

A Message from the President...



Dear ASP members,

It is my pleasure to address you as President and welcome you to another year of great scientific communication about primates. In the last year, we've seen both exciting discoveries in primatology as well as difficult challenges, such as the continually increasing difficulty in obtaining funding for research.

In my term as ASP President, one of my primary goals is the recruitment and retention of students and other young scientists to ASP. Many of us first joined ASP as students, and have really found it to be a family – full of mentors (parents), fellow students (siblings), and the occasional black sheep uncle. Each year at the meeting, seeing old colleagues and friends, as well as hearing new science, is one of the year's highlights.

In order to forward this goal, for the first time this year we have an ad hoc Student Committee. Our chairman is Josh Smith from York University (hominoid@yorku.ca).

He will be organizing the ASP student webpage, outreach, and a new student mixer at the ASP meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, this June. I encourage all students, old and new, to get involved and let him know what you would like to get out of your membership in ASP. In a few years, I hope to see you all as full members. I'd also welcome you to come up and introduce yourself to anyone at the meeting – no matter who it is. We're a friendly bunch.

Welcome to ASP and best wishes for a good meeting and year,

Karen Bales

ASP President
Professor and Vice-Chair of Psychology, UC-Davis
Unit Leader, Brain, Mind, and Behavior, California National Primate Research Center

**36th MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PRIMATOLOGISTS
June 19-22, 2013
San Juan, Puerto Rico**

The 36th Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists will be held at the beautiful Caribe Hilton in San Juan Puerto Rico from June 19-22, 2013

As always, this meeting promises to be of the highest scientific quality. The meeting will feature contributed paper and poster presentations, as well as symposia that address our wide-ranging interests in primatology. Please be sure to add to your schedule presentations by this year's featured speakers:

Keynote Address

Dr. Anne Savage

Conservation Director, Disney's Animal Kingdom
Executive Director, Proyecto Titi, Inc.

"Proyecto Titi: Developing Effective Conservation Strategies to Protect the Critically Endangered Cotton-Top Tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*) in Colombia"

2012 Distinguished Primatologist

Dr. John Capitanio

Department of Psychology - University of California, Davis
California National Primate Research Center

"Personality in Rhesus Monkeys: Some Proximate, Ultimate, and Practical Considerations"

Past President's Address

Dr. Randall C. Kyes

Department of Psychology/ Center for Global Field Study/ Washington National Primate Research Center
University of Washington

"Global Partnerships In Field Training And Community Outreach Education: 20 Years Of Progress"

Featured Speaker

Dr. Carol M. Berman

Department of Anthropology
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

"Primate Kinship: Contributions from Cayo Santiago Rhesus Monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*)"

Memories of Sacramento 2012...



Photos courtesy of Kathy West...

Visioning the American Society of Primatologists at 50 (years old)

Dorothy Fragaszy

At the meeting of the ASP in Sacramento this past June, I chaired a workshop discussion with the title “Visioning the ASP at 50”. My goal was to engage the membership in a long-range visioning exercise, thinking about what we would like our society to be and to do in some 15 years in the future, when it reaches the ripe old age of 50 years. This session was well-attended, and many good ideas were put forth. I want to share these with all of the membership.

At the outset, I reminded the audience that scientific societies have been around since the 1600’s. The societies have changed somewhat over the centuries (for example, initially science was practiced as a vocation or a hobby, but not a profession), but scientific societies still serve many of the same purposes now as when they first appeared. They embody values of the members towards their science; they build boundaries about who is a scientist and what is science; they are an interface between science and the larger society; and they distill the shared interests of science and the public. Scientific societies look outward and to the future in a way that government and academic institutions cannot. The American Society of Primatologists, for example, supports innovations in theory and method, creates and communicates goals, recognizes excellence, provides a sense of community, and supports development of new professionals in our field. This is why the society is valuable to its members, and why it deserves nurturing and care.

Strong and vital societies have the capacity to adapt (intellectually and procedurally) to changes in the science and society. They also have financial stability, and effective means of developing new leaders. I believe that ASP has these characteristics, but that does not mean that we can be complacent. The ASP faces a variety of challenges common to scientific societies in our place and time:

- Time (or lack of it) for volunteer service
- Scrutiny of benefits accrued for dues invested (i.e., is the cost of membership worthwhile?)
- Raising funds from outside the society for the programs we want to provide

I asked for suggestions from the audience about how to address these challenges, so that the society can remain vital and relevant to our science and to society in general. The audience responded with a good deal of discussion and many ideas. Here is a synopsis of these ideas, collated thematically after the discussion. They range across ways to make the membership application process easier to complete, to increase member participation in the workings of the society, to increase our interactions with related societies and professional groups (which may increase attendance at our meeting, and/or bring in new members), to increase services provided to student members, to improve the annual meeting and to increase attendance at the meeting, and to improve general services to members accruing from membership. This is an excellent start. I hope that you will see some of these suggestions realized in actions in the coming months and years. And, if you have an idea that is NOT listed, please pass it on to any member of the Board of Directors.

I. Membership application process

- Alter membership application so that change from student to full member does not require a nominator
- Alter new student member application to include a name list of individuals who are eligible to vouch for new members. At present members in good standing must second the application but the applicant has no way to know if an individual is a member in good standing.
- Offer Life membership. We cannot do this at the moment because membership includes subscription to the journal, and there is a contract with the publisher that requires this coupling. We will have to explore this issue with the publisher.

II. Improve participation by membership in the committees (build leadership)

- Highlight participation opportunities to the membership – actively recruit committee members
- Hold a “Committee Fair” before the opening reception or one morning at the annual meeting
- Place a flyer in the registration packet and via Facebook
- Place a poster by the registration area listing (for each committee) the chair, contact info, duties list and/or recent activities list

III. Outreach to other groups

- Interface with other organizations– e.g., ASP sponsor symposium at another society’s meeting, or ASP and another society co-sponsor a symposium at ASP
- For example, work with the Primate interest group in Am Assoc Physical Anthropology to co-sponsor something at AAPA meeting
- Add a shared theme to match the “sister” society if meeting jointly (or sponsoring a shared session or symposium)
- Expand the Interdisciplinary symposium or consider adding a second interdisciplinary symposium .
- Schedule meetings to coincide with related larger societies (e.g., SfN, AAPA, ...) or invite other societies to join with us (such as AAZA, SSP groups, Anim Beh Soc and Hum Beh and Evol Soc).
- Publish pieces about primatology and resources for teaching available to teachers from ASP and other sources
- Groups to reach out to:
 - Nat Soc of Sci Teachers
 - Husbandry staff
 - Zoo Keepers Assoc
 - Veterinarians
 - AAALAS and AAALAS Certified vet techs

IV. Services to student members

- Form a committee for student affairs, with student members
- Provide a list of facilities/programs with ASP members available for student internship, using Primate InfoNet as model
- Join the Organization of Biological Field Stations or otherwise join their listings of internship possibilities
- Hold speed “meet and greet” event for meeting registrants
- Undergraduate outreach – via faculty mentors who belong to ASP

V. Improve Annual Meeting

- Training sessions - early AM short course for 3 days of meeting
- Prof development sessions - CONTINUE the student lunch development session or expand it
- Regional meetings as a way to allow more members to participate
- Expand invited speakers
- Permit invited speakers to pay member reg fee
- Highlighted primatologist – so younger members can learn about a career arc
- Flash powerpoint poster session (1 or 2 -min presentation per poster) 1 hour before poster session
- Virtual meetings for committees so that annual meeting is not the only one

VI. Improve/Increase attendance at meeting

- Advertise party
- Advertise our poster participation milieu
–[meeting is friendly to students and everyone]
- Make sure companies know that they can exhibit and otherwise participate securely

VI. General services to members

- Publisher discounts
- Zoo discounts
- Discounts with other societies for meeting reg or society memberships
- Where permitted, establish attendance at the meeting as eligible for earning continuing education credits (ASP cannot compensate teachers, which is required for continuing education activities in some states; this has to be worked out for each venue)



Lowland gorilla (*Cercopithecus campbelli lowei*), adult weight 7-10 pounds (3-5 kilograms), native to Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, and Sierra-Leone, conservation status: Least Concern. *Photo courtesy of: Fernando Campos. Reprinted from the 2012 ASP Primate Portraits Calendar.*

**Recipient of the
2012 Distinguished Primatologist Award:**

Dr. John P. Capitanio

**University of California, Davis
&
California National Primate Research Center**



Photo courtesy of Kathy West...

