



IPPL

International
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Protection
League

News

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Holiday Issue



A Message from Alison

Dear IPPL Friends,

As the new chairperson of IPPL's Board of Directors, it's my pleasure to share the 2024 Holiday issue of IPPL *News* with all of you.

Each year we interact with many of our Global Partners around the world and this year was no exception.

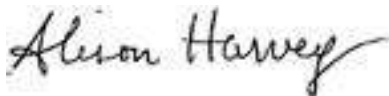
This issue contains a wide variety of articles including: The Vervet Monkey Foundation which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, an interesting interview with HURO's founder, Florian Magne, and the challenges facing the Long-tailed Macaque Project.

Also included is an overview of the founding of Akatia that began with Nemley Junior, a baby chimpanzee who was a victim of wildlife trafficking, an update about the primates Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand rescued from Highland Farm, and an article on the local browse that IPPL's gibbons enjoy.

Hurricane season has been especially damaging on the east coast this year. This issue contains a reflective article about macaques impacted by Hurricane Maria in 2017 east of Puerto Rico. Last is an article about C.A.R.E.'s continued efforts to rescue and save orphaned baby baboons.

The work of the dedicated individuals featured in this issue will not stop this year – or next. We are extremely appreciative of their commitment to help primates and IPPL will continue to do whatever we can to assist them in the future.

With best wishes and Happy Holidays to you and your families.



Alison Harvey
Chairperson, Board of Directors



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IPPL News

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About the Cover



Cuddy was hit by a car and suffered brain damage and limited mobility. Upon rescue, VMF assesses each injured orphan to formulate an individual care plan. This includes anything from veterinary treatments, dietary supplements, herbs, nutraceuticals, and homeopathic & Bach flower remedies. Read more about Cuddy's care when rescued, her life today, and some of the other vervet orphans saved by VMF on page 3.

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, 26 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.

Where Care Creates Miracles, the Vervet Monkey Foundation (VMF) in its 30th year

By Hana Bruger, Operations Manager

On a seemingly usual day, just like any other, Dave Du Toit, founder of VMF, went to work as normal. One of their workers came up to him and handed him a tiny vervet baby whose mother had been shot. This baby, named Regus, would change Dave's life forever as he fought for the life of one monkey.



Baby Cuddy

As it was illegal to keep monkeys as pets and Regus needed a home, Dave partnered up with the late Arthur Hunt to create a safe haven for confiscated and orphaned vervet monkeys. Getting through the legal process to establish the sanctuary took several more years. On 17th November 1993, it was finally achieved. The Vervet Monkey Foundation was created.

In 2005, Josie Humble (now Josie Cook) came to volunteer at the VMF. Nobody knew back then, but this would change the future for many monkeys in the sanctuary's care. She helped create the sanctuary's revolutionary foster mum programme. Since 2011 every single orphaned baby monkey has joined a new family introducing them to monkey foster mums already in stable troops at the sanctuary. Since then, a

management team has been established to ensure sustainability for the local team, international voluntary team, interns, and volunteers who together form the lifeblood of the VMF.

Throughout its history, the VMF has saved hundreds of monkeys in need and now houses about 680 monkeys in 15 large semi-wild enclosures with indigenous bush. Most of the monkeys arrive either orphaned, injured, or were ex-pets who were kept illegally.

Baby vervets usually arrive after their mothers have been killed – either due to being hit by a car, shot, poisoned, snared, or used in traditional medicine. The orphans are well cared for by a dedicated staff and volunteers. The orphans are fed, comforted, and introduced to adult monkeys through the fence. They also learn how to use the feeding cage – a box cage in which bottles are installed so that the babies are free to enter and drink from it anytime they like. This is very important for the next step on their rehabilitation journey.

Once the babies are six weeks old, they are taken on by the integration team and are hands-off with humans. The team introduces them to an adult female from one of the troops in a smaller enclosure alongside the troop called an introduction cage. The adult female monkey will then start to form a bond with the orphan, adopt the baby, and care for them as if they are her own. Once the baby reaches the age of three months, the foster mum and baby are released



Rexie

into the main enclosure to join the rest of the troop. There, she will introduce her baby to all the other monkeys, creating strong family bonds between her, her 'siblings', and other family groups. These bonds are so strong that observations suggest they are just as stable as natural families. This gives us hope for integrated



Floki as baby



Floki today

older enclosures and infrastructure, replacing all the water piping on the sanctuary, installing automatic water taps in the enclosures, and expanding the sick bay and surgery buildings and equipment.

Being awarded the “Outstanding Wildlife Sanctuary 2023” by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) made us even more determined to strive for exceptional care for any animal under our supervision and continue to evolve for the primates.

Our ultimate goal is freedom for the monkeys. As urbanization and habitat loss push monkeys further and further into human settlements, more and more human-wildlife conflicts are recorded. To protect any rehabilitated monkey from such a fate, the VMF is fundraising for a protected area of land, covered in indigenous bushland and monitored closely for the monkeys’ safety. Additional research into the effectiveness of release programmes will accompany the rewilding of sanctuary monkeys into this protected area we will call the Vervet Forest.

We thank IPPL once again for their continued annual support for the primates in our care.

troops that can be released into the Vervet Forest when the time comes. The orphans’ journeys can be followed on our weekly YouTube series that captures them from the time of rescue to being rehabilitated into stable troops.

