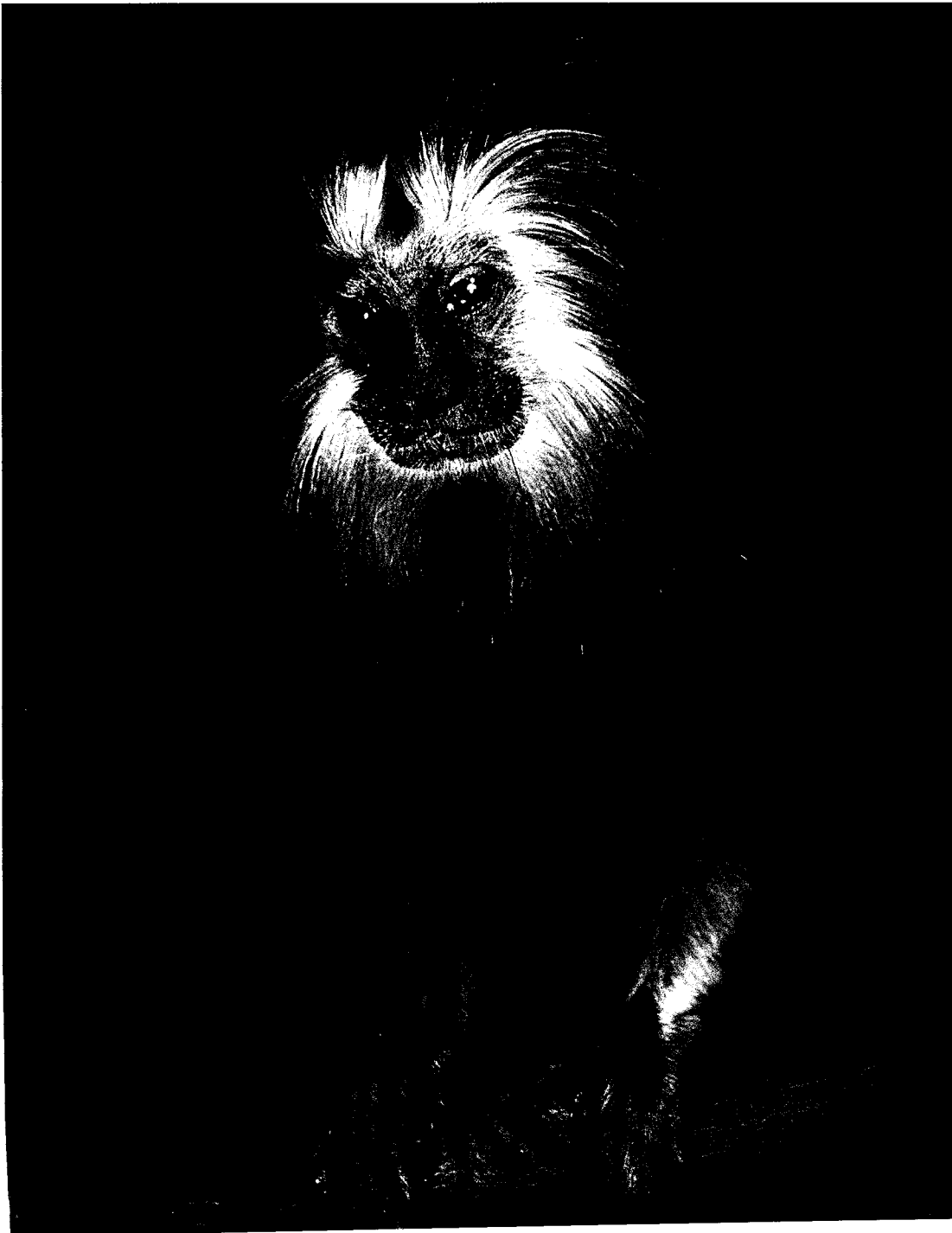




News

ISSN-1040-3027, VOL. 30, NO. 1

APRIL 2003



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**NIGERIA'S
WAR ON
WILDLIFE
CRIME**

**CHILE'S
PRIMATE
SANCTUARY**

Golden-headed lion
tamarin from Brazil

©Art Wolfe

A LETTER FROM IPPL'S CHAIRWOMAN

Dear IPPL Member,

This year is the International Primate Protection League's 30th birthday! I founded IPPL while living for four years in Thailand, a beautiful country, and have worked for primates worldwide ever since.

The year 2002 ended on a high note. I attended the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The two-week-long conference was held in the wonderful city of Santiago, Chile. Many Chileans are animal lovers, and even the stray dogs are well fed by the public and are friendly.

Chile has no native primates, but it has a primate sanctuary because primates are imported for the pet trade, public display, entertainment, and laboratory use. In 2002 IPPL made a grant to the Siglo XXI primate sanctuary, which is located close to Santiago. Sanctuary director Elba Muñoz Lopez and her husband Carlos met me at Santiago Airport and took me to visit the monkeys (see Elba's article on page 17).

The highlight of the conference was working with Nigeria's Minister of State for the Environment, Dr. Imeh Okopido. The Minister is a veterinarian and is involved in a multitude of issues such as desertification and oil industry related pollution. However, he placed such a high priority on learning more about the Taiping Four gorilla scandal that he came in person to CITES, rather than sending a junior official.

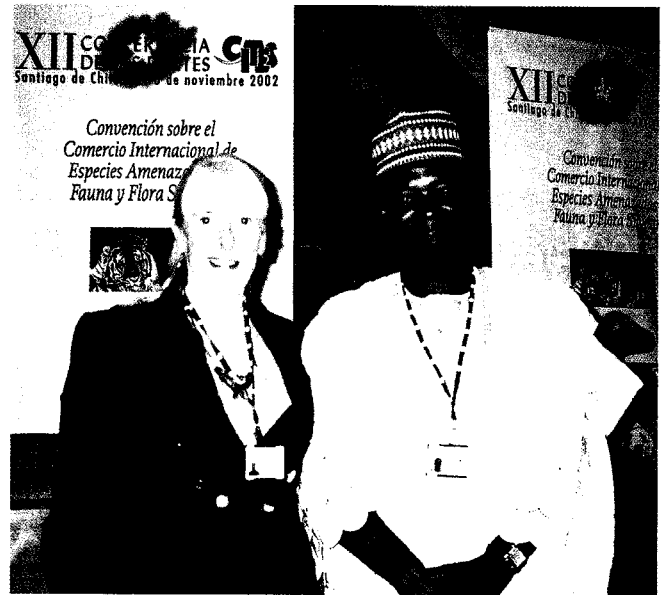
In January 2002 four young gorillas had been smuggled to Taiping Zoo, Malaysia, from Nigeria on fraudulent export documents claiming that they had been born at a zoo that only owned one gorilla! IPPL was tipped off about the animals' arrival and campaigned for action against those involved in the shipment.

I had the honor of spending a lot of time with Dr. Okopido. After studying a package of documents related to the shipment that I brought along to the meeting, Dr. Okopido held a press conference during which he denounced the shipment and thanked IPPL for our work on this case (see articles on CITES and the "Taiping Four" on pages 3 and 14). In addition, he and the head of the Cameroon delegation co-signed a letter calling for the return of the four gorillas to Africa.

It is IPPL's hope that the gorillas can be returned to an African sanctuary.



Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman, IPPL



Me and Minister Okopido working together to protect gorillas

IPPL EARNS FOUR-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

Great news! Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org), an independent organization that evaluates the financial health of non-profits in the United States, has awarded IPPL four out of four stars. In a letter to IPPL, Trent Stamp, Executive Director of **Charity Navigator**, stated:

We celebrate the work of outstanding charities like yours by supplying you with unbiased information to share with your donors. The International Primate Protection League's 4-star rating means your supporters can be confident in your efforts to maximize the impact of their donations.

"TAIPING FOUR" GORILLAS ON CITES AGENDA

In January 2002, four gorillas, one male and three female, arrived at the Taiping Zoo in the state of Perak, Malaysia. IPPL was tipped off about the animals' arrival and that they had originated in Nigeria.

IPPL chairwoman Shirley McGreal immediately contacted the Malaysian wildlife department, which confirmed that four gorillas had been imported and that, on hearing about the dubious origin of the animals, a permit issued to Taiping Zoo to import two more gorillas was canceled.

IPPL received documents confirming that the gorillas were exported on what appeared to be authentic export documents, by the Ibadan Zoo, Nigeria. The permits were issued by a Nigerian official and appeared to be authentic Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) documents. They described the gorillas as "captive-born" at the zoo.

IPPL learned that the zoo had only one elderly female gorilla. Zoo employees told the press that the gorillas had reached the zoo from Cameroon. On 9 November 2002 the Malaysian Minister of the Environment announced that the gorillas would be confiscated.

Zoos around the world started clamoring for them—no wonder, because gorillas are extremely expensive (a Nige-

rian dealer offered several for sale at US \$400,000 each some years ago, and the Chiba City Zoo in Japan bought two gorillas for \$300,000 each in 1990). Getting four gorillas for free would allow a zoo to obtain valuable publicity and derive income from displaying the animals.

During CITES 2002, the "Taiping Four" gorilla shipment was discussed. IPPL provided case documents to Nigeria's Minister of State for the Environment, Dr. Imeh Okopido, a veterinarian by profession.

Minister Okopido was so annoyed that he called a press conference, which was held on 12 November 2002. John Sellar of the CITES Secretariat and two members of the Malaysian delegation were also on the platform. Minister Okopido made the first presentation. Extracts from the statements follow.

Minister Okopido's comments

The Nigerian Government has re-deployed CITES Enforcement Officers to Nigerian airports, seaports and border posts of the country in a renewed effort to stamp out illegal importation and exportation of endangered species. This follows the January 2002 illegal export of four young Western Lowland Gorillas, flown from Lagos Airport, Nigeria, to

Malaysia, via Johannesburg, on South African Airways...

We took very seriously the gorilla smuggling incident, and the tarnishing of our country's image internationally. Accordingly all persons involved, whether government officials or private individuals, will be investigated by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission and if need be, Interpol will be invited to help track down the smuggling network...

The **only living adult gorilla** at Ibadan Zoological Garden is an elderly female, and the only adult male is long dead, but still on display, stuffed, and is even featured on the Oyo State website.

Are we to believe that these allegedly captive bred infants were the result of "immaculate conception"? We reject this hypothesis outright!!...

Gorillas are listed on Appendix 1 of CITES, which bans commercial trade. Documents and correspondence at my disposal clearly indicate that this unwholesome deal was an illegal commercial transaction and also that this was known to the directors of both zoos. The documents include:

- A letter from a Nigerian businessman, Mr Tunde Odukoya, dated 5th June 2000, to a zoo in Cameroon, copied to Dr Kevin Lazarus, Director of Taiping Zoo, and to Dr Akinboye, Director of University of Ibadan Zoological Gardens, Nigeria, seeking to procure six lowland gorillas (among other species).
- A price list from Odukoya and Associates, offering for sale (among other endangered species) "4 heads of baby gorillas" for \$400,000 each—i.e. 1.6 million dollars.
- The CITES export permit for five gorillas, signed by Engineer D. B. Usman, who is not a member of the Nigerian CITES Management Authority and could not have been mandated to sign it in his then position because only my Management Authority and I have the authority



One of the "Taiping Four" gorillas



Minister Okopido addresses the world press



Malaysian delegate addresses press conference

to do so.

This collusion by high-ranking officials in both governments is unpatriotic, very damaging to the reputations of both countries and damaging to an endangered species that they are employed to protect.

It is important to realize that young gorillas are so sensitive to the stress of capture that even in experienced hands, 80 percent of rescued orphans die. Thus to provide four living infants, at least 16 infants probably died.

And for each of these captured orphans, at least two members of their family will have been shot (the mother, the father, and any other group member who attempts to defend them). Thus, at a conservative estimate, for four wild-caught infants to be in a zoo, 56 gorillas have died, and a total of 60 have been removed from the wild population.

When the legality of the shipment

was questioned, the Malaysian authorities withdrew their permit for two more gorillas.

But I wish to ask—when representatives of Taiping Zoo visited Ibadan Zoo...did they not ask how one elderly, lone, female gorilla produced four offspring between two and four years of age between the time period of the exchange programme? Did they not ask to see their parents? Or where these animals were born? These, I think, are the basic questions to be asked before issuing a CITES permit.

With such a rare, endangered and high-profile species, to proceed without answers to these questions is tantamount to criminal neglect...

It is my candid appeal that the four gorillas be returned to their country of origin in Africa. Sending them to a zoo in another country sends a message that wild-caught gorillas can still enter foreign

zoos, and those zoos will benefit from their arrival.

The conservation education value of captive gorillas is most needed in their country of origin. Returning confiscated animals to their country of origin sends a message to potential buyers that they will lose money if they risk such illegal deals...