The Society presented the Distinguished Primatologist Award to Dr. John P. Capitanio at the thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society held in Sacramento, California, June 20-23, 2012.

Dr. Capitanio, a Research Psychologist in the Department of Psychology at the University of California, Davis, and a Staff Scientist at the California National Primate Research Center, is an internationally recognized expert in the study of nonhuman primate psychobiology and health, with a specific focus on the roles that temperament and personality play in a number of significant health outcomes (e.g., AIDS, asthma). His contributions to primatology reflect an abiding interest in understanding the inter-relations of different levels of analysis, and the properties of the systems that emerge at each level. His research integrates genetic, hormonal, immunological, physiological, individual, and social factors to provide vast contributions in both basic and applied science. Much of Dr. Capitanio's research has contributed to improving the welfare of captive primates by discovering their needs for appropriate social housing, understanding and minimizing stress, identifying adverse environments for primates, and improving their health.

Dr. Capitanio's work has been highly interdisciplinary, involving undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty colleagues with expertise in a variety of areas. He has collaborated with over 40 investigators and mentored 15 graduate students. As a Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Davis, he has taught eight different classes in Psychology and Biology, and received a university award for outstanding teaching.

Dr. Capitanio has provided tremendous longtime service to the Society, and the primate community in general. He has been very actively involved in leading ASP, including serving as its President. He has served on and chaired a number of ASP committees, including the Nominations Committee, the Program Committee, the Research and Development Committee, and the Media and Information Committee, in addition to managing the ASP website.

The Society was exceptionally pleased to recognize John as Distinguished Primatologist.

-- Peter Judge and Nominators
ASP Awards & Recognition Committee

***The ASP Awards & Recognition Committee recognized the following
award recipients at the 35th Meeting of the Society, June 2012,
Sacramento, CA:***

Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Steven J. Schapiro

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center

President's Award

Dr. Siân Evans

DuMond Conservancy

Senior Research Award

John W. Kelly

Georgia State University & Language Research Center

From the ASP Awards and Recognition Committee/Peter Judge, Chair:

Distinguished Service Award

The Society awarded the Distinguished Service Award to **Dr. Steven J. Schapiro** at the thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society held in Sacramento, California, June 20-23, 2012. The Distinguished Service Award is presented to deserving individuals who have contributed long-term service to the Society. Steve has worked tirelessly for the society since 1980 when he was first infected with the ASP virus. He has been President, has served multiple terms as Treasurer, and has been a local host for the annual meeting. He also serves as meeting coordinator and facilitator to help the local hosts hold successful ASP meetings each year. Steve is instrumental in coordinating the vendors at the annual meeting to ensure its financial as well as professional success. Steve is always working behind the scenes to improve our Society, our meetings and our membership. His calls to the membership to step up and contribute to the Society are infectious with his enthusiasm and dedication for the Society. Thank you for all you do for us, Steve.

President's Award

The Society awarded the President's Award to **Dr. Sian Evans** at the thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society held in Sacramento, California, June 20-23, 2012. During the President's term in office, s/he may nominate individuals or organizations that have made unique and exceptional contributions to primatology for the President's Award. ASP President Dorothy Fragaszy nominated Dr. Evans for this award. Dr. Evans is Managing Director of the DuMond Conservancy in Miami, Florida. The mission of the DuMond Conservancy is to engage scientists, students, and the public in the understanding and stewardship of nonhuman primates and their tropical forest habitats. Through the Conservancy, Dr. Evans has provided opportunities for scientists and for students to participate in creative science and educational programs. In particular, Dr. Evans has provided educational outreach about primates to the general public, especially young and budding scientists.

Senior Research Award

The Society awarded the Senior Research Award to **John W. Kelly** at the thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society held in Sacramento, California, June 20-23, 2012. This award honors individuals who, because of their dedication to their profession and their productivity, have made significant contributions to research activities supporting or enhancing knowledge relevant to primatology. John is Assistant Director of Animal Resources at Georgia State University and has served at the Language Research Center for 21 years. John manages colonies of rhesus monkeys, capuchins and chimpanzees. From 1989-present, John has provided important scientific input and practical support to many dozens of studies of apes and monkeys at the Language Research Center. The LRC has produced several hundred publications during this time span, and most of them owe their success in one way or another to John Kelley's input.

ASP CONSERVATION SMALL GRANT AWARDS FOR 2012

- **Victor Arroyo-Rodriguez** – “Conservation value of landscape supplementation for spider monkeys (*Ateles geoffroyi*) inhabiting rainforest patches in the Lacandona region, Mexico”
- **James P. Herrera** – “The search for Sibre’s dwarf lemur in southeast Madagascar”
- **Maureen McCarthy** - “Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) Ranging Patterns in Fragmented Habitat”
- **Krista Milich** – “The impact of habitat quality on female reproductive success in the red colobus monkey (*Procolobus rufomitratus*) of Kibale National Park, Uganda”
- **Rorisang Mokoena** – “Problems in protecting both food security and biodiversity: a case study of the relationship between primate pests and the livelihoods of subsistence farmers in rural South Africa”
- **Kimberly Mukobi** – “Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance (PASA) 2012 Community Engagement Initiative”
- **Cora Singleton** – “A Comparison of Health Parameters of Endangered, Wild Ring-Tailed Lemurs (*Lemur catta*) across Two Habitats and with Varied Levels of Human Disturbance at the Beza Mahafaly Special Reserve, Madagascar”
- **Victor Wodi, Mathilde Chanvin** – “Conservation Education: Environmental and conservation education for the local community surrounding the Tangkoko-Batangus-Duasudara Nature Reserve, North Sulawesi, Indonesia”

Congratulations to all...
Erin Riley, Chair, and Members of the ASP Conservation Committee

ASP CONSERVATION SMALL GRANT AWARDS

Grant proposals are solicited for conservation research or related projects, including conservation education. ASP members working in habitat countries are especially urged to apply or to help someone from a habitat country submit a meaningful project that can be a portion of a larger effort. Awards are up to \$1500.

See: <https://www.asp.org/grants/conservation/index.cfm>

Contact Erin Riley, chair of the Conservation Committee, with any questions...

ASP GENERAL SMALL GRANT AWARDS FOR 2012

- **Nicholas Brazeau**, Harvard College - "Intercommunity growth variation due to habitat heterogeneity in *Pan troglodytes*"
- **Katie Chun**, University of California, Davis - "Behavioral inhibition and stress regulation of the immune system"
- **Halszka Glowacka**, Arizona State University - "Are there costs to living higher? Effect of altitude on the physical properties of mountain gorilla diets"
- **Amanda Perofsky**, University of Texas, Austin - "Socio-behavioral determinants of infectious disease transmission in a wild lemur population"
- **Emily Rothwell**, University of California, Davis - "Investigating the role of dopamine in monogamous pair bonds in titi monkeys"
- **Kim Reuter**, Temple University - "Habitat degradation and lemur-fruit tree mutualisms in Madagascar"

Congratulations to all...

Kai McCormack & Erin Kinnally, Co-Chairs, and Members of the ASP Research and Development Committee

ASP GENERAL SMALL GRANT AWARDS

Grant proposals are invited for general research projects, with preference given to training initiatives, start-up funds, supplementary funding for students, and innovations in animal care and research technology. Award amounts range from \$500 to \$1500, and will be for a period of one year.

See: <https://www.asp.org/grants/research/index.cfm>

Questions to: Kai McCormack and Erin Kinnally, co-chairs of the ASP Research and Development Committee for 2012 - 2014...

ASP STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS FOR 2012

At the 2012 Meeting in Sacramento, the ASP Education Committee selected the following awardees:

Oral Paper Award:

Daniel Gottlieb *"How predictability can be used to decrease the stress of feeding events in captive rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*)"*

Honorable Mention -- Oral Paper Award:

Michelle Valero *"The auditory system of the aging common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*)"*

Congratulations!