Injured monkeys enjoy the best care in sickbay. Every patient is assessed, and an individual care plan is formulated. These plans include anything from veterinary treatments, dietary supplements, herbs, and nutraceuticals along with a few homeopathic & Bach flower remedies. In addition to that, we provide physiotherapy or other supportive therapies to patients with mobility issues. One of the monkeys who went through this treatment is Cuddy. She had been hit by a car and suffered brain damage that left her with limited mobility. Many had given up on her, but not the VMF staff team. After weeks of dedicated and devoted care, Cuddy gradually improved. Slowly she regained consciousness and her joy for life. Now, nearly 10 years later, Cuddy has a specially designed enclosure built for her, her roommate Floki and her newly adopted ‘little brother’ Rexie, who all have similar requirements.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of VMF, we strive to continue to provide excellence to all of the monkeys at the sanctuary and create miracles through individualized care which is why this decade’s motto is “where care creates miracles.” To accomplish this, VMF has planned renovation work on many of the



Foster mum Hazel and baby Lynda in forest troop



Miss B and Nova- first babies of the season

The Journey of Florian Magne and the Birth of the HURO Programme

Interview by Mr. Roopak Goswami, EastMojo

HURO is the only conservation programme fully dedicated to the conservation of the western hoolock gibbon. The following interview came from EastMojo, a digital news media platform located in the easternmost part of India.



Florian with infant gibbon

Guwahati (the largest town in Northeast India): From the bustling streets of Paris to the verdant forests of Western Meghalaya, few could have envisioned the remarkable journey of Florian Magne, a young Frenchman driven by an unyielding passion for wildlife conservation. His path led him from the iconic landmarks of France to the mystical forests of India, where the western hoolock gibbon, the only Indian ape, was on the brink of extinction.

“I was still a graduate student when I left for South Asia in 2006, then to Western Meghalaya in 2007, following gibbons conservation issues,” Florian recalls. “I first focused on pileated gibbons in Cambodia in 2006 before being advised to turn my attention to hoolock gibbons. For hoolock, I had a choice between Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India. India appeared to be the best place.”

Today, Florian oversees the HURO Programme, a gibbon conservation initiative in the Garo Hills. HURO stands for gibbon in Garo language. Originally a French project, it is now a Franco-Indian project. It runs the Sonja Rescue Wildlife Centre in Tura. The centre was in the news recently after the state government wanted to relocate the gibbons from there to the state zoo but it was resolved after Chief Minister Conrad Sangma intervened and said there was no such decision taken to relocate hoolock gibbons from their current location.

The Birth of the HURO Programme

In 2005, following a very alarming Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (hoolock gibbon PHVA 2005), the HURO Programme was created in France by a group of experts, led by the then-20-year-old Florian. “The goal was simple: although wildlife laws and guidelines for the species' survival were in place, nothing was done on the ground to implement effective conservation efforts. Wildlife conservation worldwide is a story of audacity,” he explains.

“Wonderful conservation efforts and successes were built out of thin air, carried out by both international and local stakeholders, and made successful through genuine human efforts,” Florian says. “The HURO Programme is no different from our distinguished precursors. We established the world's first rescue center for the species in 2009 in West Garo Hills, and we were soon successful in saving and rehabilitating hoolock gibbons within their home range.”

A Cultural Symphony

The initial years, from 2008 to 2020, were filled with significant progress. The HURO Programme not only rescued and rehabilitated gibbons but also established a free school for underprivileged

children in 2010 and began the first release attempts in 2016.

Today, in July 2024, the situation of the western hoolock gibbon, the only Indian ape, remains precarious. Confined to the heart of Northeast India, their numbers have plummeted from over a 100,000 individuals in the 1970s to less than 10,000 today, a loss of over 90% of their population in half a century. This alarming decline is particularly concerning for a flagship and umbrella species like the hoolock gibbon.

“But one region in Northeast India presents exceptional criteria: The Garo Hills in East Meghalaya,” Florian notes. “The land of the A'chik community has always regarded hoolock gibbons as both a deity and a major cultural component, preserving them and their habitat. If



Terrified baby rescued from captivity



Portion of a spacious gibbon enclosure

modernity eroded these traditions in the early 2000s, today we see a renewed attachment to hoolock gibbons among both younger and older generations. They are a source of Garo pride and a deep need for identity markers.”

Navigating the COVID-19 Crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic posed an unprecedented challenge. “In March 2020, my board asked me to turn back, pack up, and leave. My answer was simple: No

way. No way would I abandon 12 years of efforts, the rescued gibbons, the kids, and the dedicated team working with us. Instead, I stood my ground,” Florian recounts. Amidst the crisis, Florian and his wife decided to turn to their faith and bring new life into the world. Their daughter, Leopoldine, was born in February 2021, a symbol of hope and resilience.

Building Strong Foundations

Today, strong foundations have been built, but much work remains. “Such a conservation initiative is a human story. Over the last 15 years, HURO has capitalized on exceptional people,” Florian emphasizes. Key figures include Maneka Gandhi, James K Sangma, Besida Ch Marak, who received the first international award for Gibbon Conservation from IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) in May, Pakseng A Sangma, co-founder of the programme in Garo Hills, and Dr. Susan Cheyne, vice-chair of the Section of Small Ape.

“The story of HURO is their story. And their stories are contributing to making history for the region and the species,” Florian says.



Hoolock gibbon couple being released

An Update on the Highland Farm Rescue...

*By Edwin Wiek, Founder and Director
Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand*

I have a long history with Highland Farm Gibbon Sanctuary in Thailand, and in many ways, I am saddened by how everything unfolded. Back in the 1990s, before Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) was established, I volunteered with organizations rescuing primates from terrible conditions, and one of those organizations was Highland Farm Gibbon Sanctuary. Sadly, I never met William (Bill) Deters, co-founder of Highland Farm, before his untimely death, but I did spend a good amount of time with Pharanee Deters (also co-founder). Through such experiences, I was inspired to do my own part in tackling the terrible trading and abuse of macaques and gibbons, which was the catalyst for me to start WFFT.

