T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE FROM IPPL

You can help IPPL and the primates by giving your friends IPPL T-shirts.

We have T-shirts of a silverback Mountain gorilla with his baby, a chimpanzee family, and a gibbon family. The IPPL T-shirts come in 4 sizes, Small, Medium, Large and Extra-Large. The small size also fits most children aged 8 to 14.

The shirts come in 4 colors, aqua, lavender, beige and silver. Please provide a second color choice when ordering.

In addition, we have new T-shirts with a Chinese Golden monkey design. These come in 4 sizes, Small, Medium, Large, and Extra-Large but are only available in tan.

IPPL also has Holiday cards. These cards feature a Japanese Snow Monkey and Baby, the design provided by the Nature Conservation Society of Japan.

All T-shirts cost $10.00 and the Greeting Cards cost $10 per package of 10 cards and envelopes. Overseas members should add US $5 for air mail postage.

Orders should be mailed to IPPL, PO Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484.
During the night of 21-22 September 1989, the powerful winds of Hurricane Hugo smashed into the South Carolina coast.

The storm had first struck Puerto Rico and the Virgin islands, causing severe damage. It then went off to sea again and gathered strength. By the time Hugo hit South Carolina, its winds had increased to 135 miles (215 kilometers) per hour with gusts up to 175 miles per hour (280 kilometers).

Summerville lies around 25 miles northwest of Charleston and around 30 miles north of several coastal barrier islands (among them, Yorges Island, James Island, and Johns Island).

For several days before Hugo’s arrival, everyone at IPPL was glued to the TV “Weather Channel.” At first, the forecasts indicated that the hurricane would make its landfall about 90 miles south of us, at Savannah, Georgia. However, hurricanes are notoriously unpredictable (they can even make 180 degree turns) and Hugo took a northerly turn. It became clear about 3 days before the storm that our area was in serious danger. We had to get ready. At-risk areas were evacuated, such as the coastal islands and low-lying areas of Summerville.

I was supposed to leave Summerville early on the 21st September for a speaking engagement at the Animal Protection Institute Conference in Dallas, Texas. This would have kept me safely out of Hugo’s clutches, but of course my place is with IPPL and the animals so I did not leave as planned.

The gibbon enclosures and indoor houses had all been built to be as strong as possible. The indoor gibbon houses are made of 8 inch thick concrete block and have wire tops about a foot below the roof, anchored into the concrete blocks. The roofs were constructed solidly. The outdoor corn-crib enclosures have their roofs welded into place.

Three strong and athletic young men from Summerville High School (Ed Singleton, Tony McCann, and Mike Weibacher) came to help prepare our property for the worst, working with John McGreal.

The three separate gibbon houses, a trailer where IPPL records are stored, and two storage sheds for tools and equipment, were reinforced with double “trailer tie-downs.” Trailer tie-downs are made of heavy galvanized steel bands attached to anchors screwed into the ground. The bands are tightened with a wrench, to prevent roofs flying away in strong winds. All the windows of the gibbon houses, the under-construction office/animal care building, and the McGreal residence were covered with plywood. Soon supplies of plywood in our area dwindled to nothing so we even had to use 2 sheets of higher grade plywood bought for the new building for our last 2 windows.

We also bought a supply of flashlights, gasoline, batteries, and human and animal food. The local supermarkets were soon rationing bread to two loaves per person.

The chances of our getting struck grew from 20% to 40% to 60% until getting hit seemed almost certain. Then we were told that Hugo was changing his course slightly to the north and might strike land at Georgetown about 50 miles north of Charleston. Somewhat selfishly, we breathed a sigh of relief! But Hugo changed his mind. The forecasters confirmed that the storm, which was growing in strength, would make landfall at around 2 a.m. somewhere in our area. This was a bad time because it would be at high tide and increase the chances of severe flooding.

When it became clear we would get hit, we had decisions to make about the animals. The three dogs (Harry, Jersey, and Annapurna St. Bernard) are terrified of storms so we knew they’d come indoors. Our 8 Asian short-clawed otters were netted and brought indoors because their pens in the woods could not be secured. We thought of having the gibbons tranquilized and bringing them indoors, but decided to leave them in their houses because the risks and stresses of tranquilizing gibbons are too high and, in addition, their concrete block houses were as likely to survive the storm as our brick-veneer house! So they stayed in their own environments.

In the late afternoon, the wind started to blow. Our power went out at around 8.30 p.m. so we had no more “Weather Channel.” One thing I’d not been able to get was a battery radio, so we were “on our own” as the wind strength increased. We later learned that all TV and radio stations were knocked out of action anyway!

The gibbons always get bananas around 8 p.m. so I went out in the wind and fed them their treats and wondered whether we’d all see each other the next morning. One really realizes what one’s animals mean to one when saying what might have been a last good-bye to them. Once the winds whip up, it is not safe to go outdoors because of the flying and falling objects.

