



Venus

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Tribute 2022



**Shirley McGreal
1934-2021**

Message from Shirley

In the December 1992 issue of *IPPL News*, Shirley wrote:

“It’s hard to believe it, but 1993 will be the 20th anniversary of the founding of the International Primate Protection League.

As Founder-Chairwoman of IPPL, I have now spent over half my adult life working to make the world a better place for nonhuman primates who share our world, and I intend to spend the rest of my life working on this cause!”



IPPL News

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Joan Brooks

About the Cover



In 2019, Shirley was preparing a Dian Fossey article for an issue of *IPPL News*. Titled *From Dian with Love*, it was correspondence between these two friends that spanned many years. At that time, Shirley said when she died she wanted the cover of *IPPL News* to be like the one she created after Dian was murdered. She mentioned it again sometime later. Last November I pulled that 1986 issue. On that cover Dian was holding a young gorilla. It was so similar to the photo I had already chosen to use with the sad announcement about Shirley – shown with a young gibbon.

IPPL: Who We Are

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

IPPL has been operating a sanctuary in Summerville, South Carolina, since 1977. Here, 30 gibbons (the smallest of the apes) live in happy retirement.

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

IPPL News is published
three times a year.

Remembering Shirley

Almost fifty years ago when Shirley McGreal's life's path changed, people around the world had no idea that their lives would change as well. People in Africa, Asia, and South America, who already had a passion and concern for primates. For some it was an idea, others were already involved and many lacked the knowledge and/or the funds to start or to keep going – until they heard about Shirley and reached out to her.

The following pages show what a tremendous impact Shirley had on so many people – some she never even met.

When they reached out to her, she responded. Through her work, laws changed and countless primates were rescued, rehabilitated, returned to wild or given life-long care.

We thank everyone who provided memories and heartfelt comments for this special edition of IPPL *News* as well as those who sent email messages or posted on Facebook.

Shirley's mission was always more about protecting and saving primates and less about herself. We think she would be amazed to see the outpouring of gratitude and love from so many.



Shirley and Tong

Remembering Shirley

IPPL's Board of Directors

"When I retired from nursing, I thought I would relax and take a trip to volunteer. As I had been a state permitted wildlife rehabilitator for 15 years, I wanted to work with a species I would never see in Virginia. Little did I know I would discover Africa, non-human primates, and Shirley McGreal. I had heard about an organization called IPPL when volunteering in South Africa. So, when I returned to the states, I found out that the headquarters was just down the road so to speak (at least closer than Africa). I called and spoke to Shirley McGreal. The next week I was in beautiful Summerville listening to gibbons sing and meeting a most amazing woman. This began a 10-year friendship, giving talks at members meetings about my African volunteering experiences, and getting my primate "fix" when I could not get back to Africa.

I was honored two years ago when Shirley asked me to be on the Board of Directors. I brought to IPPL my experience of being an administrative director of the University of Virginia Diabetes Technology Center. I kept in close contact with Shirley and became chairman over a year ago. Every six weeks I was down in South Carolina sharing operas and Heygo tours, discussing politics, and learning all I could from her about IPPL.

Shirley, I miss your guidance, your fiery spirit. I miss you....." **Pam Mendosa**

"In 1987, I was an IPPL volunteer. A year later I'd become Shirley's office assistant. She was stern and barked instructions at me in a rapid-fire, British accent, but underneath her tough exterior was a woman driven by passion and compassion. Over the years she blessed me with an abundance of knowledge, not only about primates, but about the relationship between humans and the animal kingdom, where on our fragile planet, the most basic interests of non-human species are not included in most people's scope of moral concern. Shirley pushed me hard to do my best as an animal advocate and activist. She entrusted three orphaned baby otters in my care, appointed me as Cleveland Amory's personal assistant when he visited, and introduced me to Jane Goodall, all memorable experiences.

Shirley shared my love of music and regularly attended local concerts. Watching her dance in the aisle at a Willie Nelson concert was a glorious sight because I rarely saw her so carefree. She reacted the same way when she'd hear the Plantation Singers, and of course, her beloved gibbons sing. I'll never hear another opera without thinking of her. I'll look for her face in the audience. Beloved Shirley, guide us from the other side of the thin veil. Help us honor your memory and carry on your mission for primates around the world." **Alison Harvey**

"I met Shirley for the first time in 1982 although I had known about her for many years prior to that. My two favorite recollections of Shirley are as follows.