I vividly remember rescuing white-handed gibbon, Johnny, back in 2000. I went to Pattaya to meet a Swiss man who kept Johnny as a pet in his home, along with a female gibbon. He was going back to Switzerland and wanted to surrender them to Highland Farm. Johnny was such a gentle gibbon, and I formed a close bond with him. Despite having rescued hundreds of primates from awful situations since then, I never forgot Johnny. It seemed almost serendipitous when we started to campaign



Wasana northern pig-tailed macaque at Highland Farm

to get as many of the Highland Farm animals to WFFT as possible, they included Johnny. It felt like he might be coming home.

When Pharanee passed away in August 2022, I was immediately concerned about the future of the primates at Highland Farm. With no legal will and no plans in place to care for them, they were effectively left in limbo, as Pharanee's family asked the Thai authorities to remove the animals from the land. This marked the beginning of a long and difficult campaign to get as

many of these primates to WFFT as possible. Unfortunately, in Thailand, wild animal rescue is a bureaucratic process. It was easier for the authorities to hand over the animals to 'zoos,' where they might be inappropriately housed, bred for photo props, and put back into exploitation. Thanks to the support of organizations like IPPL and endorsement from animal welfare organizations worldwide, the authorities agreed to hand over at least 31 gibbons and macaques to WFFT, although our goal was and still is to take more.

We frantically raised funds to build gibbon enclosures and refurbish macaque enclosures. This was made possible by our amazing partners like IPPL and Asia Wild, the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund, and individual donors. Our construction efforts went into overdrive. Every week, at least one new gibbon enclosure was popping up around our sanctuary. It took many months for the paperwork to be approved, but finally, in September 2023, we got the green light to begin! It was a 10-hour drive—and due to the extreme rains in the north, one of the wettest rescues I can recall. The sanctuary was situated in Mae Sot. It was a lush, ideal place for a sanctuary. However, upon arrival, I was immediately concerned by how, with Pharanee's passing, the sanctuary had started to crumble.

The gibbons were in small cages, macaques were mostly alone, with no access to the ground, and sadly, the vast majority looked malnourished. There was also one gibbon, Max, in a small hospital



Johnny at WFFT

age. Overall, I was disheartened by the condition the animals were kept in.

The first rescue mission brought 16 primates, including Johnny, to WFFT. Then the second mission took place in October 2023, bringing the remaining animals to their new sanctuary life. In the year that these remarkable primates have been with us, we've seen some wonderful developments in their health and welfare. Many of the macaques, who lived alone for over 20 years in quite inappropriate and small enclosures, are now living in troops or pairs, and/or in open fields. This is what our work is all about giving rescued wildlife the most natural life possible.

Most of the primates who came to us are either very old or have health issues, which is why the authorities handed these individuals over to us. For example, Sonya, a Northern white-cheeked gibbon estimated to be about 55 years old, is living with her mate, David, and we are pleased to see that she has put on weight since her arrival.

We have five elderly female macaques from Highland Farm living together in an open outdoor enclosure. Seeing them groom each other, play, forage, and swim in their pool is what it's all about for me. Despite being in their



Sonya, over 55 at WFFT



Ning Nong elderly long-tailed macaque at WFFT

later years of life, they are finally getting to experience life in a troop. It is magical, and moments like these inspire me and the



Chester at WFFT

team to keep forging ahead, even when times get tough.

I don't have favorites but seeing Johnny in our gibbon forest with his companion, Chester, really fills me with joy.

Our hope is for Johnny and Chester to move to a gibbon island within the next year or so, once we have the funds to build more. This is the life they deserve. At WFFT, we endeavor to give them, for the first time since being ripped from their forest homes as infants, a life in the treetops, as gibbons would live in the wild. This is what we want for their final years with us.

But the Highland Farm battle is not over for us. There are still many gibbons who were taken to a 'zoo'—which cannot be named for legal reasons—and who we are still fighting to bring to WFFT. Our doors are open to them, and we hope soon, common sense will prevail, and more of these gibbons will finally get their sanctuary home.

Working for wildlife is never easy. But we must have hope that 2025 and the years to come will bring better animal welfare laws and enforcement, and the chance to give more abused primates the second chance at a life they deserve.



Max at Highland Farm

An Intense Journey

By Nadja Ramseyer Krog, Director, Long-Tailed Macaque Project



Photo © Neil Callis

Mother grooming baby

The long-tailed macaques are special and especially challenging to protect. When the economy, politics, tourism, deforestation, and protection of crops all play a role it can sometimes become quite intense.

The Long-Tailed Macaque Project (LTM) has been working for the conservation and improved welfare of this species since

2021. It began with Dr. Malene Friis Hansen noticing a tendency to overestimate their population sizes. They then followed reports from locals on macaques being captured from the wild and being laundered into the legal trade with long-tailed macaques for the biomedical industry. The LTM Project was founded with the goal of providing more accurate population estimates and enabling decision-makers and international agencies, like the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to make informed and evidence-based decisions about the status of the species.

We were successful in securing funds to hire local researchers to carry out studies in multiple habitat countries with the goal of capacity building, wanting only to conduct location-based research. Initially, we also wanted to investigate what was going on with the trade, but we had to reduce these activities to ensure the safety of our habitat-country researchers. From the data received, both quantitative and anecdotal, it was clear that LTM numbers were declining. In the summer of 2022, the long-tailed macaques were uplisted to endangered on the IUCN red list.

As a result, concerted opposition to our work began. We received information that our interest in the trade of long-tailed macaques had been noticed by certain people, and we were advised to avoid looking into that. A petition was submitted to the IUCN Red List objecting to the Endangered status of the species, which then required almost a year of work to defend.

Since we started, several of our researchers from habitat countries have received threats or have been encouraged to change their data. Our petition with the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List has given us a heavy additional workload, but the concerns for our collaborators in the field are, of course, our greatest challenge.

We have also had local research/outreach projects, trying to understand the dynamics between humans and long-tailed macaques in rural and urban areas. We have found examples of peaceful coexistence and areas with huge challenges, including monkeys being kept as pets and farmers and vendors struggling with the monkeys feeding on their crops and produce.