I acknowledge the important role of Dr Shirley McGreal and the International Primate Protection League in exposing this nefarious scam.

Malaysian delegation's comments

...Taiping Zoo applied to the CITES authorities of Malaysia to import five gorillas for breeding and exhibition purposes...Based on the information provided by the University of Ibadan Zoological Gardens which confirm the gorillas were captive-bred animals, Ma-

Malaysian CITES Management Authority issued CITES import permit to enable Taiping Zoo to import the gorillas.

In order to execute the animal exchange Taiping Zoo appointed a forwarding agent, NigerCom Solutions Sdn. Bhd. to handle the exchange. The appointment of forwarders to handle animal exchange between Malaysian zoos and overseas zoos is the usual way animal exchange is done.

The Malaysian CITES Management Authority received a copy of the Nigerian export permit prior to the actual importation. The permit was issued by the authorized CITES Management Authority of Nigeria and again indicated the gorillas were captive-bred from University of Ibadan. Malaysia accepted the permit in good faith and never doubted

the authenticity of the document as it was issued by the appointed authority.

On 18 January 2002, four gorillas were imported into Malaysia and were transferred to Taiping Zoo. Then only in April the CITES authorities of Malaysia started receiving information about the alleged malpractice regarding the exchange of the gorillas from NGOs and CITES secretariat.

[Malaysia's] investigation showed that although the Nigerian CITES permit was valid, the information on the permit was false...

The Minister of Science, Technology and the Environment is the authority to decide on matters relating to the fate of a totally protected species under the Protection of Wildlife Act.

Following the press conference, Minister Okopido and Denis Koulagna Koutou, head of the Cameroon CITES team, co-signed a letter to the Minister of the Environment for Malaysia.

...We are writing to inform you that it is the wish of the Ministry of Environment of Nigeria, acting on behalf of the Nigerian Government, and the CITES Management Authority of Cameroon, on behalf of the Cameroonian Government, that the above-mentioned four young gorillas be returned to a sanctuary in Africa (Cameroon if the DNA confirms this as their country of origin)...

Minister Okopido has informed IPPL that he has not yet received a reply to his letter.

NIGERIA ESTABLISHES WILDLIFE CRIME COMMISSION

On his return from the 2002 CITES conference, Nigeria's Minister of State for the Environment, Dr. Imeh Okopido, swung into action with the goal of ending Nigeria's role in international wildlife crime. One of the things Dr. Okopido promised to do was to establish a commission to investigate the "Taiping Four" and other cases, including the September 2001 drowning of a baby gorilla and baby chimpanzee at Cairo Airport. The animals had reached Cairo on a flight from Nigeria.

Dr. Okopido kept his promise. On 27 February 2003, the 12 members of the commission were sworn in. Justice John U. Bassey was named Chairman of the commission. Among its members was crusading reporter John Odey Aduma. Aduma had denounced the dealings in a two-part series published in June 2002 in the *Daily Times of Nigeria*.

In a speech to the commission members, Nigeria's Justice Minister, Mr. Godwin Kanu Agabi, speaking on behalf

of President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, stated to the commission members,

Now we are putting the lives of the animals in your hands so if, after this exercise, the animals continue to be exported, I think we can say that the blood of these animals is on your hands. I want to tell you that you have been chosen because of your past merit, your past services as patriots, your exemplary life of honesty.

Minister Agabi went on to comment on the huge wealth of animal dealers and how important it was to have honest people investigating their activities.

It was a very painstaking exercise picking the members of this panel because the people who do these things are wealthy people and the money they get are huge sums. They have enough to bribe the prosecutors. So, when you choose those who prosecute them, you have to take time and

choose those who are not amenable to being bribed. So that's precisely why you have been chosen. You were selected as experienced, patriotic Nigerians who will do these things and give credit to the country.

Minister Okopido spoke next. He discussed how a previous regime had dismantled the wildlife protection program at Nigeria's air and sea ports and border crossings. He stated that Nigeria's CITES enforcement unit would now be tough on offenders.

The Minister noted the worldwide concern about Nigeria's role in the illegal wildlife trade. He commented that, in the past two years, the Federal Ministry of Environment and some of Nigeria's foreign missions had been deluged with hundreds of letters on the subject.

IPPL has already sent a large package of documents for the commission's consideration. News of the investigations and any actions taken will appear in future issues of *IPPL News*.

CHECK OUT IPPL'S WEB SITE

IPPL regularly updates its Web site (www.ippl.org). We invite you to visit our site regularly. You can join, renew, make extra donations, and make purchases on our secure server. We also exchange links with other organizations sharing all or part of our goals.

THE FUTURE OF THE "TAIPING FOUR" GORILLAS

Malaysia announced in October 2002 that it would confiscate four gorillas illegally exported from Nigeria to Malaysia's Taiping Zoo in January 2002. Malaysia contends, however, that its officials and the Taiping Zoo director were duped by officials at Nigeria's Ibadan Zoo into believing that the animals were born in captivity.

Gorillas are a big draw for zoo-goers, probably second only to pandas. People love to watch these magnificent animals and buy gorilla T-shirts, baseball caps, coffee mugs, and assorted paraphernalia.

This is probably why several zoos contacted the Malaysian Government to express their interest in obtaining the "Taiping Four." Pretoria, a zoo in South Africa, was one of those zoos. Pretoria currently has only one gorilla. Another South African zoo, Johannesburg, has two gorillas.

The World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA) predictably supported the zoo option for the gorillas. WAZA is led by Peter Dollinger, who represented Switzerland at CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) meetings for over two decades. During that time, wildlife protection groups viewed Switzerland as a negative force in the treaty.

Dollinger explained:

WAZA has offered, already in June to find a suitable place for the gorillas in case the Malaysian MA [CITES Management Authority] wishes to send them to a zoo. We have identified the National Zoo of South Africa as the most suitable option. The National Zoo has submitted a documentation to the Malaysian authorities, and WAZA has expressed its support of Pretoria's offer.

On the other hand, IPPL and many other conservation groups believe that the "Taiping Four" should go to a sanctuary in a gorilla habitat country, preferably Limbe in Cameroon. Limbe has a wonderful social group of eight gorillas. Limbe also has a skilled and knowledgeable care staff, as well as a vigorous education program. All the

Limbe gorillas arrived as youngsters after being rescued from trade. Jane Goodall has expressed strong support for the Limbe option.

In March 2003, John Sellar, Senior Enforcement Officer of the CITES Secretariat, informed IPPL that the Malaysian Government had decided to send the gorillas to South Africa:

The Secretariat understands that a decision has recently been taken by the authorities in Malaysia that the gorillas should go to a suitable facility where they can be housed in appropriate conditions and contribute to conservation of this species and that discussions are underway with a zoo in South Africa to enable this to take place. The Secretariat is of the opinion that the decision to dispose of the animals in this manner complies with the guidance that the Conference of the Parties has issued on this subject. The Secretariat has already made clear to Malaysia that it thinks it would not be appropriate for Taiping Zoo to benefit now or in the future from trade that was conducted contrary to the Convention [Sellar is referring to reports that the recipient zoo would be required to send any offspring born in South Africa to the "Taiping Four" to Taiping Zoo].

The Secretariat is aware that an alternative facility in Africa [Limbe] was identified as a possible recipient for the gorillas confiscated in Malaysia and it made the authorities aware of this. It is also aware, however, that this facility is soon to receive gorillas that have recently been seized by the authorities in Nigeria. It presumes that this may have been a fact that Malaysia took into account in reaching a decision regarding the disposal of the animals.

The two gorillas to whom Sellar refers are six-year-olds named Brighter and Twiggy. In December 2002, they were confiscated from a Lebanese businessman living in Kano, Nigeria, and are now scheduled to go to Limbe. IPPL does not view the fact that these gorillas are going to Limbe as a valid reason to send the "Taiping Four" to a zoo.

IPPL, the Pan African Sanctuary Association, and many wildlife protection groups believe that the gorillas should go to Limbe, because:

- The gorillas had been shipped on South African Airways from Lagos, Nigeria, via Johannesburg, to Malaysia. South African authorities had issued veterinary import/re-export permits for the animals; hence, South Africa as a nation had participated in the smuggling incident, although neither Pretoria nor Johannesburg Zoo was involved.
- The young gorillas were certainly caught in the wild in Cameroon.
- The Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon have officially requested that the Malaysian Minister of the Environment return the gorillas to a sanctuary in Africa.
- At Limbe, the gorillas could live in an existing group and have a hope of eventual return to the wild.
- A third zoo should not be allowed to profit from the wrongdoing of two other zoos.

LETTERS NEEDED

Please send a courteous letter thanking the Government of Malaysia for its plans to confiscate the four gorillas illegally exported from Nigeria to Taiping Zoo and requesting that the four gorillas be sent to an African sanctuary in preference to a zoo. US-Malaysia postage is 80 cents per ounce.

Dato' Seri Law Hieng Ding,
Minister of Science, Technology, and the Environment,
Tingkat 6, Blok C5
Pusat Pentadbiran,
Kerajaan Persekutuan,
62502 Putrajaya, MALAYSIA
E-mail: ldh@moste.gov.my
Fax from US: 011 60-3-2693-7981

Please send a copy of your letter to:

Dr. Musa Nordin, Director General
Department of Wildlife and National Parks
Km. 10, Jalan Cheras 56100
Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA

INDIA'S MOST ENDANGERED APES ARE BEING SLAUGHTERED AND SMUGGLED

By Soumyadeep Datta, *Nature's Beckon*

With respect to primate diversity, Assam is the richest province in India. Nine of the fifteen primate species found in India are found in Assam, a region in the extreme northeast corner of the country.

The proposed Joydihing Wildlife Sanctuary—consisting of the Assamese rainforests of the Joypur, Dirak, Upper Dihing of Dibrugarh, and Tinsukia districts—is the richest primate habitat in India. In addition, many of the diverse primate species that are found solely in this area are endangered. Seven species of primate inhabit the proposed Joydihing Wildlife Sanctuary: these are the rhesus macaque, the Assamese macaque, the slow loris, the capped langur, the pig-tailed macaque, the stump-tailed macaque, and the hoolock gibbon. Apart from the rhesus and Assamese macaques, all these species have been classified as "Endangered" in the *Red Data Book* of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

Nature's Beckon, a leading environmental activist group, has been working relentlessly for the conservation of primates in Assam, giving special emphasis to the permanent protection of the wildlife of the proposed Joydihing Wildlife Sanctuary. The hoolock gibbon is the only

ape species found in India and reaches its greatest population densities in these rainforests.

The hoolock gibbon is one of the most endangered apes in the world. The 1971 and 1972 Zoological Survey of India census of Indian primates determined that the population of the species was between 78,000 to 80,000 in Assam. Shockingly, the present population of hoolock gibbons does not exceed 5,000 animals, according to a recent survey conducted by **Nature's Beckon**.

The hoolock gibbon is the only ape found in India. It is small, long-armed, slender-bodied and, like all apes, tailless. The small, round head is marked by a whitish band across the eyebrows in adults. Infant hoolocks of both sexes gradually change from white to black, the color of adult males; in addition, females change coat color yet again to achieve the yellowish gray that characterizes the adult females.

These gibbons inhabit the rainforests of northeastern India, south and east of the Brahmaputra and Luhit Rivers.

The populations of hoolock gibbons in the rainforests of the Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts are dwindling fast due to massive poaching and habitat destruc-

tion. Illegal felling of trees, mainly in the Upper Dihing forest, often takes place clandestinely with the connivance of unscrupulous forest officials, wreaking havoc on the habitat of the endangered hoolocks.

Even more deplorable is the fact that poachers from Myanmar (Burma) and China often kill large numbers of hoolock gibbons in Upper Dihing and Joypur. This was revealed when an encounter took place between **Nature's Beckon** activists and some Myanmarese poachers who had just killed a large number of hoolock gibbons and were about to return back to their territory after packing the gibbons in plastic bags. When chased by our activists, the poachers fled but left behind a plastic packet containing a dead hoolock gibbon.

The poachers cut the hands and legs off the hoolocks and package these parts separately. There is a superstition among some Myanmarese and Chinese people that eating the hands and legs of hoolock gibbons will cure a woman of infertility and enable her to produce children. Parts of hoolock gibbons are also used extensively for other medicinal purposes by the Myanmarese and Chinese. One hoolock gibbon can fetch the equivalent of \$1,000 (US) in China or Myanmar.

THE ASIAN AGE 1 NOVEMBER 2002

Poachers wiping out wildlife in Upper Assam forests

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Guwahati, Oct. 31: Hoolock gibbons, India's only ape species, are now facing severe threat following their mass poaching and habitat destruction.

The huge international demand fuelled by superstitions and coupled with a section of forest department personnel's connivance have ensured an alarming decrease in their population.