In 1991, Shirley was staying with me, and we were both attending a meeting in Miami. While we were at the meeting, Shirley was served with papers that led to a lawsuit in which Matthew Block, who sold and continues to sell animals for medical research, sued her for \$500,000 because he said that Shirley was interfering with his affairs. Shirley's public response to the Miami Herald: "I will not be kowtowed. This is like the Soviet Union in the Stalin era with these people who can't stand criticism. What are we supposed to do, let these animals die?" Her more personal response happened later that evening, when she was mulling over the day in our kitchen and took my children's magnetic letters and arranged them boldly on our fridge to read "Go to hell Matthew Block"

A second recollection occurred several years later, in 1994, when Shirley and I were sharing a room while attending the International Primatological Societies congress in Bali, Indonesia. The room we shared became a busy repository for faxes which would be slipped under the door at any time of the day or night alerting Shirley to some malfeasance involving primates. Shirley, through charm and her linguistic skills, cultivated a wide network of informants around the globe. There was virtually nothing that Shirley would not be alerted to and thanks to her ferocious tenacity the lives of the primates we share our planet with were much improved." **Siân Evans**

"I share with you an overwhelming sadness. Shirley was my idol, and I formed my foundation (Douc Langur Foundation) because of her. She was always there to advise and support me. She cheered me in the darkest moments, and she was a constant source of inspiration for me. Shirley taught me to be strong and relentless and never to waiver in my mission to save doucs just as she had saved so many primates over the years." **Lois K. Lippold**

“Shirley McGreal was a figure in my life from the mid-1970s when I discovered a small advertisement in a magazine announcing the International Primate Protection League with its gibbon pictures and I instantly joined their crusade. Shirley was a mentor, a teacher, a personal cheerleader and my friend over the next forty plus years. It was with her help and encouragement; I created a primate sanctuary here in Florida. Students from local colleges and high schools have been my guests at the IPPL biennial members meetings over the years to meet and availed themselves of the privilege of knowing Shirley. These students have gone on to become primatologists, scientists, conservationists, and activists who count the opportunity to meet and speak with this strong vital woman a pivotal moment in their lives.

Shirley was always easily accessible for information, encouragement, and support for primates, both non-human and human, around the world. We have, all primates, lost a vibrant inspirational woman whose entire life was spent working for the good of primates worldwide.” **Deborah Misotti**

“I do not know how to properly pay tribute to this brave and special woman. Shirley McGreal touched many people and saved countless primate lives around the world. For decades, Shirley and IPPL responded to numerous pleas to help rescue primate orphans, alleviate crises at primate sanctuaries, fight exports of primates to research laboratories, etc. Shirley would quickly step up and do all that she could. She advocated on behalf of not only non-human primates, but also people, including the underprivileged and the marginalized. Shirley taught us a great deal about compassion and selflessness. It was Shirley who first gave me the opportunity to study and conserve primates. I have much to thank her for. She will be sorely missed.”

Lynne R. Baker

“I first learned about Shirley McGreal in the late '70s from Dian Fossey when I was working at the Karisoke Research Centre in Rwanda. Dian was an early member of the IPPL network of primate specialists and they corresponded regularly, meeting only occasionally at conferences in the US.

A few years later, when working as a reporter for BBC Wildlife Magazine, I had the chance to interview Shirley several times by telephone when covering primate issues. She had an encyclopedic knowledge of dealers, shipments and legal cases, so much so that it was with some trepidation that I would call her, knowing that I was in for a rapid-fire torrent of details which I struggled to jot down.

Shirley McGreal was an accredited observer at the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, Conferences of the Parties, and must have clocked up more CoP attendances than almost any other delegate.

Letter writing was an important tool in her campaigning efforts too, and by encouraging primatologists and members of the public around the world to write to key politicians or officials, IPPL changed laws, improved law enforcement and brought about bans that saved the lives and prevented the suffering of millions of primates.

I first Shirley in person at CITES CoP 7 in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1989 and worked with her at almost every CoP until her last one in 2019 – also in Switzerland.” (extract from a blog for www.ecoflix.com) **Ian Redmond**



L to R: Unknown, Ian Redmond, Shirley, Bourama Niagate CITES 2019



Remembering Shirley

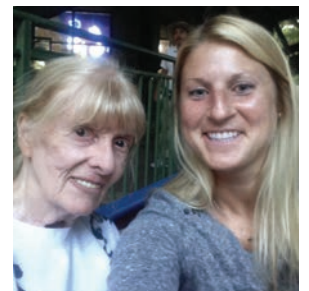
IPPL's Staff



“I was given the opportunity to work at IPPL after becoming a volunteer in 2017. Seeing Shirley’s fiery determination and intense focus on anything she immersed herself in was truly impressive. She was such an incredible force to witness in action and watching her continue to work until her last days was inspiring. I am extremely grateful for my time at IPPL with Shirley. I have learned so much from her and will miss the glimpses of her witty humor in our conversations. I will especially cherish memories of watching the gibbons with Shirley in the afternoons and listening to her amazing stories.” **Kerri Rankins Young, Office Administrator**

“Absolutely devastating. I’ve been a part of IPPL for over 10 years, have learned so much from this woman. Absolutely one of a kind, not replaceable. She will be missed by all, she brought so many likeminded people together to look out for those that could not look out for themselves. The primate world is so much better since she has been a part of it. She will be greatly missed.