Since power was gone, I would call my sister who lives in Canada periodically to get information about the hurricane’s path. Around midnight, the winds were howling steadily with periodic terrific gusts of wind. Objects were flying through the air. We had no idea what they were or where they came from. Then my sister called and told me that the eye of Hugo had just struck Charleston—and Summerville. The storm had sped up and arrived two hours earlier than predicted. For a while things slowed down as the eye passed over us. After that, the winds started to build up again and the phone lines went dead. We were totally incommunicado.
Around the edge of the eye of a hurricane, there are huge walls of winds. Besides the steady winds, there are the terrifying gusts and some tornadoes. These winds continued for several hours. We heard all kinds of crashing noises. I was afraid that at least one gibbon house roof might be gone.

Around 6:30 a.m., it was light and the winds had slowed down enough to make it safe to go outside. So I got the gibbons a pre-breakfast of romaine lettuce and went to check up on them. In the first house, I found Arun Rangsi, his mate Shanti, and their kids Ahimsa and Elsa, and Helen and Peppy, all in apparently good shape and anxious to get their lettuce. The indoor house appeared undamaged except for a missing gutter, but the sheet metal sun-roof of Peppy and Helen’s outdoor enclosure had been blown away.

In the second house, all the gibbons were fine (Elizabeth, Penny, Blackie, E.T., Baby, and Blythie). The indoor house was fine but there were lots of broken welds on the outdoor units which would require repair.

Finally, I went to Igor’s house. This was nearer the woods. Fortunately, no tree had fallen either on his unit or outdoor enclosure. One large tree had crashed on to the chain link privacy fence around his area, demolishing several yards of fence. Igor likes having his back scratched even more than eating, so I stayed with him a while and finally he ate his lettuce. He seemed calm. We had worried about him because of his past habit of self-mutilating under stress at the sight of other gibbons, but the storm had not upset his equilibrium, fortunately.

In fact, none of the animals appeared highly stressed by these events.

While checking up on the gibbons, I’d barely noticed anything else. The main thing was to find out if they were safe.

However, a walk round the property showed the devastation wrought by Hugo. Around 112 trees had fallen and many more were standing at dangerous angles to the ground. Hugo had uprooted enormous ancient trees. Debris was all over the place. A live oak adjoining my house had lost half its crown.

It could well have smashed up the entire roof of the house but the winds had been coming from the north (because of the circular movement of hurricanes) and the branches had fallen towards the south. Many of the trees had fallen against the 6 foot high perimeter fence of the property, smashing it up in many places.

We have a 200-foot driveway leading from the road to our property. This, and the 300-foot driveway from the road to the under-construction IPPL Headquarters, were totally blocked by falling trees, at least a dozen on each driveway, some very large, some on top of each other. If you hadn’t known there was a driveway there, you’d have thought it was part of the woods. There was no vehicular exit from the property. I clambered over the trees to the road and found that it was also entirely blocked. But everywhere I heard the buzz of chain saws. This was a sound we would all get used to in the next weeks.

We were stuck, with no electricity, no phone, no refrigeration, and no running water.

We also did not own a generator. These are very expensive to purchase, and, by the time Hugo’s arrival was a certainty, none were available in our area.

No staff members arrived, of course (both animal care assistants suffered heavy losses), so we fed all the gibbons and then started to try to move the trees from the driveway using a hand-saw. It would have taken days. However, around midday, to our amazement, a red van arrived. It was our friend Robin Pringle, who runs the Outer Conservation Center in Ellabell, Georgia (a town near Savannah on Hugo’s original course). He had tried to phone us without success and decided to come and see what had happened. He brought along several containers of drinking water, a saw, a machete, several rolls of fencing, and all kinds of much-needed items. It was such a nice surprise to see Robin. What a wonderful friend!

Robin told me that all the power lines were down from Summerville to Walterboro,
over 40 miles away. He had heard stories on his car radio about the immense damage wrought by Hugo. We decided that we really needed a chain saw and Robin also needed some gasoline. So we drove 6 miles into Summerville. The avenue leading to the town had already been cleared of trees. In Summerville, there was not a store open and the service stations were all closed. National guardsmen were stationed by stores with shattered windows to prevent looting. Those stores that had taped their windows rather than boarding them up had paid for their poor judgment.

On the way back, we found a man from Atlanta peddling chain saws and generators at extortionate prices, one of the first of many predators who swarmed to South Carolina to prey on our state’s misery. Fortunately, most of those who came were here to help, including power linemen and phone repairmen from all over the country. How we appreciated these men and women working long, long days, trying to get power back to us!

After giving up on finding a chain saw or gasoline, we returned to Headquarters. Everywhere we saw houses without roofs, churches without steeples, and fallen live oaks and pines. The magnolias seemed to fare somewhat better as did the low shrubs. We lost lots of huge trees but, to our surprise, our rose bushes and blueberry patch were intact.

Once back at the property, Robin, who formerly lived in Africa, got out his machete and started hacking up the giant trees with a superhuman (it seemed to us) energy. We dragged away the pieces with a small tractor. Within a few hours, the driveway was usable.

Meanwhile, the otters kept up a continual wail of protest at being kept in the house. The house was starting to smell of otters! You really have to be an “otter junkie” to be able to put up with the smell of 8 otters!