Found only in the rainforests of Tinsukia and Dibrugarh, what has become a cause of concern is the increased involvement of international poachers.

The population of hoolock gibbons in both the districts are dwindling fast due to mass poaching and habitat destruction, illegal felling of trees inside the forests. In upper Dihing forest such poachings often take place with the connivance of the unscrupulous forest officials.

Now, poachers from even Burma and China have joined the poaching bandwagon. They have killed the hoolock gibbons in upper Dihing and Joypur reserve forests in large numbers.

This fact came to light when an



MERCILESSLY KILLED: Fifteen birds including parrots, woodpeckers, doves and four monkeys which were seized by forest personnel from a Maruti Gypsy (NL-10-2744) belonging to the Nagaland government recently near Moriani. An ASIAN AGE photograph

encounter took place between a group of activists of the **Nature's Beckon**, an environmental group, and some Burmese poachers in the forest recently. The incident took place when the Burmese poachers were about to return to their territo-

ry with their prized booty. When confronted by the **Nature's Beckon** activists, the poachers fled leaving a plastic bag which had the remains of dead hoolock gibbon. The poachers had cut the hands and legs of the hoolocks gibbons and packed

them separately.

There is a superstition among a section of the Burmese and Chinese citizens, who believe that eating the limbs of the apes will cure their women of sterility and they will be able to give birth to children. Parts

of hoolock gibbon are also used extensively for medicinal purposes. It is for this reason that hoolock gibbons command great value in the international market.

For instance, the price of one hoolock gibbon in China is approx-

imately US \$ 1000, which almost equivalent to Rs. 50,000 in Indian currency. But, these poachers do not remain satisfied by just killing hoolock gibbons. They also target other animals, especially the capped langur.

The only way to provide better protection for such wildlife habitats and their valuable flora and fauna is to raise the status of these forest reserves to that of "wildlife sanctuary" and thus to bring these forests under the control of the Wildlife Protection Act.

As Director of **Nature's Beckon**, I have appealed to Prodyut Bordoloi, the Forest Minister of Assam, to immediately declare Joypur, Dirak, and Upper Dihing a wildlife sanctuary, in the interest of wildlife conservation in Assam. **Nature's Beckon** also has drawn the attention of the Ministry of the Environment to saving the invaluable rainforests of the Brahmaputra Valley and to give permanent protection to several of India's endangered species found in the rainforests of the proposed Joydihing Wildlife Sanctuary.

In view of the deteriorated environmental condition of the world and rapidly dwindling populations of elephants, tigers, and primates, **Nature's Beckon** has made international conservation organizations aware of the situation. The cooperation of groups including the

International Primate Protection League, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Rainforest Foundation, and the Rainforest Action Network are needed in order to save this important bio-diversity zone.

International wildlife poachers also kill a variety of other animals, particularly capped langurs, that cross their path as they trek through the forest. These poachers and traders have now concentrated their activities in the rainforests of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Their targeted species are bears, tigers, slow lorises, leopard cats, binturongs, pythons, hoolock gibbons, elephants, otters, the goat-like serow, and birds like hill mynahs, parakeets, peacock pheasants, hornbills, and others. These species are available in large numbers, and poaching is easy due to the lack of vigilance by the forest department.

The wild animals of the rainforests are in global demand for international trade in animals and animal parts. Thousands of the primates used in medical research come from the wild. The United States, the largest primate market in the world,

now imports close to 20,000 primates annually. The United States also imported nearly 50,000 live Indian pythons between 1983 and 1999. Pythons sell for \$500 in the US and for as much as \$2,000 in Europe and Japan. As many as 500,000 live parrots and parakeets enter the global trade annually. Peregrine falcons in Dubai can cost from \$7,000 to \$10,000 (US). In China, several factories are reported to be using bear-bile in 50 to 60 traditional Chinese medicines.

All the above-mentioned animals and animal parts are abundantly available in the rainforests of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Unfortunately, international poachers and smugglers are engaged in large-scale exploitation of the wildlife of these forests with impunity. It is beyond the comprehension of the people of Assam that the government of India and the Forest Department of Assam appear to be absolutely ineffective at protecting the invaluable wildlife of our forests.

How long will this apathy of the Forest Department of Assam continue? Will they not get up from their stupor?

LETTERS NEEDED TO PRESERVE GIBBON HABITAT

Nature's Beckon is launching a vigorous public-awareness campaign and anti-poaching drive to preserve the remaining habitat of the hoolock gibbon in Assam province. Letters are needed urging state and local officials to establish permanent protection for hoolock gibbon habitat in the Joypur, Upper Dihing, and Dirak rainforests, by declaring these areas a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Chief Minister of Assam (who helps oversee the Forest Department) and the President of the Congress Party of India (the ruling party in Assam) need to hear from you! Please address your letters to:

Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Congress Party President
10-Janpath
New Delhi 110 001
INDIA

Mr. Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Assam
Dispur
Guwahati 781 006
Assam, INDIA

Overseas postage of a one-ounce letter from the US to India costs 80 cents.

HELP SUPPORT NATURE'S BECKON!

IPPL has long recognized how vital it is to support the environmental "ground troops" in areas of the world where primates are native and has therefore collaborated with Nature's Beckon since 1995. If you would like to assist this grassroots organization in its very important work, please send a check to **IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA**. Please mark your donation "For Nature's Beckon," so that your gift will be correctly allocated to Soumyadeep Datta and his group of bold activists. We can also accept credit card donations (AMEX, Visa, MC, Discover). All we need is the card number, the expiration date, and the name on the card.

LIFE BEHIND BARS IN ZOO NEGERI JOHOR, MALAYSIA

By Louis Ng

Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES), Singapore

Imagine a zoo where the primates are begging for food, reaching their hands out of the cages to casual visitors. Imagine a zoo where the animals are constantly displaying abnormal stereotypic behaviors. Imagine a zoo where animals are housed in enclosures resembling wells. Imagine a zoo where animals are confined to cages as small as 0.001 percent of their natural home ranges. Imagine a zoo where the enclosures are so filthy that they reek from the accumulated waste.

Does a zoo like this actually exist? Unfortunately, the answer, in my opinion, is yes.

For the past two years, with the help of IPPL, ACRES has been investigating Zoo Negeri Johor in Malaysia. The conditions for the animals are far from acceptable—in fact, I find them appalling. Animals of all kinds—including primates—are routinely housed in isolated, tiny, foul enclosures, to the obvious detriment of their physical and mental health.

Toney the chimpanzee's story

For almost 30 years, Toney, a female chimpanzee, lived in a cage at this zoo. About 6 or 7 years ago, her male partner died, and she began living a solitary life. While she was living alone, a behavioral study was conducted on her, and the re-

sults proved beyond doubt that she was suffering each day she was kept under such conditions.

She repeatedly displayed a wide range of abnormal stereotypic behaviors. These ranged from eating her feces to regurgitating her food to rocking and swaying. For most wild mammals in captivity, such behavior generally indicates that the animal grew up in, or is currently living in, an environment inadequate for meeting his/her natural behavioral needs.

In recent months, things have improved for Toney—somewhat. She has finally been moved out of the cage and into a larger enclosure—which, however, resembles a pit. The zoo has also acquired a new male chimpanzee who now shares space with her.

While this may be an improvement for Toney and may provide some positive social interactions, it is doubtful whether the zoo should be allowed to acquire any new animals while conditions overall remain so poor for those already resident. Any available funds should be directed toward improving the facility to an acceptable standard before any new animals are added to the collection.

New animals, old abuses

This, however, has not been the case.

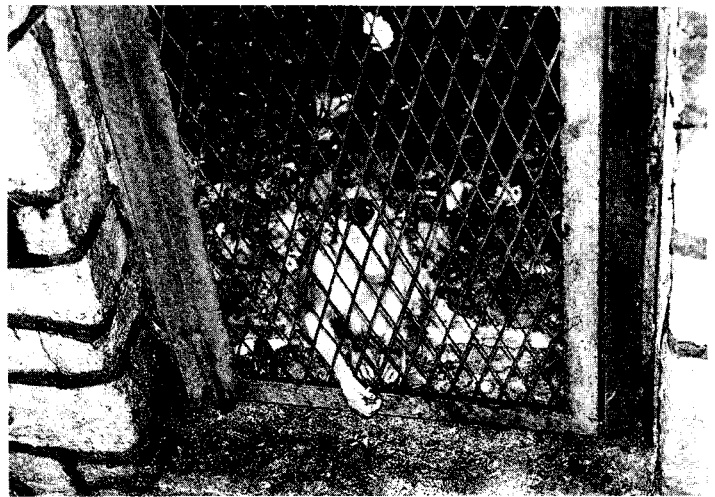
The zoo has recently brought in an orangutan, a siamang, a capuchin, a gibbon, a Malayan sun bear, macaques, and a large variety of other animals. These animals are once again being housed in appalling conditions. The infant gibbon for example, is kept alone in a tiny, bare cage. This infant is far from weaning age but is no longer with his/her mother. He/she now lives a solitary life. The old housing problems have clearly become more acute with the addition of all these new animals.

Zoo Negeri Johor also uses the animals for entertainment. Animals have already been used for photography sessions, and animal shows have started now, as well. A number of animals that are kept only in tiny, cramped cages—including the infant white-handed gibbon—are used for photography sessions. Visitors can cuddle and take photos with these animals upon request.

Infant pig-tailed macaques and long-tailed macaques are also chained to the ground for visitors to touch. These macaques, like the gibbon, are far from weaning age and should be with their mothers. This close contact with so many strangers also increases the chance of disease transmission that might be fatal to the animals.



Infant gibbon alone in a tiny cage



Pig-tailed macaque in a filthy enclosure



Toney the chimpanzee

A lesson in compassion

When I first received a request from IPPL about two years ago to investigate Zoo Negeri Johor, I took a trip to visit the facility. My first stop there was the chimpanzee to whose sad state IPPL had been alerted. What I saw affected me for weeks, and it still does now, each time I visit the zoo.

I have grown fond of Toney; she has taught me so much about compassion. In the past, when she lived in the cage, we would spend time grooming each other. It amazed me that she had the compassion to forgive a human being, even though we humans had locked her away for so many years. Each time I approached the cage, she would groom the hair on my head so tenderly and then turn her back towards me, asking me to groom her in return.

A zoo like this should not exist, but it does. A zoo like this should not have a place in a progressive society where animals are treated with respect. In the words of Gandhi, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

What you can do to help

Negotiations with the zoo and the Johor government have so far been unsuccessful. The zoo will release Toney to the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage only if the zoo is given another chimpanzee in return. The officials do not appear to understand that any chimpanzee in these appalling living conditions would suffer, not just Toney. Similarly, most of the other animals in Zoo Negeri Johor continue to experience physical and mental suffering each day they spend in such a miserable setting.

Like us, animals have biological needs and can experience physical discomfort and emotional stress. Since animals don't have a say in their treatment, it is up to all caring human beings to give them a voice, speak up on their behalf, and end their abuse. **Please help us help Toney and the other animals in Zoo Negeri Johor.**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please write to the following officials and express your concern over the conditions in Zoo Negeri Johor. Please request for:

- **A stop to the acquisition of new animals.**
- **An immediate improvement in the living conditions of all the animals in Zoo Negeri Johor.**
- **An end to the use of animals in entertainment, including the animal shows and animal photography.**

YAB Dato' Haji Abdul Ghani bin Othman
Menteri Besar of Johor
Pejabat Menteri Besar Johor
Bangunan Sultan Ibrahim
80502 Johor Bahru
MALAYSIA

H.E. Dato' Ghazzali Sheikh Abdul Khalid
Malaysian Ambassador to the United States of
America
Embassy of Malaysia
3516 International Court, NW
Washington, DC 20008, USA

TAKING CARE OF PRIMATES — NOW AND FOR EVER

Over the years, IPPL has greatly benefitted from caring supporters who have remembered IPPL in their wills. Thanks to those wonderful people, IPPL can continue and expand its program of investigations and can 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 33 wonderful gibbons, many of them research veterans, living at our headquarters sanctuary.

In 1999 we built 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 other gibbons.

Igor has spent 16 years in “retirement” with IPPL.

We also care for our gentle blind gibbon Beanie (seen above with his friends Bullet, our blind rescue dog, and IPPL animal caregiver Donetta).

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, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA*, if you would like a pamphlet about providing enduring help for IPPL.



Photo: Tiffany Runion, Summerville Journal Scene

IPPL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



The International Primate Protection League is constantly working to increase its membership. If you have received this magazine and are not currently an IPPL member, your membership will guarantee that you continue to receive *IPPL News* and that IPPL can continue, and expand, its primate protection programs.

Every donation helps, especially in these difficult times. Basic membership dues are \$20 (US); sustaining dues are \$50, and patron dues are \$100 up; student/hardship dues are \$10.