Shirley and I went on a trip to TX for a NAPSA meeting and she said she had never taken a selfie before, so I said let’s do it! And we did...” **Meg McCue-Jones, Safety & Compliance Manager and Outreach**



Shirley and Meg

“I first met Shirley in April of 2020, after starting my position with IPPL. Due to the uncertainties and potential dangers of covid, Shirley had decided to keep her distance from the gibbons, a choice that had to be very difficult for her. Over the next year, I would visit Shirley with weekly updates of the gibbons and otters to keep her informed of their day-to-day health. She knew all of their personal histories, the circumstances of how they came to IPPL, and always enjoyed sharing that information with me. Not only did this help me learn about the animals at this sanctuary, it also gave me some insight about the woman who started and ran this organization for over 40 years.

Shirley always welcomed the chance to talk about the animals. She loved answering my questions, always found time to remember a funny story for me or let me forage through a file of old IPPL photos, and always loved hearing about the antics of the animals. Her living room window looked out onto the enclosure of Jade and Palu-Palu, and sometimes when I went to see her I would find the three visiting each other; Jade and Palu looking in and Shirley looking out. It was obvious that she never grew tired of her life’s work. I realize how fortunate I am to have met and worked with such a force in the primate field; someone who saw a problem with the world and never ever stopped working to end that problem. Thank you, Shirley, for showing us what fierce determination can do.” **Trish McCoy, Animal Care Manager**

“I had the honor of working for Dr. Shirley McGreal for almost six years. I started out at IPPL in January 2016 as a volunteer. My first day volunteering I met Shirley and was given a tour of the IPPL property. At the time there 36 gibbons living at the sanctuary, if memory serves. I remember being shown around and being in awe of all that Shirley had accomplished for these amazing primates. After I helped the animal care team with the weekly food donation, I told them that I would gladly come back in to help any time. As I was leaving Shirley was standing on her front porch. I walked up the steps to speak to her, told her how wonderful I thought her sanctuary was and gave her a big hug. I found out that day as Shirley awkwardly allowed me to hug her, that she really wasn’t big on hugs. I came back to IPPL to volunteer as often as possible and by September I was an employed animal caregiver. Over the years I got to spend some time with Shirley, and she never failed to impress me. On a road trip to the NAPSA conference in 2018 she told me many stories of things that she had accomplished on behalf of animals, especially primates over the years. Once we arrived, she graciously offered to introduce me to many people in the primate sanctuary world that she had known for years. I truly enjoyed getting to spend time with her in that setting. I feel very fortunate to have known Shirley and to have been able to learn from her. I miss her dearly and IPPL will never be the same without her.”

Jennifer Buchanan, Senior Animal Caregiver

“After spending 3 weeks in Ecuador, I came back to IPPL to work and went in to see Shirley to catch up on everything. When I told her I had been to Ecuador, her first question was “did you see the hummingbirds?” I was so happy by this question I could’ve high 5’ed her—because seeing the Ecuadorian hummingbirds was the reason why I went! Nobody else in my life knew about the birds there, but of course Shirley did. She knew everything! She and I would go on golf cart rides around the property every Friday so she could see the gibbons. I always used this occasion to ask her questions about her life: where she had been, what she had seen and done. As a fellow traveler, she was fascinating to me. She’d been to so many places I’ve dreamt of visiting and had amazing stories to go with every spot. I’ve always been in awe of how much knowledge and life experiences this woman had. She did so much more than was ever expected and saved thousands upon thousands of animals while doing it. If I could’ve, I would’ve recorded all those moments she had and put them in a library for everyone to access. I miss those golf rides.”

Sheana Mosch, Animal Caregiver



Shirley loved to have Henry take her to see the gibbons in the golf cart!

“I worked with Shirley for 8 years. I pulled down Primate Lane and was struck by eerily beautiful gibbon song. Shirley met on the dock and said they sing to proclaim territory and when happy. That was the first primate factoid Shirley would teach me. Shirley was tough, but she had to be. A woman in the 1970s challenging illegal trade in the streets of Thailand in black markets where animals were sold couldn’t be soft. Shirley had to be firm and brash being a brick wall protecting animals around the world. Her deeds were incredible. Honored by the Queen with an O.B.E., Prince Philip’s letters, being a huge part of the legislature surrounding NHP research... Shirley surrounded herself by property as safe-haven for the gibbons she loved. Her contributions to sanctuaries/animals around the world will never be forgotten. IPPL has a banner on Mt. Everest! I’ll always remember Shirley as a woman who had to present a hard front to a cruel world, but behind the gates of her beloved sanctuary called “Samanthaaaaa!” off the porch if I started night runs too early, came to check on ill/ injured gibbons cooing and enticing them to little nibbles angel food cake. The primates of the world human and non-human mourn her loss, but every time gibbons sing, I’ll smile thinking of Shirley.”