However, it was a good thing we had brought them in, as all the otter pens had sustained heavy damage from falling trees.

Of course, all schools were closed which meant that our Summerville High School students were free to help us clean up the property. Also, Mike Trouche of Channel 5 TV came to film the gibbons as part of his report on the fate of animals in the community.

The morning after Mike’s visit, an Air Force man called Terry Staley appeared out of the blue with a chain saw and, for 3 solid days, he helped remove the trees that had fallen on the fences and otter pens. Terry had seen the TV report and set off to find us. We were all immensely grateful. The Summerville SPCA, which also suffered extensive property damage, was similarly surprised when a team of around 20 Navy men arrived with chain saws and cleaned up the worst of the mess in just one day! Outside organizations also flew in representatives to assess damage and deliver dog and cat food donated by pet food companies.

IPPL member Beverly Caligiuri drove up with her son from Gainesville with lots of much-needed produce for the gibbons. Jan Howell of Spartanburg also arranged for the delivery of gibbon food, fencing and lots of useful items. She also sent assistance to “Help,” the seriously damaged private dog and cat shelter run by Wes and Mary Collins about a mile from IPPL Headquarters. Their “no-kill” shelter was badly damaged.

It had been obvious that no generators would be available at a reasonable price in our area since the stores were all without power and closed. So, after the driveway was opened on the Friday afternoon, I decided to try to get to Dallas since I had a non-refundable ticket and felt that things here were under control.

I also urgently needed access to a phone to tell friends and relatives that I was alive, and the animals too. I was especially anxious to get hold of Bob and Gertrude Lafiere, whose gibbons Baby and Blythie live at our sanctuary, to let them know that both animals were alive and well.

Charleston Airport was closed down. However, Columbia Airport, 100 miles away, was open. So I re-routed my ticket and drove to Columbia. The storm had caused far more inland damage than most hurricanes and my friend Carol in Columbia told me that she was taking care of lots of orphaned baby squirrels. I flew from Columbia to Atlanta and on to Dallas, arriving in the middle of the night.

The API conference went off well and I told attendees about the extent of the problems and the plight of the animals and the groups working to help them. None of the shelters had allowed people to bring their pets along so many people had taken their pets inland to motels. Others had left their pets in their homes, planning to return and get them the next day. But many of the homes were destroyed and the severely battered Sullivans Island and Isle of Palms were placed off limits even to residents. The fate of the dogs and cats left on these and other islands is still not clear.

Sullivans Island also has a population of feral cats (domestic cats gone wild) and it is estimated that 75% of these animals lost their lives. The extent of the damage to the area’s wildlife is still unknown but is presumed staggering. The Francis Marion National Forest reportedly lost three-quarters of its trees. The only good thing is that the fall deer hunt was cancelled! However, it may be reinstated, to give the area’s hunters their “kill-thrills” and allegedly “save the deer from starvation.”

While in Dallas, I was lucky to be able to locate a Honda 6.5 kilowatt generator (we needed a powerful machine to start our deep well) sold at normal prices, and arranged for it to be shipped to Columbia as soon as possible. There was a lot of cargo at Dallas Airport awaiting shipment to our area and Charleston Airport was still closed. I arrived in Columbia on the Monday night and, while waiting for the generator, stayed with Carol Cassetti and...
met the adorable orphaned baby squirrels she was raising, as well as an delightful baby quail.

The generator reached Columbia on the Tuesday morning, and I hurried back to Summerville with my “treasure.”

We hurriedly connected the generator and hosed all the gibbon houses. It was really important to get a generator so that the gibbon enclosures could be kept clean: any build-up of excrement or left-over food cause a serious disease outbreak. Soon all the gibbon houses and outdoor enclosures were usable and clean. We also got our refrigerators working again.

In spite of the efforts of the beleaguered utility companies and their out-of-state crews, power was slow in returning to the area. We had no power for 3 weeks and many people in remote rural areas still lack power six weeks after the storm. It took a week to get our phone line back, but incoming calls were almost impossible to place for several weeks. A very few persistent callers did eventually get through, after trying about 20 times. We really thank our members who called or wrote for their concern and interest. It was very reassuring as we felt really “cut-off” without the things we take for granted.

In order to get in touch with our members, we did a special mailing. Of course, our computers were “down” since the power from a generator is not reliable enough to run a computer. So John McGrael went to Carol Cassetti’s house with IPPL’s computer and boxes of labels and printed out labels for all our US members, which is how you heard from us so soon after the hurricane. Our letter also had to be printed in Columbia, since no printing companies here were operating. Thanks to Carol for all her help! Especially since she was taking care of so many baby orphaned animals. And thanks to everyone who responded to our request for much-needed help.

Just a few nights after the hurricane, we had a real fright. The weather became quite strange and our county was placed under a “tornado watch” for 8 hours. Nearly 4 inches of rain fell during this period and strong winds blew. Lightning lit up the sky. But the tornado landed elsewhere. It was terrifying because we feared we might have survived the hurricane only to be destroyed by a tornado. Everyone in the area was, to a greater or lesser extent, already suffering from post-traumatic stress. We really felt sympathy for the people in San Francisco when the earthquake struck and hope that our members in that area and their

animal friends were not harmed.