--- Education Committee
Amanda Dettmer Erard, Chair

The Awards and Recognition Committee congratulates the 2012 recipients of the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy Scholarships for education and training in field primatology:

**Lotte Jensen, Anthropology, University of Texas at San Antonio
&**

Deanna Falge, Biological Psychology, University of California, Santa Barbara

The scholarships are funded through an educational grant from the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy (MRC). The American Society of Primatologists offers two scholarships annually to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. The scholarships include a field course that provides research and career training at La Suerte Biological Research Station, Costa Rica, or Ometepe Biological Research Station, Nicaragua.

The goals of the MRC are to advance research, education and conservation of primates and tropical forests. We encourage interested students from anywhere in the world to apply. See the ASP web site under "Grants" for more information about the scholarships and application submission guidelines.

--- Peter Judge, Chair, Awards and Recognition Committee

In November 2011, ASP made a gift of \$1500 to the Primate Society of Japan for the restoration of the field station on Kinkazan Island which was damaged as a result of the catastrophic earthquake and tsunami which struck Japan in March of 2011. With this support, and that of other societies, the restoration project was successful and the station is again functioning. The following is a communication received by Past President Dorothy Fragaszy from Dr. Naofumi Nakagawa of Kyoto University:

"Thanks to your kind gift of \$1,500 and donation from other academic societies, Emeritus Prof. Kosei Izawa (President of Association for the Research on Monkeys in Miyagi Prefecture) was pleased to declare the completion of the restoration. As you can imagine, recovery from catastrophic earthquake and tsunami hardly make progress on a remote island like Kinkazan. We had difficulty in finding construction firms which help us. Therefore, as many as 321 colleagues must visit the island 17 times to bring in the materials and rebuild the station by ourselves. As proofs for our efforts and token of our deep appreciation to you, we are sending, herewith, a set of photographs of our station after completion of the restoration.

On behalf of Prof. Izawa, and Primate Society of Japan, I do appreciate again for your heartwarming support."



ASP Treasurer's Report

I would like to start off by thanking the individuals who served on the Membership and Finance Committee 2010 – 2012: Justin McNulty, Stephanie Willard, Steve Schapiro, Joyce Parga, and Juan Carlos Serio Silva. Thanks to the following individuals for agreeing to serve on M&F for 2012 – 2014: Lisa Jones-Engel, Lynne Isbelle, Rebecca Chancellor, Andrea DiGiorgio, and Justin McNulty.

At ASP 2012, the issue as to whether ASP could offer Life Membership was raised again. Membership in the society is tied to the journal, making this problematic. Nonetheless, I have been in discussion with Wiley about this possibility. We have identified several potential problems in offering a Life Membership. The first, and most serious, concern, is that we cannot predict what the journal will look like in, say, 10 or 20 years. Big changes such as a move to Open Access, or a small change such as an increase in the journal's size, could occur, making the financial costs to the Society unbearable. However, I am working with Wiley on the possibility of offering a 5-year member rate, the cost of which might be 10% (for journal portion) lower than renewing annually. It is too late for 2013, but I will continue these discussions with Wiley when we start negotiating the 2014 contract.

Regarding membership renewals for 2013: For individuals renewing (or joining) with electronic access only to AJP, there is no increase in fees. For individuals renewing (or joining) with a hard copy of AJP, the cost increases by \$5. This cost increase is solely due to Wiley's increase in price of the hard copy of the journal. I encourage you to renew your membership early so you have uninterrupted access to our journal (with its highest impact factor yet) and enjoy reduced registration fees for the 2013 annual meeting in Puerto Rico.

The Committee launched a membership drive to strengthen our wonderful professional society. To this end we would like to ask each member to consider encouraging just one person with shared interests in primatology to join the ASP. Undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, new faculty members, those who were members at one time but have drifted away... all can be valuable members of the ASP. If we all could do this, the strength of our membership and collective voice would double in just a few months!

-- Kimberley Phillips, ASP Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE 2012 ASP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, Sacramento, CA

President Dorothy Fragaszy called the meeting of the ASP Executive Committee to order at 6:00 pm, 21 June 2012. In attendance: Randy Kyes, Karen Bales, Kim Phillips, Carolyn Ehardt, Allyson Bennett, Mollie Bloomsmith, Kai McCormack, Amanda Dettmer, Peter Judge, Suzette Tardif, Dee Higley, Michelle Petracca, Susan Howell

President Fragaszy opened the meeting with a general overview of activities of concern over the past year and invited reports by the chairs of ASP committees, with discussion by the Executive Committee.

Membership and Finance Committee; Kim Phillips, ASP Treasurer and Chair:

Based on figures available as of the end of May 2012, the downward trend in membership continues to be evident, although the 2012 data are not complete. Current numbers for 2012 indicate a total membership of 469 (versus 553 at the end of 2011), including 267 full members, 157 student members, 17 retirees, and 28 'non-paying' memberships. The Committee has been tracking these figures and discussing additional measures to reverse the trend.

The Treasurer also reviewed the ASP Financial Statements for the period of 1 June 2011 - 31 May 2012. The period began with \$127,735 in the General Fund; post expenses, the 31 May 2012 balance in this fund was \$115,409. The Legacy Fund was significantly increased by the \$25,000 donation made by the Primate Foundation of Arizona (in recognition of the values exhibited by Jo Fritz, who, previous to her passing, was on the PFA Board of Directors, as well as the values of the PFA), bringing the current balance to \$34,686. The Watts Fund remaining balance after award of 2011 and 2012 travel awards was \$14, which was moved to the Ruppenthal Fund. The latter fund was increased through revenue from the Mangabey Miler and the stipulated 25% of the profits from the previous ASP meeting; post the 5 2011 awards, the Fund's balance is \$2,269. The 31 May 2011 previous balance of \$84,108 in the Conservation Fund now stands at \$75,139 (post expenditures for the current round of conservation grants awarded). This 31 May 2012 balance reflects expenditures over the last year of \$10,007 (including award of the 2011 and 2012 Conservation Small Grants (\$6,016 and \$3,650, respectively)), and revenues of \$5,654, generated primarily through the silent auction (\$3,027) and banquet donations (\$1,250). Finally, the Austin meeting generated \$97,414.44 in revenue and expended \$85,594.04, resulting in a profit of \$11,820.40.

Research and Development Committee; Kai McCormack, Co-Chair:

The current competition for the Small Research Grant received a total of 28 submissions, which is approximately 35-40% lower than the previous year's competition. The Committee's discussion of this decline pointed to the fact that the late date of last year's meeting could have impacted the submission rate; a number of students were reported to have inquired about the possibility of the extension of the due date. The most competitive proposals received spanned both laboratory and field-based research and included two focused on apes and two on lemurs. The Committee supported awards totaling approximately \$10,500.

Education Committee; Represented by Amanda Dettmer Erard (for Katie Hinde, Chair):

ASP was again represented on 26-28 April 2012 at the 2nd USA Science and Engineering Festival, now being held in Washington, DC, every 1.5 years and representing a "national grassroots effort to advance STEM education and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers" (from the website: <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/about.html>). The ASP booth was staffed by professional ASP members (Dorothy Fragaszy, Mike Power, and Katie Hinde), assisted by graduate students from George Washington University.

ASP Executive Committee Minutes (cont'd)...

The ASP booth's games and exhibits attracted an estimated 1200-1500 interactions with attendees, representing people from ages 4-94 years.

The Committee did not engage in educational outreach at the current meeting due to the fact that the meeting dates were not congruent with the in-session dates of the Sacramento public schools (classes ended in May). The Student Luncheon Workshop about Teaching Primatology was held, organized by Lynne Miller with participating panelists Stephanie Etting, Mary Glenn, Karen Hambright, Lynne Miller, Leanne Nash, Marilyn Norconk, Lori Sheeran, Jessica Vandeleest, and Tamara Weinstein. The Committee is concerned about the expense involved in provision of lunch to participants and is discussing ways to limit the cost.

