



# News

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**INSIDE:**

**TAIPING ZOO GORILLA UPDATE**

**WEDDING AT IPPL**

©Art Wolfe

**Pygmy marmosets** are one of the smallest primates in the world. They are found in the upper Amazon Basin, often in seasonally flooded forests. The female gives birth to 2 or 3 infants at a time, which the male helps carry when they are not nursing.

## A LETTER FROM IPPL'S CHAIRWOMAN



©Michael Turco

*Dear IPPL Member,*

*The year 2003 is IPPL's 30th birthday year!*

*Little did I think, when IPPL consisted of one member (me!) that our membership would grow to over 15,000 members around the world and that we would be able to care for 33 gibbons at our Headquarters in Summerville, South Carolina. And I never dreamed that some day IPPL would be helping chimpanzees in Sierra Leone, gorillas and mandrills in Cameroon, guenons in Nigeria, spider monkeys in Chile, capuchin monkeys in Ecuador, and gibbons in Indonesia and Thailand.*

*One thing that makes IPPL special is that we do not focus on one "trendy" primate species, but on "All Primates Great and Small."*

*IPPL has always fought the trade in primates — both legal and illegal — because we do not believe primates are or should be objects of commerce. Some of our proudest accomplishments have been persuading countries to ban primate exports and investigating smuggling incidents — and getting smugglers sent to prison for a dose of the horrible "life behind bars" that they inflict on precious animals.*

*IPPL also helps overseas grassroots groups fighting to protect habitat and primates. Among them, **Nature's Beckon** in India and **ProFauna** (formerly **KSBK**) in Indonesia are especially active.*

*Like many animal protection organizations, IPPL has seen its income shrink dramatically due to economic problems and worldwide strife. That's why we need and appreciate your continued support as we enter our fourth decade of service to the world's wonderful primates.*

*Amley LaGrass*

## NEW – IPPL GIBBON T-SHIRTS STARRING IPPL'S OWN GIBBONS!

IPPL is delighted to offer you a new gibbon T-shirt, which we know you'll enjoy wearing.

The T-shirts feature drawings by Michelle Michie of three IPPL gibbons: **Arun Rangsi**, who came to us as a baby from a research laboratory; **Igor**, who spent 26 lonely years in research; and our blind gibbon **Beanie**.

We hope you will buy gibbon T-shirts for yourself and your friends. The shirts are forest green and 100% cotton. Available sizes are S, M, L, XL, and XXL (adult) and S, M, and L (children).

The price for adult Ts is \$15 (US), and \$22 (overseas air); for childrens' sizes, \$12 (US) and \$16 (overseas). The price includes shipping, handling, and a flier introducing each gibbon. Please use the order form on page 25



# GORILLAS BRIGHTER AND TWIGGY RETURN HOME TO CAMEROON!

The welcome banners were flying at the Limbe Wildlife Centre (LWC) in the coastal town of Limbe in Cameroon, West Africa, upon the return of two adolescent female gorillas to their home country. Brighter and Twiggy made a safe homecoming last May after being flown in from their previous residence in Nigeria, where they had been seized by the government.

Brighter (9 years old) and Twiggy (6 years) arrived in fairly good health. They are believed to be western lowland gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), originally from Cameroon. These gorillas were smuggled into Nigeria as infants and were eventually offered for sale at the Sabon Gari market (notorious for the illicit wildlife trade that continues to flourish there) in the northern Nigerian metropolis of Kano.

A Lebanese businessman purchased the gorillas and kept them as pets for many years at his house in Kano. This same businessman, Paul Raad, at one time had three other gorillas, as well, but these have

since “disappeared” and are likely dead. Raad apparently tried several times to get rid of Brighter and Twiggy but was unsuccessful.

Following international pressure regarding the illegal trade in endangered species, the Nigerian Government confiscated the two young apes in December 2002. Thanks are especially due to Dr. Imeh Okopido, then Nigeria’s Minister of State for the Environment, who took decisive action as soon as he learned about the gorillas. Unable to provide a proper facility for their lifetime care, the government put them temporarily under house arrest.

Peter Jenkins and Liza Gadsby—founders of LWC and Co-Directors of the Nigeria-based nongovernmental organization (NGO) Pandrillus—worked to convince the Nigerian government to repatriate the gorillas back to Cameroon. There the two animals would be housed at LWC, a respected primate sanctuary with an experienced and successful gorilla rescue and rehabilitation program. LWC

also has active outreach programs to educate Cameroonians about the wildlife crisis in their country, and a long-delayed education center is being completed at the sanctuary entrance.

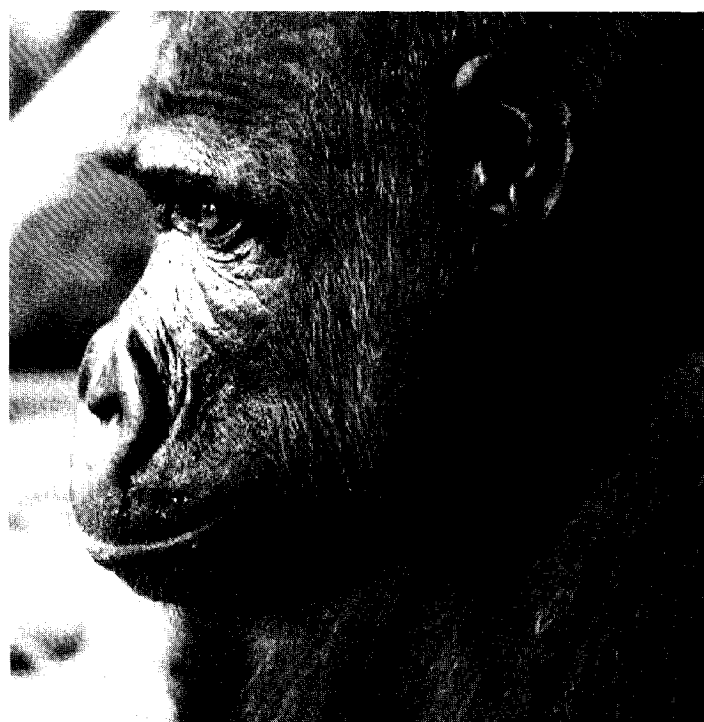
Negotiations regarding the proposed move continued for months. Finally, on Friday, May 23, 2003, Pandrillus successfully transported Brighter and Twiggy to Limbe. The Pan-African Sanctuary Association, the United Nations Environment Programme-Great Apes Survival Project, and both the Nigerian and the Cameroonian governments also cooperated in this event. In addition, last December IPPL provided Limbe with US\$10,000 toward construction of expanded gorilla housing to accommodate the new arrivals.

When Brighter and Twiggy arrived, they found that the LWC quarantine cages had been specially prepared for them, with lots of greens, including large banana trees, for bedding and browse. The two apes will spend three months in quarantine before they can be allowed



Brighter

© Jane Dewar



Twiggy

© Jane Dewar

contact with LWC's other gorillas. The two youngsters seemed to be more curious than upset by their change of surroundings.

Twiggy was a bit thin when she arrived at the Centre and will require special treatment to become stronger and to encourage her to be more confident. She will need this before being introduced to the resident gorilla group at LWC. She has a very calm and gentle disposition and is already loved by all the staff. Due to a year-old injury of unknown origin, she is currently unable to use her right arm. But there is hope that with time and physical therapy her condition will improve.

Brighter is a beautiful gorilla who loves to be the center of attention. Coming from the dry climate in Kano where water is scarce, she enjoys taking a shower under the water hose or tossing over her water bucket. She acts like an older sister to Twiggy, and sometimes gives her a hard time, especially if food is involved.

According to Gorilla Haven's Jane Dewar, who witnessed the arrival of the pair, "Brighter needs a playmate to rough-house with, and poor Twiggy isn't up to it. Twigs needs someone to cuddle or rest with, and Brighter has too much energy. Hopefully, once introductions to

the main gorilla group begin, both gorillas will find new friends and companions to enrich their lives." She added, "In the past, new gorillas introduced to the LWC gorillas were babies—under four years of age. Introducing these older females will be a different experience, but I'm confident that the staff can and will make it work."

LWC expresses appreciation to everyone involved in the cross-border repatriation of these gorillas. Thanks to the power of international cooperation, Brighter and Twiggy will now have an opportunity to be part of a gorilla family group.

## **HELP SUPPORT THE LIMBE WILDLIFE CENTRE, BRIGHTER AND TWIGGY'S NEW HOME!**

Let's help celebrate the return of Brighter and Twiggy to Cameroon! Their new home also cares for many other primate species, including chimpanzees, colorful mandrills, baboons, and a number of rare forest monkeys. If you would like to contribute to the future successes of the Limbe Wildlife Centre, please send a check to IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA. Please mark your donation "For Limbe," so that your gift will be correctly allocated to Brighter and Twiggy's new caregivers. We can also accept credit card donations (AMEX, Visa, MC, Discover). All we need is the card number, the expiration date, the name on the card and the amount you wish to donate.

## **"TAIPING FOUR" TO GO TO SOUTH AFRICA?**

The Government of Malaysia has decided to confiscate four gorillas ("the Taiping Four") obtained by Taiping Zoo, Malaysia, in January 2002.

However, rather than sending the gorillas to a sanctuary in a gorilla habitat country, the Malaysian Government announced that it would send them to Pretoria Zoo in South Africa, a nation that has no wild gorillas and that maintains only three gorillas in zoos.

Two of these gorillas are housed at Johannesburg Zoo. One lives alone at Pretoria Zoo. Three gorillas formerly living at Pretoria died in their 20s.

The International Primate Protection League believes that the Taiping Zoo gorillas should be sent to a rescue center in Cameroon (the probable country of origin of the "Taiping Four"), preferably Limbe Wildlife Centre. Limbe currently provides excellent care to a group of gorillas, all rescued from trade.

Limbe has an active program to educate the Cameroonian public to care for the nation's forests and wildlife heritage. Additional organizations that would prefer to see the gorillas sent to a sanctuary include the Pan African Sanctuary Association, the Born Free Foundation, and the Jane Goodall Institute.

### **IPPL initiates investigation**

In March 2002, the International Primate Protection League was informed that four young gorillas had reached Taiping Zoo in the state of Perak, Malaysia, under suspicious circumstances. We were provided with a photo of two dealers allegedly involved and a business card from an employee of the animal dealing firm (Norizan Binti Abdulrahman, Managing Director of NigerCom Solutions) that reportedly supplied the animals.

International commercial trade in gorillas is banned. All ape species, including gorillas, are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), of which Malaysia is a member state. Nonetheless, there is considerable demand for gorillas which, like pandas, are popular exhibit animals.

IPPL immediately began to look into the suspicious affair. An IPPL investigator was sent to Malaysia and, during a visit to Taiping Zoo, confirmed the presence of four young gorillas who were being kept off-exhibit.