Shortly after the storm, we had “plagues” of angry yellowjacket wasps all over the property, followed by swarms of hungry mosquitoes.

Then we had a strange weather phenomenon. The “shock” of the storm did strange things to some plants. Azaleas started to bloom. A friend with a fallen tree reported that a wisteria vine wrapped around the tree had survived and was in fragrant bloom. Pecans trees began to sprout leaves.

It will be an enormous task getting everything back in shape and it will take a long time, because all the people in the repair business are swamped with work! We are of course going to leave the tie-downs in place, just in case another hurricane visits us (we hope not). But, every weekend, we get extra help to keep up the clean-up. It will take hundreds of man/woman-hours to get everything into good shape. We are hoping some tree removal people will be free before too long so that the hazardous leaning trees can be cut down (not a job for amateurs).

We’re also hoping to find some fence people available. They’re all busy now! Fencing repairs will be a major expense. We’re also somewhat behind in correspondence due to not being able to use our word-processor for some weeks and the sheer crush of essential repair and clean-up work. We plan to answer all letters before too long.

Immediately after the hurricane, we felt totally demoralized. Once we started to receive mail and phone-calls, we felt less isolated. We received calls from all over the United States and even from Japan, Thailand, and Qatar, asking about how IPPL and the gibbons had fared. We really appreciate all the interest and concern and the donations from individuals and other animal protection organizations which are helping us become fully operational again.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us out. Although it is hard to single anyone out, we thank the Ahimsa Foundation, the Summerlee Foundation, and all the other animal protection groups who sent gifts and made enquiries and everyone who volunteered manual labor. ■
HELP NEEDED!!

IPPL's Hurricane Recovery Fund has received donations from many members. It has helped us get the massive clean-up and fix-up under way. But we still have lots to do!

If you have donated to this fund, you have our deepest appreciation. If you have not already donated, please mail your gift to IPPL, P.O. Drawer 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA.

CHIMPANZEES IN DANGER

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) went into force in Austria on 27 April 1982. Just two days later, two wild-caught chimpanzees, travelling on Sabena air waybill number 082-3566-7122 dated 29 April 1982, arrived at Vienna Airport. They had been shipped by a Belgian animal dealer in a crate 45 x 65 x 45 cm., according to the waybill. The total weight of the animals plus crate was 23 kilograms, which means that the chimpanzees must have been very young.

The chimpanzees were consigned to the pharmaceutical company Immuno A.G. They were confiscated by Austrian authorities because they allegedly lacked the full CITES documentation. Chimpanzees are listed on Appendix I of the Treaty. For a shipment to be legal, a valid export permit from the African country of origin, plus a valid re-export permit from Belgium, (not at that time a CITES member and still actively traffick-ing CITES -protected species), plus an Austrian import permit would be needed. The animal dealer involved obtained his chimpanzees from Zaire which was somewhat odd since CITES bans commercial trade in Appendix I species and Zaire had been a member of CITES since 18 October 1976.

The confiscated chimpanzees were handed over to the Vienna Animal Protection Society, which has sheltered them for 7 years now.

Two years later, an Administrative Court overturned the confiscation. Immuno was determined to acquire the two chimpanzees, even after it had successfully obtained 20 wild-caught chimpanzees from the Austrian animal dealer Sitter in 1986. Sitter has operated his chimpanzee-trafficking business for decades from his base in Sierra Leone.

The people at the Vienna Animal Protection Society naturally do not want to turn the two chimpanzees, "Rosi" and "Hiasl" over for lives in a research facility. They have invested considerable funds and effort in taking care of them, and are very attached to the two animals.

The current situation is that the Vienna Animal Protection Society has been ordered by the Austrian Government to turn the unfortunate animals over to Immuno.

Please send a letter to the Chancellor of Austria requesting him to find a better solution for the chimpanzees than life in a laboratory.

"Rosi" and "Hiasl" in Happier Days

Address: Bundeskanzler Dr. Franz Vranitsky
Bundeskanzleramt
Balkhausplatz 2
A-1010, Vienna
Austria

It is very important that you write immediately as time is running out for "Rosi" and "Hiasl."

IPPL

December, 1989
MADRID WAY-STATION FOR CHIMPANZEE SHIPMENT

The International Primate Protection League has obtained a copy of a facsimile message sent from an American resident of Madrid to Iberia Airlines requesting facilitation of a shipment of chimpanzees from Equatorial Guinea to Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, (UAE).

UAE is a notorious center of wildlife trafficking and left the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in January 1987. Around the same time as it left CITES, the UAE became a major center for trafficking in smuggled ivory from poached elephants, allowing ivory-carving factories run by the Hong Kong ivory syndicates to be established. “Worked ivory” is exempt from CITES restrictions so the semi-carved poached ivory could enter the world market as “legal” ivory. The tusks of tens of thousands of dead elephants were shipped by plane and dhow across the ocean to the UAE.