Samantha Martin, former Animal Caregiver

Dr. Jane Goodall Mourns Passing of Dr. Shirley McGreal



Shirley and Jane Goodall some years ago



Photo Jane Goodall used with her remarks

With the passing of Dr. Shirley McGreal the primates have lost a true friend, and conservation has lost a true hero. I remember when I first met Shirley – years and years ago! – and went to visit the gibbons she had rescued in South Carolina. Starting with her love for gibbons, Shirley built up the gibbon sanctuary, and founded her organization IPPL that has made a difference to thousands of primates and also to the many people working to conserve them in different parts of the world.

Shirley was compassionate, passionate, committed – and courageous. She was not afraid to tackle anything and as a result went through some devastating lawsuits, all of which she won.

The successive editions of the IPPL magazine chronicled her extraordinary career and have always been filled with stories of the different missions she undertook and their successful outcomes, along with heart breaking examples of the terrible cruelty she saw repeatedly – along with the happy outcomes as, one after the other, different individuals were rescued.

It is hard to think of the world without Shirley, but she has built up a team of committed people in different countries who will all carry on her work. Her spirit will remain with us.

Remembering Dr. Shirley McGreal

Born Free

Born Free's Executive President and Co-Founder Will Travers OBE pays tribute to a leading light in global primate protection.

Born Free is deeply saddened to learn of the death of Dr. Shirley McGreal OBE. Born and raised in England, Shirley received her doctorate from the University of Cincinnati. She lived in India, Thailand, France, and various parts of United States before settling in South Carolina. It was during her time living overseas, that she became aware of the cruel and illegal trade in primates and dedicated the rest of her life to protecting them.

In 1973, she formed the International Primate Protection League (IPPL). In her role as the leader of this organization for decades, Shirley worked tirelessly at the grassroots level to protect all primates from abuse.

In 1977 she established a gibbon sanctuary at her South Carolina home, where she helped rescue and care for countless monkeys.

A fearless animal campaigner, Shirley fought hard against the trade in all species, but particularly primates, through her involvement in CITES, the Species Survival Network (SSN), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Primatological Society. In 2008 she was awarded her OBE for services to the protection of primates.

Born Free's Executive President and Co-Founder, Will Travers OBE said: "Shirley McGreal seemed to have been part of our lives forever. All the CITES meetings and SSN meetings that she attended, often with Dianne Snow, all blend into one. She was a constant presence – informed, compassionate, experienced, and tough. Shirley did not suffer fools, but she was the best of friends.

"I had not seen her for a while, but she was never far from my thoughts, and I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that she will be immensely missed. What she achieved for primates – wild and captive – around the world cannot be underestimated and, through IPPL, her legacy continues.

"It was one of my most cherished moments when Shirley approached me at a CITES meeting to say how proud she was of SSN and all that it had achieved – we could not have done it without Shirley. "Virginia McKenna OBE,



Shirley with CITES delegate some years ago.

Born Free's Co-Founder, joins me in sending our sincere condolences to all who knew Shirley but, above all, we celebrate the life and achievements of an incredible person."

American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA)

The primate community is mourning the loss of Dr. Shirley McGreal, founder of IPPL and one of the "Grande Dames" of primate advocacy and protection. We officially recognized her many contributions with a Lifetime Achievement Award at a NAPSA Workshop in 2014. Thank you for your important work, Shirley! You will be missed.



Charleston Animal Society

The Lowcountry has lost an animal hero. Dr. Shirley McGreal, the founder of the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) in Summerville, has died.

Known around the world for her decades of work to save gibbons, McGreal was awarded Charleston Animal Society's highest honor in 2020, the *Elizabeth Bradham Humanitarian Award*.

Founded in 1973, IPPL opened its doors as the only gibbon sanctuary in North America in Summerville, 40 miles west of Charleston. These "smallest apes," are rescued from medical labs, zoos and other situations – and brought to safety at IPPL.

There are currently 30 gibbons living in safety and solitude on 48 acres, provided by Dr. McGreal. She has received several international honors for her work with gibbons, including the Order of the British Empire from Queen Elizabeth II.