The current meeting's competition for Student Presentation Awards involves judging 45 presentations, a decline in number from the previous year's competition that may be a result of the IPS meeting also being held this summer. The Committee's request to the Board of Directors will be for \$600 in awards. The Committee also is actively engaged in formulating new procedures for the Student Awards competition, focused on making the competition more stringent. The Committee voted unanimously to convey a motion to the Board for suggested changes, including requiring a 1000-word synopsis to be submitted two months before the meeting. This document would then be evaluated for project design, originality, and significance by the Committee prior to the meeting, with finalists determined during the committee meeting at the start of the conference. The presentations by this set of finalists would then be judged by a greater number of Committee members, increasing the thoroughness and comparability of the evaluations of the presentations.

Conservation Committee; Represented by Michelle Petracca (for Erin Riley, Chair):

Of the 33 applications for the Conservation Small Grant, the Committee recommended 8 for awards, totaling \$8,266. The Committee also supported recommendation of three subscription awards, as well as one of the four nominations received for the Conservation Award. The auction for the Sacramento meeting received 160 items which will generate revenue for the conservation fund.

Discussion by the Executive Committee included expression of concern that only one member of the Conservation Committee was present at the current meeting. A suggestion also was made that there needs to be assurance that all individuals whose names appear on (all) grant applications to ASP agree to have their names on the application. Consent could be validated by emailing all individuals listed on a received grant proposal, directing them to go to an address on the website and click on 'agree.' In the case of students, it was suggested that there needs to be a letter from their mentor submitted with the application.

Awards & Recognition Committee; Peter Judge, Chair:

The Chair reported receipt of 19 applications for the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy Scholarship for Education and Training in Field Primatology, equivalent to the number from the preceding year. The Committee achieved consensus on recommending two of these for funding.

The Committee's previous concern that they had not been receiving nominations for the Society's major awards resulted in very proactive efforts to solicit nominations. These efforts produced three nominations each for the Distinguished Primatologist and the Senior Research Award; there was one nomination for the Distinguished Service Award. The Committee has noted a lack of adherence to the requirements for the nominations; e.g., some significantly exceeded the limitation to only two letters of support. Efforts to curtail these and insure equity in the process are underway.

*ASP Executive Committee Minutes (cont'd)...***Primate Care Committee; Mollie Bloomsmith, Chair:**

The Committee prepared a response to an Institute of Medicine committee which conducted an analysis of the scientific necessity of chimpanzees for NIH-funded biomedical and behavioral research, and to the subsequently formed NIH Working Group on implementing the IOM committee report. After approval by the ASP Board of Directors, the statements were posted to the ASP website. The Committee currently has a working group developing a statement on the social housing of primates, and another group is gathering information on training primates, which could be placed on the ASP website in the future. Also in process is a proposal for a Primate Welfare Award to submit to the ASP Board of Directors for consideration.

Additional discussion by the Executive Committee related to the Primate Care Committee's efforts to expand presence on the website, develop a proposal for a special issue of AJP on primate care, and create the award within ASP focused on primate welfare.

Historian, Suzette Tardif:

The Executive Committee discussed the proposal that the ASP Historian become an ex-officio member of the Media and Information Committee. A major effort within the committee structure would be the digitization/archiving of past ASP documents/records, with the potential to support student hours devoted to scanning records held by Gabe Lubach (and others). Future records should be in electronic form; only earlier records in paper format are of significant concern.

Media and Information Committee; Allyson Bennett, Chair:

The Chair reports that there are now ~ 169 members on Facebook. Movement is beginning to move to a Facebook presence for public access, with committee chairs serving as administrators and generating postings.

The Committee has prepared a description of its duties, as part of a request to the Board of Directors that they become a standing ASP committee. If approved by the BOD, the required vote of the membership will be conducted (establishing a new standing ASP committee requires a change in the By-Laws).

Legacy Ad-hoc Committee; Dorothy Fragaszy, Chair:

The two activities conducted in the past year to raise revenue for the Legacy Fund were very minimally successful, prompting recommendations to the Board of Directors for how to proceed with the current revenue. The Board will consider holding a competition for the Legacy Award, utilizing existing funds, with associated efforts to generate 'matching funds' in response to recent donations.

Publication Committee; Dee Higley, Chair:

The Chair reported on discussions concerning the possibility of posting on the AJP website and on the inside cover of the American Journal of Primatology a set of Associate Editors for the journal. The Committee sees value in listing distinguished professionals in this capacity, demonstrating appreciation for their work, lending further clout to the journal, and potentially encouraging more submissions. The Committee also discussed the potential for a portion of the website's unused space to be used as a 'repository' for difficult to access publications, perhaps beginning with those by Emil Menzel and including an 'introduction' by Bill Mason. Discussion by the Executive Committee included necessity to consider copyright implications and the format in which this could be done (e.g., as an 'electronic book').

*ASP Executive Committee Minutes (cont'd)...***Program Committee; Sue Howell and Brian Kelly, Co-Chairs:**

The Committee received submission of 193 abstracts for the current meeting. As there was concern that this number should be closer to ~250, discussion has been underway to identify mechanisms to increase the submission rate. These discussions have focused on the potential to actively solicit more symposia, taking advantage of the popularity of workshops, and soliciting vendor support for a 'special symposium,' which could include efforts to generate a 'vendor fund' to create this symposium. President-Elect Karen Bales suggested that ASP should be more engaged with/supportive of the vendors and raised the possibility of achieving this through a "vendor appreciation reception" or similar mechanism that would engage them and demonstrate ASP's appreciation for their activities. This suggestion received positive support by the Executive Committee.

The Committee also wished to solicit feedback on the possibility of publishing the journal/abstracts after the ASP meetings; this was not opposed by the Executive Committee. Further discussion considered the potential to utilize an 'informal booklet' of abstracts, and the concern that the format/timing for publishing abstracts take into account that there has been need to extend the abstract submission deadlines in order to generate the largest possible number of reviewed abstracts and subsequent presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted by:
Carolyn L. Ehardt, Executive Secretary



Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*), adult weight 72-200 pounds (32-90 kilograms), native to Borneo, Indonesia; conservation status: Endangered. *Photo courtesy of: Randy Kyes. Reprinted from the 2012 ASP Primate Portraits Calendar.*

MINUTES OF THE 2012 ASP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, Sacramento, CA

President Dorothy Fragaszy called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 12:45 pm, 22 June 2012. In attendance: Randy Kyes (Past President), Karen Bales (President-Elect), Kim Phillips (Treasurer), and Carolyn Ehardt (Executive Secretary).

The following recommendations were considered:

Recommendation: The Media and Information Committee, having submitted a statement on the duties of the committee for consideration by the Board, recommended that a vote be conducted to establish this committee as a standing committee of the Society, with the name of Media and Public Engagement Committee. **Action:** Approved conduct of a vote in accordance with ASP procedures.

Recommendation: The Primate Care Committee, having submitted a statement on the duties of the committee for consideration by the Board, recommended that a vote be conducted to establish this as a standing committee of the Society. **Action:** Approved conduct of a vote in accordance with ASP procedures.

Recommendation: The Education Committee recommended that the total amount for the two recipients of the 2012 Student Prize Awards be \$600. **Action:** Approved.

Recommendation: The Education Committee recommended that the procedures for conducting the student presentation competition be altered to require submission of a written summary of their presentation, which will be used by the Committee to select a slate of presentations for in-person judging at the annual meeting. **Action:** Approved in principle.

Recommendation: The Conservation Committee recommended that \$750 be awarded to the recipient of the 2012 Conservation Award, and that there be two AJP subscription awards, and a total of \$8,266 awarded to eight recipients of the Conservation Small Grants. **Action:** Approved.

Recommendation: The Research and Development Committee recommended that a total of \$9000 be awarded to recipients of the Small Research Grants. **Action:** Approved.

Recommendation: That \$1000 be made available to the ASP Historian, through the Media and Information Committee, to begin digitization of ASP records and historically important documents. A report on accomplishments should be made to the Board by the subsequent meeting of the Society, in order to assess need for additional work and support. **Action:** Approved.