The fax was on the letterhead of Jack Kelly, who describes himself as the “The Honorable Jack Kelly, Special Delegate of the Presidency of Equatorial Guinea.” A Madrid street address is on the stationery, as well as two telephone numbers, a telex number, and a fax number.

Kelly’s fax dated 13 December 1988 was sent to the attention of Mr. Manolo Serrano of Iberia Airlines. It requested “a booking for African Animal Export S/A, Bata, Equatorial Guinea” for a shipment “as listed below.”

The shipment consisted of “2 wooden boxes 50 x 50 x 50 cm.” (about 20 x 20 x 20 inches) “containing each 2 chimpanzees: weight 25 kilos each box,” (55 pounds). Clearly, if the weight of 2 chimpanzees plus crate was 55 pounds, the chimpanzees would have to be extremely young and small. Nonetheless, they were to be subjected to an extremely long journey of around 30 hours. The itinerary requested by Kelly was:

Malabo-Madrid: Iberia 858, departure 17 December 1988
Madrid-Istanbul: Iberia 742, departure 18 December 1988, 9 a.m.
Istanbul-Dubai: Turkish Airlines 818, 18 December, 7.30 p.m.

The animals were to be consigned to “Dr. Ghassan Amin, Director, Al-Ain Zoo.” No zoo of this name is listed in “International Zoo Yearbooks” available to IPPL. A letter sent by IPPL to the Director of the “Dubai Municipality Zoo” listed in the “Yearbook” is unanswered. It is therefore not clear whether the animals were actually shipped.

“African Animal Export” is the company responsible for the exportation of 3 baby gorillas from the Cameroun to Taiwan in 1987. Two of these gorillas died on the way. The firm is also responsible for the exportation of 2 young gorillas from Equatorial Guinea to the Guadalajara Zoo in Mexico City in June 1989.

“African Animal Export” is run by the West German animal trafficker Walter Sensen, who is based in Hohenstadt, West Germany. Sensen’s son Emanuel lived in the Cameroun until details of the exportation of the 3 baby gorillas became public, at which point he left the country, possibly to escape prosecution by Camerounian authorities. He took up residence in Equatorial Guinea. So blatant were Sensen’s smuggling activities that, on 5 September 1988, the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species called on the treaty’s member nations not to accept any wildlife shipments from Equatorial Guinea.

Sensen’s property in Equatorial Guinea consists of a large building in the town of Bata on the African mainland (the capital, Malabo, and the airport are on an offshore island). The openness of Sensen’s operation appears to confirm that he has indeed an arrangement with Equatorial Guinea authorities to export endangered wildlife species. Sensen has claimed to have a 5-year contract with the country’s government. The fact that Jack Kelly, a “Special Delegate of the Presidency of Equatorial Guinea” is arranging Sensen transshipments indicates that Sensen operates with high-level government protection.

Spanish authorities have not seized any of Sensen’s transshipments. There are several possible reasons:

1) CITES is lax in regard to checking of animals in transit. However, a resolution passed by CITES member nations at the 1989 Lausanne conference urged firmer action in regard to transshipped animals.

2) There is a possibility that the animals could be shipped as “diplomatic baggage” if any parties with diplomatic passports were involved. (The Indonesian Embassy in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, used to serve as a center for exportation of illegally obtained ivory to the United Arab Emirates - finally, Tanzania seized a shipment being exported by the Ambassador himself!) Traditionally, diplomatic baggage is not inspected, a nightmarish situation for agencies charged with controlling wildlife and narcotics smuggling.

3) Spanish authorities may be colluding with the wildlife traffickers, as well as Iberia Airlines.

Using Post Office box numbers in Boxdorff and Hersbruck, West Germany, Sensen still issues his now-famous lists of available animals. The most recent list was circulated to the world’s zoos in September 1989, and, among the dozens of animal species offered for sale were gorillas, chimpanzees, and mandrills from Equatorial Guinea. Sensen also offered a wide variety of other species from Equatorial Guinea (including potos and angwantibos) and Tanzania, (including two species of colobus monkeys, green monkeys, baboons and bush babies). Animals are said to be shipped with “export documents of the Washington Convention,” this being another name by which CITES is known.

Since Equatorial Guinea is not a member of CITES, and has in fact been denounced by CITES, it is not clear how “CITES export documents” could be obtained. Especially since gorillas and chimpanzees are listed on Appendix I of CITES which entirely bans commercial trade in such species.

Fighting Sensen’s dirty dealings is an uphill battle. We are fighting against weak laws, weak penalties, the apathy or corruption of governments, animal dealers wanting to make money off animals regardless of how the animals are caught or of the effect on their species, and animal exploiters wanting animals for exhibition, experimentation, or as high status pets.

Because the Holiday Season is approaching, we would like to suggest that members send a Holiday Greeting card with an animal theme to the President of Equatorial Guinea protesting the country’s continued trafficking in endangered species and expressing the hope that 1990 will be the year that sees Walter Sensen expelled from the country and a policy of protection for all wildlife enacted and enforced.

