2000 in Hampton County, despite LABS’ efforts to move it to Beaufort County (Taub was Mayor of Beaufort and probably felt he would get a more sympathetic jury there).

The plaintiffs’ exhibit list suggested the ground to be covered: it included 46 items, many of them pertaining to the monkey shipments.

Paul Houghton and others testified during the week-long trial.

The Verdict

The twelve jurors decided that Mehlman and Lilly had been wrongfully fired and awarded Mehlman \$1.6 million and Lilly \$602,000, for a total of over 2.3 million dollars.

Motion for New Trial

LABS was obviously very unhappy. Two weeks after the verdict, the company requested a new trial. The company said

that the jurors’ verdict was the result of “**caprice, passion, prejudice, or other undue influence.**”

LABS protested Houghton’s testimony:

The court improperly allowed the plaintiff’s expert, Paul Houghton, to testify as to the law of the United States and Indonesia over the objection of defendant. This was the only evidence introduced in this case that the importation of feral monkeys violated Indonesian law, which formed the basis of plaintiff’s theory of discharge and which constituted plaintiff’s claim that the Lacey Act had been violated.

The court improperly allowed Paul Houghton to publish portions of the law and to testify that the defendant had violated the criminal law of the United States and Indonesia...

The Court failed to grant a mistrial after the introduction, through Paul Houghton and later Patrick Mehlman, of the existence of a grand jury investigation...

LABS was forced to contend with a mini-trial on its guilt and innocence premised entirely upon innuendo...

Repeated vague references to violations of Indonesian law flamed the caprice, passion, prejudice or other undue influ-

ence that resulted in the insupportable damages award...

Because it so greatly influenced the nature and result of the trial, LABS is entitled to a new trial...

All of the evidence permitted to go before the jury regarding LABS’ alleged criminality was in itself prejudicial and taken cumulatively was devastating to LABS.