Recommendation: The Legacy Committee recommended that a competition for the first ASP Legacy Award be conducted in the coming year, with applications for up to \$10,000 in support to be considered by a newly-created Legacy Project Committee (ad hoc) and recommendations for award submitted to the Board for approval. **Action:** Approved.

Recommendation: In recognizing that the present-day, web-based conduct of membership voting on slates of candidates for ASP office is no longer fully congruent with the practice originally described in the Constitution, the Board recommended that there be adjustment in the wording of the Constitution to bring it into accordance with practice. As voting is conducted electronically, with the website administrator tabulating the votes, the tabulation is reported to the Chair of the Elections Committee, who communicates the results of the election to the Executive Committee. Wording in the Constitution should be adjusted to make current procedures explicit. **Action:** Approved.

*ASP Board of Directors Minutes (cont'd)...***Other Business:**

The Board revisited a concern expressed by members last year that ASP does not have provision of childcare at meetings. After discussion, there was consensus that there is insufficient need to formalize this service and that the organizing committee can address the need on a case by case basis.

After discussion of the low attendance at the meeting by members of the Conservation Committee, the Board agreed to have discussions with the current chair regarding possibility of expanding membership on the committee and appointing a co-chair who can agree to attend the meeting. Several additional recommendations were discussed: the need to more consistently nominate habitat country individuals for the honorary Conservation Award; reinforcement of procedures whereby the Board is informed of all nominees for awards; encouragement of the Conservation Committee and Research and Development Committee chairs to insure that recipients of small grants produce and submit their reports, and in a timely manner.

The Board maintains interest in the earlier discussions regarding creation of an ad hoc committee to address issues regarding ethics. It was agreed that there should be follow-up with Erin Riley regarding last year's Board approval of formation of a committee to propose an initial project addressing formulation of an ASP code of ethics.

Regarding proposals by the Publication Committee, the Board determined that the proposed listing of Associate Editors of AJP be left to the Committee and editor of the journal to discuss and act upon. The proposed collation of Emil Menzel's publications into a format such as an e-book which can be made accessible through the ASP website, an activity to be organized by Sally Mendoza, was deemed a good idea and supported by the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Submitted by:
Carolyn L. Ehardt, Executive Secretary



Black-and-white ruffed lemur (*Varecia variegata*), adult weight 7-8 pounds (3-4 kilograms), native to eastern Madagascar; conservation status: Critically Endangered. Photo courtesy of: Eliza Nelson. Reprinted from the 2012 ASP Primate Portraits Calendar..



*Adult female owl monkey *A. azarai**
-- Photo by Victor Davalos,
Owl Monkey Project

Conservation Small Grants Award Report:

Effects of a naturally fragmented habitat on the population biology of owl monkeys (*Aotus azarai*) in the humid Chaco of Argentina

Cecilia Paola Juárez, Ph.D. in Biological Sciences

Universidad Nacional de Tucumán and Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral (CONICET), Argentina

Background

In 2005, owl monkeys were identified as one of 17 priority mammals in need of conservation action in the South American Chaco. The Gran Chaco of South America extends over one million square kilometers of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay. It is an alluvial plain, regularly flooded due to impermeable subsoil which includes a mosaic of grasslands, savannas, open woodlands, xeric thorn forests, and gallery forests (Redford et al. 1990). In this region, owl monkeys inhabit the gallery forests along rivers, as well as small islands of forests that are isolated from the gallery forest by a matrix of savannah. I examined the demography and population dynamics of owl monkey groups living in the naturally fragmented landscape of the Argentinean Chaco. In the Gran Chaco, owl monkeys have inhabited both gallery forests growing along rivers and patches of forest immersed in a large matrix of grasslands and savannahs for the last 5,000-7,000 years. Information from a well-studied population in the Argentinean Chaco indicates that owl monkeys regularly cross the grasslands while moving from one patch of forest to another (Fernandez-Duque, 2009). Because the fragmentation of this habitat is not human-induced, owl monkeys offer an infrequent opportunity to investigate how the demography and population biology of a primate species may function under the effects of fragmentation and corridors.

Project Aims and Goals

The goal of my study was to describe the distribution and size of an owl monkey population and evaluate how fragmented landscapes influence the population biology of the species. I used this information to evaluate the status of this species in Río Pilcomayo, the only Argentinean National Park that protects owl monkeys.

My specific aims were: 1- to collect data on group size and age structure from 15 social groups in the gallery forests of Río Pilcomayo National Park, 2- to increase the sample size for groups living in patches of forests from 7 to 15 and to collect similar demographic data from them, 3- to collect data on birth rates and birth seasonality from all 30 groups during 2 births seasons, 4- to complete the characterization of the patches, including their size and connectivity.

Methods

I conducted fieldwork between October 2010 and March 2012. I established two sites of study: Río Pilcomayo National Park (PNRP: 58.000 ha) and Guaycolec Ranch (EG: 24.000 ha). The two sites are 150 km apart (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Study sites Río Pilcomayo National Park (PNRP) and Guaycolec Ranch (EG) in the north of Argentina (Figure: Owl Monkey Project Database)

Owl monkey groups inhabit gallery forest (Figure 2) and small patches of forest (Figure 3) that are isolated from the gallery forest by a matrix of savannah.

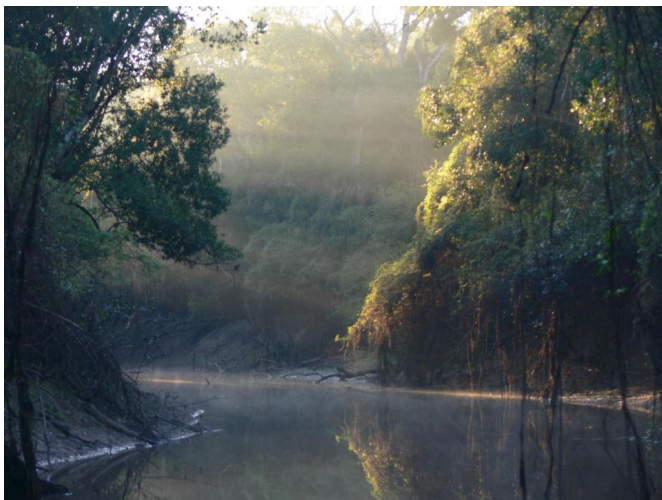


Figure 2: Gallery forest in Guaycolec Ranch (Photo: Owl Monkey Project Database).



Figure 3: Patches of forest in Guaycolec Ranch (Photo: Cecilia Juarez, Owl Monkey Project).

Data Analysis

Demographic parameters estimates compared in both habitats, continuous (gallery forest; n= 14 in EG and n= 20 social groups in PNRP) and naturally fragmented (patches of forest; n= 16 in EG and n=14 in PNRP), were: size of social groups, age structure, birth rate and density.

A digital map of the zone was created using ArcGis 9.3 software. The program was used to calculate fragment areas and perimeters of 70 patches to forest, as well as distances between the continuous gallery forest and the nearest fragments.

Results and Discussion

My results confirmed that:

- 1– Average size of social groups (range=2-5 individuals), age structure and birth rate were similar between the two study sites.
- 2– Individual and group density was higher in Guaycolec Ranch (patches of forest) than Río Pilcomayo National Park (continuous forest).
- 3– In both surveyed study sites (Río Pilcomayo and Guaycolec Ranch), the size and density (individual and groups) were higher in gallery forest than patches of forests.
- 4– Birthrate was higher in social groups inhabiting gallery forest than patches of forests in Guaycolec Ranch; in Río Pilcomayo National Park the birthrate was similar between habitats.
- 5– The presence of owl monkeys in patches of forests was associated with the area of the islands.
- 6– The vegetation structure of patches, forest isolation and study site were not statistically associated with the presence or absence of owl monkeys in patches of forests.
- 7– The probability of finding owl monkeys in patches of forest was 50% on islands with an area of five to six hectares, and 90% over 11 hectares.

That such low densities of *A. azarai* are found in Río Pilcomayo National Park, the only nationally protected habitat of owl monkeys, shows that the species is in a critical demographic state. The study results show how natural habitat fragmentation can influence the population's structure and basic demographic parameters (such as birth rate, and group size and density). We do not know, however, how individuals survive in the patches of forest and how dispersal occurs between patches of forest. It is my intention to understand how the natural fragmentation characteristic for the Argentinean Chaco can affect the ecology, demography, social behavior and health of owl monkeys.