Our investigator reported being told by Kevin Lazarus, Director of Taiping Zoo, that the gorillas had been procured from a Nigerian zoo. Another person associated with the zoo reported that the gorillas had been captured in Cameroon and delivered to the Nigerian Zoo, which arranged their transport to Malaysia.

The Malaysian zoo director stated that the gorillas were not yet on display because “the NGO” (meaning IPPL!) was making such a fuss over the shipment! Mr. Lazarus refused to provide copies of the import/export documents, increasing IPPL’s suspicions and leading us to obtain them from other sources.

At this point IPPL contacted Malaysian wildlife authorities, who immediately canceled an import permit under which the Taiping Zoo could import two more young gorillas.

In addition IPPL initiated a letter-writing/postcard campaign to Malaysian and Nigerian authorities requesting that the shipment be investigated. Many members responded, and we extend our thanks to all who did!

### **IPPL follows the “paper trail”**

Learning that the animals had been shipped from Nigeria enabled us to contact our friends in Nigeria and obtain many relevant documents. The Associated Press, Agence France Presse, the BBC, and several Nigerian newspapers ran many articles about the shipment and obtained more evidence and documents.

An IPPL colleague in Nigeria was especially concerned and worked to gather further information. He obtained many documents, including:

- \* a South African Airways air waybill for four gorillas to be shipped from Lagos, Nigeria, to Penang, Malaysia, via Johannesburg, South Africa, and Bangkok, Thailand. South African Airways normally has a policy of not shipping primates.

- \* a South African veterinary import/re-export permit for five lowland gorillas to be shipped from Nigeria via Johannesburg to Malaysia. Apparently this did not attract any official concern despite widespread knowledge of the endangered status of the gorilla.

- \* a Nigerian CITES permit issued to Ibadan Zoo for export of 5 “captive-bred” gorillas. One of the gorillas was not shipped and may have died.

IPPL provided these documents to the Government of Malaysia, the world

press, and the CITES Secretariat. In fact, the Switzerland-based CITES Secretariat would never have known that the shipment had taken place if IPPL had not provided it with information!

Glenn McKenzie of the Associated Press wrote an excellent story from his base in Nigeria. He went to Ibadan to investigate and found only one gorilla — an elderly female living by herself. Zoo employees informed McKenzie that many young gorillas had passed through the zoo — and that many of those awaiting shipment had died there. One keeper stated that the baby gorillas who reached Ibadan Zoo came from Cameroon.

### **Gorillas on CITES agenda**

Dr. Imeh Okopido, Nigeria’s then-Minister of State for the Environment, attended the 12th Conference of the Parties to CITES, which was held in Santiago, Chile, in November 2002.

At a press conference held during the conference, Okopido denounced the gorilla shipment to the world’s press. Malaysian officials made a feeble defense, stating that they were “duped” by the participants in the deal (surely it is their job to be vigilant!)

On 13 November 2002, Dr. Okopido and Mr. Denis Koulagna Koutou, head

of the Cameroonian delegation, co-signed a letter to Malaysia’s Minister of the Environment calling for the gorillas to be sent to an African sanctuary.

In October 2002, Dato’ Seri Law Hieng Ding, the Malaysian Minister of the Environment, had made an initial announcement that the gorillas would be confiscated and sent to “a certified breeding facility to be recommended by the CITES secretariat.” The Minister pled naiveté and said, “We were misled into believing that the transaction was above board.”

### **Malaysia decides to send gorillas to South Africa**

Following the Minister’s statement that the gorillas would be confiscated, several months passed with no action. Then, in July 2003, Minister Law held a press conference at which he stated that he now believed that Taiping Zoo knew that the four baby gorillas it had purchased were “illegally sourced”—and that “the export permit issued by Nigerian authorities had been forged.”

Law continued,

*The permit was signed by me as Minister. It was a false declaration which means I have also been cheated.*



**One of the “Taiping Four”**

*So we're taking this seriously to find out who were the cheats...I have asked Taiping Zoo to provide a full report on its transaction with Nigeria.*

Law also announced that the Malaysian Cabinet had agreed to send the baby gorillas to "the National Zoological Gardens of South Africa in Pretoria under a bilateral technical co-operation agreement." Minister Law provided no details of the agreement and said that the decision had been approved by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and the CITES Secretariat.

### **Zoo or Sanctuary?**

Minister Okopido has informed IPPL that he has received no reply to the letter he and Mr. Koulagna Koutou co-signed in November 2002, in which they requested that the four gorillas be sent to a sanctuary in Cameroon.

Minister Law claimed that "the Pretoria Zoo has the best means to care for the gorillas, which may not be able to survive if returned to the wild."

Pretoria Zoo currently owns one male gorilla. According to the International Gorilla Studbook, three other gorillas

owned by Pretoria died in their 20s, the last one in 1998. Two infants born at the zoo sadly survived less than a month.

### **"Sanctuary would offer better home" —Jane Goodall**

Many organizations have called for the gorillas to be sent to Limbe Wildlife Centre, a sanctuary in Cameroon that cares for a healthy group of confiscated gorillas and has an experienced African care staff assisted by international volunteers.

Dame Jane Goodall, whose institute operates several chimpanzee sanctuaries in Africa, commented:

*Sending the four gorillas presently confiscated in Malaysia to a sanctuary would discourage further commercial trade in this highly endangered species. In addition, they would play an important role in teaching young Africans about the importance of wildlife protection, thus discouraging further illegal hunting. I have deep sympathy for the four young gorillas themselves. Let us hope they can speedily be returned to the country from which they were smuggled. It is even*

*possible that, in the future, they can be returned to the forests which are their birthright.*

Doug Cress, Director of the Pan African Sanctuary Association, which has 20 sanctuaries as members, commented:

*This is an opportunity to send a clear message to poachers, traders, dealers, zoos, and all those involved in the black market animal trade: Traffic in endangered animals, and nobody profits. Instead the Pretoria Zoo will now receive the gorillas, even though South Africa itself—perhaps unwittingly—was part of the smuggling operation. At Limbe, the gorillas could one day be released to the wild, back in the range country where they belong. But at the Pretoria Zoo, not only are they destined to live in captivity forever, they are also thousands of kilometers from their homelands.*

Unfortunately, input from other quarters appears to have prevailed. It looks like the four gorillas will retrace part of their original trip to Malaysia and again reach Johannesburg Airport.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP – LETTERS NEEDED**

Please contact Malaysian Minister Law Hieng Ding and courteously express your approval of the confiscation of the gorillas, along with an expression of concern over his decision to send the four gorillas to a zoo in a country that is not a gorilla habitat country.

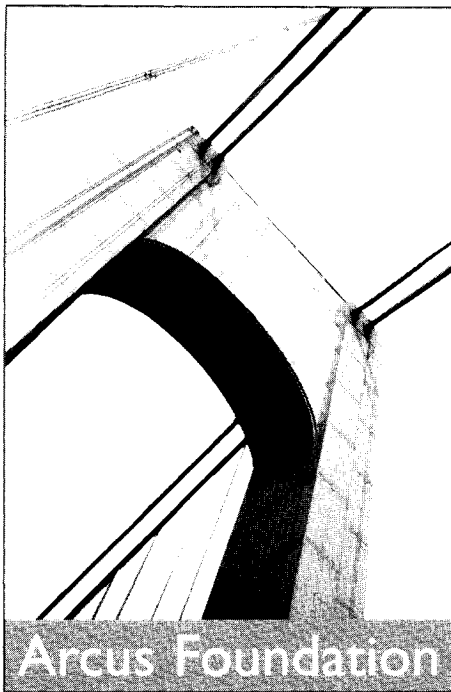
Please inform the Minister that the Director of Ibadan Zoo has claimed in testimony before Nigerian's Commission of Enquiry into Wildlife Crime that four Malaysian nationals visited Ibadan repeatedly to arrange the gorilla deal. Obviously, these people had to know that the deal they were planning was illegal and did not involve captive-born gorillas (see "Nigeria Investigates Wildlife Trade," page 7). Request that these four Malaysians, and all involved in the gorilla deal, including the director of Taiping Zoo, be investigated and prosecuted if guilty of wrongdoing. Postage from the US to Malaysia costs 80 cents per ounce.

*Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Law Hieng Ding (start "Dear Sir")  
Minister of Science, Technology and Environment  
Aras 1 - 7, Blok C5, Parcel C, Pusat Pentadbiran Persekutuan  
620502 Putrajaya, Malaysia*

*The High Commissioner for Malaysia  
45 Belgrave Square  
London SW1X 8QT, United Kingdom  
Fax: 020-7235-5161*

*His Excellency the Ambassador of Malaysia  
2401 Massachusetts Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20038, USA  
Fax: 202-483-7661*

# IPPL RECEIVES GRANT FROM ARCUS FOUNDATION



The International Primate Protection League is delighted to announce that it has received a generous grant of \$55,643 from the Arcus Foundation. The grant is to be divided between six ape rescue centers. These are:

- \* **Tacugama Sanctuary** in Sierra Leone, home to 65 chimpanzees, all rescued from trade.

- \* **HELP-Congo**, Brazzaville, Congo Republic, home to over 30 confiscated chimpanzees.

- \* **The Friends of Bonobos Association** in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), which cares for over 20 bonobos.

- \* **The Endangered Primate Rescue Center** in Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam, which cares for 12 gibbons, along with many endangered langurs.

- \* **The Highland Farm Gibbon Sanctuary**, Amphur Prop Pra, Tak Province, Thailand, which cares for 37 gibbons.

- \* **Kalaweit Gibbon Sanctuary** in Kalimantan, Indonesia, home to 100 gibbons.

The Arcus Foundation made a separate grant of \$54,200 to the Pandrillus Foundation to help construct new housing for the Limbe Wildlife Centre's gorilla group.

All of us at IPPL are grateful for the Arcus Foundation's appreciation of the role that overseas rescue centers play in protecting the world's apes, large and small, and of their generosity toward causes that promote human and animal dignity.

## NIGERIA INVESTIGATES WILDLIFE TRADE

Nigeria's Administrative Commission to investigate illegal wildlife trade has completed its final report, but the document is not yet available to the public. IPPL has learned that the report recommended criminal prosecution of all involved in the "Taiping Four" affair, in which four young gorillas were illegally shipped from Nigeria to Malaysia's Taiping Zoo in January 2002.

The Administrative Commission, which consisted of twelve people, was sworn in on 27 February 2003. It was headed by Justice John U. Bassey, a highly respected judge, now retired.