Name _____

Address _____

Amount of donation: _____ check _____ or credit card _____ (fill in details below)

Card type _____ Name on card _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Please mail form and your payment to: **IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA**. IPPL accepts checks or credit cards (AMEX, Visa, MC, Discover). You can also use our secure Web site www.ippl.org

IPPL GRANT HELPS ECUADORIAN SANCTUARY

Ecuador is a small country located in western South America, bordering the Pacific Ocean at the equator, between Colombia and Peru. The small country is famous for its Galapagos Islands, its high levels of biodiversity, and its large number of endemic species (species that are not found anywhere else in the world).

Among these endemic species is the little-known Ecuadorian capuchin monkey (*Cebus albifrons aequatorialis*). This primate is restricted to the coast of Ecuador, and its population levels are dwindling at a rapid rate. In addition to habitat destruction, one of the major threats the Ecuadorian capuchin monkey is facing is the illegal pet trade. With funding received from IPPL, local conservationist Marcelo Luque has begun to address this problem by launching an intensive education program aimed at putting a stop to the illegal pet trade in the area. In March 2003, he and a team of local volunteers also began constructing a rescue center for ex-pet monkeys.

The center is being built at the Cerro



Marcelo Luque at Cerro Seco Biological Reserve

Seco Biological Reserve, which is comprised of dry tropical forest and located adjacent to the coastal town of Bahía de Caráquez. The goals of the center are to provide these animals with appropriate care (many are malnourished and in need of medical attention) and resocialize them with members of their own species. It is hoped that in the future some will

be released back into the forests of coastal Ecuador.

The rescue center is part of a larger collaborative project between Sr. Luque and Dr. Katharine Jack, Appalachian State University, and the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Fund. The project aims to conserve this species and its habitat throughout coastal Ecuador.

SPECIAL GIFTS

- Mr. Steven W. Brennan, in loving memory of David E. Knibbs and Mei Hua, Smokie, Samson, Sable, Sully and three kittens, Tiny Tim, and Little Hamster Brennan-Davis
- Larissa and Chris Hepler, in honor of Seth and Doreen Heimlich
- Mr. And Mrs. Brian Herrell, in memory of Cleon Gibbon
- Matt and Tammy Hoeltke, in honor of Traci Hoeltke
- Emily King, in honor of Prof. Robert S. O. Harding and Diana Pike Harding
- Joan King, in honor of her brother Robert Harding
- Mary Levy, in memory of Edward Levy
- Kehaulani Pettersen, in honor of Jeffrey Pettersen
- The Qatar Natural History Group, in memory of Dr. William George
- Ms. Dorothy C. Ramsaier, in honor of Mr. David Flattley
- Mel Richardson-Stepps, in honor of Rebecca Austin
- Bella Stoll, in memory of Christine Stevens
- Mary and Richard Taylor, in memory of Courtney Laine Taylor
- Athlyne Tyler, in honor of Mary Lynn Purcell
- Mitchell Jay Wolin, MD, in honor of his sister Debra Ruth Wolin

EBOLA VIRUS DEVASTATES CENTRAL AFRICAN APE POPULATIONS

An outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in the Congo Basin of Central Africa is causing many human deaths and also taking the lives of many wild animals, including gorillas and chimpanzees. Many of the dead apes lived in extremely remote areas.

Ebola, a filovirus, causes death from massive internal and external bleeding. Mortality in humans can run as high as 95 percent. There is also a high mortality rate in gorillas and chimpanzees. There are four identified strains of Ebola, some of them more lethal than others (see www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/spb/mnpages/dispages/ebola.htm).

Despite years of research, the origins and natural reservoir of the disease remain unknown, though birds, bats, and insects have been suspected. Once an Ebola outbreak starts, the disease can be transmitted via close contact with an infected individual or exposure to body fluids.

Ebola outbreaks of the '90s

In 1994 there were two outbreaks of Ebola disease in chimpanzees in the Taï

Forest of the Ivory Coast. The Taï Forest chimpanzees have been studied for decades by scientists Christophe and Hedwige Boesch and their colleagues. The epidemic took the lives of around one third of the Boesch's study animals. One field scientist became infected after handling a dead chimpanzee, but recovered. Since 1994 there have been no further outbreaks in the Taï Forest.

In 1996 an extremely virulent form of Ebola caused a human outbreak in the village of Mayibout, Gabon. The outbreak was attributed to villagers' eating the flesh of an infected chimpanzee. The disease spread quickly from human to human, as it apparently does from ape to ape.

Entire gorilla families vanished

On 5 December 2002 veterinarian William Karesh of the Wildlife Conservation Society reported on Pro-MED (a discussion list run by the International Society for Infectious Diseases) that six lowland gorillas from one family group, along with numerous monkeys and antelopes, were found dead close to the village of Lossi

in the Republic of Congo on 1 December 2002. The gorillas belonged to two groups habituated for eco-tourism as part of a European Union project (ECOFAC) at the Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary. Ebola was confirmed from tissue samples taken from gorillas found dead in the forest.

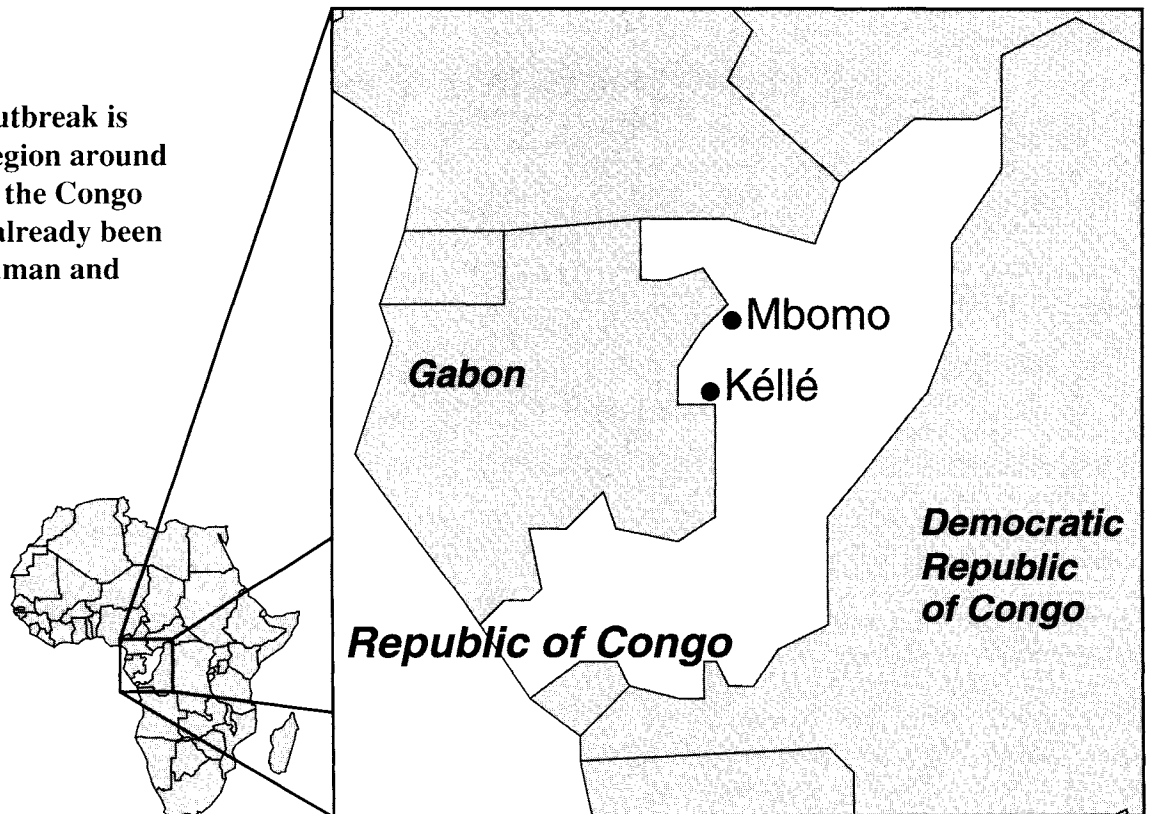
The Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary is close to Odzala National Park in the Congo Republic. Odzala is a major stronghold for lowland gorillas, and conservationists are deeply worried.

Two Spanish primatologists, Magdalena Bermejo and Germain Illera, have been studying the Lossi gorillas for nine years. They have reported that the eight gorilla families they have been monitoring since 1994 have all vanished. They are convinced that poaching could not be the cause of these disappearances.

Ebola suspected in other ape disappearances

World Wildlife Fund scientists have reported the disappearance of great apes from the Minkebe National Park in Gabon and suspect that the cause was Ebola.

The current Ebola outbreak is taking place in the region around Mbomo and Kélé in the Congo Republic; there has already been substantial loss of human and animal life.



Michael Fay of the Wildlife Conservation Society is famous for his 2,000 mile (3,218 kilometer) "mega-transect" on foot across the Central African forests. Fay completed his arduous trek in the year 2000. He reported that the Minkebe Forest of Gabon was devoid of gorillas and

was informed by villagers that the gorilla deaths were caused by Ebola. Fay found gorillas in areas separated from the Minkebe Forest by the Makoukou-Booe road and by the Ivindo River.

Fay expressed concern that the current outbreak of Ebola in apes may already

have caused the deaths of thousands of gorillas and chimpanzees.

Epidemiologists and field veterinarians are working desperately to identify ways to protect humans and wildlife from a disease about which there is very little knowledge.

EBOLA OUTBREAKS IN HUMANS

The following major outbreaks of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in humans have occurred since the disease was first identified in 1976.

1976: An outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, then Zaire) infected 318 humans, causing 280 deaths. An isolated case occurred in 1977.

1976: An outbreak in Sudan infected 284 humans, causing 117 deaths. There was a smaller outbreak in Sudan in 1977.

1989: A virus known as Ebola-Reston occurred in monkeys imported to the United States from the Philippines. There was also an outbreak at an exporter's compound in the Philippines. This Ebola variant did not make humans sick.

1995: An outbreak occurred in Kikwit, DRC, infecting 315 humans and causing 244 deaths.

1995: One human case occurred in the Ivory Coast. The patient, who had become infected as the result of conducting an autopsy on a chimpanzee found dead in the Taï Forest, recovered.

1996: There were several outbreaks in Gabon, one of which was attributed to villagers' butchering a chimpanzee they found dead in the forest. Another occurred in Mekambo, a forest village in the Ogooue region of northeast Gabon.

2000: An outbreak occurred in northern Uganda, reportedly killing 224 people.

2002-2003: There is an ongoing outbreak in the Kellé and Mbomo districts in the Cuvette Ouest Region of the Congo Republic. This region is close to the Congo Republic's border with Gabon. According to a World Health Organization report dated 25 February 2003, there have been 93 suspected cases and 75 deaths. The area has been quarantined to prevent people from fleeing and spreading the epidemic.

Tragically, local people are blaming this outbreak on sorcerers or medical personnel. Four local schoolteachers were beaten and stoned to death after being accused of causing the outbreak by casting an evil spell.

CITES CONFERENCE IN SANTIAGO, CHILE

In November 2002 thousands of government delegates, observers, and members of the press descended on Santiago, Chile, for the 12th Conference of the Parties (COP-12) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The observers represented a large variety of organizations. Some were pro-trade, and some emphasized protection of wildlife. Many of the wildlife protection groups, including IPPL, are members of the Species Survival Network and help each other out on issues of shared concern. Will Travers of the UK-based Born Free Foundation and Ron Orenstein, an attorney with the International Wildlife Coalition, were articulate and outstanding members of the SSN team. IPPL has been represented at every CITES conference since 1979 and was represented at

COP-12 by Chairwoman Shirley McGreal and Elba Muñoz Lopez, director of Chile's Siglo XXI Primate Rescue Center. Elba has accepted IPPL's invitation to serve as IPPL's Field Representative for Chile.

CITES currently has 161 members (Libya joined since COP-12). The treaty came into force on 1 July 1975 and maintains a web site at www.cites.org

The preamble states the following:

Wild fauna and flora in their many beautiful and varied forms are an irreplaceable part of the natural systems of the earth which must be protected for this and generations to come...international co-operation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade.

CITES appendices

Wildlife is protected from trade-related extinction primarily through the listing of species on the CITES appendices. There are three appendices to CITES:

* **Appendix I** is a list of species threatened with extinction that are or may be affected by trade. Export of any Appendix I animals requires issuance of both an import and export permit. Strict requirements for issuance of both permits are established.

* **Appendix II** is a list of species that could be threatened by unregulated trade. All shipments must be accompanied by export permits from the country of origin.

* **Appendix III** includes any unlisted species that any nation chooses to list in order to prevent or restrict exploitation. Export permits are required.