Project Bangkok Airport, 1975



Project Bangkok Airport, 1975



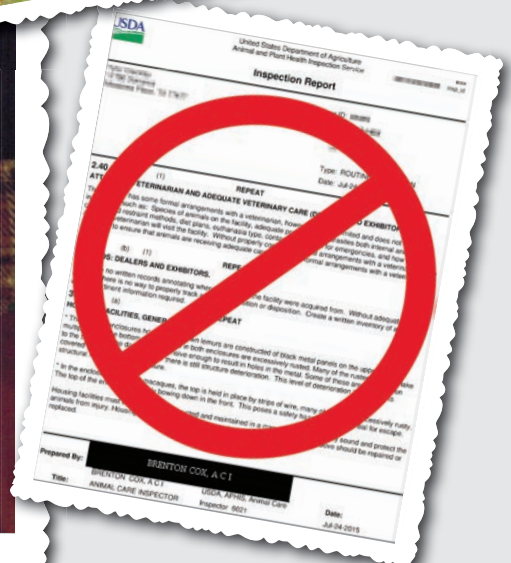
Attendees at IPPL's first conference, March 1990



IPPL 2018 Conference speakers – last before COVID



Shirley with Immuno chimp trade petitions



Tributes from IPPL's Global Partners

HURO, India *Florian Magne, Director*

"There would be so much to say to you Shirley, but I first want to start our tribute with Antoine de Saint Exupéry words: *It is not suffering that troubled me. I don't really believe in it. But with the death of one, an entire unknown world dies along.* Saint Ex.. What could be best for you who loved the language of Voltaire, who was fascinated by the French culture and by all the cultures you came across in your incredible life.. As much as Antoine, you loved life to the fullest, and you felt that by putting one stone you were contributing to the building of the world. And you did. So much. Much more than I could express. I am not going to list here all the wonderful achievements you managed to pull off. Many of our friends will do that much better than I. But this long and infinite list that goes on and on is and will always be an incredible source of inspiration for those who understood your drawing number one, for those who understand the depth and the meaning of your fight. When I started HURO in India, aged 21, your name is one of the first I heard. Your actions were the amongst the first examples I read. Nor your name, nor your actions have never left our side ever since. Fifteen years later, you were the one who understood best the meaning of our efforts. Realizing that you left us, triggered an infinite feeling of loneliness... Our world will never be the same without you.. And yet, I believe in spirit strength, and I know you will never leave us.

With our love, HURO"

PROFAUNA, Indonesia *Rosek Nurshaid, Founder*



Rosek and Shirley

"RIP Shirley McGreal, founder of IPPL. Shirley was an amazing, generous, and dearest friend to PROFAUNA for more than 20 years. She was one of my inspirators and motivators to establish PROFAUNA in 1994".

Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Sierra Leone

Bala Amarasekaran, Founder

"I'm so sorry for the loss of our dear Shirley. She was so special, such a role model, an inspiration for many of us. I had the honour of being in her company many times over the years and all those beautiful memories will sparkle forever. Goodbye Shirley. You will be dearly missed."



Bala and Shirley

Wildlife Friends Foundation, Thailand

Edwin Wiek, Founder

"Dear Shirley, you were the first person in our "animal world" that supported my ideas and work two decades ago and have since continued to be a supporter, partner and friend of me and the WFFT. The news today that you are no longer with us cuts like a knife. I wish we had the chance to visit you one more time, that we could have a fun day out like we had in Switzerland two years ago again. Or just the chance to say simply a short goodbye.

Thank you for being you. Thank you for all you did for us, and so many more than just us. We love you, Rest In Peace."



Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue *Dr. Sheri Speede, Founder*

"Shirley McGreal had a very important impact on my life. Under her direction, IPPL funded my first trip to Cameroon in 1997 and supported my work for chimpanzees in that country through the many years since then. She provided me with sage advice when I needed it most, and I could count on her to join

me in righteous outrage when circumstances demanded it! She was courageous, brilliant, passionate, compassionate – a combination of qualities that compelled her effective advocacy for primates around the world, including her beloved gibbons. IPPL is Shirley's legacy, but her life's work is also reflected in the many other organizations, including Sanaga-Yong Chimpanzee Rescue, that she inspired and supported. She was a one-of-a-kind primate advocate and human being, and I will remember her always with love and admiration."

Kalaweit, Indonesia

Chanee Kalaweit, Founder

"Oh no... I'm so sad to realize that Shirley is not with us anymore. She was such a superwomen... Gibbons are losing such a good friend. She will always be in my heart as an example and an incredible human being. All animal and primate lover already miss her so much. Rest in peace Shirley, we, at Kalaweit, gibbons and humans, love you so much and will never forget you for your generosity and your kindness. We are so sad. I can't realize that Shirley is not with us anymore... We will name the next female gibbon who will arrive at Kalaweit – *Shirley*."