General Obiang Ngouema Mbasogo, President
Malabo, Bioko Norte
Equatorial Guinea, Africa
UPDATE ON MEXICAN GORILLAS

The August 1989 issue of the IPPL Newsletter told about the acquisition in June 1989 of 2 wild-caught gorillas by the Guadalajara Zoo, Mexico. The animals had been exported from Equatorial Guinea by Walter Senken’s firm African Animal Exports. The Government of Mexico had issued an import permit for the animals.

IPPL has since learned that the check for $100,000 (part of the $30,000 payment for the animals, $30,000 was paid in US dollars cash) was deposited in Account No. 03157-95623 at the Bank of America, Concord, California, USA. It appears strange to IPPL that a West German firm would place the proceeds of its gorilla deal in a bank outside West Germany.

The acquisition of the gorillas led to a world-wide protest against the Government of Mexico’s tolerance of trafficking in endangered species. Among those protesting was Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan of the Bellerive Foundation, who wrote a letter dated 30 August 1989 to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to express his concern. The Prince stated:

Although Mexico is not yet a member of CITES [the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species], this fact should not be used to justify Mexican participation in activities severely detrimental to the survival of the gorilla, a highly endangered species, or any species of wildlife threatened with extinction. The gorilla is a large and elusive species and capture is always effected by the killing of mother gorillas so that their babies can be obtained. A facility in the Congo had over 90% mortality among incoming gorillas. Until and unless the nations of the world unite together to protect gorillas and other endangered wildlife, we may see many such species become extinct by the beginning of the 21st century.

The Prince strongly urged Mexico to join CITES.

In the August 1989 Newsletter, IPPL asked members to write letters to West German wildlife authorities demanding that Walter Senken be jailed for his sordid gorilla dealings. So many members wrote letters that Dr. Drexielius, President of the West German Wildlife Department, wrote asking IPPL to convey his response to our members:

Following your appeal I have received numerous letters rebuking the Federal Republic of Germany for not pursuing the matter with sufficient vigor. I assure you on behalf of my office everything has been done in order to prosecute Mr. Senken and put an end to his practices. Above all, I have immediately informed the prosecuting authority of the case of illegal trade with Mexico mentioned in the aforesaid article, so that penal measures can be taken: regarding another case, an indictment has already been brought in against Mr. Senken. Furthermore, due to several contraventions, a prohibition on trading in animals has been imposed on Mr. Senken in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr. Drexielius added that prosecution for offenses committed outside West Germany would only be possible if laws of the countries participating in the trade were violated. The problem, of course, is that Senken operates from a base where he appears to make the law or at least be above it, and sends animals to countries which flout international law such as Mexico, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Drexielius went on to request that IPPL inform its members that West Germany had done “everything possible” to prosecute the illegal trade in wildlife. IPPL is not satisfied. The Senken exportation of 3 baby gorillas from the Cameroun to Taiwan in January 1987 has not been the subject of a prosecution even though the shipment was denounced as illegal by Camerounian authorities.

Sencken’s September-October list of animals for sale includes gorillas and chimpanzees and shows clearly that Senken has no fear of West German wildlife authorities. The West German delegation to the October 1989 CITES meeting in Lausanne was embarrassed on being presented with a copy of this price list by the IPPL delegation.

The embargo placed on all the animals at the Guadalajara Zoo by the Mexican Government on 21 July 1989, pending an investigation of the origin of the zoo’s 800 animals, was lifted after just two weeks. This was not surprising since the Mexican Government had issued import permits for the gorillas! Unfortunately the young gorillas at the Guadalajara Zoo have become a great hit with the public as a result of the controversy over their origin. As long as the public is fascinated with these wonderful animals, unethical zoos will try to acquire them.

One US zoo director, Claudia Collier of the Santa Ana Zoo, California, was so outraged by the Guadalajara Zoo gorilla acquisition that she cancelled her zoo’s plans to send 3 ring-tail lemurs to Guadalajara Zoo. It’s nice to know that at least one zoo director acts on her principles!
CHILDREN'S BOOK AVAILABLE THROUGH IPPL

BABOON ORPHAN
by Diana Harding and Deborah Manzolillo
illustrated by Nina Bohlen

If you have a child between the ages of 8-11 years in your life, IPPL has a book for sale that will certainly arouse his/her interest in and sympathy for primates.

The book entitled “Baboon Orphan” is written by Diana Harding and Deborah Manzolillo, with illustrations by Nina Bohlen. It is based on the authors’ experiences observing baboons in Kenya and tells the true story of how an orphaned baby baboon was “adopted” and raised by an older male.

The story is very readable, while informing children about the behavior, diet, and activities of the baboon characters.

“Baboon Orphan” was published by Dutton (New York), a leading publisher of children’s books.

Although the original cost was $10.25, IPPL is able to offer you this well-produced hardcover book for just $5, plus $1 per copy for postage and packing.

BANGKOK GOVERNOR COMMENTS ON WEEKEND MARKET

The Bangkok Weekend Market has, for decades, been a center for the sale of Thailand’s protected wildlife. Any species can be obtained by anyone with money in his/her pocket as was demonstrated recently by a reporter for the British newspaper “The Mail on Saturday,” who was offered a baby gibbon and a tiger-skin.