The "Taiping Four" case

The highlight of COP-12 for IPPL was working with Nigeria's Minister of State for the Environment, Dr. Imeh Okopido, on the issue of primate smuggling in general and the case of the "Taiping Four" gorillas in particular.

During the conference Ian Redmond of the United Nations Environment Program's Great Apes Survival Project, along with Daniela Freyer and Sandra Altherr of Pro Wildlife (a German organization), worked closely with IPPL on the gorilla trade issue.

COP-12 decisions

COP-12 resulted in increased protection for several species of fauna and flora. There were no primate proposals as all primate species are already listed on either Appendix I or Appendix II. There was one disappointment — ivory quotas were issued for three nations. Among the decisions:

* **All sea horses** were placed on Appendix II. These remarkable little sea animals are heavily exploited by the pet, souvenir, and Chinese traditional medicine trades.

* **The whale shark and basking shark** were placed on Appendix II, in large part due to the hard work of the British delegation led by Elliot Morley, Great Britain's Minister for Animal Welfare and Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Com-

mons) for Fisheries, Water and Nature Protection at the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Sharks have been adversely affected by the trade in shark meat, fins, and liver oil.

* **Twenty-six species of Asian turtles** were added to Appendix II. Turtles have been hurt by the food and pet trades.

* **Several species of reptiles and flowers** found only in Madagascar were added to the CITES appendices, as a result of the efforts of an excellent delegation (all lemurs are already listed on CITES Appendix I).

* A zero quota was set for the **Black Sea bottlenose dolphin**, already listed on Appendix II. This was the result of the persistence of the Georgian delegation led by Dr. Maka Bitsadze, which brought the proposal to the plenary session of the conference after it was defeated in a committee vote—and won.

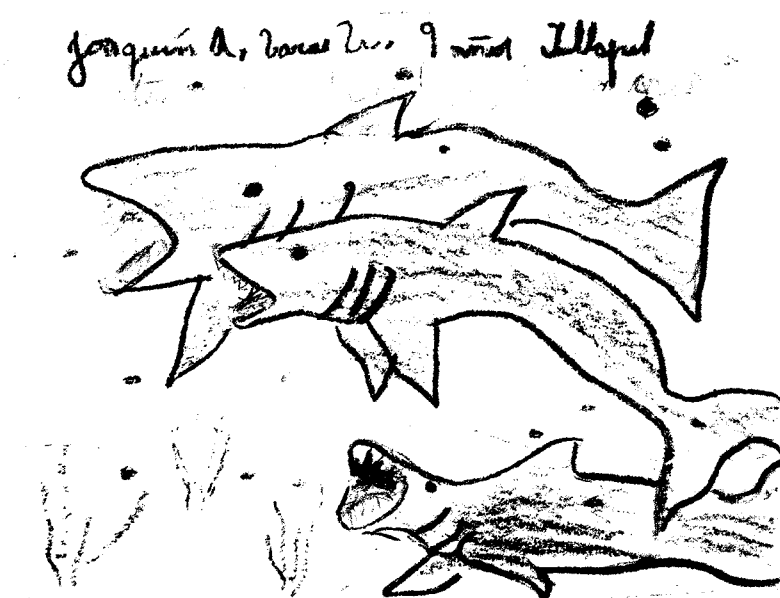
* **Three species of parrots** from South and Central America were transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I.

* **The bigleaf mahogany** was placed on Appendix II.

Proposals to lessen protection for whales were defeated, but three countries (Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa) were given ivory export quotas dependent on establishment of trade monitoring controls.

Chile is now a democratic nation following many years of brutal dictatorship. During the conference hundreds of young Chileans took to the streets to demonstrate their support for wildlife protection and opposition to the wildlife trade and any cruelty to wildlife. The conference exhibition area showed off the work of Chilean nature protection groups and paintings of animals by Chilean schoolchildren.

CITES COP-13 will be held in Thailand in late 2004 or early 2005.





Left to right: Josef and Maya Schmuck (IPPL representatives in Austria), Elba Muñoz Lopez (IPPL representative for Chile), Shirley McGreal, and Godofredo Stutzin, long-time Chilean IPPL member.

Below: IPPL ally Dedi Kurniawan of ProFauna Indonesia (formerly KSBK).



Above: A highlight of CITES for IPPL was a visit to spectacular La Campana National Park, 100 miles north of Santiago and home to the rare Chilean palm tree. Bourama Niagate, CITES delegate from Mali, is seen here with a friendly Chilean schoolgirl.

Right: Shirley McGreal with Alpha Aly Maiga, head of Mali's delegation.



SIGLO XXI - CHILE'S PRIMATE RESCUE CENTER

by *Elba Muñoz Lopez, Center Director*

As a result of the economic growth that occurred at the end of military rule in Chile, exotic animals began to reach Chile to be sold as pets. Tiny monkeys crammed into cages and kept in very bad conditions were a common sight in shops. The increased animal traffic was due in part to the indifference of the authorities at that time. Reptiles, exotic birds, hedgehogs, monkeys, and tortoises replaced dogs and cats.

Our first monkey

In December 1994, a boy arrived at our house. He was carrying a small monkey on his shoulder and asked us if we could give his pet a home. When I saw Cristobal (the name we chose for him), his sadness and helplessness touched my heart deeply. He looked so vulnerable that I felt an urgent need to protect him. I realized that, although Chilean authorities had permitted his sale, there was no place in the entire country where he could receive medical treatment, nor any place where he could be surrendered so he could live with others of his species.

This little monkey (a woolly monkey) changed our lives. With my husband Carlos, a pediatrician, we approached the Service of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (SAG) and requested permission to establish a rescue center for woolly monkeys.

The rescue center

We began to work hard against the primate trade. We visited Brazil, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Argentina, Peru, and Ecuador. We had discussions with the authorities, we visited sanctuaries and rescue centers, we went to conferences and seminars, and in 1996 SAG gave us official recognition as a Center for Rescue and Rehabilitation of Primates, the only such center in Chile. This center has operated out of our house, with our own family's money, and we have received no help from the government.

Since 1994 we have rescued 117 primates, including two chimpanzees. One of them, named Eusebio, was transferred

from the National Zoo to Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia, in December 2000. The other chimp, Toto, arrived at our center on January 29 from a Chilean circus where he had lived chained up for 22 years. He had been forced to smoke and drink alcohol as part of his act at the Konig Circus. He will be moved to Chimfunshi with the help of Animal Defenders.

Sources of animals

Primates reach our center from pet shops, pet owners, circuses, private zoos, and laboratories. Some are confiscated at the airport. One very sick animal was found abandoned on the street. His name is Esperanzo, and he is a small howler monkey, originally from Argentina. He arrived blind and with bone deformities. Another monkey was left at our front gate during the night (Nicole, a female capuchin).

Recent additions include three rescued laboratory monkeys. Siglo XXI had taken undercover footage of the conditions in which the monkeys were living at a university laboratory, and the Chilean media gave extensive publicity to the monkeys' plight. This led to the transfer of three capuchin monkeys to Siglo XXI.

Our primates

We can divide the primates who arrive at our center into two groups for management and care:

- * infant and young juvenile primates, which need intensive medical care and full-time attention. With increased law enforcement, we are seeing fewer infants.

- * older juveniles and adults whose principal problems are the result of malnutrition, behavioral issues, and depression.

Among the principal clinical problems found in newly arriving monkeys are: weight problems, skin infections, nutritional deficiencies, mutilations (such as canine teeth removed improperly or injuries from other animals), intestinal parasites, diarrhea, respiratory ailments, epilepsy, blindness, and metabolic bone disease.

In the majority of cases the same monkey may have a variety of physical and emotional problems. This was the case with Hugo, a capuchin monkey who reached us from a circus with burns on his body, mutilation of his fingers and toes, wounds on his abdomen caused by a belt he had worn for five years, mutilation of the canine teeth, and a severe state of depression.

Now Hugo is the leader of a group of seven monkeys and is in excellent condition.



Jacobita, a moustached tamarin

Lots of help

We work with two veterinarians who are twins (Alejandra and Rita Ortiz); a third veterinarian who specializes in animal dentistry (Rodrigo Bahamondes); a pediatrician (my husband, Carlos Almazan); and a student of engineering and mathematics who manages our Web site (my son Carlos Felipe).

We also receive help from my daughter Lorena, who writes everything that needs to be written in English; my daughter Crista, a university student majoring in design, who creates toys to raise funds; an engineer (Sergio Galana), who designs cages and constructed Toto's enclosure; his wife Silvia, who always brings exotic fruits; a worker who has been with us for 18 years (Alberto Vera); Juan, who works daily on cage upkeep; and my youngest son Roberto, who helps me with bottle-feeding tiny babies.

The future

Our work has been productive. Having rescued over 100 monkeys, we realized we had to expand. In December 2001 we bought a new piece of land (we'll be paying for it for the next 12 years) where we have started work on establishing the new center. With funds provided by IPPL, we began the construction of the first habitats for capuchin monkeys.

For two and a half months Brian Milton, a keeper at The Monkey Sanctuary Trust in England, helped by Chilean volunteers, worked at constructing the first of five cages for capuchin monkeys. Brian taught the volunteers how to build cages. After he left, the cages were completed. In mid-February, the first group of 14 capuchin monkeys and one woolly monkey were moved to the new location.

Our needs are many. We have a medical center, but we need to equip it. We have our new property. It is large and



Spider monkey enclosure

pretty with a lot of vegetation, but we need to construct more housing units. We need heated areas for the winter, we need to complete the fencing of the property, and build a caretakers' house. The list of things to do is endless!

The results have been wonderful. The primate traffic has been greatly reduced in Chile, the authorities have banned the sale of monkeys, and ownership of pet primates is banned. We are working to ban the use of primates in circuses. We have publicly denounced animal abuse and the exploitation of primates in laboratories, with the support of the press.

The Center welcomes students of veterinary medicine, journalism, psychology, biology, and education. We want to develop an educational program covering the animal trade, biodiversity, ecology, and the care of our planet.

Cristobal, our first monkey, sadly passed away last year. But I believe that Cristobal, from wherever he is, is looking down at us and realizing that he did not live and die in vain. He touched my heart, and because of him I will go on with what I am doing for the rest of my life.



IPPL-funded capuchin enclosure

MUCHAS GRACIAS!

We are grateful to the organizations that have helped us: the International Primate Protection League, The Monkey Sanctuary Trust, Animal Defenders, the Born Free Foundation, the Animal Welfare Institute, and the Primate Society of Great Britain have helped us with construction of some of the habitats, developing a birth control program for the females, providing environmental enrichment, and developing educational materials.

FOUND! THE WORLD'S RAREST APE

Most people wrongly believe that the world's rarest apes are the well-known gorillas, orangutans, and chimpanzees. All these species are indeed in dire straits, and public concern is justified.

However, according to Dr. Thomas Geissmann of the Zoology Institute of the University of Hannover, Germany, several species of gibbons—the small, lesser-known apes—are far rarer than any great ape.

The Eastern black crested (Cao Vit) gibbon

In 2002 Geissmann, working with Vietnamese scientists La Quang Trung and Trinh Dinh Hoang of Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and Vu Dinh Thong, Dang Ngoc Can, and Pham Duc Tien of the Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources, Hanoi, announced that the rarest of all apes is the Eastern black crested gibbon (also known as the Cao Vit gibbon because of the unique call).

The species became extinct on the Chinese mainland in the 1950s. A small population on Hainan Island off the

coast of China is now reduced to around 20 individuals.

Male black crested gibbons are completely black and do not have the golden yellow or white cheeks of other crested gibbon species found in Southeast Asia.

No Eastern black crested gibbons had been observed in Vietnam since the 1960s. Numerous efforts to locate these animals had been unsuccessful.

Cao Vit gibbon groups found

In January 2002, FFI biologists La Quang Trung and Trinh Dinh Hoang located a small remnant population of black crested gibbons in Trung Khanh District of Cao Bang Province in North-east Vietnam.

In August 2002, Dr. Geissmann and his colleagues conducted the first overall population survey. They discovered at least five groups of gibbons comprising at least 26 animals in a forest area of less than 3,000 hectares (7,400 acres).

The animals the scientists observed differed from the Hainan Island gibbons in fur coloration and territorial calls, and

are therefore considered to be a separate subspecies by Geissmann and his colleagues.

Threats to Cao Vit gibbons

The surviving black crested gibbons are threatened by illegal logging and hunting in both Vietnam and China. Without human intervention, extinction looms.

FFI is proposing to create a nature reserve, and work with local residents to protect the forest and the animals. This is an important project which merits international support. During the Vietnam war in the 1960s, the nation's forests and wildlife were devastated by the spraying of 76 million liters of herbicides and defoliants such as "Agent Orange" over 10 to 14 percent of the area of the former South Vietnam.