Currently, we are focused on long-tailed macaques living close to coconut plantations on the small island of Simeulue in Indonesia. We have been lucky to secure funding for a project that seeks to determine the main issues leading to the monkeys being caught, poisoned, or hunted. We have recently begun testing a community-led mitigation measure, focusing solely on farming techniques and removing the cause of the negative interactions.

This journey has taught us a lot, especially that data is not enough to change conservation status or measures. The uplisting



How these primates got the nickname “crab-eating” macaques



Macaque foraging in trash



of long-tailed macaques has on the positive side resulted in more attention towards the species and primatologists are now able to find funding for field research on the species, something that was difficult before.

As a non-governmental organization (NGO), we have succeeded in creating a huge network of researchers and stakeholders, with much support across disciplines and geography.

In our opinion, the best way forward and the best way to support long-tailed macaques would be an increased flow of communication between the companies using the animals for research and the universities and NGOs with knowledge about the population status and activities of free-ranging long-tailed macaques in their region. This

change of knowledge should include international and local management agencies, who will then be able to base their conservation initiatives on evidence and not solely on monetary gain. We are certain that collaboration and communication can ensure the conservation of the long-tailed macaques because without it, the decline is fast and local eradication events are imminent.

Go Nuts for Gibbons!

Our friends at Nuts.com have put together a special care package that gibbon fans can purchase for our sanctuary residents. This goody box includes the following healthy snacks, which are favorites that Maynard and all our gibbons love:

- ◆ 5 lbs. jumbo roasted unsalted peanuts (in shell),
- ◆ 1 lb. raw unsalted cashews (shelled),
- ◆ 1 lb. dried mango (unsulfured, low sugar),
- ◆ 1 lb. dried Turkish figs, and
- ◆ 1 lb. dried diced Turkish apricots.



9 lbs. of specially selected treats for the IPPL gibbons!
Only \$60.00 (includes shipping)
www.nuts.com/gifts/nutsforbirds/ippl.html



Maynard goes nuts for peanuts!



Read more updates about IPPL's activities on our Facebook page. "Like" us!
www.facebook.com/InternationalPrimateProtectionLeague



See more images from the sanctuary and IPPL activities.
 Follow us on Instagram!
www.instagram.com/ippl_summerville

Native Plants for IPPL Gibbons

By Wesley Shaver, IPPL Animal Care



Donny with fresh-picked muscadine grape leaves

Native, edible flora of South Carolina are an underused resource for white-handed gibbon diets for a number of reasons. White-handed or Lar gibbons, our current sanctuary residents, are an endangered species from Southeast Asia. Since these full-time canopy dwellers rarely traipse the forest floor, Lar gibbons, therefore, are tree top specialists. An estimated breakdown of the average gibbon diet includes ripe fruit at 53% total diet, young leaves at 24%, flowers at 13%, unripe fruit at 9%, and insects at 1%. As folivores (roughly translated to leaf eaters), many captive primates are fed primarily fruit with smaller portions of vegetables and protein accounting for the rest of their diets. As frugivores, fruit is preferred and offered throughout the day. But we cannot neglect the leafy element! So, what do we do? The answer is to restore much-needed native plant habitats back into the Southeastern United States.

Walking around our gibbon sanctuary, you can spot hundred-year-old sweetgums, sugar maples, poplars, mulberries, elms, and so on. All trees native to the Southern United States and all AZA-approved (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) browse can be incorporated into IPPL's gibbon diets. Browse is essentially edible vegetation that can include

branches, leaves, twigs, etc., comprising an important role in primate diets. When fresh browse is not available, the second-best option is to substitute its composition with commercially sourced leafy vegetables. While it is important to factor in pesticide usage and individual reactions to newly introduced items, the freshest browse is ideal (AZA Accreditation Standards 2020). With all this in mind, I aimed to update IPPL's browse list.

Trekking around our sprawling acreage, I recorded various trees, shrubs, plants, etc., and cross-checked them with the table in AZA's nutrition guide. I then assembled our new, improved browse guide with tree



Gibby enjoys "home-grown" bamboo shoots



Gideon with an edible coneflower

bats of the Southeast. Our fig trees lining the property may provide some of our gibbons with a sweet addition to their lunch or may be eaten by one of the many cardinals, bluejays, and mockingbirds who nest on sanctuary grounds. Countless native wildlife find refuge at our sanctuary, feasting on a variety of natural food sources.

Improving different aspects of gibbon care and welfare can have overwhelmingly positive results on the livelihoods of our animal care staff, local wildlife, and the top priority, our gibbons. By emphasizing the enhanced well-being of all animals living at IPPL's sanctuary, we can support our local wildlife species, many of whom are in decline due to habitat loss as we work to further enrich the lives of the gibbons in our care. Creating enrichment plans that are both relevant to scientific literature and community goals are important pillars of the animal-care profession.

Changes to our browse list have sparked a growing interest among the staff in our sanctuary's forests and gardens. Looking to the future, we can see avenues for advancement and expansion through sustainable, mindful gardening practices for IPPL's gibbons.

names, locations, and notable features of the species (e.g. honeysuckle is safe for gibbon browse; however, fall berries are toxic).

Our browse guide is kept inside the Animal Care Building. Since we have begun increasing browse offerings at the sanctuary, our gibbons have new sensory enrichment that engages natural behaviors such as foraging. A benefit of the simple act of supplementing fresh and unfamiliar leaves that grow out of the ground is free of charge.

An unintended benefit of cultivating our native foraging grounds is the immeasurable impact on our local wildlife communities. The hackberry, identifiable by its knobby bark, is a host for many attractive butterfly species. Shagbark hickory, aptly named "shaggy" bark, creates a habitat for



Elsa loves our fig leaves!