Finally, I defended my PhD thesis at the National University of Tucuman on September 14, 2012. This award served to cover the cost of part of my doctoral fieldwork. This past June, I presented the preliminary results of this project at the 35th Meeting of the American Society of Primatologists in Sacramento, California. I am currently working on articles for submission to scientific journals, as well as for conference presentations.



Juvenile owl monkey in patch of forest in Pilcomayo National Park (Photo: Victor Davalos, Owl Monkey Project).

Conservation Small Grants Award Report:

Population density and abundance of ebony leaf monkeys (*Trachypithecus auratus*) in West Bali National Park: Implications for the species' conservation in Indonesia

Jean-Baptiste Leca¹, Noëlle Gunst¹, Aida Rompis², Gede Somah², I. G. A. Arta Putra², and I. Nengah Wandia²

¹: Department of Psychology, University of Lethbridge, Alberta, CANADA

²: Pusat Kajian Primata, Universitas Udayana, Bali, INDONESIA

Background

Accurate information on the status and trends of animal populations obtained from abundance surveys is a prerequisite for successful wildlife conservation programs [1]. Most information available on the conservation status of the ebony leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus auratus*; Figure 1) – a threatened primate species [2] from the Colobinae subfamily, endemic to the islands of Java, Bali, and Lombok, Indonesia – comes from studies conducted in a limited number of sites in Java [3]. Such findings are probably not representative of other islands, such as Bali.

The West Bali National Park (WBNP) may have the last viable population of ebony leaf monkeys on the island [3]. To our knowledge, the only assessment of population density and abundance in Balinese *T. auratus* was conducted in 1999-2000 [4]. Overall, due to the lack of baseline density estimates on ebony leaf monkey populations in Bali, it is difficult to make accurate inferences about the conservation status and trends of this poorly known species throughout Indonesia.



Figure 1. An adult male ebony leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus auratus*) in the West Bali National Park (photo by N. Gunst)

Objectives

The main goal of this study was to evaluate possible changes in the population density, abundance, and distribution of ebony leaf monkeys in WBNP, by comparing current data with those obtained during the 1999-2000 survey. Our specific objectives were: 1) to obtain estimates of group density, group size, total population size, and species biomass in the study area; 2) to provide a preliminary assessment of the spatial distribution of ebony leaf monkeys within the study area, through the comparison of group abundance across the different transects surveyed; 3) to evaluate this threatened species' activity and ranging patterns, by studying a particularly endangered sub-population of *T. auratus*; i.e. a group living in a fragmented area located within the limits of the WBNP; and 4) to assess possible impacts of anthropogenic disturbances on the spatial distribution of ebony leaf monkeys, by a) describing the relationship between the presence/

location of logging activities and the encounters of ebony leaf monkeys during our transect walks, and b) complementing our transect-walk data with transect-drive data collected along the main road built across the park at the southern limit of Prapat Agung Peninsula.

Methods

Our study area, Prapat Agung Peninsula (5,943 ha), located in the northern part of WBNP, is considered a priority site in terms of conservation in Bali (Figure 2). This area comprises various habitats, including dry deciduous monsoon forests interspersed with plantation forests, agricultural fields and open savannah patches, and mangrove areas bordering on the sea. We used repeated line-transect distance sampling, a standard method for census surveys of wild primate populations [5]. We walked along a series of transect lines and recorded for each encounter of *T. auratus*, the perpendicular distance from the line to the estimated center of the group formed by all individuals detected (referred to as group size). We used these distances to estimate a detection function (i.e. the probability that an object is detected, as a decreasing function of its distance from the line), which in turn, allowed us to calculate the group density of *T. auratus* within the study area (computer software program Distance 6.0).



Figure 2. Map of the West Bali National Park, including the study area, Prapat Agung Peninsula (modified from Vogt, 2003)

During our transect-walks, we sampled a total of eight transects throughout the study area. Each transect was 4 km long and was sampled 10 times (total distance sampled: 320 km). Given the current situation of WBNP (with the main Singaraja-Gilimanuk road built across the park), we also collected transect-drive data while driving a motorbike at a constant speed of 15 km/h along this main road and counting ebony leaf monkey groups detected on each side of the road (91 driving transects in total, each measuring 12 km).

Finally, we studied a particularly endangered group of ebony leaf monkeys living in a fragmented and disturbed area (a 250x700 m-patch of plantation forest), located within the limits of the WBNP and surrounded by agricultural fields, pastoral areas, roads, villages, and a few forest fragments that may function as dispersal corridors. We used GPS logging to measure the size and differential use of this group's home range, as well as its daily movement distance within the patch of plantation forest. We collected instantaneous group scans to assess this group's daily activity budget. We conducted repeated linetranssect sampling within and around the plantation forest to evaluate the density of neighboring groups of ebony leaf monkeys. We also collected a series of fecal samples from this resident group as a source of DNA for a future analysis of population genetic structure.

Results

We recorded a total of 116 encounters during the transect walks. The main outputs of the Distance sampling analysis were as follows: 1) the estimated group density was 0.95 group/km², with a 95% CI between 0.72 and 1.25, 2) the estimated individual density was 7.11 individuals/km², with a 95% CI between 5.26 and 9.60, 3) the estimated number of individuals on Prapat Agung Peninsula was 422 individuals, with a 95% CI between 313 and 571, and 4) the estimated group size was 7.49 individuals/group, with a 95% CI between 5.26 and 9.60. Based on the total population size estimate (422 individuals), the mean body weight of the species (6.2 kg), and the surface of Prapat Agung Peninsula (59.43 km²), the ebony leaf monkey biomass estimate in the study area was 44.02 kg/km².

The comparison of group abundance and size in the different transects sampled showed relatively similar numbers of group encounters and group sizes in most transects. Groups were not only notably separated in space (overall mean distance between two consecutive groups = 1.11 ± 0.78 km) but also highly clustered, with 80 out of 96 encounters (i.e., 83.3%) showing group spreads between 20 and 50 m of diameters. The maximum group spread was 100 x 80 m, for only two encounters.

Our study of a group of ebony leaf monkeys living in a small plantation forest area showed that: 1) there was only one group of ebony leaf monkeys ranging in this area (resident group); 2) we detected at least two neighboring groups, but located quite far away from the resident group (around 1.9 and 2.7 km north from the limit of the resident group's home range); 3) the home range of the resident group was 0.09 km²; 4) the daily range of the resident group was 635 ± 344 m; 5) the size of the resident group was 12 individuals (including infants and juveniles); 6) the daily activity budget of the resident group (in percentage of time spent in different types of activities) was: 39% foraging, 35% resting, 15% vigilance, 6% travelling, and 5% socializing.

During our transect walks, we recorded the presence of 26 logging activity spots, all located in the southern part of Prapat Agung Peninsula. Among them, 19 were on-going logging activity and 7 were logging artefacts. We never found ebony leaf monkeys within 1.5 km to on-going logging activity spots, whereas we recorded 11 encounters within 0.1 km to logging artefacts. However, all these 7 logging artefacts were not recent and were probably produced at least several weeks before our observations. During our transect drives, we recorded 13 encounters of ebony leaf monkeys. All were highly clustered within a 220-m long zone located half-way between Cekik and Sumber Klampok. Unlike other zones along the road, this zone comprised large trees with stout branches overhanging the road, which suggests it may be part of a dispersal corridor allowing the monkeys to bridge between two parts of their home range separated by agricultural fields and pastoral areas. Based on individual observations, and given the little overlap of territories found in ebony leaf monkeys [4], we believe that these encounters along the road corresponded to the same group of individuals.

Significance

The comparison of our values with those obtained from the 1999-2000 survey conducted in the same area and with the same method [4] showed a marked decrease in population density and abundance as well as changes in the spatial distribution of ebony leaf monkeys. Our data suggest that such trends may be at least partially explained by anthropogenic disturbances, including illegal logging activities and habitat fragmentation. Given these alarming signs, and to better assess trends in the Balinese ebony leaf monkey populations change over time, we urge for the replication of the same survey design in the same study area, at least every five years. Such a survey effort is crucial not only to better understand the socio-ecology of ebony leaf monkeys, but also to determine conservation priorities and devise management plans related to the protection of the populations of this vulnerable primate species in Indonesia.