In addition, saturation bombing and "Rome plowing" (using huge plows to flatten landscapes) destroyed tens of thousands of square miles of forest and mangrove swamps. Vietnam has still not recovered from this tragedy. And neither have its unique gibbons.

IPPL HELPED THE LONG SEARCH FOR THE CAO VIT GIBBONS!

Dr. Thomas Geissmann and his Vietnamese colleagues have been looking for the rare Cao Vit gibbon for years—and IPPL has helped his scientific detective work. Way back in 1996, IPPL awarded Dr. Geissmann a small grant to help fund one of his expeditions to search for the animal. Although that expedition was not successful, it helped set the stage for last year's rediscovery of this elusive ape. IPPL has always recognized the importance of supporting scientific fieldwork to establish the status of endangered primates and determining the best ways to protect them. Congratulations to all involved in finally locating Cao Vit gibbons!

TAIWANESE OFFICIALS RESPOND TO IPPL NEWS ARTICLE

The November issue of *IPPL News* carried an article about the capture of Formosan macaques on Mount Longevity. Mount Longevity is part of Tzaishan Park on the western edge of the city of Kaohsiung in the south of the island of Taiwan.

The article was written by Dr. G. Agoramoorthy, who has conducted a long-term study of the macaques living on the mountain. He was distressed by the reportedly traumatic capture of monkeys and expressed concern that

the monkeys might be sent to laboratories or zoos. As a result of the IPPL article, two Taiwanese officials provided further information, which is extracted below.

Mayor says Formosan macaque "not endangered"

The Formosan macaque, the only monkey species native to Taiwan, is listed as "Vulnerable" in the IUCN *Red Data Book*. However, Frank Chang-ting

Hsieh, Mayor of Kaohsiung, informed IPPL that the species is "far from being in danger of extinction in Taiwan."

The Mayor further stated that "violent macaques" with "a tendency to attack mountain hikers" have indeed been removed from Mount Longevity and sent to "the campus of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology." He noted that the testing conducted on the animals consisted of routine health examinations. **No biomedical research was involved.**

Mayor Hsieh stated that the capture program, which was “highly acclaimed by the public,” has ceased.

Forestry Department comments

Dr. Chien-Hsing Lai, Director-General of Taiwan’s Forestry Department, also commented, writing:

Over 500,000 people visit Mt. Longevity’s nature park every year...Many visitors fed monkeys for the past 15 to 20 years. As a result the population increased from less than 50 monkeys 20 years ago to over 700 animals today...In 2001, the [Kaohsiung] city government also enacted a regulation banning the feeding, contacting, or other behaviors that are harmful to the monkeys at Mount Longevity.

Lai added that a total of 17 monkeys was removed from Mt. Longevity. They were tested at Pingtung University for dengue fever, because a 2001 outbreak of this disease had affected humans in Kaohsiung. The monkeys were also tested for tuberculosis and hepatitis B. All tested negative. No monkeys were transferred to research laboratories. Instead they were sent to the Pingtung Rescue Center for Endangered Animals, part of Pingtung University.

Rescue and “re-homing”

Lai noted that the Pingtung Rescue Center had “re-homed” some of its rescued animals.



**Pingtung Rescue Center
macaque enclosure**



Some of the Pingtung macaques

Among the overseas recipients of animals were: the **Kalimantan Orangutan Rehabilitation Project** in Indonesia (orangutans); the **Sra Kaew Zoo** in Lopburi, Thailand (one orangutan); **Jungle Kingdom** in Islamabad, Pakistan (tigers); **Taiping Zoo** in Malaysia (orangutans); the **Nehru Zoo** in India (Malayan sun bears); and **Monkey World** in England (gibbons and orangutans).

Lai emphasized:

None of the above facilities or other zoological parks request for Formosan macaques.

Mr. Lai stressed Taiwan’s commitment to the protection of macaques, but stated that the capture of the monkeys was in compliance with Taiwan’s law. He noted that human-monkey conflict happens because:

Taiwan is a small island and its population density is the second highest in the world. The area of Taiwan is about 36,000 square kilometers and our population density is 616 persons per square kilometer. It is extremely difficult to avoid human-wildlife conflict, especially in places adjacent to an urban area such as the nature park at Mt. Longevity.

IPPL representative investigates

Charles Shuttleworth, IPPL’s Field

Representative for Taiwan, looked into the Mt. Longevity situation following the controversy over the article. He learned that the monkeys sent to Pingtung were caught by the use of wire snares, “similar to motorcycle cables,” and that the snares were “baited with bananas.”

The snared monkeys were tranquilized by a veterinarian and sent to Pingtung Rescue Center, to be tested for a variety of diseases. After two months in quarantine, the monkeys were transferred to spacious cages at the center.

Shared concerns

Shuttleworth shared Dr. Agoramoorthy’s concern regarding the inadequate conditions at Shoushan Zoo in Kaohsiung. He reported that the macaques, orangutans, and gibbons are “very badly housed in old-fashioned cages, gloomy, dank, and without sunlight, more suitable for reptiles.”

An improved unit for the Sulawesi crested macaques has been built, but is not yet occupied. Other than the primates, Shuttleworth reported that the Shoushan Zoo animals were adequately housed.

Shuttleworth noted with regret that human-monkey problems continue at Mount Longevity:

Visitors to the Tzaishan Park are still feeding the macaques and slingshots are being used to maim them. Both fruit and slingshots are openly

sold at the entrance to the park. There is no enforcement of the laws and regulations forbidding this...There is no doubt that illegal trapping and maiming of macaques is still going on in the park and that iron traps are also being used.

However there is no evidence that this is the work of the Pingtung Rescue Center other than the fact that personnel of the center have been observed in the area...

Pingtung Rescue Center

Shuttleworth praised the Pingtung

Rescue Center, opened in 1996, for its spacious enclosures and the excellent care provided to its animals. According to its Web site, the Center released around 40 Formosan macaques on Sijiaoyu Island in the Penghu (Pescadores) islands, where they adjusted well. Shuttleworth reports that, following complaints about the monkeys from fishermen, the animals were recaptured and returned to the center.

Shuttleworth concluded:

We found a marked lack of communication between a number of

agencies supposedly engaged in the same field of endeavor...A committee composed of representatives of all agencies involved meeting regularly would go a long way toward alleviating the situation...Dr. Agoramorthy feels very strongly that macaques in the wild should not be trapped, whereas the government, faced with the responsibility towards its citizens, feels that some of them must be. It is a dilemma that is facing all concerned with wildlife conservation in Taiwan.

NERVE GAS TESTED ON MONKEYS

According to a 5 February 2003 press release from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the agency has approved a drug that might increase the survival chances of humans exposed to soman, a nerve gas.

Soman brings about death by causing loss of muscle control, including paralysis of the muscles required for breathing. According to the FDA, the drug has been approved only "for combat use by U.S. military personnel."

The FDA notes that,

Pyridostigmine bromide was approved under an FDA rule that allows the agency to rely on animal data as evidence of effectiveness when studies in humans are not possible. Normally FDA regulations require studies to be performed in humans but, because exposing humans to nerve agents is too dangerous, effectiveness studies in animals are considered acceptable in such circumstances.

Since exposing humans to nerve agents is too dangerous, guess who was chosen to stand in? Monkeys, of course. The monkeys received doses of pyridostigmine bromide, then were exposed to soman, and the results observed for their response to the regimen.

The FDA press release contains no specifics of the experimental protocol, but notes that pre-exposure treatment of monkeys with the drug pyridostigmine bromide, followed by post-exposure treat-

ment with atropine and pralidoxime, increased survival rates.

The effectiveness of this treatment on humans, however, is as yet unknown. Nothing is known about its effects under field conditions involving an actual chemical attack. The drug must be administered every eight hours, starting several hours prior to the soman attack. How the personnel would learn in advance of an impending attack is unclear. Post-exposure use of the drug "may make the effects of soman worse."

There are numerous possible side effects to the drug, including stomach cramps, gas, diarrhea, nausea, increased urge to urinate, and drooling, all of which would be inconvenient in battlefield situations.

It is difficult to obtain details of actual experiments, as most of the research is conducted in secret.

The British animal rights group **Animal Aid** published on its Web site details of a 1979 experiment at the military labs at Porton Down, Wiltshire. Scientists described how rhesus monkeys suffered violent convulsions following a medium dose of the gas. A few monkeys who survived a higher dose "made attempts to crawl about the cage, but relapsed after about an hour and died."

Other chemical warfare agents include sarin, another highly lethal nerve gas. Sarin was released into the Tokyo subway by a Japanese extremist group in 1995, killing 43 humans and injuring thousands more.

Chemical and biological warfare ex-

perimentation is performed by the US Department of Defense and by military and civilian facilities in many countries. Among the US government laboratories using animals in warfare experimentation are:

- * **the Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense**, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland,

- * **the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases**, Fort Detrick, Maryland,

- * **the Walter Reed Army Medical Research Center**, Washington, DC,

- * **the Brooks Air Force Base**, San Antonio, Texas, and

- * **the Wright Patterson Air Force Base**, Ohio.

Private US companies with US government contracts to experiment with bio-warfare agents include the **Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute**, Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the **Battelle Medical Research and Evaluation Facility**, Columbus, Ohio.

British researchers have been exposing primates and other animals to sarin for decades. On the **Animal Aid** Web site www.animalaid.org.uk/ the plight of the Porton Down military test subject animals is described in graphic detail. **Animal Aid** asks:

***Animals don't drop bombs
Animals don't make wars
Just because humans do
Why should animals suffer?***

US FACILITIES BID FOR DEADLY DISEASE LAB

According to a 23 January 2003 Associated Press story, at least six research facilities in the United States have applied to the US National Institutes of Health for a grant to build a \$200 million high-security bio-defense laboratory to research the world's deadliest diseases.

It is likely that thousands of monkeys would be used by these facilities. The applicants are:

* *the University of California at Davis, California,*

* *the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas,*

* *the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Maryland,*

* *the University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois,*

* *the Boston University Medical Center, Massachusetts, and*

* *the New York State Department of Health, New York.*

Existing high-security labs already exist at:

* *the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia,*

* *the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland,*

* *the Viral Immunology Center at Georgia State University in Atlanta,*

* *the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, and*

* *the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas.*

IPPL has learned that the Oregon Health Science Center is also keen to participate in bio-defense experimentation. The work would be conducted at the West Campus in Hillsboro, Oregon. Scientists from the center have formed a consortium called the Pacific Rim Biodefense Center to seek millions of dollars.

PROPOSED NEW PRIMATE LABORATORY

By Cyril Rosen, IPPL-UK

Cambridge University has appealed against the rejection of their application to build a giant new primate research laboratory on the outskirts of the city.

The Appeal was heard by the Chief Planning Inspector, Mr. Stuart Nixon, over a two-week period, with closing submissions required on 6 January 2003.

Unusually, for a planning appeal, the Inspector allowed submissions from individuals and organizations opposed to the use of animals in research procedures. The laboratory is to specialize in neurological research targeted at common human afflictions such as Parkinson's and stroke.

The University had claimed an exemption from the restriction on development in a conservation area (the "Green Belt") on the grounds that the work was in the national interest. The hearing provided an opportunity for opponents to question

the validity of directing funds and scientific resources to work on an inappropriate model.

The star witness in these proceedings was Dr. C. Ray Greek, author of *Specious Science*. During a full day on the witness stand he was able to refute claims that past work with monkeys had played a useful role in the development of treatment for humans. Under cross-examination he reinforced his claim that the proposed research is based upon outdated procedures and is scientifically flawed. His arguments were supported by the evidence of Professor Claude Reiss, representing Doctors and Lawyers for Responsible Medicine.

As IPPL's UK Representative, I presented evidence based upon my extensive experience in primate husbandry. At the request of local residents,

I presented a 30-page commissioned veterinary report and my own survey of the adverse effects of such laboratories in peripheral city locations. Under cross-examination, I had the opportunity to demonstrate that the university had not given consideration to the impact upon local residents. In "the National Interest," the interests of local residents had disappeared!

The Appeal has been "called in" by the Secretary of State, to whom the Inspector will report the findings. The Prime Minister (Tony Blair) and the Minister for Science (Lord Sainsbury) have both spoken in support of the project. There is understandable concern that the eventual ruling may be influenced by ministerial intrusion. There is likely to be a delay of several months before a conclusion is announced.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Hope Walker is currently working on a non-fiction manuscript about the family, life, and tragic murder of Dr. Dian Fossey. She has been collecting information for over ten years and hopes "to offer a more accurate and compassionate history of one of the most misunderstood and vilified scientists of the 20th century."