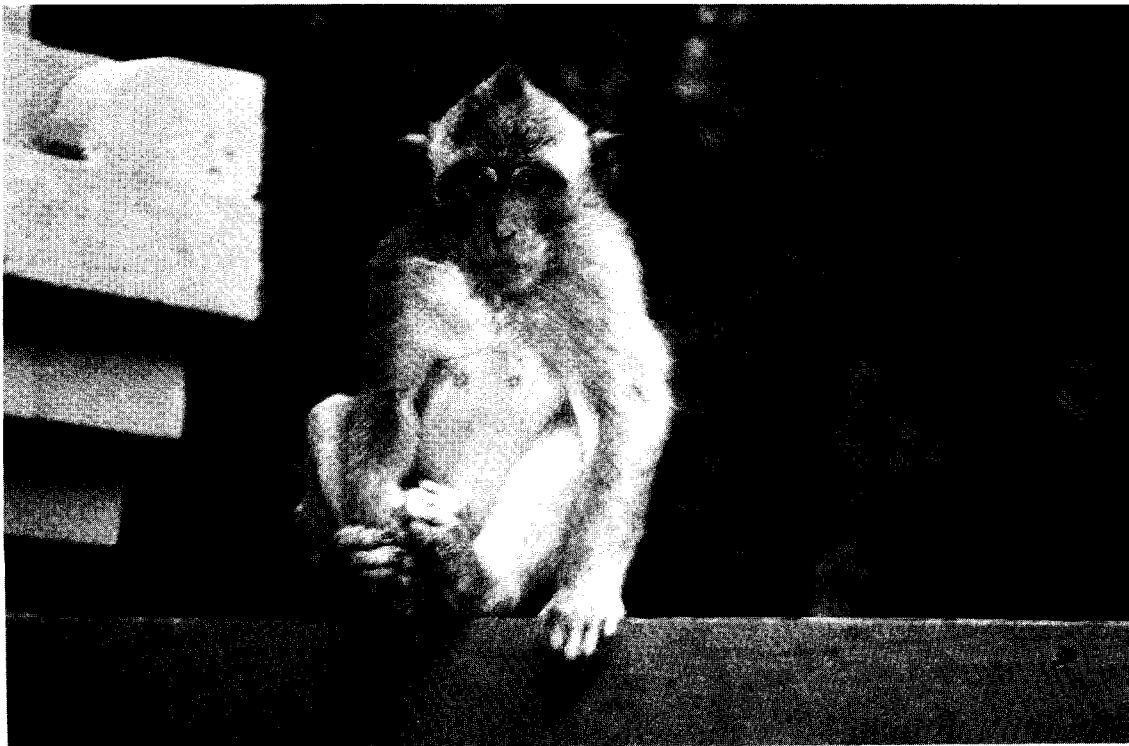
New Lawsuit Filed

On 9 February 2000 Mehlman, Lilly and Keri Holmes filed a lawsuit (2000-CP-25-83) in the federal court in Charleston against Charles Stern and Curtis Henley, both senior LABS officials residing in Virginia; David Taub, former President of LABS; Rick Davis, Director of Operations at LABS; LABS of Virginia; and Bionetics.

The grounds for the Mehlman, Lilly and Holmes lawsuits were “Conspiracy, Wrongful Discharge in Violation of Public Policy and in Violation of the South Carolina Unfair Trade Practices Act.”

The plaintiffs charged that:

The Defendants entered into a conspiracy to import cynomolgus monkeys from Indonesia into South Carolina in



Crab-eating macaque. Photo: Shirley McGreal

violation of international and federal law...

Defendants Stern, Henley and Taub entered into a conspiracy to purchase and illegally import the monkey colony motivated by greed and anticipation of profit.

Before entering into the agreement to purchase the colony, Defendants Stern, Henley, Taub and LABS of Virginia sent Dr. Mehlman on a fact-finding trip to Indonesia to meet Agus Darmawan [Indonesian animal dealer who used to supply US dealer Matthew Block with monkeys - in 1994 Block pled guilty to orangutan smuggling] and to check out the colony of monkeys.

Upon returning from Indonesia, Dr. Mehlman sent a written report to Stern, Henley and Taub of his observations, including statements that the colony was made up - at least in part - of feral (or wild-caught) monkeys and that importation of wild-caught monkeys was a violation of Indonesian law.

Plaintiff Mehlman further stated that Agus Darmawan appeared to be bribing or "in cahoots" with the

Indonesian government responsible for regulating exportations from Indonesia and that importation of the colony of monkeys would violate the spirit of the laws...

Defendants Stern, Henley, and Taub and Bionetics proceeded with the importation of the Indonesian colony of monkeys despite Dr. Mehlman's statements...

After information was leaked to the public, animal rights groups and governmental agencies concerning the illegal importations, Defendants wrongly began to suspect Dr. Mehlman and Dr. Lilly and Keri Holmes as being the source of the leaked information.

Defendants Stern, Henley, Taub, Bionetics and LABS conspired to wrongfully terminate, and did terminate [the plaintiffs'] employment with LABS in furtherance of the conspiracy to illegally import monkeys from Indonesia in violation of federal and international law.

The plaintiffs alleged various illegal ac-

tivities by LABS in the monkey deals.

* "Illegally importing wild-caught monkeys from Indonesia in violation of international and federal laws,"

* "Illegally importing monkeys with 3rd trimester pregnancies from Indonesia in violation of international and federal law,"

* "Illegally importing unweaned infants from Indonesia in violation of international and federal law,"

* Using paperwork that the defendants know or should have known was "false and fraudulently obtained."

Holmes claimed that she was...

Wrongfully terminated in retaliation for leaking information about Defendants' alleged violations of federal and international law.

All plaintiffs charged that...

Potential exists for further illegal actions and additional retaliatory terminations arising out of said illegal importations.

CUSTODY DISPUTES OVER PRIMATES

The US media is notorious for the friendly coverage it gives to the pet trade in primates. A lot of the biased coverage comes because people convince gullible reporters that the affection shown them by their pet monkeys is proof the monkey "loves" them and wants to live as a human being forever. Some people even call their pet monkeys their "children" and claim they "adopted" them.

The media forgets that there is almost always a **real** living monkey mother behind every monkey kept as a pet - a monkey whose heart was broken when profit-hungry animal dealers stole her baby, often one baby after another, and sold the animal.

Two ongoing court cases illustrate the kind of press coverage the monkey pet trade gets.

In July 2000 New York State environmental authorities tried to confiscate a

Diana monkey held as a pet by a Brooklyn couple. The couple had bought her from an animal dealer who had somehow managed to get hold of the animal, who belongs to a highly endangered species.

It is illegal to own endangered animals as pets in New York State.