Akatia and Its Sanctuaries

By Estelle Raballand, Cofounder

Founded in 2017 by Estelle Raballand and Sarah Crawford, Akatia is an Ivorian non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to primate conservation and forest protection. They rescue chimpanzees and small monkeys from illegal trafficking and poaching in order to rehabilitate them to the wild within their two sanctuaries.

It began with Nemley Junior, a baby chimpanzee who was a victim of wildlife trafficking and confiscated by Interpol in dramatic conditions. Unfortunately, due to the lack of a suitable rehabilitation center in Côte d'Ivoire, all confiscated orphaned chimpanzees (and primates) were placed at the Abidjan Zoo where conditions were not suitable hence Nemley Junior died six months after his rescue. This heartbreaking and shocking story highlights a crucial problem in this country, which has become a strategic hub for illegal trafficking of wildlife and endangered species in West Africa.



Nemley's death was one of the many victims of the Abidjan Zoo despite providing expert and financial support, Estelle Raballand asked Sarah Crawford, who was a volunteer at the zoo, if she was willing to join Estelle in an unprecedented decision: to create the first of two sanctuaries in Côte d'Ivoire for primates in 2017. Akatia (Baoule for chimpanzee) manages two sanctuaries in two classified forests (one for confiscated monkeys and the other for

chimpanzees). They are still the only vital refuge for primates and local biodiversity. Since then, they have been striving to do everything in their power to ensure that there will never be another Nemley Junior.

The Ivory Coast is the hub for trafficking in wild and endangered species in West Africa. Every day, dozens of young primates are illegally captured, while several adults die defending them. Akatia recovers primates that the Ivorian authorities seized during large-scale trafficking operations to rehabilitate them to the wild within their two sanctuaries.



Nemley Junior

Akatia's Sanctuaries

They are havens of peace in the forest, as close as possible to the primates' natural habitat. Their role is to offer the primates a secure environment where they can recover from the violence they have endured, rebuild themselves, rehabilitate themselves, and eventually return to the wild if their condition allows it.

A Life-Saving Rescue from the Market to the Forest

On May 2, 2023, Jules, a chimpanzee, was seized in Guiglo, a city in the eastern Ivory Coast. The illegal owner



Jules

of the chimpanzee had made this chimpanzee his pet and he exhibited him on social networks. In Facebook and TikTok videos he could be seen dressed like a human, drinking a soda, eating cookies, or being violently handled by humans to take selfies. Jules was so malnourished that he was the size of a two-year-old chimpanzee, which was half his age. He still bears the traces of the iron chain that prevented him from being free. Thanks to the work of Eagle Network, the Ministry of Water and Forests, and Akatia, Jules is now with Akatia in their sanctuary and enjoying life in the forest, the life he should never have left.

Rehabilitation ...

All the primates Akatia takes in are orphans whose mothers and members of the group were killed defending them. The youngest are captured to be sold illegally as pets while the adults are killed and



Lesser spot-nosed monkey

and sold for their meat. When they arrive at the sanctuaries, they have already suffered indescribable violence. In addition to the psychological trauma of violent separation from their family, many have physical injuries such as wounds caused by shotgun pellets or machetes.

Akatia's Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Little Monkey Rehabilitation Camp

The chimpanzee sanctuary is located in the Comoé 1 forest and is home to around ten chimpanzees aged from one to 30 years old.

Located in the Yapo-Abbé forest, the monkey sanctuary is home to around ten small monkeys of several species: white nose monkey, sooty mangabey monkey, Lowe's mona monkey, Campbell's mona monkey, green vervet monkey, and patas monkey.

More than 90% of the Ivorian Forest has Disappeared...

In 1960, Côte d'Ivoire had one of the richest biodiversity in Africa, ranging from tropical rainforests to vast savannahs and endemic animal species. Almost sixty years later, 90% of its forests have disappeared.

The destruction of the forest endangers not only the unique biodiversity of the region but also the livelihoods of millions of people. The main causes of this disappearance

are deforestation for the cocoa and palm oil industry, followed by illegal logging and urbanization. This habitat degradation threatens the survival of many plant and animal species! Protecting the natural habitat is therefore the keystone to the conservation of this exceptional biodiversity. Chimpanzees, pangolins, and many more species call these forests home and are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

Preserving forests also means fighting against climate change and its impacts on human societies: natural disasters, disruption of the water cycle, food insecurity, conflicts, etc.

Côte d'Ivoire is facing a health crisis due to the mpox



Sooty mangabey monkey

outbreak. A total of 28 confirmed cases have been reported since July. No cases were reported in 2023. If people turn over illegally held animals to competent authorities to prevent the spread of the virus Akatia,

as the only NGO, will face an influx of primates and other species that they will need to care for.

MPOX WHAT TO KNOW



A Surprising Effect of a Catastrophic Hurricane in 2017

As IPPL worked to produce the holiday issue of our newsletter, it was hurricane season, and everyone on the East Coast had been on alert. This year the southeast were victims of two devastating hurricanes. Helene's destruction wiped towns off the map and Asheville, NC was especially hard hit. Many human lives as well as animals, both domestic and wild were lost. This was followed by Hurricane Milton which wreaked havoc in Florida and Georgia causing more deaths. The following article was written earlier this year for inclusion in this issue of IPPL News.

Long-time readers of IPPL News will recall the devastating effects Hurricane Hugo had at IPPL's sanctuary in 1989. A recent article in the journal *Science* documents the profound changes in the social interactions of rhesus macaques living on an island (Cayo Santiago) off the east coast of Puerto Rico. The monkeys that live there were moved from India by an American primatologist, Clarence Carpenter, in 1938. Currently, about 1,600 monkeys are essentially free roaming on the 38-acre island, and their behavior has been investigated for over a decade. Rhesus monkeys by nature are fairly quarrelsome individuals and live in a society where the hierarchy is quite structured.