Ms. Walker would like to hear from individuals who knew or met Dr. Fossey, or who have related photographs, letters, notes, audio or video recordings, etc. Please contact Ms. Walker at **P.O. Box 2101, Port Townsend, WA 98368** or by e-mail at **gorillas@waypt.com**

THE US PET MONKEY TRADE

The United States has a vigorous trade in pet monkeys. Although importation of monkeys for the pet trade was banned in 1975, thousands of monkeys are being sold annually. It is impossible to provide exact statistics, as the US government does not maintain a database on pet monkeys because the trade is not fully monitored by any single government agency.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service only deals with endangered species, and the US Department of Agriculture only deals with commercial breeders shipping animals between US states.

The source of some of the monkeys is the wild. Animal dealers have been caught smuggling monkeys across the long and porous Mexico-US border, and some monkeys are smuggled into the US in ingenious ways. In December 2002 a man arriving in Los Angeles on a flight from Thailand was caught with two smuggled monkeys in his pants.

Dealers in research monkeys import thousands of animals for sale to laboratories. There are no confirmed reports of these facilities leaking monkeys into the pet trade.

By far the biggest source of pet monkeys is the breeder/dealer industry. Breeders collect large colonies of monkeys and, when babies are born, the babies are "pulled" and sold for several thousand dollars each.

Some primate species are, on paper, protected from interstate trade by the US Endangered Species Act. These are the species officially classified as "Endangered," including gibbons, lemurs, Diana monkeys, and cottontop tamarins. Yet all these species show up at "primate parties" where monkey pet owners get together.

The Internet has greatly facilitated the interstate sale of monkeys. People with no knowledge of monkeys and no qualifications to care for them can pay \$3,000 to \$35,000 and buy a monkey or an ape. And people do buy them, even though there are many dishonest "scammers" who cheat people wanting a pet monkey, taking their money but never delivering the animal ordered. Sometimes an adult



animal is delivered instead of a baby.

Chimpanzees are split-listed on the US Endangered Species Act and can be freely sold interstate. Only chimpanzees living outside the United States are subject to import/export restrictions. Chimps sell for \$30,000 or more each.

Primates are wild animals and do not belong in peoples' homes. As infants, they are "cute and cuddly," but infancy lasts for only a tiny fraction of a monkey's life. So why would anyone want to purchase a baby monkey kidnapped from his/her mother?

Notices from one of the many elec-

tronic bulletin boards suggest several reasons and also show how monkeys can become "throwaway" pets like cats and dogs. We have corrected grammar and spelling mistakes to make the notices easier to read.

Monkeys as substitute children

Monkeys are wild animals. It is sometimes hard to fathom why anyone would want one. Some people want a "status symbol" pet that they can parade around in public to get attention. This is stressful to monkeys and can lead to people getting bitten. Monkeys can infect humans with numerous ailments that they can harbor—and vice versa.

It is clear from the monkey bulletin boards that many people also see pet monkeys as substitutes for human babies. There are many similarities at birth, but grown-up monkeys become independent and often attack their "owners."

Looking for a baby or young capuchin. My husband and I are unable to have children, and after long and in-depth conversations concerning it feel we are more than ready to make a monkey part of our loving family. Hoping not to exceed the price of \$4,500. Please help us make our family complete!

I have some questions for you. If you could possibly find time to respond, I



would be very happy. I am 25 years old and married. Since the birth of our son three years ago, we knew we had the room in our hearts for another baby. We've been trying, but seem unable to accomplish anything more than becoming devastated each month. So, we started researching baby monkeys. I don't remember how or when exactly we started searching, but we finally decided to try it. We've narrowed it down to the child-like faced capuchins, and the sweet little marmosets. I know we would be able to provide a loving home, filled with nurturing; the problem we've encountered now is their price. Are only rich people meant to have these adorable babies?

Looking for a baby spider monkey around 2 months of age. Cannot have children of my own so I'm wanting to raise a spider monkey. Willing to pay up to \$4,500.

I have been watching Animal Planet and see how a white throated capuchin can take the place of a child. My husband and I can't have children. I couldn't take care of a human baby as I have a very bad back and cannot lift over five pounds. My life at home is pretty boring as husband works all the time. I need the companionship of a capuchin monkey. They are little darlings.

I would love to give a baby or an adult capuchin a loving and safe home for the rest of its life. Would be well cared for and treated like a real baby. Even have its own Christmas stocking and presents.

Monkey fashions

Owners of pet monkeys often dress their "babies" in human clothing and sometimes call them "monkids." This is insulting to the natural identity of these animals, treating the unfortunate animals as human playthings.

I am interested in sewing outfits for small capuchin monkeys. Are they all running around nude??? I am an experienced seamstress and my doll-sized clothes seem to fit these cute little guys. I now have one

regular customer. Anyone interested please e-mail me.

Monkey clothes for sale, still look brand-new as our baby grew so fast! We have overalls, pants, shirts, shorts and diaper covers they look great and have no fading to them! All clothes can be mixed and matched for easy dressing! Please e-mail for prices. Very durable by a super-great seamstress!

Harness and leash for marmosets and tamarins; also diapers and sleeping tubes for marmosets and tamarins.



Looking for surrogate friends

People interested in acquiring pet primates often seem to expect the animals to take the place of human friendship.

After reading this message board, I realized that no one has said anything about the most famous, and my favorite monkey: a chimpanzee. Is it illegal to own one? Because I am looking to buy. I will give it all the love I can because I have wanted one my whole life.

Hi, I am 11 years old. I'm looking for a capuchin monkey. Don't have much money. Very good home. Willing to come and get it. Looking for a best friend.

My family had a little squirrel monkey named Jeepers when I was a child. I'm 46 now and looking for another little friend of my own. Although I've been a teacher for seventeen years, I used to be a certified MIG/TIG welder,

and I'm currently constructing a 3' X 5' X 6' monkey habitat. It will be quite luxurious—a primate Hilton.

Disillusionment—behavior issues, bites, and vet bills

Pet monkey owners are eager to handle monkeys. While most facilities caring for primates have animals living in groups, and are required by law to provide environmental enrichment, the law does not apply to pet monkey owners. Some primate bulletin boards recommend housing monkeys in boring environments so that they will accept human company.

As they grow older, monkeys tend to become independent and aggressive. Some owners remove all or some of their monkey's teeth in the hope of minimizing the injuries caused by bites, or desex their pet primates in a futile attempt to modify their temperament.

Another difficulty often unforeseen by monkey owners is finding reasonable health care for their "pets." Very few veterinarians will treat pet monkeys. On many monkey lists there are complaints about the prices charged by vets and the distance people must travel to locate a veterinarian willing and able to treat primates.



I think my big mistake was I didn't know what kind of monkey did I want. A PET or something to look at like fish. [On] all the web sites I read about a monkey being a pet. You wanted his cage to be small and very uninteresting, so that he would want to get out of his cage so you can teach him to be held. Well, my monkey wants to stay in his cage all day and night now. I put too many things inside

the cage for him. A mistake I will have to learn from.

By the way it's very seldom that a monk does not turn to aggressive behavior after reaching maturity. They bite a lot when babies because they are scared, but bite hard, deep and often attack on a whim when older! Especially if you are making them do something they don't want. Which is the reason many monks are so often sold again around four years when most monks mature. Yes, I still miss the end of my finger...severe nerve damage left it completely numb, and that was just a deep gash from a squirrel monk. Li'l stinker!!! Which I couldn't get the surgery I needed to repair it, because the doctor has to report it, and often the monk is confiscated for biting and put to death to check for rabies, especially since it was not my monk. Know what you are getting into before you buy!

I lucked out, my primate vet IS down the street, literally — 1/4 mile, but he is SOOOO expensive. USDA vet check-up last year was \$60; now it's over \$250, and that is just to look around, play with the animal, and sign a piece of paper. Does not even include any type of checkup on any animals.

Getting rid of pet monkeys

People working at traditional dog and cat SPCAs are frustrated by people who "dump" their family pets when they move or when the animal becomes an inconvenience, often due to behavioral problems.

The same is the case with monkeys. Usually "owners" get rid of monkeys when they are 4 to 8 years old. This is a



major problem for pet monkeys. The few existing sanctuaries are crowded, yet they are offered more and more monkeys. Very few former "owners" who have bought baby primates provide donations for lifetime care of their once cherished pet, after they have ruined the animal's life for their selfish gratification.

Moving and unable to bring along our guenons. Would like a nice family to adopt our kids. Guenon Mona female is eight years old and as sweet as can be. Guenon Vervet male has an attitude but tends to listen mostly to Adult Males. He is also eight years old.

We have a Male Common Marmoset. His name is Gizmo. We have had him for six months now. He has been to the vet once since we have had him. The vet said he was a healthy 3 year old. We are sad to see him go but the wife wants the room so she can start breeding sugar gliders.

We are asking \$2,200 dollars US.

I have 4 monkeys for sale. These kids have been a part of my family for years, and new job does not allow me to give them the time they need. You will not be able to handle any of these kids. They have all bitten and will bite again if given the chance.

We have a female bonnet for sale. She is very sweet, but does not want you to hold her. She is 5 years old. Also she might be bred, we got her in with the male. Asking \$3,000.00.

I have a male spider monkey for sale. He is 6 years old and tame, but does not like to be held. He can wear diapers, and he is not neutered. Would do great with other monkeys.

I am USDA [US Department of Agriculture licensed] and live in Texas and I have a black and white female capuchin for sale. She is 8 months and I need to sell her quick. Money problems force me to sell her. I will bring it to you most of the time—it depends where you live. But need to be paid because I am not flying somewhere and find you are pulling my chain or don't have the money. Have done that once and once is enough. I am only asking \$4,000.

Taking responsibility for a living primate is a commitment that can last for decades, not something to be done lightly. Pet monkey "owners" would be doing more for the primates they profess to love if they spent their money and energies on protecting primate species in the wild—where they belong.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

NEVER buy monkeys or any other wild animals as pets.

ENCOURAGE your friends not to buy monkeys or any wild pets.

DO NOT give positive reinforcement to owners of pet monkeys.

REPORT any mistreatment to your local SPCA.

IF YOU SEE A MONKEY FOR SALE IN A PET SHOP, write down the name of the shop and address and let IPPL know.

ENDANGERED PRIMATES VICTIMS OF PET TRADE

Under the US Endangered Species Act, wildlife belonging to endangered species cannot legally be sold between states. Animals can be donated or exchanged but sale is not permitted without a permit obtained from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Endangered animals can only be sold within a state; for example, a Florida dealer can sell an orangutan to a private party in Florida but not to a buyer in New York.

Several primate species listed on the US Endangered Species List are nonetheless found being kept as pets. Among them are cottontop tamarins, Diana

monkeys, lemurs, and gibbons (see photos from pet Web sites). While many of these animals may have been legally obtained, it is likely that money changes hands in some cases.

Unfortunately it is impossible for private individuals to investigate such transactions, which often involve cash payments.

The USFWS Division of Law Enforcement is charged with enforcement of the Endangered Species Act. The agency has many well-trained undercover agents who can infiltrate animal dealing networks. This technique has led to many successful prosecutions.

IPPL believes that the USFWS could bring an end to most sales of endangered primates as pets. Unfortunately the agency has no mandate to handle cases involving non-endangered species.

Please send a letter requesting that USFWS investigate the pet trade involving cottontop tamarins, Diana monkeys, lemurs, gibbons, and all endangered primates, to:

*Kevin Adams, Chief
Division of Law Enforcement
US Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 3247
Arlington VA 22203, USA*



Clockwise from top left: lemur, cottontop tamarin, Diana monkey, white-handed gibbon

ARE YOU MOVING? PLEASE TELL US!

Attention readers! Please let IPPL know if you change your mailing address. We would hate to lose track of you. IPPL E-Alert members should also let us know when they change their e-mail addresses. Contact us at ippl@awod.com

EXTREME SURGERIES

Many pet primate owners have extreme surgeries performed on their animals. While some monkeys have only their canine teeth removed, some unfortunate animals have full mouth extractions. It is outrageous that any veterinarians would participate in such mutilations. This is done to prevent the monkeys' biting.

Sometimes castration is performed on male chimpanzees or monkeys. One family "owning" a pet Diana monkey, a member of an endangered species, had an "ovariohysterectomy" (removal of ovaries and uterus) performed on the animal when she was just under two years old—and extracted the animal's canine teeth at the same time.

Some owners have their pet monkeys' tails removed. This makes it easier to put diapers on animals.

USDA POSITION ON INTERNET ANIMAL SALES

According to a statement by OnlinePetAuction.com:

The management of OnlinePetAuction received word that a license is NOT required to perform online Internet auctions, when USDA [US Department of Agriculture] regulated animals are involved. Although OnlinePetAuction was, and still is, ready to acquire the indicated license, USDA has ruled that the current AWA [Animal Welfare Act] and the USDA charter derived from that, do not cover any Internet or online sales.