(Left to right) unknown, Chanee, Shirley, and Hélène

Ikamaperu, Peru

Hélène Collongues, President

"We all share the same deep sorrow. Somehow, we thought she was immortal. She leaves a fantastic work and spirit for all of us. I am so happy I could tell her last time I saw her in 2018 how much I admired, respected, and loved her. She looked so happy to hear that though everybody who knew her did. That was the day she accompanied me to the airport speaking her excellent French all the way. She was one of the very few who from the very beginning believed in us and gave a chance to a small project like Ikamaperu to make a difference. We feel like working even harder now. It is the best we can do to keep her memory alive."

Comunidad Inti Wara Yassi, Bolivia

Jenny Boyd and the CIWY/FIWI team



"Sending condolences from our team in Bolivia and the UK. Shirley's compassion for primates has touched so many lives around the world, and we are very sorry to hear of her passing. In Bolivia, there are several hundred rescued howler monkeys, spider monkeys and capuchin monkeys in our wildlife sanctuaries that have been granted a better life thanks in large part to the good work of Shirley and IPPL. Shirley's light will keep shining in the hearts of all she reached."

Vervet Monkey Foundation, South Africa

Josie Du Toit, Director

"Sending deepest condolences and thoughts to you all... So saddened to hear that dear Shirley is no longer with us."

Having worked with primates for years, I was very familiar with IPPL's globally renowned wonderful work, but I first had the pleasure of having contact with Shirley when I reached out to her in the hope that IPPL would be able to help the monkeys at The Vervet Monkey Foundation in South Africa. We were delighted when help was offered in the form of a generous grant, which has continued annually and allowed us to achieve so much at the sanctuary and help hundreds of monkeys in desperate need.

Shirley was an indomitable force for primates for so many years and her loss will be felt deeply all around the world... Her legacy will live on through IPPL's wonderful work and her memory will forever be honoured in the many, many primates she has helped over the decades. Sending love to you all."

Colobus Conservation, Kenya

Susan-Rose Maingi, Conservation Manager

"Please accept our sincere condolences on behalf of the Board of Directors, the management and the staff of Colobus Conservation. Shirley McGreal was a great supporter and friend of our organization, and her tireless work to protect and save primates was felt all across the world, including here in Diani Beach, Kenya where we operate."

As a result of Shirley's life mission, and the IPPL Small Grants Program, Colobus Conservation continues to be

successful, in its mission to preserve and protect primates, in particular, the Vulnerable Angolan Black and White Colobus monkey, and the habitats in which they thrive i.e., the Coastal Forest of Eastern Africa.

Some of the critical animal welfare programs made possible with the funding from IPPL over the years include our primate rescue and rehabilitate program that targets primates impacted by; primate-vehicle collisions, electrical shocks and electrocution, animal cruelty and snares. We have also been able to ensure regular maintenance of our canopy bridges (colobridges) that promote arboreal connectivity for primates to safely access forest resources on either side of Diani Beach Road. The emergency grant offered in 2020 helped Colobus Conservation to remain afloat, by ensuring the continuity of daily operations including covering the costs of animal caregivers, food and vet supplies for captive monkeys, in addition to fuel and vehicle maintenance for 6 months during the Covid 19 Pandemic.

We are truly grateful to Shirley McGreal and IPPL for your commitment and determination to make the world a better place for non-human primates.

The legacy of Shirley's lifetime achievements will remain to inspire positive action for many generations to come."

Fundación Entropika, Colombia

Dr. Angela Maldonado, Co-founder

"One month ago, we lost one of the most inspiring primate conservationists worldwide, Dr Shirley McGreal, founder of the International Primate Protection League (Summerville, U.S.). Her lifelong dedication to primate protection led to several successful law cases and campaigns against human exploitation including the unethical use of primates in research.

Thanks to Shirley's continuous encouragement, support and friendship, Entropika's director, Angela Maldonado also pursued and won a landmark court case in Colombia regarding the unsustainable harvest of night monkeys used in malaria research. With IPPL's financial support, Entropika has been able to carry out grassroot research into wildlife trade dynamics at the Colombian-Peruvian Amazon for more than 15 years, resulting in several investigations against traffickers and environmental authorities, as well as confiscation operations that rescued endangered wildlife from tourism businesses."

Angela Maldonado added: "The loss of Shirley leaves us without a mentor and without a long-term friend who always had the right words to encourage me to keep fighting for primates in court. I am deeply saddened that owing to covid travelling restrictions I didn't have the chance to see Shirley one last time during IPPL's biennial meeting in 2020. Shirley will always be in our hearts, and her exemplary life will be her legacy in defense of primates, to safeguard a better future for them and their ecosystems. Thank you, Shirley, for the immense imprint you left in our lives and hearts."