In 2017, the island was devastated by Hurricane Maria, a category 4 hurricane that battered all infrastructure and vegetation on the island. The island was previously covered with lush vegetation and the monkeys were provided with water and food. It was widely assumed that the macaques were unlikely to have survived a storm of this strength but when scientists were able to visit, they found that most of the macaques were still there. Shade was a scarce resource and the expectation was that there would be a great deal of competition for these shady (and relatively cooler) spots on the island but that is not what happened. The macaques showed a good deal more tolerance of their social companions than they had before the storm. In other words, the macaques started to get along.

The macaques formed new bonds to share the newly scarce resource of shade, instead of becoming more competitive, individuals widened their social networks and became less aggressive. Monkeys who learned to share shade after the storm had a better chance of survival than those who remained



Island before Hurricane Maria and after

quarrelsome. This study has been described as extremely well done and highlighted the importance of behavioral plasticity in helping animals survive when their environment is enormously altered. This change in the rhesus monkey's behavior was very species-specific and contact-dependent and likely includes humans because people often band together after natural and human-caused disasters. These fascinating findings are a wonderful example of how being social can buffer the negative effects of environmental change.

This behavioral response to extreme environmental changes may become important in the future for humans as well as other social organisms as we face the effects of climate change. Hopefully, we would see affected individuals band together to make things work rather than fight.

This article appeared in print on the 8th of July 2024 edition of Science titled "Ecological Disturbance Alters the Adaptive Benefits of Social Ties." There were several authors with Camille Testard being the first author Volume 384 No. 6502.



Adults and babies trying to survive after hurricane



Macaques line up in shade of tree to escape the heat

Wildlife Orphans As Evidence; Drought Causing Human-Wildlife Conflicts

By *Samantha Dewhirst, Co-Director, C.A.R.E.*

One of Many Rescues; Rescuing Baboon Orphan Cadell



My worst fears were confirmed: his mother wasn't breathing. I took a deep breath because I knew the next step in the plan would be emotionally charged. I could feel the adrenaline affecting my body; I was tense because I didn't want the little boy to run away as he was in a life-or-death situation.

I quietly walked closer and his little head popped up. His eyes were sunken, his skin a dull, dirty brown. He gripped tightly to his mother's fur with a grimaced facial expression, not one of extreme fear, more of subordination, as if he knew his predicament. His eyes were sad but gentle; he was too weak to resist and seemed to know I was there to help. I lipsmacked him (a friendly greeting in his language) and I grunted, which is a sound for reassurance. I took a blanket and quickly placed it over him and his mother's corpse. With some of the strength he had left, he made a little bird-like squawk and barely resisted me from picking him up. His little body, barely weighing anything, relaxed into my arms. I took him to my car and offered him a baby bottle of warm water. This baby was so thirsty he learned the art of sucking very fast. These reflexes were saving his life and I could see energy returning to his cold, tiny, weak body.

I returned to C.A.R.E. (Centre for Animal Rehabilitation and Education), which specialises in chacma baboons. Here, Cadell could get the initial help to become stable and begin his rehabilitation for his release journey. In our Vet Clinic, sponsored by IPPL, Cadell was bathed, given subcutaneous fluids, a B12 shot and a health check. He smelled like his mother's corpse and I couldn't wait to see his transformation. After a bath and special baby formula, the sparkle returned to Cadell's eyes and his skin was pinker. He was younger than I first thought; his face was just extremely dehydrated and dirty. Finally he relaxed into an exhausted, deep sleep with his head resting on my heart. Soon he would join the nursery where orphans Astro, Jeanne and Rhaenyra would welcome their new friend. At first, he was extremely withdrawn, but it wouldn't be long before he had small bouts of play and giggles.

In the nursery we encourage play, we groom and cuddle the babies until they fall into regular, peaceful sleep, and we provide good nutrition and plenty of stability. Baboons are primates like

us and have similar needs of human babies. Infants who experience a secure attachment relationship develop a firm expectation of feeling protected and safe. This allows them to explore their world more confidently. Baboons, like most large primates, have a long childhood. It'll be five to six years before Cadell begins to develop into an adult. In six to eight weeks, he should be ready to begin bonding to an adult foster mother. This is the best step in his rehabilitation journey and will ensure he continues to have secure emotional attachments and stability but from a family of his own kind.

Drought and the fight for survival

It's been a long, dry winter in South Africa which has affected an increase in the number of orphans arriving. Normally, we only have two orphans in the nursery at a time. As I write, there are two more orphaned baby baboons awaiting permits to be transported to C.A.R.E. Every baboon at the centre represents human failure to protect our wild spaces and creatures.



Cadell and Rhaenyra

The sudden influx has a lot to do with the drought and the freezing winter conditions which damaged crops and natural foods in the wild. These scenarios cause farmers to become more protective of the crops and wild animals more willing to risk their lives, as they come into conflict to obtain those essential calories to survive. The number of blameless animals being culled due to being labeled "damage causing," including baboons and elephants is on the rise. Nursing baboon mothers especially lose their inhibitions as they desperately seek enough calories to produce milk for their nursing infants.

Unfortunately, when hunters decide to shoot a baboon, they do so from afar. It's only when they go to assess how good their shot was that they see a tiny infant attached to their dying mother. Looking into the eyes of an innocent, pink-faced baby primate usually awakens the conscience even of a seasoned hunter. Finishing the job and killing an innocent, precious baby that is so similar to our human babies becomes too much and often that is when we get a call. Or when putting out poison

to kill baboons, if a mother baboon chooses to die under the shade of a tree, leaving her hungry, squawking baby behind (like Cadell's mother), it is difficult to ignore the cries of an innocent baby.