The Commission's workscope included reviewing the entire spectrum of wildlife trade from and through Nigeria, especially the smuggling of gorillas in the "Taiping Four" affair and the 2001

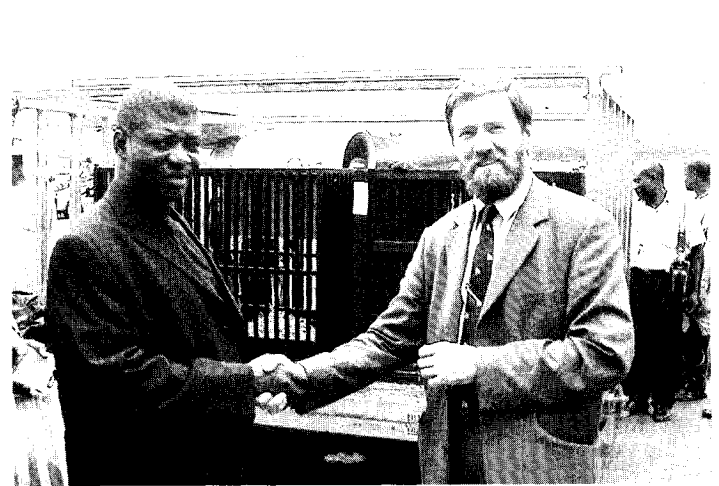
drowning of a baby gorilla and chimpanzee in a vat of chemicals at Cairo Airport.

Dr. Imeh Okopido, then Minister of State for the Environment, had persuaded Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria, to establish this commission.

One of the first witnesses to be interrogated by the commission was Mrs. Dora Akinboye, who was described in an



Ubi Sam Ettah, Pandrillus-Nigeria Manager, and Melanie Virtue of UNEP's Great Apes Survival Project, at Lagos Airport



Nigeria's former Minister of State for the Environment, Dr. Imeh Okopido, and Ian Redmond of GRASP say good-bye to the gorillas

*Photos courtesy of Ian Redmond*



article in the 13 July 2003 issue of *Nigerian News* (reporting on events several months earlier) as “a former director of the University of Ibadan Zoological Garden.” The Ibadan Zoo had supplied the four gorillas shipped to Taiping Zoo.

According to the article, Mrs. Akinboye provided the following explanation of the gorilla transaction:

*The Governing Board of the Ibadan Zoo approved the deal following discussions with four Malaysians who had visited the garden in 2001 with a Nigerian who showed interest in the zoo .... Financial assistance towards rehabilitating the zoo and upkeep of the animals was discussed.*

Mrs. Akinboye claimed that the group provided two donations to the zoo, in the

form of checks payable to the university, during “subsequent visits.” She also stated that the gorillas were not born at the zoo, but “were purchased from a Hausa man who claimed they were bred in Kano.”

According to the *Nigerian News*, members of the panel expressed surprise that, as director of a zoo, Akinboye was ignorant of the CITES treaty and Nigeria’s 1990 Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Law.

Since IPPL has not seen a copy of the full report, we do not know whether Mrs. Akinboye identified by name her Malaysian and Nigerian visitors—or the Nigerian animal dealer she claims supplied the gorillas.

Mrs. Akinboye’s statements conflict with those of Ibadan zoo-keepers

interviewed by Glenn McKenzie of the Associated Press. In an article dated 1 June 2002, McKenzie reports being told by Ibadan zoo-keepers that the baby gorillas were obtained from Cameroon. One zoo-keeper offered to obtain gorillas for McKenzie, which he said would be “very expensive.”

Asked if other gorillas had been smuggled through Ibadan Zoo, one of the two keepers said, “Yes, there have been many. But a lot of them died.”

Nigeria recently held an election. The entire cabinet was replaced and Dr. Imeh Okopido is reportedly no longer with the Ministry of the Environment. However, it is very important that the investigation of the “Taiping Four” and other incidents of wildlife smuggling be continued.

## ENCOURAGING LETTERS NEEDED

Please send a friendly letter to President Obasanjo congratulating him on his re-election and requesting that the Presidential Commission to investigate the wildlife trade be continued. Request that persons found to have been involved in incidents of illegal wildlife trading, including those responsible for the smuggling of four gorillas from Nigeria to Malaysia in January 2002, be prosecuted. Ask that anyone found guilty be imprisoned so that they will get a taste of life behind bars. Postage from the US to Nigeria costs 80 cents per ounce.

*Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria*  
*Federal Secretariat*  
*Shehu Shagari Way*  
*Abuja, Nigeria*  
**E-mail:** [oobasanjo@nigeria.gov.ng](mailto:oobasanjo@nigeria.gov.ng)

Please send a copy of your letter to the Ambassador of Nigeria in your country of residence.

*His Excellency the Ambassador*  
*Federal Republic of Nigeria*  
*1333 16th Street NW*  
*Washington DC 20036, USA*  
**Fax:** 202-986-8449

*The High Commissioner for Nigeria*  
*Nigeria House, 9 Northumberland Avenue*  
*London WC2N 5BX, United Kingdom*  
**Fax:** 020-7839-8746



## ARE YOU A SNOWBIRD?

**Let us know—and you won’t miss your next issue of *IPPL News*!**

Our computer system is now equipped to track address changes if you move between two homes on a regular basis. Please let us know if you have such an arrangement: just tell us the two addresses and the dates (day/month – day/month) you will be staying at each one. You can send your schedule to IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA, or send us an e-mail ([info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org)). And don’t miss your next issue of *IPPL News*!



# IPPL GROUNDS HOME TO VARIED WILDLIFE

IPPL's ten acres of land protect a wide variety of wildlife as well as our resident animals. Along one boundary of our property are some beautiful woodlands, a strip of which is owned by IPPL. There are also woods at the front of the property outside the fence where deer sometimes shelter. At IPPL's 2000 conference naturalist Rudy Mancke, producer of the TV program "Nature Scene," was delighted at the many creatures that share our property and greatly enjoyed showing Yana Qomariana of Indonesia and other IPPL friends some of South Carolina's animals right on IPPL premises (photo right).

IPPL animal caregiver Hardy prepared the list below of animals that have actually been observed on IPPL grounds. You can see how important it is to protect land for wildlife. IPPL hopes that, if any neighboring land becomes available, we will be able to buy it. We would also like to acquire some land further out in the country so we can expand our primate sheltering work.



## LIST OF WILDLIFE FOUND ON IPPL PROPERTY

### Mammals

Gray squirrel (*some even have names!*)  
Opossum  
White-tailed deer (*outside fenced area*)  
Cottontail rabbit  
Little brown bat

### Birds - Year Round

Great blue heron  
Belted kingfisher  
Turkey vulture (*circling overhead*)  
Black vulture  
Family of red shouldered hawks  
Mourning dove  
Red-bellied woodpecker  
Downy woodpecker  
Pileated woodpecker  
Northern flicker  
White-eyed vireo  
House finch  
Blue jay  
Tufted titmouse  
White breasted nuthatch  
American crow

Northern cardinal

Wild turkey  
Northern mockingbird  
Pine warbler  
Barred owl (*heard regularly at night*)  
American robin  
Carolina chickadee  
Carolina wren (*state bird of South Carolina*)  
Eastern bluebird  
Gray catbird  
European starling  
Yellow throated warbler  
Pine warbler  
Brown-headed cowbird

### Birds - Summer Visitors

Ruby throated hummingbird (*1,000 mile migration*)  
Chimney swift  
Painted bunting  
Indigo bunting  
Purple martin  
Eastern wood-pewee  
Eastern kingbird  
Wood thrush

### Birds - Winter Visitors

Yellow-bellied sapsucker  
Eastern Phoebe  
Ruby-crowned kinglet  
Vesper sparrow  
Savannah sparrow  
Red-winged blackbird (*seen in huge flocks*)  
American goldfinch (*seen in large flocks*)

### Reptiles - Snakes

Black racer  
Black rat snake  
Copperhead  
Eastern kingsnake  
Redbelly water snake  
Ringneck snake  
Rough green snake  
Yellow rat snake  
Timber (canebrake) rattlesnake

*Venomous snakes are humanely captured and released in isolated woodland areas.*

### Reptiles - Lizards

Broadhead skink  
Five-lined skink  
Carolina anole  
Ground skink

### Reptiles - Turtles

Eastern box turtle  
Yellowbelly slider

### Amphibians - Salamanders

Slimy salamander  
Southern dusky salamander  
Marbled salamander

### Amphibians - Frogs/Toads

Eastern narrowmouth toad  
Squirrel tree frog  
Spring peeper  
Green tree frog  
Southern toad  
Oak toad  
Eastern spadefoot toad

## GOOD-BYE TO EDDIE BREWER

Eddie Brewer, who was in charge of the Forestry Department of The Gambia, West Africa, for several decades, died on April 19 2003 at the age of 83. Eddie joined IPPL in 1974.

Eddie worked hard to create a Wildlife Department and to establish the Abuko Nature Reserve close to The Gambia's capital of Banjul. He was successful on both counts and eventually became the first director of the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management. An early proponent of "catching them young," he encouraged teachers to bring school children to Abuko and whenever possible took the time to show them around personally. It became an important educational and cultural focus for thousands of Gambian school children who otherwise might never have seen virgin "bush" nor have had any inkling of their wildlife heritage.

When the Duke of Edinburgh visited Abuko, he was driven round the peripheral track. The Duke remarked forcefully to Brewer that the difference between the over-cultivated dust-bowl on the outside and the lush vegetation inside the reserve boundary was one of the starkest and most dramatic illustrations that he had ever seen of what humanity was doing wrong to the planet.

Eddie obtained William, an orphaned chimpanzee, in 1969, and later, as director of the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, he confiscated many chimpanzees in illegal transit through The Gambia. William became the founding member of what is now the Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Trust. Now managed and financed by Eddie's daughter Stella Brewer Marsden, it is Africa's oldest rehabilitation center and, with 66 chimps, one of the largest.

Eddie represented The Gambia at several Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and always spoke up on behalf of proposals he viewed as helpful to animals. Despite failing health, he continued to work after his retirement at age 72 for the conservation and protection of wildlife and natural areas.



## LATE-BREAKING "TAIPING FOUR" NEWS

### Sahabat Alam Malaysia statement

In a statement dated 18 July 2003, S. M. Mohammed Idris, Chairman of the Malaysian wildlife protection organization **Sahabat Alam Malaysia, (SAM)** stated:

*SAM would like to voice our total frustration and total disappointment with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, the Wildlife Department, the Taiping Municipal Council, and the Taiping Zoo for their total denial and cover-up of their wrong-doings. We are totally dismayed at the manner in which the case was handled — that it took an incredibly long time for the relevant authorities to admit their mistakes...*

*SAM believes that those involved in the gorilla deal should be transparent with their dealings for after all it is the taxpayers' money that are being paid to a Penang-based company, which has ceased operation, to bring in the animals. The authorities should not expect their follies to go unquestioned...*

*It would be ethical to send these gorillas back to their country of origin where chances of return to the wild may be more likely, since Nigerian and Cameroonian officials have officially requested their return.*

*In view of these circumstances, we call on the relevant authorities to be*

*transparent in their dealings with the public/NGOs; to uphold all regulations in trade of endangered species and that zoos in particular should concentrate on conserving wildlife species in their home region rather than contributing to species destruction.*

### Great reporting on "Taiping Four" case

IPPL greatly appreciates the excellent reporting on the "Taiping Four" gorilla case by Hilary Chiew of the *Star*, Malaysia's leading daily newspaper, and Chinedu Uwaegbulam, of the *Guardian*, Lagos, Nigeria.

# PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, "FRIEND OF THE FRIENDLESS," DIES AT AGE 70

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from 1965-1977, died on 12 May 2003 in a Boston hospital. Prince Sadruddin was 70 years old and had been in poor health for many years. His death is a great loss to the planet's wildlife and to the human dispossessed of the world.

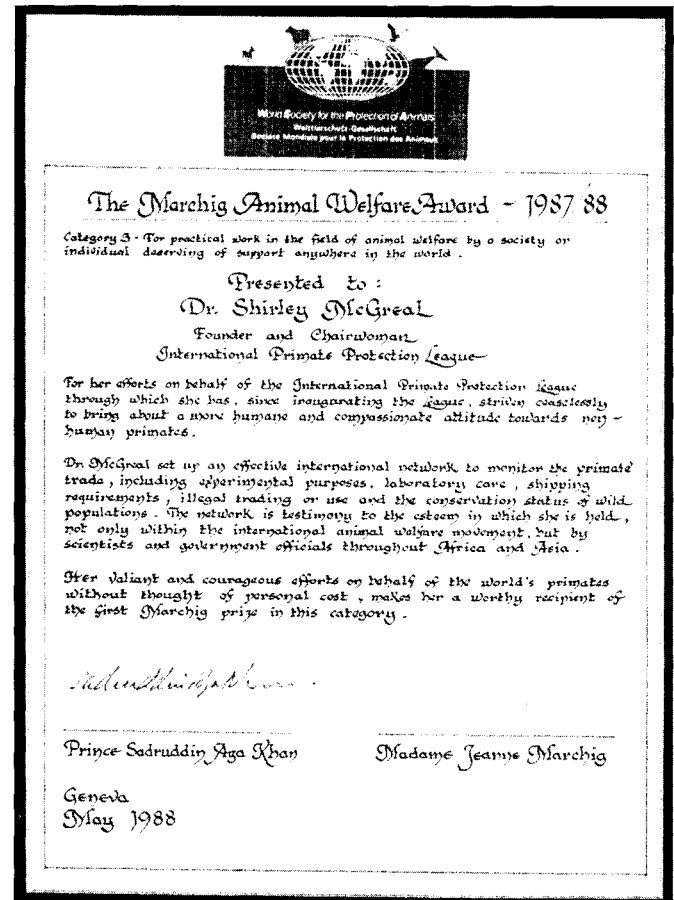
He was the younger son of the late Sultan Mohamed Shah Aga Khan III, the spiritual leader of the Shi'ite Muslim Ismaili community, which has 15 million members primarily in central Asia and the Middle East. Born in Paris to a French mother, Prince Sadruddin was truly a citizen of the world, fluent in several languages, holding several passports, and active on behalf of numerous humanitarian and environmental causes.

In 1977 Prince Sadruddin established the Bellerive Foundation, an environmental protection organization, at his home on Lake Geneva in Switzerland. In 1989, the prince was a leader of the successful campaign to get the elephant listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Prince Sadruddin was a long-time supporter of IPPL. He also worked with the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust. Both he and Trust founder Madame Jeanne Marchig signed the citation when Shirley McGreal received the Marchig Award for animal welfare in 1988.

When the Miami orangutan smuggler Matthew Block looked likely to be given a misdemeanor plea bargain and probation sentence in 1992, Prince Sadruddin sent a letter to the case judge, the late James Kehoe, requesting that the plea bargain be rejected. He wrote:

*As a lifelong conservationist I was frankly appalled to hear recently that the legal authorities in Florida might entertain the possibility of settling the case against the Miami animal smuggler Matthew Block, the perpetrator of the infamous Bangkok Six orangutan shipment, by means of a totally unacceptable plea bargain...I urge you to reconsider...Justice*



*must be seen to be done. I wishfully endorse the position of the International Primate Protection League on this matter.*

Thanks to such protests, Block was eventually sent to prison.

As a man of compassion, Prince Sadruddin will be remembered for his service to all his fellow creatures, both human and animal.

## IMPORTANT – IPPL E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE

When our local e-mail server suddenly went out of business in May, IPPL found itself without an e-mail address. We now have new addresses. Please note these for your records.

- \* For general information and correspondence, contact [info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org)
- \* To send a message to Shirley McGreal or report an abuse, contact [smcgreal@ippl.org](mailto:smcgreal@ippl.org)

You can still make donations or renew your membership through our secure server located on our web site [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)

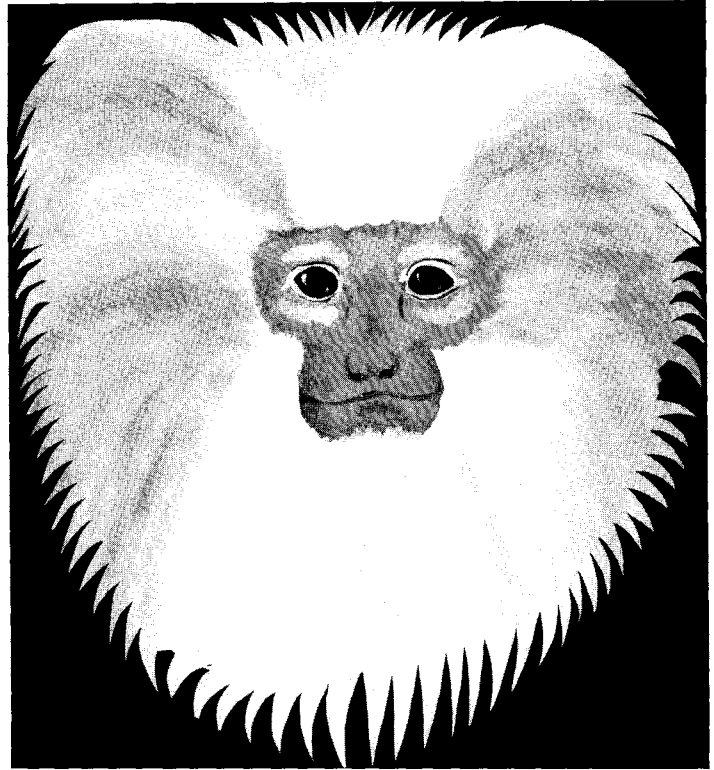
## 14-YEAR-OLD'S GOLDEN LION TAMARIN PROJECT

Leslie Moffat is clearly a budding primatologist—or wildlife artist or documentary filmmaker or animal activist. Last spring, this talented student (then age 14) from St. Johnsbury, Vermont, did a class project this spring focusing on the beautiful golden lion tamarins of eastern Brazil. These small arboreal monkeys live in family groups, as her brochure informs us, and the older offspring help care for the younger ones. They have a varied diet, feeding on insects, fruit, flowers, nectar, plant gum, frogs, lizards, and snails.

Her brochure features several pictures of these animals and explains how rampant deforestation—in addition to capture for export to zoos, laboratories, and pet suppliers—nearly led to their extinction by the 1970s: “at one point,” she writes, there were “fewer than 100 Tamarins living in the wild.”

As a result of a vigorous reintroduction program, however, there are now about one thousand of these creatures surviving in their natural habitat, with an additional five hundred or so forming a captive breeding population dispersed among approximately 140 institutions worldwide.

Leslie and her classmates Jordan Hoss and Brenden Ghallegger also created a short video in which she makes a plea to help keep these animals from becoming a species found only in captivity. In the video she wears a lovely and very realistic golden lion tamarin mask she made. It is



encouraging to see the next generation of children growing up with a strong awareness of the need to protect endangered species, particularly our primate cousins.

## EBOLA OUTBREAK KILLS HUMANS AND APES

Ebola is one of the most horrible diseases ever to affect humans. It also can infect our closest living relatives — chimps and gorillas. It causes death from internal bleeding in 80-90 percent of the people it strikes (see “Ebola virus devastates Central African ape populations” in the April 2003 issue of *IPPL News*). There is no vaccine and no cure.

Scientists fear that a continuing outbreak of the disease may be still killing gorillas, chimpanzees, and other animals in the Republic of the Congo and adjacent areas. The animals of the region are already threatened by deforestation and the local and regional bushmeat trade.

Wild apes have already disappeared from whole sections of Congo Basin forests.

In its 10 April 2003 issue, the scientific journal *Nature* carried an article by Peter Walsh of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Princeton

University, New Jersey, USA. Walsh and his co-authors called for the conservation status of chimpanzees and gorillas to be upgraded immediately to “Critically Endangered.” Walsh wrote:

*Without aggressive investments in law enforcement, protected area management and Ebola prevention, the next decade will see our closest relatives pushed to the brink of extinction. The stark truth is that if we do not act decisively our children may live in a world without wild apes.*

Conrad Aveling of the European Union’s Programme for Conservation of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (ECOFAC) informed IPPL on 2 June 2003 that he “had just had more reports of fresh gorilla and chimp carcasses near the park boundary north of Mbomo.” Mbomo is a village in the Congo Republic where there was a human outbreak of Ebola earlier this year. This

news is especially distressing because ECOFAC was trying to habituate gorillas in the nearby Odzala National Park for eco-tourism, and now the animals are all dead.

Dr. Aveling noted that the epidemics tend to happen at the change of seasons, but that nobody understands why this happens because nobody knows what the “reservoir species” is. Between Ebola outbreaks, the virus “hides” in an as-yet unidentified species without producing obvious illness.

The human epidemic in the Cuvette West area of the Congo Republic reportedly ended in May after killing over 100 people and unknown numbers of wild animals. The village of Ndjoukou was left with no adult residents. The World Health Organization, fearing further outbreaks, sent teams to the region in June to educate the local people about how Ebola is transmitted and how to limit its spread.

# IPPL HOSTS NOVEL NUPTIALS: “PRIME MATE” COUPLE RENEWS VOWS

A chorus of gibbons provided the wedding music when Jackie and Tim Martin renewed their marriage vows at IPPL's headquarters last June. Both Tim and Jackie, like IPPL's gibbons, are monogamous vegetarians—with a lot of animal magnetism. The Martins have taken to renewing their vows each year in a different state: they plan to form a “perfect union” by renewing their commitment to each other in all 50 states.

This year, they chose to renew their relationship for the sixteenth time at IPPL's headquarters in Summerville, South Carolina. The happy couple stood beneath a gauzy white arbor provided by IPPL staff, surrounded by 33 curious gibbons, IPPL's two canine mascots (Ivy and Bullet), and over a dozen human guests.