We hope that 1) our geographic database will be considered by park managers and other researchers in their decisionmaking for a better protection of the species and a more accurate assessment of the species' conservation status, 2) our results on the occurrence of illegal logging within Prapat Agung Peninsula will be used by the park authorities to prevent, as far as possible, such a detrimental impact, and 3) our findings will provide a baseline for future replicable census surveys of ebony leaf monkeys in the same area. Our quantification of the precision of abundance estimates may also allow for the comparison of our results with those obtained from alternative methods of estimation.

This project was primarily funded by a Rufford Small Grant for Nature Conservation, and additional grants from the International Primatological Society and the American Society of Primatologists.

References

- [1] Goldsmith, F. B. (1991). *Monitoring for Conservation and Ecology*. London: Chapman & Hall.
- [2] Nijman, V., & Supriatna, J. (2008). *Trachypithecus auratus*. In: IUCN 2009. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2009.2.
- [3] Nijman, V. (2000). Geographic distribution of ebony leaf monkeys, *Trachypithecus auratus* (E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1812) (Mammalia: Primates: Cercopithecidae). *Contributions to Zoology*, 69, 157–177.
- [4] Vogt, M. (2003). Freilanduntersuchungen zur Ökologie und zum Verhalten von *Trachypithecus auratus kohlbruggei* (Haubenlanguren) im West-Bali Nationalpark, Indonesien. Ph.D. dissertation. Faculty of Biology, University of Tübingen, Germany. [in German].
- [5] Buckland, S. T., Anderson, D. R., Burnham, K. P., & Laake, J. L. (1993). *Distance Sampling: Estimating Abundance of Biological Populations*. London: Chapman & Hall.



Sanje mangabey *Cercocebus sanjei*; conservation status: Endangered. Photo by Carolyn L. Ehardt.

Conservation Small Grants Award Report:

Estimating Group Density of Assamese Macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) Using Multiple Covariate Distance Sampling (MCDS) in Lower Kanchenjunga Area (LKA), Eastern Nepal

GANGA RAM REGMI*‡ & KAMAL KANDEL*

‡Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, United Kingdom

*Global Primate Network-Nepal

GPO Box 26288, Kathmandu, Nepal

www.primatelife.org

Assessing science-based data on population and abundance of the species is the vital and foremost requirement before drafting any species conservation and management plan. Considering this fact, we used DISTANCE SAMPLING line transect survey to estimate the Assamese macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) population in Lower Kanchenjunga Area (LKA) in eastern Nepal. To achieve our goals, we received the seed money from Primate Society of Great Britain and later on the matching funds for this project were received from American Society of Primatologists, USA and Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong. The Idea Wild, USA had donated us 4 laser range-finders for this project.



Figure: A camera trapped photo of small troop of Assamese macaques where we can see the ALBINO macaque (@Global Primate Network-Nepal)

Ninety line transects were walked totaling of 179.29 km in which 35 observations of Assamese macaque were made in Lower Kanchenjunga Area (LKA) in Eastern Nepal. These data were analyzed using freely available DISTANCE software. The result suggests that the macaque group encounter rate was 0.19521 groups/km in the study area. The estimated Assamese macaque group density (DS) was 1.2253 (± 0.21569) groups/km² with the expected group size (ES) 26.714 (± 2.373). Similarly, the estimated population density (D) and the total number of macaques (N) in the area were 32.733 (± 6.454) and 1015.0 (± 200.13) respectively.

This first systematic and scientific population estimation of Assamese macaque has provided base line information about the status and abundance of the species in the region. In addition, the findings of this research useful to understand, mitigate and manage crop-raiding problem and useful to address the human-monkey conflict in the area. During our survey we had deployed some camera traps in the study area. Our one camera had trapped a troop of Assamese macaque in Chintapu Community Forest of Ilam district, which had a unique and ALBINO adult macaque. This was the first record of ALBINO macaque in Nepal. We are planning to follow this troop to study its detail ecology and behavior in the coming days.



Figure: Participants are listening to the lecture of Dr Falk Huettmann in DISTANCE SAMPLING training (@Global Primate Network-Nepal)

In addition to population estimation of Assamese macaque, we organized one day 'Distance Sampling Training Workshop' for the first time in Nepal which provided the opportunity to the postgraduate students of Nepalese university, government wildlife officers and young researchers for learning about the advanced wildlife population and abundance survey and data analysis technique. We hope that participants will apply this method for scientific estimation of population and abundance of wildlife including primates in their habitat country Nepal.



Figure: A group photograph with all the participants and instructor Dr. Falk Huettmann (@Global Primate Network-Nepal)

Besides the Assamese macaque population estimation and distance sampling training workshop, we have developed the first quantitative potential niche distribution models for the Assamese macaque for the 12 nations of South and South-east Asia: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, India, China, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia. We hope that our models help to identify the areas with a high probability of the presence of Assamese macaque, which is information that can be applied to identify new population of this species and to planning future surveys in previously un-surveyed areas in the region. The model outputs are also helpful for understanding biogeography and historical ecological niche evolution of Assamese macaque.

PUBLICATIONS AND DELIVERABLES GENERATED FROM THE ASP FUNDED PROJECT

1. Publication of Assamese macaque ‘presence only’ data

We have published the presence only location data of Assamese Macaque in the form of ISO standard METADATA in United States Geological Survey (USGS) website with the proper acknowledgement to American Society of Primatologists and other donors.

Regmi, G. R., K. Kandel, D. K. Karmacharya, S. T. Lama & Y. Ghimirey. 2012. Compiled ‘Presence Only’ data for Assamese Macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) in Nepal Himalaya.

(http://mercury.ornl.gov/clearinghouse/send/xsltText2?full_datasource=uaf&fileURL=d:%5Cmercury_instances%5Cusgs%5Cuaf%5Charvested%5Cmercury.bio.uaf.edu_~falk_huettmann_nbii_Assamese_MacaqueNepalMetadataFH3.xml)

2. Publications of Assamese macaque line transect data

We have published the line transect survey data of Assamese macaque in public domain with the proper acknowledgement to American Society of Primatologists and other donors. These data are online and free to use for anyone.

Regmi, G. R., K. Kandel, D. K. Karmacharya & S. T. Lama. 2012. Distance sampling line transect data for Assamese Macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) in Eastern Nepal, Himalaya 2011 til 2012. <https://dspace.alaska.edu/bitstream/uaf/1012/26/Assamese%20MacaqueLineTransectMetadataFH4.xml.html>

3. Publication of Assamese macaque ‘presence only’ data

During our Assamese macaque survey in LKA, we also did the opportunistic survey of Indian muntjak (*Muntiacus muntjak*) and publish this data also in the following link with the proper acknowledgement to the ASP and other donors of the project. We also use this data for species distribution modeling purpose in future or anyone can use this data for such purpose as they are freely available globally on public domain.

Regmi, G. R., K. Kandel, D. K. Karmacharya & S. T. Lama. 2012. Compiled ‘Presence Only’ data for Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) in Lower Kanchenjunga Area, Nepal. (http://mercury.ornl.gov/clearinghouse/send/xsltText2?full_datasource=uaf&fileURL=d:%5Cmercury_instances%5Cusgs%5Cuaf%5Charvested%5Cmercury.bio.uaf.edu~falk_huettmann_nbii_IndianMuntjak_MetadataFH2.xml).

4. **Regmi, G. R.**, F. Huettmann, V. Nijman, M. K. Suwal, K. A. I. Nekaris, K. Kandel & N. Sharma. (*in prep. for Global Ecology and Biogeography journal*). Potential Distribution of Assamese macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) in South and South-East Asia: A first Open-Access Ensemble Model Prediction.
5. **Regmi, G. R.**, F. Huettmann, M. K. Suwal, K. A. I. Nekaris & K. Kandel. (*in prep.*). Density Surface GIS modelling of Assamese Macaque (*Macaca assamensis*) in Lower Kanchenjunga Area, East Nepal.
6. **Regmi, G. R.**, Nekaris, K. A. I., Kandel, K. & Nijman, V. (2013). Crop-raiding macaques: predictions, patterns and perceptions from Langtang National Park, Nepal. *Endangered Species Research* (Accepted).