On 21 July 1989, Shirley McEreal, Chairwoman of IPPL, sent a protest to Major General Chamlon Srimuang, Governor of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration about the continued sale of baby gibbons, monkeys, and lorises on Thailand’s markets.

In his reply dated 29 August 1989, the Governor made the following points:

1) since its opening in 1982 (to replace the old Sunday Market at Samut Luang), the Chatuchak Market had been operated in a “tough” way.

2) The Wildlife Conservation Division has had 3 inspectors assigned to the market, in charge of “suppression.”

3) Since 1 January 1989, the number of inspectors has been increased to 5.

4) Brochures have been given to the public to warn them about the problem of wildlife sales.

5) Signs have been erected telling people not to buy protected animals (including gibbons, langurs, macaques and lorises) and warning them of penalties for violations.

6) Some contracts have been withdrawn from stall owners involved in illegal wildlife sales.

7) A conservation exhibition has been held at the market.

The Governor admitted that there were “several obstacles” to this campaign, especially a loophole in the law that allows individuals to hold not more than 2 wild animals of any protected species. He stated that efforts were under way to have both Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and Forestry Department officers patrol the market and to get the relevant laws strengthened. The Governor also stated that patrols were carried out on Patpong Road.

This all sounds fine, but every weekend, hundreds of endangered animals are still up for sale, in horrible conditions, on Chatuchak Market and Patpong Road and the animal vendors laugh at the law. The “Mail on Saturday” article was written after the Governor’s letter.

In fact, the Weekend Market animal dealers are always one step ahead of the law, perhaps because some allies in the wildlife department tip them off about impending inspections or some inspectors look the other way. This problem has persisted for decades. Because Bangkok is such a hot and humid city, no animal, wild or domestic, should be sold at open-air city markets. A simple ordinance banning sales of all live animals at Chatuchak Park would solve the problem.

Please send a letter expressing your disappointment at the continuing sale of live animals at Chatuchak Park and on Patpong Road to: Major General Chamlon Srimuang Governor, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration Din So Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

The cost of overseas air mail is 45 cents per half-ounce, 90 cents per ounce.
MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING GIBBONS

An American resident of Bangkok, Thailand, concerned at the plight of older unwanted pet gibbons, and willing to offer a home to some of these unfortunate animals, had a bizarre experience with the Dusit Zoo, Bangkok, Thailand.

The American learned that many people were handing unwanted gibbons to Bangkok Zoo, which did not have space for them, and phoned Dr. Alongkorn, the zoo’s veterinarian, who suggested he come to the zoo to look at the surplus gibbons. He went to the zoo and found about 30 gibbons in the zoo hospital area.

Various non-employees were hanging around the hospital and the American feared that they might be animal dealers from the conversation he overheard. One of these men saw a rare Pileated gibbon and handed the vet’s assistant his visiting card, as if he were “reserving” the animal.

While the American was visiting the zoo, he met a Thai woman who was visiting a gibbon she was boarding at the zoo because her neighbors had attempted to kill the animal by placing a razor blade in her cage. Both the Thai woman and her young daughter adored the gibbon and were delighted when the American offered to give her a good home and allow them to visit her at any time.

Dr. Alongkorn agreed that the American could adopt this animal and two others and suggested he return ten days later with carrying cages for the animals. The American returned to visit the gibbons several times in the meantime.

However, the day before he was to pick up the three gibbons, he phoned Dr. Alongkorn, and was told that the gibbons had been sent up country.

The next day, the American and some associates went to speak with Dr. Alongkorn. They were told that all the gibbons had been shipped to a wat (Buddhist temple) near Saraburi. A check with the Buddhist Registry of Temples showed that no such temple existed. However, follow-up enquiries have not shown where the gibbons went. About 30 of them had been seen earlier and all had vanished. An IPPLE letter dated 9 September 1989 to Mr. Chira Meekvichai, Director of the Dusit Zoo, remains unanswered.

It is possible that an animal dealer had managed to get hold of the animals and that they had been sent on their way to Eastern Europe via Laos or Cambodia. Another, even more gruesome possibility, is presented in the following article.

The problem of what to do with surplus pet gibbons in Thailand is tragic. The only way to solve the problem is to stop it at its source, by banning all sale of gibbons and other wild animals and by strictly enforcing the existing laws under which they are, on paper, “protected animals.”

GIBBON HEADS ON SALE AT BANGKOK MARKET

The 6 October 1989 issue of the “Nation,” a Bangkok newspaper, carried a gruesome headline “Gibbon Heads Attract Buyers.” According to the article:

“Gibbons are being openly sold at Chatujak weekend market and a market in Latphrao along with those of other protected wild animals.”

Ititpol Pakduangchan, a market vendor, explained that the gibbon heads were supplied to him by hunters in Tak, a province in northern Thailand.

According to the article:

“Gibbon heads attract a lot of attention probably because of the expression on their face – wide-open mouth and eyes showing the pain, he [the vendor] said. He said the hunters injected an embalming fluid into the head of the live gibbon they had captured and cut off its head while it was still alive “so that the head will have a grimacing effect.”