## Gibbons at the ceremony

Accompanied by the gibbons' enthusiastic whoops, the Martins pledged “amidst the glory of nature...[to] take each other to be lawfully wedded partners for the rest of—and best of—their lives.” Both bride and groom were elegantly attired in IPPL's latest forest-green T-shirts, which feature drawings of three

IPPL gibbons.

An eager Elizabeth Gibbon nearly took over filming the wedding scene, but IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal intercepted her before Elizabeth could make contact with a reporter's expensive video camera. The human guests later enjoyed a beautiful cake decorated with a picture of Arun Rangsi, IPPL's first rescued lab gibbon, all in icing.

## “WMPR”

“It was beautiful, just perfect” said Jackie, and Tim agreed. “It was well worth the four-day drive from California to be among such amazing animals,” Tim added. The couple stopped their cross-country trek only long enough to say hello to the folks at the blues and gospel radio station WMPR in Jackson, Mississippi. The “WMPR” on the Martin's license plate, by the way, stands for “World's Most Perfect Relationship”—and this year, perhaps, for “Wonderful Monogamous Primate Revelry/Rapport.”

## Animal-friendly weddings

Jackie, a teacher of special needs children, and Tim, who works for the court system (although he prefers to be known

as a “courting specialist”!), have nearly always had animal friends participate in their renewal ceremonies. Animal lovers who are fond of birding, the Martins are also active with Great Dane rescue work near their southern California home.

A relaxed and empathetic couple, they bond easily with the dogs they help to rescue, as well as those animals they have visited during their years of wedding renewals in wildlife settings. Both the Martins were delighted to meet the IPPL gibbons. Tim especially admired their effortless agility, and he found it affecting that so many of IPPL's residents came from cramped laboratories. Jackie was amazed at the animals' resilience. “You can tell they're happy and content now,” she said.

## “Good vibrations” at the beach

They met at a company beach party in 1987. Both arrived early to set up. After spending hours talking with each other, they suddenly realized that they were the only people on that stretch of beach—and that they were both single. The next year they were married at a family reunion near Lubbock, Texas (“There were sixty-five of the bride's relatives, and one of mine,”



Hardy sets up gazebo.



Wedding takes place under the watchful eyes of gibbons Brownie and Tong.



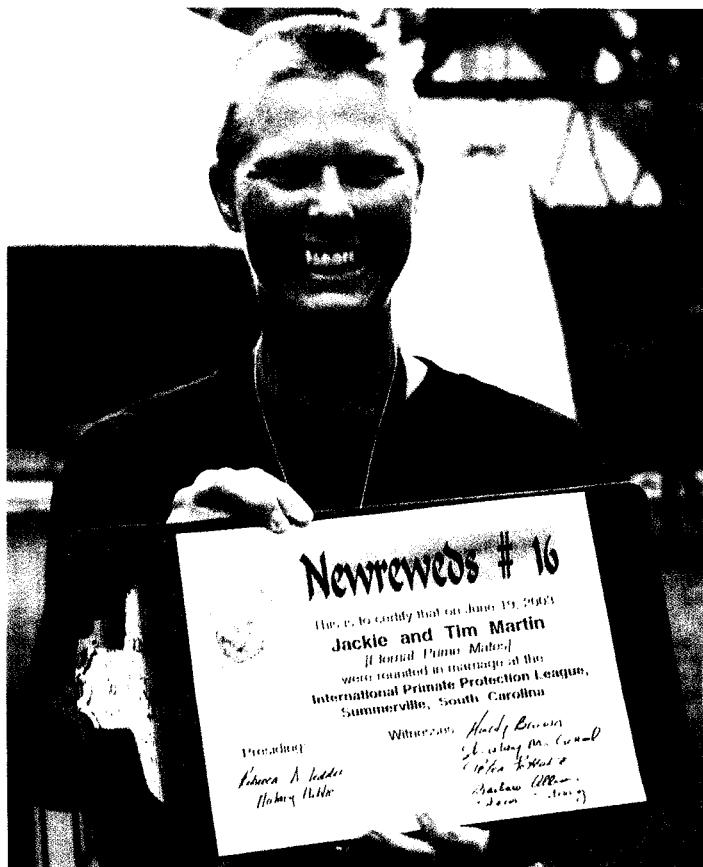
says Tim, “but I changed that: by the end of the day there were two of mine!”). They didn’t expect to repeat the ceremony any time soon.

But on their first anniversary they found themselves at a Tony Robbins self-empowerment seminar in Hawaii, and they got the idea to renew their vows, with Robbins acting as best man. Their first ceremony as “newreweds” was on the beach in front of the Maui Marriott hotel. On returning home, Tim was struck with the thought that they had already been married in two states—so there were only 48 left to go. For their next anniversary, they celebrated the “Ultimate Renewable Resource” in style at the Shambala Preserve near Los Angeles. Shambala is a sanctuary for exotic large cats and other captive-born wild animals who have been cast off from circuses, zoos, or private owners.

### Llamas, emus, and elk, oh my!

Subsequent ceremonies have taken place in an astonishing variety of locations. Wild chipmunks witnessed a ceremony one year at Utah’s Bryce Canyon. Lily, a black and white mixed-breed dog, stood at Tim’s side at the Noah’s Ark animal rescue shelter in Iowa. A refuge for wild horses operated by the International Society for the Preservation of Mustangs and Burros in South Dakota was the scene of yet another re-marriage. And the unforgettable Dalai Llama—one of about 399 fellow llamas—attended the festivities held at the Montana Large Animal Sanctuary and Rescue.

So far, the Martins’ species list of wedding guests also includes everything from dogs and cats to emus and elk, as well as the ferrets Squirty and Cassie, who witnessed a ceremony performed at world’s first experimental breeder reactor near Arco, Idaho. The Martins can now include gibbons—an appropriate animal for a pair of humans who have found their own “prime mate” in each other.



(Clockwise from top left) Rebecca performs the ceremony; the Arun Rangsi cake; the marriage certificate.

## JADE GETS IN THE WAY!

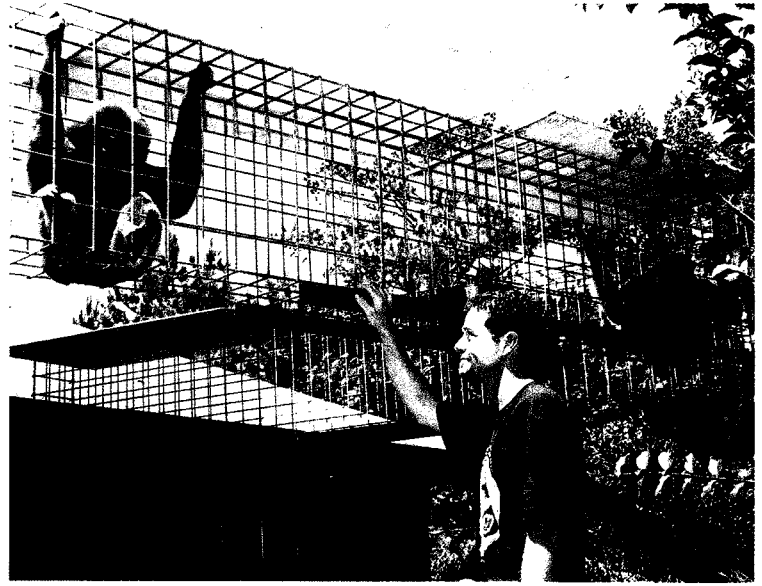
Jade, Palu-Palu, and their son Maui reached IPPL on 8 March 1996. They came to us from the Maui Zoo in Hawaii. When the zoo closed down in 1996, IPPL was asked to give its three gibbons a home. The father's name was actually "Boy," but we didn't like the name, and selected instead Palu-Palu, which means "Softly Softly" in the Hawaiian language. Lucy Wormser of the Pacific Primate Sanctuary was very helpful in planning the family's trip to the mainland. Mary Chumbley, who worked for American Airlines, accompanied them to IPPL, bringing along several boxes of delicious sweet pineapples.

Gibbon offspring leave their family unit when they are adults. Now Palu-Palu and Jade live together, and Maui is doing fine in a separate enclosure. We have a 250-foot runway leading from their enclosure along the front of the office. Palu-Palu has an insatiable curiosity about what goes on in the office, and he also loves having his back scratched. Jade doesn't approve of Palu-Palu's antics!

Recently, she came along to break up a grooming session between Hardy and Palu-Palu! Fortunately Shirley was able to lure Jade away with a handful of cherries — so Palu-Palu got his back-scratch!



Jade says "Go away, Hardy!"



Hardy is "caught in the middle"!



After Shirley lures Jade away, Palu-Palu gets his back-scratch!

Photos: Shirley McGreal



# IPPL REPRESENTED AT KIAWAH EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

On 12 April 2003 IPPL distributed literature and sold T-shirts at the Kiawah Island Earth Day Fair held at Night Heron Park. Kiawah is a beautiful island off the coast of South Carolina and, along with nearby Seabrook Island, has been converted into an ecologically sensitive luxury housing area.

Gale Martin, one of Courtney Gibbon's caregivers (on the left in the photo) and Rebecca Austin, a regular volunteer who visits us once a month from North Carolina (on the right in the photo), helped staff the IPPL booth, along with Shirley McGreal (center). The IPPL team stopped on the way home at a roadside produce market on Johns Island to load up on delicious fruits and veggies for the gibbons.



## LEARNING TO BE WILD AGAIN: UPDATE ON RESCUED ORANGUTANS

*By Rosek Nursahid, ProFauna Indonesia (KSBK)*

Remember Desy and Cheetos? These two orangutans were seized by rangers and members of the grassroots animal activist group ProFauna Indonesia (formerly KSBK) in June 2002. Former pets of an Indonesian colonel, the apes had been transferred to Bandung Zoo, Indonesia, before finally being sent to the Sumatran

Orangutan Rehabilitation Center. The story of the long and difficult rescue process appeared in *IPPL News* (see the August 2002 issue, page 13).

One year ago, Cheetos and Desy were in poor condition (both animals had worms) and suffering from the stress of their inferior housing conditions. Now,

ProFauna Indonesia has been informed by the rehabilitation center that the condition of both orangutans has improved greatly. Both are healthy and are starting to learn to live in the wild, although they are being released into two separate areas. After undergoing quarantine and a detailed medical



Cheetos enjoys a glass of milk.

examination, they were released to half-way housing in mid-February 2003.

### **Making new friends**

Desy was released with Rimba, Ongkie, and Bobby, three of her other orangutan friends. Cheetos is living with a different group; he is now enjoying the company of Franki (a confiscated orangutan from Jakarta) and Mustafa (who was rescued from a hotel in North Sumatra).