As proof of their "love," the couple trained their wild animal to use a toilet and dressed her up in mini-skirts!

When she was 18 months old, the monkey endured a hysterectomy, which is major abdominal surgery for non-human primates, as it is with human primates. They did this despite the monkey not having access to a male monkey. They also had her canine teeth extracted to restrict her biting activity.

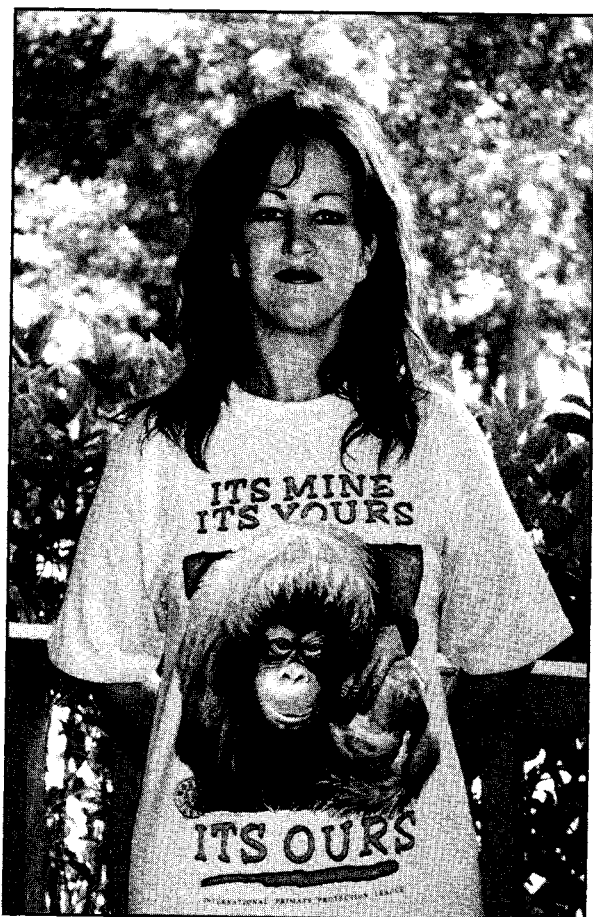
Detroit Zoo has a sanctuary area and has a male Diana monkey it plans to introduce to the pet monkey, who is now about six years old, if she gets confiscated.

The US media, led off by the **New York Times**, started a hysterical media circus about the poor family being deprived of their "child." It seems that the male Diana will have a long wait for his companion - if indeed he ever sees her.

In West Covina, California, an elderly male chimpanzee kept as a pet escaped. "Moe" severely bit a policeman's hand and scratched a humane officer. Soon afterwards he bit off the top of a finger of a visitor to the "owner's" home. The policeman and the visitor are suing the chimp's owners.

Moe was confiscated and sent to a sanctuary which has experience with chimpanzees. Publicity hound Los Angeles lawyer Gloria Allred joined the fray, saying that the chimpanzee should be taken from the sanctuary and returned to live in the residential neighborhood, despite many of the neighbors being terrified.

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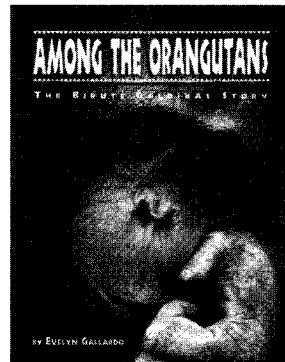
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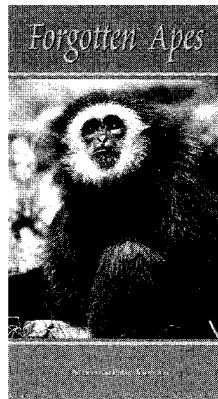
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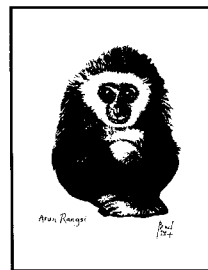
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August 2000

STELLA BREWER MARSDEN'S PROJECT IS ALIVE AND WELL!

Stella Marsden (then Stella Brewer), later joined by Janis Carter, founded the world's first chimpanzee rehabilitation project in The Gambia, West Africa, in the early 1970s and the project continues to this day.

Here is one of the beautiful chimps who live in peace and dignity on islands in the River Gambia. Stella took the photo.



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