Neotropical Primate Conservation, Peru

Sam Shanee, Projects Director

"What terribly sad news, you all must be devastated, as we are, and I'm sure many, many others around the world will be. She did so much for primates and causes in her life, including being the very first person to support our work when we were getting started! I am sure her legacy will live on, and her work continues to have an impact.

Lots of love to you all at this time."



Little Fireface Project, Indonesia

Dr. Anna Nekaris, Founder

"Very devastated to hear of the passing of Shirley McGreal who has been my hero for many years. She was one of the first people who believed in me and my fight to save slow lorises, and one of the greatest supporter to get slow lorises transferred to CITES Appendix 1. She always fought for the underdog primates and was a true inspiration. I will never forget her telling me never to stop my fight for these forgotten primates.

Ever since I started my Little Fireface Project in Java in 2011, IPPL and Shirley have funded our efforts, ranging from developing a children's library in the village, supporting Indonesian students, helping with reintroduction efforts, and monitoring illegal wildlife trade, to helping us build a purpose-built enclosure for confiscated wildlife in the regional wildlife department office.

We will miss the force of nature that was Shirley McGreal, and we will continue our work in her honour and memory.

I feel this misty picture of (our) Shirley in the wild and free in the Javan jungle with her latest baby, Sundama, can poignantly show the gratitude of my team and me. RIP Shirley..  



C.A.R.E., South Africa

**Stephen Munro, Managing Director and
Samantha Dewhirst, Assisting Managing Director**

“Shirley has left a global legacy, her passion and dedication bought together the world of primate protection, conservation, and rescue. Shirley’s work contributed not only to science and conservation, but also changed countless individual primate lives, ensuring they are given the care and facilities needed to safeguard their good welfare.

The supportive relationship to C.A.R.E. began in around 2005 when our late founder Rita Miljo reached out for help. IPPL helped a baboon, dubbed ‘Bahrain Willie’ after South African authorities would not allow Rita permits to save him, after over a year of battling he at least found his forever home in Wales. IPPL also enabled a local, promising staff member to embark on a Nature Conservation course. The following year, Rita gave a moving presentation at the IPPL conference at the IPPL headquarters, it was a defining moment for Rita. Rita took along a Nature Conservation Official, Cindra Malivoho. Cindra was influenced immensely from the experience, and upon her return to South Africa she did all she could to help with successful permits for Rita to rescue and release baboons, up until she relocated.

In 2012, Rita along with 3 baboons, died in a shocking fire at the centre. IPPL was the first organisation we knew we could reach out to for help and advice. Knowing Shirley and IPPL were always there for support was one of the main reasons we could continue with hope to ensure a future for the 430+ baboon lives. Shirley and the team reliably assisted and soon, we were able to build a new Veterinary Clinic and other facilities. Since then, IPPL has supported C.A.R.E. every year to assist with primate welfare improvements, enrichment and enclosure upgrades and essential kit needed for releasing the baboons back into the wild. If a grant wasn’t an option, Shirley would even donate from her own pocket to our crowd-fundraising initiatives for new equipment such as an all-important washing machine or microwave for the animal-care kitchen; she knew how much of a difference such support made. With COVID-19 sending the world into lockdown, IPPL helped to keep the baboons well fed and cared for. Shirley’s support goes far beyond grants and donations, she had a deep understanding of sanctuary work and was a friendly, reliable pillar of strength for us to look to in difficult times, she gave us hope, comfort and reassurance. Her emails to us were personal, she will be missed. We hope to continue to get to know the IPPL team and wish all of them strength and unity during this really tough time; we know how it is to lose a founder and how important it is for those carrying the torch to remain firm and true to Shirley’s legacy.”

**Rita with a
baby baboon**



J.A.C.K., Democratic Republic of the Congo

Franck and Roxane Chantereau, Co-founders

“We all know we are born to leave some day but when the journey of a legend like Shirley comes to an end, it is the whole world of so many people, so many orphans that is falling apart. Shirley has been a Friend, a Mother and a shoulder to J.A.C.K. and its rescued orphans – losing her is so heartbreaking! Shirley will be in our hearts forever.”



Shirley and Franck

Pandrillus, Nigeria and Cameroon

Peter Jenkins and Liza Gadsby, Co-founders

“Goodbye, Shirley. You did so much for Pandrillus, for Drill Ranch and Limbe Wildlife Center, and primates worldwide. No one had your nerve, your sheer will and determination, to rescue primates anywhere they were in need. Thanks to your super-powered global radar, we brought the “Taiping 4” gorillas back to Cameroon from Malaysia; we brought the drills “Ming & Fidel” back to Nigeria from the Philippines. It was only you who discovered these smuggled endangered primates and kicked off their amazing sagas, sagas that ended well. And thanks to you Pandrillus sanctuaries have had a steadfast supporter in IPPL for decades. It’s up to all of us working with primates worldwide to honor your legacy and continue the struggle and never give up. We will miss you very, very much. Farewell, old friend.”