In half-way housing, the young orangutans are free to explore a protected forest area, but are still supplied with some food. Desy, Rimba, and Ongkie are now beginning to make nests and sleep in the forest. Only Bobby sometimes returns to the center at night.

### **Learning new skills**

Making a nest is not the only skill Desy and her friends have learned; they are also

learning to recognize their natural foods, including fruits, bark, honeybees, ants, and termites. They are beginning to recognize which fruits can be eaten and when they are available. They are also learning to recognize which trees are strong enough to climb on and how to identify predators.

While Desy was living in captivity with the colonel and at the Bandung Zoo, she frequently beat her head against the wall of her cage because of stress. Now, she plays happily with her friends in the forest.

According to Suhery, Director of the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (and ProFauna Indonesia member), Cheetos and Desy will probably be released to the Bukit Tiga Puluh National Park in September or October of this year. The date of release will depend on assessments of their ability to live independently in the jungle.

### **Orangutans continue to be sold**

Rehabilitating orangutans is not easy or cheap—but rehabilitation is better than leaving them in miserable captive conditions. And many orangutans are still being illegally traded in Jakarta, to be kept as pets by people in outlying cities and towns. In April and May 2003, ProFauna Indonesia was successful in rescuing four orangutans from two cities in East Java.

Ultimately, ProFauna believes that law enforcement is key to stopping the orangutan trade in Indonesia. Unfortunately, very few cases of orangutan possession ever come to trial. Generally, Forestry officials simply confiscate the orangutan, while the buyers are set free without any penalty. This will have to change, or many more orphaned apes will end up for sale in the markets of Jakarta.

## **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, Asia, and South America. We assist groups working to help wildlife in remote parts of the world, and we take care of the 33 wonderful gibbons, many of them research veterans, 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 Plexiglas because he self-mutilated at the sight of other gibbons.

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

We also help care for gorillas, chimpanzees, and monkeys at Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon. Pitchou,



the little gorilla you see on the left, arrived at Limbe in horrible condition due to ringworm and parasites. Now she is a happy member of Limbe's social group of ten gorillas rescued from trade. This happy ending was made possible by the generosity of you, our members.

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 to discuss providing enduring help for IPPL. Thank you so much.

Photo courtesy of Limbe Wildlife Centre

# SAVING PRIMATES IN A REMOTE CORNER OF INDIA

*By Soumyadeep Datta, Director, Nature's Beckon*

**Nature's Beckon**, a grassroots wildlife activist group in India's Assam province, has been committed to the applied conservation of nonhuman primates in the remote northeastern corner of our home country. From its inception, **Nature's Beckon**—with the help of IPPL!—has dedicated itself to saving the primates of this region.

For example, **Nature's Beckon** has helped provide sustainable protection to the golden langurs, a rare species of leaf-eating monkey unique to India. Due to our relentless advocacy campaigns, this species has received permanent protection in the hill forest of Chakrashila, which subsequently received the status of a wildlife sanctuary due to **Nature's Beckon's** persuasive work at the government level.

## Expanding langur sanctuary

While living in the protected habitat of the Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, the population of this langur has increased considerably. Presently, **Nature's Beckon** is working for the expansion of this area by including other peripheral forests of this region. There are two adjacent forests that were once contiguous with Chakrashila but have become isolated from the main tract due to the felling of trees. These two forests are Sreegram and Kaljani. **Nature's Beckon** has rejoined these two forests with Chakrashila by means of a reforestation program for the denuded region and by urging the government to include these two forests within the Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary.

On 24 June 2003, **Nature's Beckon** had a meeting with Mr. M.C. Malakar, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Assam, regarding the inclusion of Sreegram and Kaljani within the Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary. The government has accepted the proposal for finalization.

## Protecting hoolock gibbons

**Nature's Beckon** is also working hard to save the hoolock gibbons of Assam. Hoolocks are one of the rarest primates in the world and are the only ape species found in India. These unique gibbons are located on the southern and eastern bank

of the Brahmaputra River. Only two decades ago, they were abundant in Assam. But due to indiscriminate poaching, destruction and fragmentation of habitats due to commercial logging, open cast mining, expansion of tea gardens, and drilling for oil and natural gas, the population of this invaluable species of ape has been drastically reduced. Now this animal has been designated as highly endangered and has been included as a Schedule 1 species in the Indian Wildlife Protection Act.

Recently, **Nature's Beckon** has undertaken a large-scale conservation campaign to protect the hoolock gibbons. We have identified important hoolock habitats and involved villagers and civil society in the protection of these endangered primates and their territory. **Nature's Beckon** has printed posters, pamphlets, and other educational materials in huge quantities; we have distributed them among children, students, and the inhabitants of peripheral villages to educate them about the importance of hoolock gibbons and the urgent need for their protection.

**Nature's Beckon** has also provided training to small groups of students and village youths for the conservation of hoolock gibbons by preventing poaching and habitat destruction. A Hoolock Gibbon Conservation Network has also been formed among villagers, wildlife activists, and NGOs.

Presently, hoolock gibbon conservation work has concentrated on the most important hoolock gibbon habitats. These habitats are: the Joypur-Upper Dehing-Dirak rainforest, Nambor Reserve Forest, Holongapar, Burapahar, Borajan, and Karbi-Anglong district forest.

## Most important primate habitats of India

The contiguous rainforests of Joypur, Upper Dihing and Dirak of the Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts of Assam constitute the most important primate habitat of India. This area harbors as many as seven species of primates, most of them endangered; these species include

hoolock gibbons, slow lorises, capped langurs, pig-tailed macaques, Assamese macaques, rhesus macaques, and stump-tailed macaques. At present, these contiguous rainforests are the highest conservation priority area of **Nature's Beckon**, and a strong grassroots movement has been initiated by our organization for the permanent protection of these rainforests. No other individual forests, including the sanctuaries and national parks in India, shelter such diverse species of primates.

## Prevention of poaching

The poaching of primates in northeastern India is quite frequent because many of the tribes of the region eat the flesh of monkeys and apes. Cross-border poaching and smuggling is also common. The prevention of primate poaching in this region has therefore become an important challenge to **Nature's Beckon**.

So far we have trained 300 adults and youth from the peripheral villages to form a network to combat poaching and smuggling of primates. **Nature's Beckon** also organizes meetings from time to time with forest guards, para-military staff, and the police department to prevent the activities of the poachers and smugglers. With persistence, we hope to put an end to this kind of illegal and immoral activity.

## IPPL MEMBERS HELP "NATURE'S BECKON"

As a result of an article about **Nature's Beckon** that appeared in the April issue of *IPPL News*, IPPL members donated generously to help this fine organization, and \$1,000 has been transferred to help with the group's work. Of course, further donations are always welcome. Soumyadeep Datta sends a big "Thank You" to everyone who helped. He tells us that a recent campaign resulted in the seizure of several animals from Kohinoor, an unlicensed circus. The animals included eight lions, one tiger, three elephants, five cockatoos, and two macaws.

# UGANDA'S BUDONGO FOREST PROJECT

The Budongo Forest Project (BFP) is a conservation and research field site in western Uganda that combines forest management and conservation with research into the ecology and behavior of the local chimpanzees, as well as other wildlife. The BFP was initiated in 1990 by Vernon Reynolds, a now-retired Oxford Professor who has been an IPPL Advisory Board member since 1974.

## The Sonso chimps

The BFP encompasses the Sonso chimpanzee community, which has been habituated for human observation. The Sonso chimps live in the company of blue and redbellied monkeys, black-and-white colobus monkeys, pottos (small, enigmatic, nocturnal primates), and forest baboons. Prior to establishing the project, chimp mothers in the forest had been regularly shot and their babies sold to unscrupulous overseas buyers in Entebbe.

Researchers use the chimp community for behavioral and other non-invasive research. For example, studies have looked at vocalizations, vigilance

patterns, and hormonal variability in female chimps using fecal and urine samples. The BFP also serves as a field site for students to study biodiversity and forest ecology.

The Sonso chimp community has grown from 48 chimps in 1996 to 57 currently (22 males, 35 females)—despite human encroachment from farming into the chimps' original habitat.

The BFP team combines research with a practical approach to interacting with chimps on a daily basis. Live traps are now being used to capture chimpanzees who stray from the forest and endanger themselves by "trespassing" into villagers' adjacent sugar cane fields. Chimpanzees who are caught in these traps can be released with minimal trauma back into the forest. A number of chimps have been safely returned to the forest this way, including two mothers with infants.

## The death of Jambo

However, human interference still sometimes results in the death of a chimp. BFP staff and supporters were shocked

and saddened to learn of the death of Jambo, the third-ranking adult male of the community, in early May. He appeared to have been speared at the base of the neck. He was found in the narrow 11-yard stretch of grass between some sugar cane fields and the forest edge. He is now buried at the BFP camp.

The death of a chimp "elder" can be very destabilizing to a chimp community, since the adult males tend to have close blood and social ties. This is the second chimp to have been killed by an employee of this sugar cane grower since 1999. Killing chimps is illegal in Uganda, even if the animal is discovered crop raiding.

BFP staff have held talks with Kinyara Sugar Works management to ensure that this will not happen again. KSW has been cooperative and has agreed to increase the buffer zone between the forest edge and the sugar cane fields to 50 meters (55 yards). They have also agreed to provide better training for employees regarding the protected status of chimps and ways to reduce chimp-human conflict.

## RECOMMENDED READING

### *Chain Thinking* by Elliott Light

Elliott Light is the author of a murder mystery novel whose heroine is a chimpanzee named Kikora. The hero is a detective named Shep Harrington. The drama begins when a young woman arrives at Shep's home with Kikora, who has disappeared from a research laboratory where she was slated to be a subject in a lethal drug experiment.

When the scientist who was head of the research team is brutally murdered, Shep Harrington investigates. The story is dramatic and has a surprise ending. The book raises questions about the ethics of using primates in experimentation and will bring this important controversy to the general public.

*Chain Thinking* is published by the Bancroft Press and can be purchased directly from the publisher [www.bancroftpress.com](http://www.bancroftpress.com) or from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### *Eating Apes* by Dale Peterson

Dale Peterson has teamed up with photographer Karl Ammann to produce *Eating Apes*. This book explores the "bushmeat" crisis. Despite its title, the book deals mainly with the slaughter for human consumption of chimpanzees, bonobos, and gorillas. The eating of orangutans is addressed skimpily, and the eating of gibbons not at all (the word "gibbon" is not even in the book's index).

Nonetheless the book is useful reading. We learn in detail the story of Joseph Melloh. Melloh is a Cameroonian national and former gorilla hunter who was hired by Karl Ammann to work undercover. His assignment was to investigate the sinister role played by the multinational logging companies in causing the crisis. Melloh ends up in a Congolese prison.