Orphan Astro Begins Bonding to Foster Mother Esther

Not long after Cadell's arrival, it was time for Astro to begin bonding with a foster mother. Astro arrived very tiny and with few teeth. A member of the public and I picked him up from a huge farm. The lady who had Astro worked in the office and said his mother was found dead on the road. I had doubts as his skin was irritated by what seemed like chemicals, perhaps herbicide or pesticide. Even a single exposure can produce symptoms ranging from a slight redness to blisters or ulcerated lesions, which little Astro had all over his body. Astro needed several medicated, soothing oat baths, antihistamines, creams and fluids to calm the hives and help heal the lesions caused by scratching. Now Astro is like any typical baboon baby; he loves to play, is curious, feels pain, and has feelings of fear and love. Soon, he was ready to meet his baboon foster mother, Esther. Proudly, she has taken over our role & enabled him to begin to become the wild baboon he was always destined to be.

Orphaned Baby Girls Jeanne and Rhaenyra

Jeanne's mother was found dead and she was rescued by the Vervet Monkey Foundation, a sanctuary that specialises in vervets. She was suffering from intestinal issues: projectile vomiting and unable to keep fluids down. Jeanne was put on an expensive milk formula and kept calm to help her stomach to settle. After a few days, her vomiting subsided. Jeanne is easily stressed and is often caught in a fight-or-flight response mode, affecting her digestion.



Rhaenyra was found hiding inside a porcupine hole. Her mother was suspected to have been killed by a leopard. At the time of this writing, two more orphaned babies are on their way, bringing our nursery to five babies with a total of 10 this year. In recent years our average has been around five per

year. A decade ago it was 30 and two decades ago it was almost 50. It's a huge misconception that baboon populations are stable when scientific reports suggest resilient baboons are beginning to decline. One scientific paper suggested chacma baboons could face extinction by 2070 due to habitat destruction, lack of protection, climate change and the misconception that they are plentiful. Our goal is to one day have all baboons living safely—wild and free.

C.A.R.E.'s founder, Rita Miljo was a speaker at IPPL's 2006 Members Meeting and impressed Shirley with her resilience and dedication to fight for South Africa's misunderstood and maligned baboons. After her tragic death in 2012, Stephen Munro, our team, and I have been dedicated to keeping her legacy alive.



With IPPL's help and support from Shirley, we built a Veterinary Clinic, funded both contraception and a release, and built new and renovated enclosures. Additionally, we have created four 247-mile semi-wild enclosures for optimal welfare, the Nursery Quarantine, volunteer accommodations, an Education Centre and more. Last year, we purchased more property enabling us to build more semi-wild enclosures and to expand our community and education programs. We thank IPPL and its donors and supporters for their continued belief in our baboons and for helping us to give them the care they deserve.

An adorable video of the orphans can be seen when this issue is added to IPPL's website: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/904545028286923>



Holiday Wishes with Our Gratitude

In 1973 Shirley McGreal founded IPPL. Since then our organization has assisted many organizations and countless primates around the world. Over the years we have shared many of these heroic, often urgent, stories with you.

As noted in the articles that appear in this issue of *IPPL News*, our Global Partners continue their struggles to help and save primates every day. Their work continues – perhaps facing even more challenges in the new year.

In 2025, we will continue to produce *IPPL News* and send emails about IPPL and our Global Partners. Knowing your response has always been generous, we know you will continue to support our important, often life-saving, work.

We are proud that we have been able to respond to the urgent needs of so many and we are most grateful to you, our supporters. IPPL will continue the legacy of our founder to meet any challenges and plan for the future.

Our heartfelt wishes to you and your families for a Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year

IPPL Board of Directors

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Gifts made in memory of Shirley McGreal are posted on our website

<https://ippl.org/about-us/dr-shirley-mcgreal-founder/shirley-memorial/>

Leave a Lasting Legacy...

...for the Primates You Love

Over the years, IPPL has benefitted greatly from bequests left to us by departed supporters. Their thoughtfulness has allowed IPPL to...

- ◆ build new gibbon houses and outdoor enclosures at our sanctuary;
- ◆ acquire new sanctuary land, now totaling 45 acres, which not only creates space for our gibbons but provides a buffer zone that shelters local wildlife;
- ◆ construct a much-in-demand guest cottage for our visitors, known as “Swan and Mary’s Cottage” after the lovely couple who left IPPL the funds to build it;
- ◆ provide support to dozens of primate sanctuaries and rescue organizations around the world, wherever primates are native.



Ahimsa, son of Arun Rangsi and Shanti

Some of our bequests have come from people who have only been able to make small donations during their lifetimes. Others honor friends. For some, there are tax advantages to making bequests to charities.

Your bequest to IPPL will ensure that our unique work can carry on long into the future. Our address to include in your will is: IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA. Our U.S. federal tax ID number is 51-0194013.

If you are thinking about remembering IPPL in your will or trust, know that your love for primates will continue to live on through your generosity.



Gary, retired from a tourist venue

IPPL Donation Form



IPPL *News* began printing in 1974. Since then we have shared thousands of articles about primates and the heroes who have dedicated their lives to protect them. After reading this issue, we hope you will consider a donation so that all our important work can continue. You may also donate on IPPL's secure website <https://ippl.org/donate/> Thank you!

Please accept my contribution to support the work of IPPL. I have enclosed the following donation:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other amount: \$ _____

I wish to honor someone special with a Tribute Gift:

This donation is ... In honor of In memory of _____

Please note: We acknowledge tribute gifts in each issue of IPPL *News*

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Primate Paraphernalia!



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Meet the Gibbons Available for Adoption



COURTNEY LOVES TO CHEAT WHEN PLAYING TAG WITH THE STAFF. SHE WOULD ALSO LOVE YOU TO ADOPT HER!