Liza, Shirley, and Peter



Bourama Niagate Mourns the Loss of His Dear Friend Shirley

"I first met Dr. Shirley McGreal in 1994 during the CITES CoP in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She was aware of me through my many very specific interventions for the defense of elephants and primates. At each break, Dr. Shirley invited me to go eat with my big brother Alpha Aly MAIGA. We went on lots of field trips, and it was Shirley who paid for the tickets and meals. At each CoP, she was the first to ask me if I should participate. Yes, before my arrival she already knew my news.

We shared 27 years of friendship and collaboration, she liked to talk to me about her twin sister (peace to her soul), and especially the gibbons for whom she gave everything and devoted everything. Every year she was the first to send me best wishes with the signatures of all the staff at IPPL and hello from the gibbons. She was very kind, helpful and especially loved living with good people.

At the 2018 CoP meeting in Geneva, Shirley told me that she wanted to organize a great Symposium and invited me to be among her best friends and partners. Today all I do is mourn the unconditional departure of my darling mom Shirley..



Your son and very sincere friend who has always loved you. GOODBYE." **Colonel Major Bourama Niagate (Retired) from Mali**



Shirley in the conga line with the Plantation Singers



Shirley receiving her Order of the British Empire (OBE)



Shirley visited her gibbons daily



Shirley loved spring at IPPL



Enjoying a pastry in France



IPPL supported banner on behalf of Nepal's monkeys



IPPL's annual Scarecrows on the Square contest in Summerville



2013 Orangutan Project World Tour stops in Charleston



Shirley presenting at one of many Animal Rights Conferences



IPPL Conference 2016 (Shirley at top to right of canopy)



Orangutan Project eco-leader Garry Sundin at IPPL, 2013

A Letter from IPPL's Chairwoman Shirley McGreal

Dear Members,

I have some really exciting news. In December 2004 IPPL doubled the acreage of land housing our Headquarters from 10 to 22 acres. Here's how it happened!

The small town of Summerville, where IPPL is based, is growing by leaps and bounds. We live in the small community of Knightsville, which is seven miles from downtown Summerville.

Summerville was a small, peaceful community when IPPL arrived in 1977. At the time we had just four gibbons. We never foresaw how many gibbons would need homes over the following years. We now care for 31 gibbons, as well some Asian small-clawed otters (two of whom are former performing animals from a California marine park) and several delightful dogs who guard us all—including Bullet our blind boy found lost in these woods in 1999, and seen with me enjoying them in the photo below.

Unfortunately, developers have moved into our area. The road from Summerville to Knightsville now has many sub-divisions and stores. It is sad to see traffic jams on this once-quiet road.

IPPL's Headquarters occupied ten acres for many years. The western edge of our land was bordered by many acres of beautiful woods full of wildlife. Then, to our horror, 12 wooded acres were sold in 2002 to a couple with plans to develop the land and construct several houses. In late 2004 we learned that the land was again up for sale. There was a chance to rescue the woods and the woodland wildlife—and to have a buffer of protection for IPPL's gibbons. The last thing we needed was neighbors along our back fence who might not enjoy the gibbons' songs—and might even harm or harass them.

At this point, IPPL received an amazingly generous gift from one of our long-time supporters to whom we owe an immense debt of gratitude. This gift enabled us to obtain the 12 wooded acres, complete with a lovely stream. The land now belongs to IPPL and is safe for all its wonderful residents. These include the large red-shouldered hawks and tiny hummingbirds that nest there, white-tailed deer, and many other mammals, birds, and reptiles.



Bullet and I enjoying the woods, Shirley

IPPL NEWS

www.ippl.org

April 2005

Shirley continued to obtain surrounding property to insulate her gibbons from development and protect the wildlife.

Virtual Memorial Service for Shirley

A virtual service will be held on Saturday, April 23 at IPPL's sanctuary.

Exact time will be announced at a later date.



Special Donation Form in Memory of Shirley McGreal

Please note: All donations in memory of Shirley are being acknowledged on a Virtual Memorial Wall on our website – <https://www.ippl.org/donate/>

For almost 50 years Shirley dedicated her life to helping and saving countless primates around the world in addition to establishing a gibbon sanctuary in South Carolina. IPPL is committed to honoring her legacy by continuing her mission. If you would like to make a memorial donation, you may use this form or go to our website **www.ippl.org** to donate online. Thank you.

I wish to make a donation in memory of Shirley McGreal ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other amount: \$_____

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

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

Card number: _____ Exp. date: _____ CVV#: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Name: _____

U.S. federal tax ID number:
51-0194013

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

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



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Shirley McGreal



Forever In Our Hearts!