Janet Museveni, wife of the President of Uganda, wrote a preface to the book in which she stated,

*I want to hail the advent of this book. My prayer is that it will find its way into the classrooms and libraries of our schools and into our homes, so that our children can begin to understand, appreciate, and befriend their heritage and so learn to safeguard it. No outsider can ever successfully do that for them.*

At the end of the book, there is a "What You Can Do" section addressed to the general reader. There is also a section on "What Organized Conservation Can do."

Dale Peterson is making public appearances around the United States to promote his book, so go and meet him if he comes to your area.

*Eating Apes* is available from your local bookseller or from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

## MEET OUR MEMBERS!

### STAN KRAMIEN: MAGICIAN AND PRIMATE FRIEND

*Presenting a new regular feature in IPPL News: the "Meet Our Members" profile. In each issue, we'd like to introduce you to one of the many good people around the world who support IPPL—sometimes in unique ways! In this issue, we'd like you to meet an amazing person: world-famous magician (and head-on collision survivor) Stan Kramien.*



Stan began his career in magic at the age of fourteen. Since that time, he has worked with hundreds of celebrities—going back to his USO

days when he acted as chauffeur for Osa Johnson as she showed her popular wildlife movies to US troops; she and her husband were film and real-life adventure stars of the '20s and '30s and have been called "two of Africa's first conservationists." Stan has also appeared on TV shows with the likes of Johnny Carson, Jay Leno, and David Letterman (whom he sawed in half—and fortunately put together again). But the next celebrity on his "must meet" list, he says, is IPPL's Shirley McGreal!

As a result of the years dedicated to his craft, he was awarded the 2000 Lifetime Achievement Fellowship by the Academy of Magical Arts. In addition to performing in venues as diverse as school gyms and army camps, he spent three and a half decades touring internationally with enormous magic shows.

#### Chimps in his life

But before then, he ran a small circus,

complete with chimps who lived with him and his wife like children. After a jealous chimp grabbed Stan's young son from his crib (the boy survived, but has a scar on his forehead to this day), Stan realized that chimps don't belong in circuses. He sent them to a zoo to live out their lives.

Stan has helped with IPPL's work for years. He put Shirley in touch with Joe Lempke, who needed a sanctuary home for a very old circus chimp named Susie. Stan also helped Shirley in her campaign to save the Antaleck chimps, who were discarded from a Ringling Bros. circus act. The animals had been sent to the White Sands toxicology lab, which later became part of the Coulston Foundation (a now-defunct institution infamous for its abuse of lab primates), but Shirley soon saw to it that the chimps were sent to a Florida sanctuary. Two of those animals are still enjoying their retirement at the Center for Great Apes.

#### A near-fatal accident

In April 2000, Stan experienced a nearly fatal car accident that put him in the hospital for months, followed by many more months in assisted living. He is learning to walk all over again, but is now able to live independently. Last May, he even hosted his 16<sup>th</sup> annual Magic Jamboree at his hometown in Oregon. There, according to *Circus Report* magazine, he offered souvenir

posters to participants in exchange for donations to IPPL.

Stan now does shows at assisted living homes, and it's wonderful to read about the rapport he is able to cultivate with the residents there. Stan channels the proceeds from these shows to help IPPL, as well. He says, "I sincerely hope that I will be able to spread good cheer with my magic for many years to come, and contribute to the welfare of our primate children."

Now if Stan could only make the world's primate smugglers disappear....



## MATCHING GIFTS

### Here's an easy way to double—or triple—your gift to IPPL!

Did you know that many companies match their employees' charitable contributions? This means that if you send a donation to an approved non-profit, your employer will also contribute a matching amount to that charitable organization. Participating in your company's matching gift program is an easy way to maximize the impact of your contribution to IPPL. And many kinds of companies offer this program—both giant corporations and smaller family-owned businesses. So talk to your human resources department about the necessary paperwork. It's worth it!

## WILD ANIMAL TRADE LINKED TO DISEASE

The global outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) this spring made everyone aware of the dangers of exposing humans to exotic animals. When it became clear that one possible origin of the virus could be the wet markets of Guangdong province, China, researchers began giving these sites another look. Before running its course, this virus infected over 8,000 people and killed over 800.

At Chinese wet markets, domestic, wild, and endangered animals of all descriptions—reptiles, birds, and mammals, including monkeys—are kept alive under distressing conditions until they are bought or butchered for a waiting customer. The animals may be mutilated from their capture or sick, and they are often confined to cramped, dirty cages. Customers include those who retain the traditional belief that eating exotic animals is good for humans' health.

Periodically, the market area may be hosed down, causing animal remains and waste to be sprayed up into the air. Humans may thus be exposed to a mist containing unknown biological agents; it is easy to imagine a new virus jumping from one host to another under such circumstances. Some of the earliest people to come down with SARS reportedly worked in the wild animal trade.

Although the SARS outbreak now seems to be contained, the disease could potentially emerge again. The animal source of the virus remains unknown, although early studies noted a similarity between the human virus and one found in civets, a catlike animal considered to be a delicacy by some southern Chinese. Because the initial symptoms of SARS are similar to those of the flu, the opportunity for a renewed outbreak this coming winter—due to SARS cases misidentified as influenza—is a real possibility.

And SARS is only the most recent example of a deadly zoonotic disease—one transmitted from animals to humans—to grab the headlines. Other examples include HIV, which appears to have jumped from chimpanzees to humans, and Ebola, another lethal virus whose animal reservoir remains unknown.

The SARS outbreak is just one more reminder that human contact with exotic species can have many negative consequences—for humans as well as the wild animals they exploit. Let us hope that humans will soon learn their lesson and halt cultural practices that expose wild animals to the misery of capture and humans to the depredations of new diseases. The wet markets of China would be a good place to start, before they produce another public health disaster—one that could be even worse.

## EARLY DAY MOTION TO BAN PRIMATE EXPERIMENTATION BEFORE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

As of 15 June 2003, 95 Members of the British Parliament had signed an Early Day Motion (number 1307) calling for a ban on all primate experimentation in the UK. An Early Day Motion (EDM) is a parliamentary procedure enabling a Member of Parliament (MP) to solicit cross-party support for potential future legislation. It has no force in law, but provides an indication to the Government of the strength of back-bench opinion (i.e., the support of rank-and-file members of parliament who do not hold Cabinet positions) on matters of public interest. Animal-friendly MP Norman Baker sponsored this EDM.

Britain already bans experiments on great apes, but the EDM under consideration advocates extending the ban to all primates. The EDM states that experiments on primates can no longer be justified in view of the important biological differences between human beings

and other primates. In addition, the well-developed intellectual and social awareness of nonhuman primates makes it impossible for the animals' needs to be met in a laboratory setting, resulting in severe suffering. The EDM also notes public opposition to the practice of primate experimentation, and therefore urges the UK to adopt the Zero Option, "a total end to experiments on all primates."

We request our British members to monitor the progress of this EDM and express their encouragement to their MPs. A list of supporters can be found at:

<http://edm.ais.co.uk/weblink/html/motion.html/ref=1307>

If you are a UK reader, you can check on this site whether your MP is a signatory. Please contact him/her to express your thanks to supporters or to request your MP to sign on if he/she is not yet a signatory.

## 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 address. Contact us at [info@ippl.org](mailto:info@ippl.org)

# THE SOUTH AMERICAN BUSHMEAT CRISIS

*By Lucy Molleson*

As the African tragedy of bushmeat hunting and its impact on primates is being fully realized, another unfolds in South America.

For thousands of years, people living in the Amazon have hunted animals to feed themselves. Wild game is a vital source of protein and fat for many rural and indigenous people. Traditional hunting practices were, to a large extent, balanced with the relatively low productivity of the rainforest. But this is changing.

## **South American monkeys: sold for pets or meat**

In recent years, waves of immigrants seeking work have significantly increased the demand for food, to the extent that today subsistence hunting is higher in the tropics of Central and South America than in any other equatorial region. Conservative estimates suggest that 15 million animals are being killed each year in the Brazilian Amazon alone, and a substantial proportion of this is made up of primates. Weighing up to 25 pounds, an adult monkey makes a substantial meal, so hunting pressure falls especially hard on the larger primates, such as woolly and spider monkeys.

Although it is generally illegal to hunt endangered wild animals in Amazonia, these laws are rarely enforced. Government agencies responsible for wildlife protection lack the resources and logistical support needed to monitor this escalating situation. In the towns of the Amazonas department, northern Peru, a typical market scene will include stalls openly selling the carcasses of woolly monkeys, howler monkeys, and spider monkeys.

Where once monkeys proliferated along riverbanks, hunters now have to travel two or three days upriver into the jungle to find groups of monkeys. This meat sells for around US\$1.50 per kilo (2.2 pounds), and is a cheap alternative to the equivalent weight of beef. Inextricably

linked to the bushmeat trade is the sale of orphaned monkeys as pets. Infants sit forlornly beside the piles of dead meat. The woolly monkey pictured on page 23 was offered for US\$14.

More insidious still is the highly profitable international commerce in exotic pets. A Peruvian newspaper report from the late 1990s gives an inside account of the "mafia" which controls the trade operating from the capital, Lima. Bands of professional hunters are hired and armed to catch an array of animals from the Amazon, which are then flown to Lima from Iquitos airport on national airlines, which are alleged to have employees in the pay of the mafia. On their arrival in Lima, the remaining live animals go to private "zoos" in the suburbs, from where the dealers who placed orders receive their deliveries.

Lima is home to well-known streets where exotic pets are traded under cover of a more legitimate storefront, usually a regular pet store selling domestic animals. Profits are considerable; in 1995 it was estimated that the top commercial dealers in Lima were making at least US\$3,000 per month, compared to an average monthly wage in Peru of under US\$100. Undoubtedly, attempts are being made to tighten controls in the

international export of endangered wildlife, but with stakes this high in a developing economy, the real solution may lie in eradicating the market demand for rare animals.

## **Subsistence hunting by loggers and others is greatest threat**

Most monkeys are lost, however, through subsistence hunting within the rainforest, and this poses the gravest threat to vulnerable monkey populations. Combined with increasing habitat loss and fragmentation of the forest, even light to moderate hunting, from a nearby logging camp or by a family of rubber tappers, can quickly reduce numbers to the point where they cannot recover.

Last year, a study was made in the Madre De Dios department of Peru examining the impact of hunting on animal populations along the Las Piedras river. In one month, it was recorded that more than 40,000 kilos (88,000 pounds) of bushmeat were consumed in the logging camps alone. Included among the animals who were killed for this meat was a staggering total of 690 endangered white-bellied spider monkeys. This region of Peru is renowned for its rich biodiversity and is close to the world famous Manu



**A market stall in Yurimaguas, Peru, laden with bushmeat.**



National Park. Woolly monkeys may have been lost already, as the study found no trace of them. If this rate of destruction continues, local extinction for the spider monkey is also inevitable.