PRIMATE IMPORTS TO UNITED STATES DOUBLE

IPPL has fought the cruel international traffic in wild primates for 30 years. Tragically, this trade has increased greatly in recent years. In 1995, 9,158 primates were imported to the United States; in 2002, 18,856 monkeys were imported, an increase of 106 percent.

Crab-eating macaques from Asia are by far the most heavily traded monkeys, followed by rhesus macaques and squirrel monkeys.

China and Vietnam have become the biggest suppliers of monkeys to the United States, followed by Indonesia and Mauritius. China has no native crab-eating macaques, but has imported thousands for breeding colonies. Now China supplies more of this species to world markets than any other nation.

Covance Research Products and Charles River (which has absorbed Sierra Biomedical) are the leading US importers of primates.

Why the increase?

From 17 to 19 April 2002 a conference was held in Washington, DC, under the auspices of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR), a component of the US National Academy of Sciences. The subject was "**International Perspectives—the Future of Nonhuman Primate Resources.**"

Several speakers pointed out the need for large numbers of monkeys to be used in "bioterrorism" experiments. Huge funding is now pouring into this area of research. This is certainly a major reason behind the escalating demand for nonhuman primates in the United States.

It is likely that other nations are also engaged in similar cruel research. The former Soviet Union had a notorious laboratory at Stepnogorsk.

Conference presenters represented many US government agencies. Many primate users from the private and governmental sectors were also present. In addition, animal dealers from around the world attended. IPPL was represented at the conference by Shirley McGreal and Hardy Brown (see the August 2002 issue of *IPPL News*).

Very few animal protectors were present. IPPL took every opportunity to challenge the primate exploiters.



A lone macaque

A NEW NAME FOR INDONESIA'S TOP WILDLIFE ACTIVIST GROUP

By Rosek Nursahid, ProFauna Indonesia (KSBK)

After eight years of hard work protecting Indonesia's endangered animals, the wildlife activist group KSBK (Animal Conservation for Life) changed its name to ProFauna Indonesia last December. One of Indonesia's foremost grassroots animal activist organizations, ProFauna plans to press on in its successful campaigns against the illegal primate trade and the mistreatment of captive monkeys and apes. A growing network of members and volunteers throughout Indonesia carries out ProFauna's activities.

IPPL and KSBK/ProFauna have cooperated for many years to protect Indonesian primates from hunting and illegal trafficking. Among the many victories achieved was the joint effort in 1999 to block the export of proboscis monkeys from Indonesia's Surabaya Zoo to the USA. In addition, ProFauna led a successful campaign in 2001 to halt the primate meat trade in the province of Lampung, on the island of Sumatra.

A circus raided

With a new name and renewed spirit, ProFauna Indonesia began the new year working together with BKSDA (the Center for Natural Resource Conservation), in the Indonesian Department of Forestry, to confiscate protected animals. A prominent raid took place on 29-31 January 2003, when ProFauna members and the police seized animals in a circus in Jakarta. Dozens of rare animals sold by unscrupulous traders and used illegally in the animal show were found there.

Among the animals seized were two Javan ebony langurs, a leopard, a Malayan sun bear, an eagle, a cockatoo, a porcupine, and a python. All the animals were stressed and in poor condition. The owner of the circus was later brought to the police office to be charged in accordance with Indonesian regulations. Since the trade and possession of protected animals are activities prohibited by Indonesian law, the lawbreaker faced up to five years

in prison or a fine of up to 100 million Indonesian rupiah (over \$11,000 US). ProFauna Indonesia is continuing to monitor the case.

Rescue of three rare primates

In addition to the raid in Jakarta, our group has been active in the city of Malang, where ProFauna Indonesia's headquarters are located. ProFauna collaborated with Forestry Department rangers to rescue a mitered leaf monkey, a Javan ebony langur, and a Bornean gibbon—all three of which were being kept illegally as "pets" by a high-ranking military officer. The owner was reluctant to hand over the animals, but the rangers along with ProFauna members were finally able to force the owner to comply.

These rare primates were taken to the Petungsewu Animal Rescue Center, which was built in 2001. The animals are being lovingly cared for by ProFauna volunteers. Some of the Animal Rescue Center's confiscated Bornean gibbons are now ready to be sent on to the Kalaweit Gibbon Rehabilitation Center—a project funded in part by IPPL and the Arcus Foundation—in Kalimantan.

ProFauna rocks!

Besides actively supporting Forestry Department rangers in confiscating protected animals, ProFauna is also campaigning to stop the illegal trade in rare species. On 14 February 2003, ProFauna—in collaboration with a number of Indonesian celebrities—launched a short film titled "On the Way to Extinction." The stars who have joined ProFauna's campaign are members of some of Indonesia's top rock bands, including Slank, Cokelat, and Laluna. The film shows the sad fate of the hunted and traded animals and sends a strong message to stop buying endangered species. The film is now being shown in schools in Malang, Bali, Jakarta, Papua, and Maluku.

With its new name and spirit, ProFauna Indonesia hopes to continue working with IPPL to protect Indonesia's primates. Although ProFauna is not a wealthy organization, we are rich in the many volunteers who have worked to save Indonesian animals from mistreatment and extinction! ProFauna Indonesia is proud of its history of speaking up for—and taking action to protect—our country's wonderful wildlife.



ProFauna helps with animal confiscation

GIFT ITEMS



GIBBON T-SHIRTS



Lemur T: Adults \$14 (US)

\$21 overseas air

Kids \$11 (US)

\$16 overseas air

Color: Cypress green

Adult sizes: XXL, XL, L, M

Kids' sizes: L, M

Gibbon T: \$15 (US)

\$21 overseas air

XL, L

Black Cotton



6 Primate Species T: \$14 (US)

\$21 overseas air

XXL, XL, L, M

White Cotton

*Gibbon Ring-tailed lemur Squirrel monkey
Gorilla Orangutan Chimpanzee*

Orangutan T: \$14 (US)

\$21 overseas air

XXL, XL, L, M

Navy Cotton

XL

Tan Cotton



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City

State/Zip

Color	Size	Qty.	Description	Each	Total

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☐ **Check/Money Order** – Payable to **IPPL**

Overseas checks to be drawn on
U.S. banks. Canadian members add
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Mail your order to: IPPL PO Box 766 Summerville, SC 29484 USA
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Chimp T: \$14 (US)
\$21 overseas air
XXL, L
White Cotton

IPPL OFFICERS

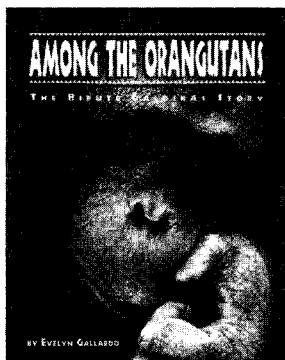
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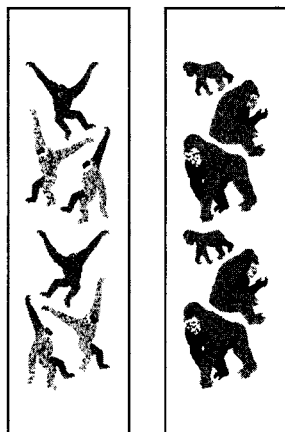
"Among the Orangutans"

Book by Evelyn Gallardo: \$8 (US)
\$16 overseas air, \$12 overseas surface



WILDSIGHT VIDEO

Starring Beanie and the
IPPL gibbons
\$16 (US), \$22 overseas air



Gibbon and Gorilla Stickers

5 assorted sheets, \$5 (US), \$7 overseas air



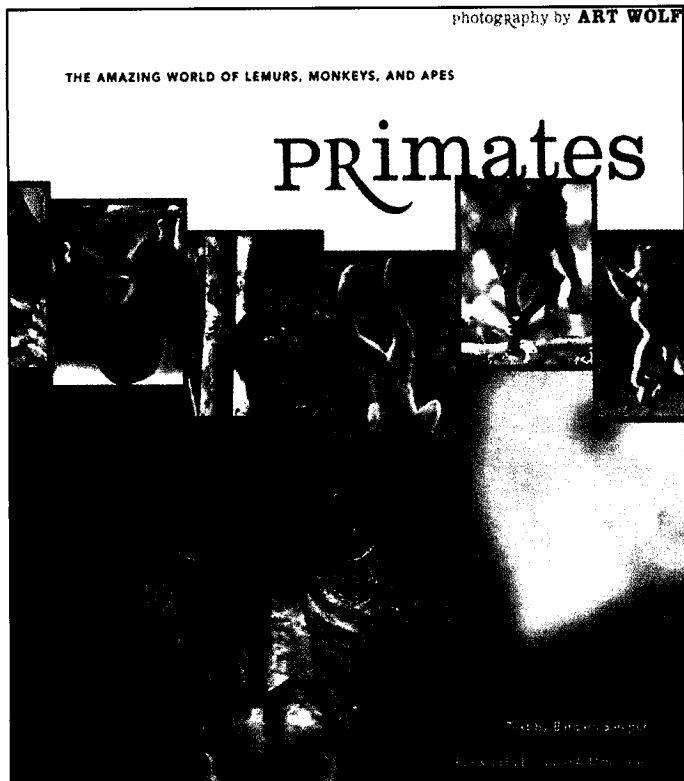
Lovely note cards featuring IPPL gibbons,

Igor, Courtney, and Arun Rangsi

Artwork by Michele Winstanley

12 for \$10 (US), \$14 overseas air

PRIMATE PARAPHERNALIA!



GREAT PRIMATE BOOK!

Award-winning wildlife photographer Art Wolfe takes wonderful photos and Barbara Sleeper is a first-class writer. Together they created **Primates**—sub-titled **The Amazing World of Lemurs, Monkeys and Apes**. This book is a delight to read and suitable for people of all ages.

It contains hundreds of the most spectacular and colorful primate photos you'll ever see. The book costs \$20. Add \$5 for shipping and handling in US, or add \$20 overseas air or \$10 overseas surface. You can use your credit card to place your order.

NEW ITEM!

GORILLA T-SHIRTS

Color: Charcoal Cotton

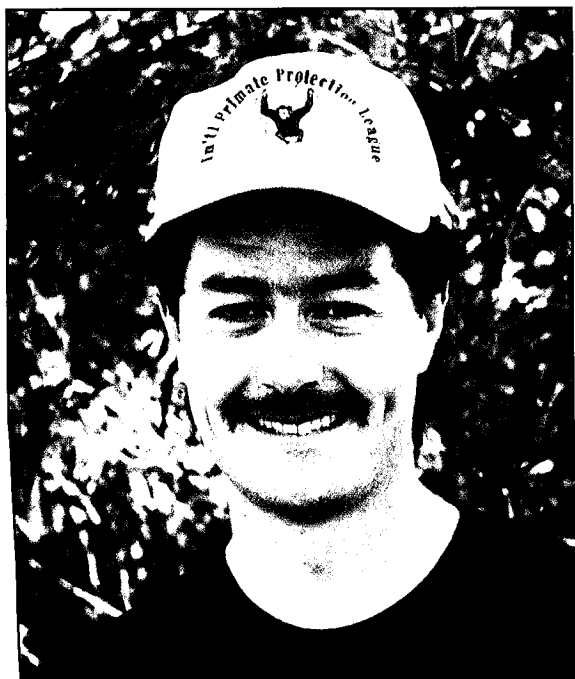
Adult sizes: XXL, XL, L, M, S

Cost: \$14 (US) \$21 overseas air



IPPL BASEBALL CAPS

IPPL now has baseball caps for sale. They feature IPPL's name and a swinging chimp. One size fits all as the cap is adjustable. Color is khaki cotton. Cap costs \$12 to the US, \$16 for overseas air delivery. Price includes postage. Please use order form on page 29.





Các loài thú linh trưởng sau của Việt Nam đang có nguy cơ đe dọa bị tuyệt chủng nghiêm trọng: Voọc Cát Bà, Voọc mông trắng, Voọc mũi hếch và Chà vá chân xám. Chúng chỉ có duy nhất ở Việt Nam và chúng đều là các loài thú linh trưởng quý hiếm nhất thế giới. Thú linh trưởng gần gũi với con người nhất, chúng đang cần sự giúp đỡ và bảo vệ của chúng ta.

THÚ LINH TRƯỞNG Ở VIỆT NAM

WONDERFUL PRIMATE STAMPS FROM VIETNAM

David Rand, an IPPL member since 1975, has a collection of primate stamps from around the world. He kindly donated to IPPL a copy of a series of primate stamps issued by Vietnam in 2002. On the top row (left to right) are the white-headed langur, the Delacour's langur, and the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey. On the center row are the gray-shanked douc langur, the black crested gibbon, and the Hatinh langur. On the bottom row are the Phayre's leaf monkey and the red-shanked douc langur.

International Primate Protection League
P.O. Box 766
Summerville SC 29484
USA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



PRINTED MATTER