Courtney was born at IPPL on 10 January 2002, the result of a failed vasectomy. When she was 12 days old, her mother rejected her, leaving this tiny infant with a terribly mangled leg. Since she could not be returned to her mother, she was hand-raised by IPPL staff, special night-nannies, and volunteers for over six years. Many caregivers took turns feeding her, playing with her, and taking her for walks around the sanctuary grounds. Always curious and energetic, she was a real handful! Courtney has made an amazing recovery since the difficult time of her early life. She now runs, swings, and climbs so well you would never guess how badly she had been injured.

Despite Courtney's high level of activity, she is the biggest gibbon in our sanctuary. If asked what her favorite food is, we would have to say "grapes, and well... everything!" Since May 2009, Courtney has been paired with a former lab gibbon by the name of Whoop-Whoop. His mild-mannered personality is a good match for her wild ways as he always lets her have first dibs at their lunch pail. We hope you will consider adopting this spunky and determined "not so little" ape!



PEPPY LOVES HIS BEDTIME BANANA. IF YOU ADOPT HIM - HE WILL LOVE YOU TOO!

Peppy was born at the Comparative Oncology Laboratory of the University of California at Davis. When he was only two months old he was infected with gibbon leukemia virus, but luckily for him the virus preparation was inactive, and his test results continually came back negative for the disease. He was later sent to the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) in New York where he was paired with a young female gibbon named Helen. In April of 1982 IPPL made arrangements to take in Helen but, once we got to new York, staff members noticed that Peppy looked so forlorn at being separated from Helen that we arranged to have him sent to us as well! Helen sadly passed away in March of 2017, but the two of them had 35 wonderful years together. Peppy is one of our older gibbons; over the years, he had developed cataracts, leaving him completely blind. In late September 2023, Peppy had successful cataract surgery in both eyes. Since his recovery, Peppy has enjoyed watching the world around him. Over time, the age difference between Peppy and Mia was of concern. Mia is more active than Peppy and we didn't want anyone to get hurt so in early 2024 they were separated. Both have adjusted to happy single lives and Peppy can, once again, see his neighboring gibbons!



Visit IPPL.org for more information



VAL GETS EXCITED TO SEE THE FRUIT BUCKET. HE WOULD ALSO BE EXCITED TO SEE AN ADOPTION APPLICATION FROM YOU!

Val was born at a wildlife park in southern Florida where he lived with his parents and a few siblings. In the fall of 2017, the facility suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Irma and fell on hard times. We got a call in October of 2017 asking if we could take in two of their gibbons and after some quick preparations two staff members drove down to Florida, picked Val up, and brought him to his new home in November. Val's father, Snowy, followed a month later. After the long drive back to IPPL, Val quickly bonded with the animal care staff. We got him settled into his night house and he even presented his back for grooming.

Today, Val is one of the most engaging and entertaining gibbons out on the grounds. He loves interacting with the staff and demands that they play tag with him! He spends his mornings swinging through his enclosure and, when a staff member approaches, he drops down in front of them to get their attention. Once he has them focused on him, he'll hop and roll around on the ground, swing upside down from his ropes and reach out for them, then the chase is on! His enthusiasm for the game quickly wears out the staff and he doesn't seem to understand why we need to take breaks to catch our breath! Wouldn't you love to bring some more excitement to Val's life by adopting him?



GARY HAS SOME SMOOTH MOVES, AND HE WILL FLIP WHEN YOU ADOPT THIS HAPPY LITTLE GIBBON!

Gary arrived at IPPL in May 2013. He came with his mate, Kendra, a daughter, and a son from a tourist attraction that was closing. Gary is a petite, blond gibbon with lustrous, pale fur. When he arrived, we could hardly believe that he was the dad, and that Thai was his son – Thai was twice Gary's size! We soon learned that this petite gibbon had brittle bones and a broken arm. A specialist from Illinois felt it had stabilized and no surgery was required. Unfortunately, he broke the other arm beyond repair; it had to be amputated. Being an amputee has not slowed this adorable little gibbon down at all. Gary is quite the acrobat and gracefully flips and twirls all over his outdoor enclosure. After Kendra passed, Gary was introduced to Chloe and they lived together until 2023 when Chloe also passed. He has been a bachelor since then and continues to enjoy life at IPPL. Gary's favorite food is mangos, which he eats so quickly that he has mango smeared on his face the rest of the day! Nearby gibbons attempt to imitate Gary's uniquely smooth moves, especially the ones with lots of arm action. For Gary's 46th birthday in 2022, his 2.5-story enclosure was modified with many platforms, ladders, ropes, bamboo, and sunshades to keep this happy, active little gibbon stimulated.



Adoptions make wonderful and unique gifts – all year long!



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Ahimsa's Been Living the Life Since He Was Born at IPPL



In 1985, Ahimsa was the first baby gibbon born at IPPL. His parents, Arun Rangsi and Shanti were retired laboratory gibbons. The pair got along very well and defied the psychology textbooks that said isolation-reared primates never reproduce (Arun Rangsi later got a vasectomy). Shanti loved to hold Ahimsa close to her and snuggle with him all day. We were nervous that Arun Rangsi might attack his baby since he had been raised without maternal care. But to our amazement, he was a great little dad, sometimes even carrying Ahimsa around the enclosure. Once Ahimsa matured he was paired with Elizabeth, who came to IPPL from a Florida tourist attraction. After Elizabeth passed in 2021 Ahimsa was a bachelor for a while. In 2023 he and Jade, who had also lost her companion, were introduced. There was an instant connection.

Ahimsa loves pears and grapes. Luckily his outdoor enclosure and aerial tube are covered in muscadine grape vines but he prefers the staff do the picking and then hand them to him. His favorite pastime these days is sunning and enjoying life with Jade. Only together since 2023, these two have become devoted companions.

The following link is a video of Ahimsa and Jade which can be viewed when this issue is on our website. It shows Jade throwing a “pool party” and, sure enough, Ahimsa showed up!

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1578619305911049>