Barbary macaque *Macaca sylvanus*; conservation status: Endangered. Photo courtesy of Julie Wieczkowski.

Conservation Small Grants Award Report:

Reconciling Communities' Livelihoods and Conservation Strategies in Western Cameroon: A Case Study of the Bechati Forest Area

Mbunya Francis Nkemnyi

mbunya.francis@yahoo.co.uk

Department of Human Ecology
Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium

Conservation and livelihood needs of a community depending on the resources to be conserved are two conflicting issues that must be addressed with consciousness to ensure sustainable conservation values. The Bechati forest area covers an area of about 15000ha and it is located in Western Cameroon, Africa. It is home to two great apes species (*Pan troglodytes vellerosus* and *Gorilla gorilla diehli*), over five species of other primates and about 26 species of large mammals. Over ten local communities are located adjacent to this forest block and depend largely on this forest for livelihood support. Currently, the area is in the process of conversion to a wildlife sanctuary (Tofala Hill Wildlife Sanctuary) due to its biological and ecological uniqueness and importance. This study explores the relationship between communities' livelihood needs and conservation strategies in the forest area in order to bring out the challenges involved. The study strongly builds its ideas and conclusions on local communities' opinions, perceptions, and recommendations on conservation strategies. Data for the study were collected through literature review, questionnaires, focus group discussion, field observations and semi-structured interviews. Descriptive and inferential methods were used to analyse and explain quantitative data, while content analysis was used to analyse qualitative data.

The main findings indicate that over 77% of the community's members feel conservation strategies should first address basic community livelihood needs before looking at conservation values. They believe the forest is life and without the forest they cannot survive. Thus, they demand an immediate alternative if the forest has to be managed for conservation purposes. The conservation strategies used in the study area still have a long way to go and need total revision, as the trust of the local communities has not been gained. Local community members do not feel that they belong to the project.

Although a significant percentage of the studied population understood the objectives of the Cross River gorilla conservation project, they considered it as an idea being sold to them and they feel the need to have incentives in order to support the idea. Community perceptions in the Bechati forest area still strongly hold that conservation initiatives are driven by conservationists for their own personal interests and benefits, and in case of any community benefit, this only comes in as a secondary factor. This is potentially because community members were not made major stakeholders at the initial stage of the conservation program and thus were not fully involved in developing the conservation strategies currently in use. Also, conservation education is still very insignificantly implemented to change community perceptions.

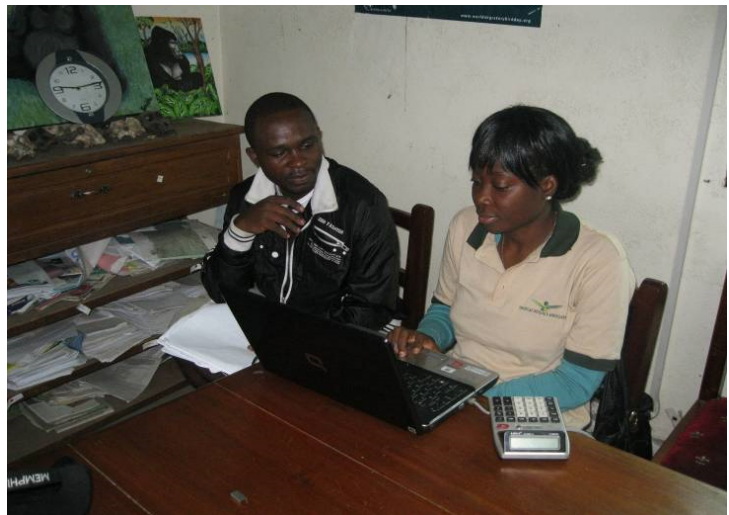
Little or no research has also been conducted in the area to inter-link variables that may affect the implementation and success of the project. Most of the project activities are not constantly monitored and evaluated adequately. This creates a big gap in accomplishing successful programme implementation. Presently, community members are demanding full alternative livelihood support if they have to keep on collaborating with the project implementation.

Beekeeping is currently being implemented in the study area as an alternative means of livelihood support. However, the impact is still very small due to the low scale of implementation and the inefficient follow-up with beneficiaries to ensure the support to attain complete success. Opportunities for beekeeping as a successful alternative livelihood support also have not been fully exploited in the area, as farmers who harvest the end product find it difficult to process and market successfully. Conservation promoters on their part are aware of some of these challenges but are faced with the major drawback of the right expertise and adequate finances to ensure a successful project implementation.

It is clear that, in as much as we need to conserve the environment for its value, we also need to make sure that we maintain a balance between conservation values and human livelihood needs. For conservation initiatives to succeed, the livelihood of the population dependent on the resources needs to be placed as one of the major priority objectives of the conservation strategy. Community perception remains a major issue to be handled in order to ensure sustainable conservation initiatives in the Bechati forest area. These perceptions need to be studied and their impact on conservation values assessed in order to correctly adapt them to meet conservation objectives. Furthermore, the strengthening of conservation education and socio-economic surveys and research in the Bechati area will significantly add value to the success of the Cross River gorilla conservation project. Socio-economic surveys and conservation education programs need to be oriented to address local communities' worries and fears.



Local baskets made from rattan



Interview with a conservation promoter

**UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS
OF INTEREST TO PRIMATOLOGISTS**

ORANGUTAN VETERINARY ADVISORY GROUP WORKSHOP

Dates: June 24, 2013 - June 28, 2013

Sponsor: Orangutan Conservancy

Location: Bogor, Indonesia

Web Site: <http://www.orangutan.com/the-orangutan-conservancy-announces-2013-ocovag-veterinary-workshop/>

II CONGRESSO LATINO AMERICANO DE PRIMATOLOGIA E XV CONGRESSO BRASILEIRO DE PRIMATOLOGIA (2ND LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF PRIMATOLOGY AND 15TH BRAZILIAN CONGRESS OF PRIMATOLOGY)

Dates: August 4, 2013 - August 9, 2013

Sponsor: Sociedade Brasileira de Primatologia

Location: Recife - Pernambuco - Brazil

Web Site: <http://www.cbprimatologia.com.br/>

5TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR PRIMATOLOGY

Dates: September 10, 2013 - September 13, 2013

Sponsor: University of Antwerp, in association with the Centre for Research and Conservation of the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp, the Primatology Research Lab of the University of Liège, the Free University of Brussels, and the Belgian Group for Prim

Location: Antwerp, Belgium

Web Site: <http://www.efp2013.org>

4TH IBERIAN PRIMATOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Dates: October 2, 2013 - October 5, 2013

Sponsor: Asociación Primatológica Española & Associação Portuguesa de Primatologia

Location: Girona, Spain

Web Site: <http://www.cip4girona.com>

3RD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION OF PRIMATES IN INDOCHINA

Dates: October 8, 2013 - October 12, 2013

Sponsor: Administration of Forestry of Vietnam, Leipzig Zoo and Frankfurt Zoological Society, Germany. Endangered Primate Rescue Center, Vietnam.

Location: Cuc Phuong National Park, Vietnam

7TH ANNUAL ORANGUTAN SSP HUSBANDRY WORKSHOP

Dates: October 14, 2013 - October 16, 2013

Sponsor: Orangutan SSP & the Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens

Location: Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens in Los Angeles, California Web Site: <http://www.lazoo.org/orangutanssp2013/>

26TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE FRENCH-SPEAKING SOCIETY OF PRIMATOLOGY

Dates: November 4, 2013 - November 11, 2013

Sponsor: Société Francophone de Primatologie & Université de Kinshasa

Location: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo Web Site: <http://www-sfdp.u-strasbg.fr/colloques/index.html>

2014 INTERNATIONAL GORILLA WORKSHOP

Dates: June 9, 2014 - June 13, 2014

Sponsor: Zoo Atlanta

Location: Atlanta, Georgia