### The silent forests

Despite large tracts of rainforest being protected within reserves, which restrict land clearance and timber extraction, illegal hunting continues apace within them. Writing in the report on Las Piedras, one observer sadly noted, "We walked in seemingly healthy forests that were unnaturally quiet. They were devoid of wildlife." The long-term implications of this are bleak; these monkeys are wide-ranging frugivores (fruit-eaters) and act as crucial seed dispersal agents for some 150 species of tree. The removal of these animals from the ecosystem would therefore have an enormous impact on the dynamics of the entire biological community.

The most threatened Amazonian



Woolly monkey orphan for sale.

monkeys urgently need to have their future protected, while there still are viable populations remaining in the wild. Hunting bans or, failing that,

strict controls can be established, and sanctuaries set up to care for monkeys confiscated from the pet trade.

## MONKEY MEAT SHIPMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES

According to the 17 July 2003 issue of the *Boston Globe*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) wildlife inspectors at Logan Airport, Boston, examined a big piece of luggage and, to their amazement, found the butchered bodies of 26 monkeys. The incident occurred in January 2002. The suitcase had been brought in from Guinea. The inspectors learned that the monkey meat

was to be served at a wedding reception.

Inspector Robert Marquis commented,

*Fifty percent of it is maggot-infested. Where did West Nile come from? Who's to say? When I'm on the ground looking at shipments, I take all the precautions I can.*

Atlanta Airport inspector Mike Elkins complained that so much illegal meat

arrives that "it's hard for us to keep up with it."

Inspectors at Kennedy Airport, New York, told the *Globe* they intercepted several shipments of illegal meat annually and suspect that what they find is the tip of the iceberg. Robert Rothe, a USFWS special agent at Kennedy, told the *Globe* that "very rarely is it even in a cooler."

## SWEDEN BANS APE EXPERIMENTS

In April 2003, Sweden's National Board for Laboratory Animals established new regulations for use of animals in research.

The new regulations, which came into force in June 2003, ban the use of apes in experimentation. Chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans, gorillas, and gibbons will be protected from research.

Per-Anders Svard, Campaign Manager of Animal Rights Sweden, which campaigned for the ban, commented:

*No great apes or gibbons are currently used in experiments in Sweden, but the ban is still a matter of great ideological importance. The decision marks an important shift in official policy, since it implicitly recognizes the individual moral worth of primates. Hopefully, the ban can be seen as a first step towards extending moral and legal rights to millions of other animals suffering in experiments...There are no excuses for using primates in experiments, and this is finally beginning to sink in — even at the level of policy-making.*

## *Special Gifts*

- *Gabriella Davis Carsten, in honor of her mother Barbara Davis*
- *Ms. Karen B. Dantine, in memory of her pets*
- *Shirley McGreal, in memory of Gertrude LaFore*
- *Douglas Cook, in memory of Gertrude LaFore*

## **IPPL-UK SUPPORTS OVERSEAS SANCTUARIES**

IPPL's branch office in London, England, is committed to aiding new and established primate sanctuaries, mainly in Africa, where the timber and associated bushmeat trades produce an unending trail of deaths and orphans. The discovery of extensive oil deposits off the West Coast of Africa is likely to impact upon some long-established monkey populations through infrastructure development over the next decade. As a result, the future need for primate sanctuaries will certainly increase.

Some of the primate sanctuaries that have received grants within the last two

years from IPPL-UK are: Cercopan (Nigeria, home to many species of rescued forest monkeys), Wakuluzu (Kenya, which focuses on assistance to colobus monkeys), Tacugama (Sierra Leone, which cares for chimps), and Chimfunshi (Zambia, a chimp rehabilitation center and wildlife orphanage that also helps other primates).

Animal sanctuaries in countries where primates are native play an essential role in enabling governments to enforce anti-poaching laws and in providing a haven for orphans of the bushmeat trade. These rescue centers increasingly recognize the

importance of including an educational component that reaches out to local populations, as well.

IPPL-UK also recognizes the importance of getting the word out among citizens of the industrialized nations. In July, IPPL-UK was pleased to host an important meeting on the bushmeat trade addressed by noted wildlife photographer and activist Karl Amman. IPPL-UK is also in constant contact with complementary organizations such as The Ape Alliance, working together to influence those who are in a position to affect the fate of free and captive primates.

## **CHINA PLANS HUGE PRIMATE LABORATORY**

According to the 17 July 2003 issue of *Nature*, China is planning to establish a huge new primate laboratory at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, Southern China. Plans are "to develop large colonies of transgenic primates for use as models of human disease."

The center has been named the "Center for Stem Cell Biology and Tissue Engineering." Bruce Lahn, a geneticist at the University of Chicago, is working closely with the project sponsors.

The center plans to specialize in studies of neurobiological disease and

developmental biology. China is considered a location of choice because of the high costs of primate research in the United States and Europe and, according to *Nature*, "criticism from animal rights activists."

Center Director Peng Xiang noted that the center will obtain several hundred rhesus and crab-eating macaques from a breeding center for \$500, one-tenth of what it would cost to buy a monkey in the United States.

Xiang is reportedly also looking into obtaining "inbred" monkeys from an island where they live free, although he expects

this would be a controversial move.

Plans are for the center to open in the fall of 2003, with 100-200 monkeys. It will work in the controversial area of transgenic experiments, in an effort to develop "models for neurodegenerative diseases such as Huntington's." However, according to *Nature*, a plan to grow tissue from human cells into primates for implantation back into humans has been put on hold, because many experts view such "xenotransplantation" as dangerous because of the risks of interspecies infection.

## **IPPL EARNS FOUR-STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR**

Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://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. Trent Stamp, Executive Director of Charity Navigator, wrote IPPL that:

*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.*

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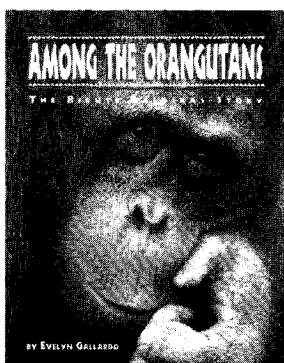
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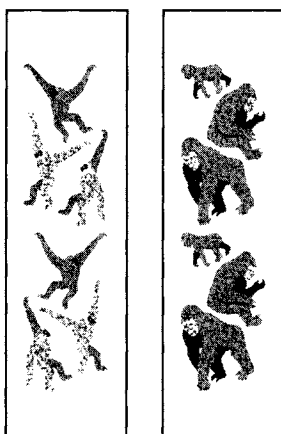
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"Among the Orangutans"  
Book by Evelyn Gallardo: \$8 (US)  
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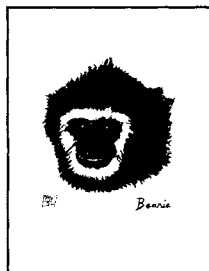
Gibbon and Gorilla Stickers  
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WILDSIGHT VIDEO  
Starring Beanie and the  
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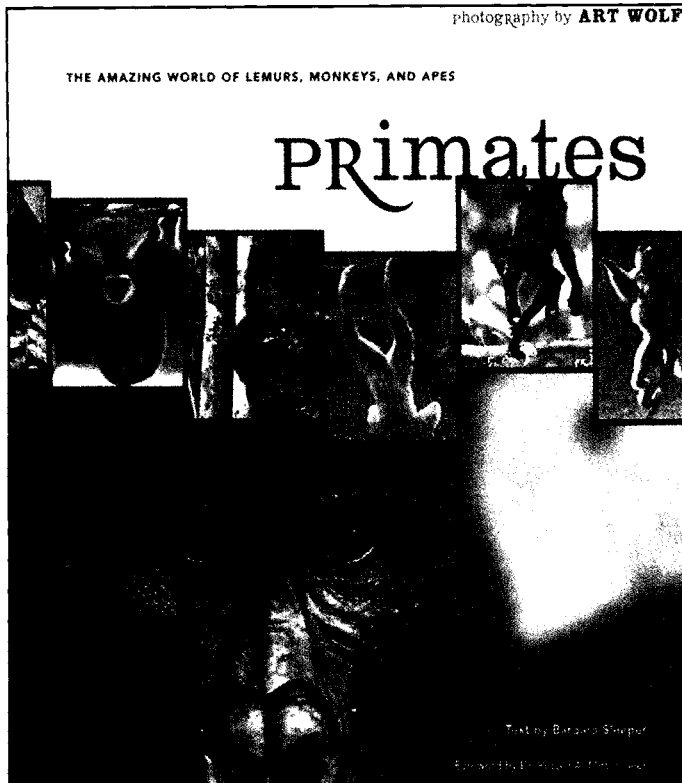
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Lovely note cards featuring IPPL gibbons Beanie,  
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Artwork by Michele Winstanley  
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## PRIMATE PARAPHERNALIA!



### 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.

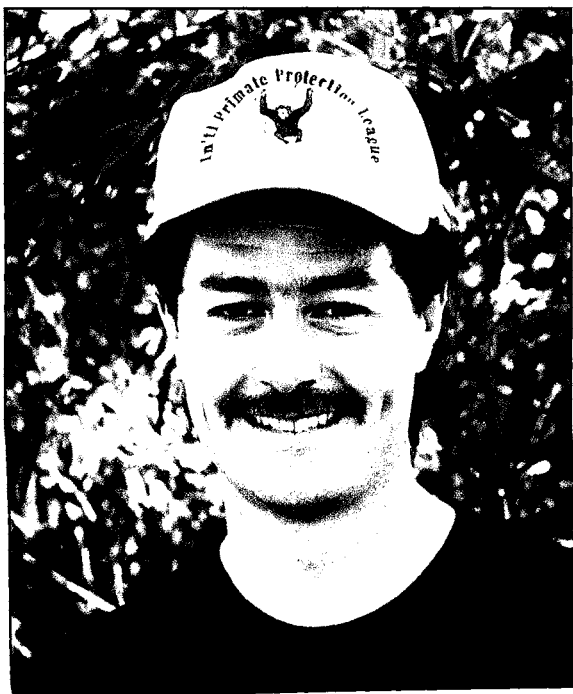
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**Color:** Charcoal Cotton  
**Adult sizes:** XXL, XL, L, M, S  
**Cost:** \$14 (US) \$22 overseas air



### **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.





A spectacular mandrill, denizen of  
the Central African rainforests.

© Art Wolfe

## IPPL: Who We Are

IPPL is an international grassroots wildlife protection organization. Our mission for 30 years has been to promote the conservation and protection of *all* nonhuman primates—including apes, monkeys, and prosimians—around the world.

IPPL has been operating an animal sanctuary in Summerville, SC, since 1977. There, 33 gibbons (the smallest apes) live in happy retirement. IPPL is also proud to support a number of other grassroots activist groups and primate rescue centers in countries where primates are native.

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