MEET IPPLE’S TEAM AT CITES

IPPL had a four-person delegation present at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The team was led by our Chairwoman, Shirley McGreal. Also attending CITES (1989) were Dr. Ardith Eudey, former Chairwoman of IPPL, Mr. Peter Van der Bunt and Mr. Gunther Peter of IPPL (West Germany), and Dr. Ellen Wisse, President of IPPL (Netherlands).

IPPL Field Representative for Austria Josef Schmuck attended, as did our Argentinean Representative Martha Gutierrez and our new Bolivian Representative Andrzej Szwarzak.

We had several meetings to discuss IPPL affairs and were able to contact most delegations because of the linguistic skills of our officers.

The next CITES Conference will be held in Japan in Spring 1992.

IPPL Team at CITES
Clockwise from top left: Ellen Wisse, Peter Van der Bunt, Ardith Eudey, Shirley McGreal

December, 1989
ELEPHANT ISSUE DOMINATES CITES CONFERENCE

The elephant crisis was the issue dominating sessions of the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), held in Lausanne, Switzerland, from 9-20 October 1989.

The elephant crisis is a double crisis: it is a crisis for the magnificent elephants facing extinction in the face of well-armed poaching gangs sponsoring by the ivory syndicates of Hong Kong and Singapore assisted by some corrupt African politicians in league with them; it is also a crisis for the pocketbooks of those disgusting members of the human race who traffic in elephant ivory, which, although beautiful, is a totally unnecessary product.

The conference was attended by many non-governmental organizations concerned with the survival of elephants and also by lobbyists for the ivory trade and even some known ivory traffickers. Several non-governmental organizations showed videotapes of the elephant slaughter and the ivory traffic in the conference hall lobby.

There were also two inspiring pro-elephant demonstrations by children from the Lausanne area. The children chanted “Ne tuez pas les elephants,” (“don’t kill the elephants”). They were applauded by many pro-elephant delegates but of course not by those representing countries wanting to continue ivory trafficking.

The opposition to the ivory trade was led by the delegations of Tanzania and Kenya, both hard-hit by poachers, assisted by Somalia and many French-speaking African nations. Leading the desperate struggle to keep the elephants dying and the profits living was Zimbabwe, whose delegation was led by Mr. Rowan Martin. Mr. Martin didn’t have much to say about how poachers are decimating the rhinos and elephants of his own country, nor about the regular “culls” (“kills” would be a more appropriate spelling) of elephants in Zimbabwe to provide tusks for sale at auction. Martin talked of forming an “ivory cartel” to control ivory supplies and thus raise the price, which is a sure remedy to increase demand.

Other African countries supporting elephant trafficking were South Africa, (not usually a “bedfellow” of Zimbabwe), Botswana, Mozambique, the Congo Republic, and Burundi, which has no elephants of its own but traffics heavily in ivory poached in neighbor countries.

Also opposing an end to ivory trafficking was the Treaty Secretariat led by French-Canadian Eugene Lapointe, who has admitted to the press that he skipped school until he was 12 in order to go hunting moose and other wildlife with his father. The Secretariat came under heavy criticism from the many of the conservation organizations attending the conference, some of whom signed a letter calling for Lapointe’s dismissal.

In the end, a compromise was adopted: elephants would all be listed on Appendix I (no commercial trade allowed) for the present, but any country presenting sufficient evidence that it was “managing” its elephant population skillfully could apply to have its population returned to Appendix II. This was not enough to satisfy Zimbabwe and its cronies; several nations announced that they would refuse to abide by the Appendix I listing at all.

The United States proposed quotas for numbers of elephant trophies to be exported from Africa by big game hunters. No quotas were adopted, but there is no doubt that elephant hunting will continue since it is very profitable. Some mentally sick individuals will pay African wildlife departments a fortune for the “thrill” of killing an elephant. Of course, they want the large “tuskers,” which are just what the ivory poachers want. The result is an unbalanced African elephant population low on mature adult males.

In the end, it will be a reduction in demand that kills the ivory trade and saves the elephants. Elephants disperse seeds and make waterholes, this helping all species, including the primates of Africa. Please do not buy ivory. If you travel in Hong Kong and Singapore, do go into the ivory shops and tell store employees and potential customers where ivory looks best: on living elephants.

The pro-trade non-governmental organizations attending CITES were furious at the outcome of the elephant deliberations and sent an open letter to the nations attending the conference. They demanded a change in the rules of procedure to ban showing of videotapes, posters and other audiovisual displays, and for a ban on “public demonstrations... either at the site of the meeting or in the immediate vicinity.” They also demanded that any non-governmental organization not complying with their demands be expelled from CITES meetings! In another document, the pro-trade groups suggested a registration fee of US $350 for observers, which would prevent most Third World conservation groups and many small Western groups from attending but which would allow the dealers in live animals and animal products and the wealthy hunters and their cronies to attend.

It is understandable that the pro-trade groups would want to ban demonstrations: after all, who would demonstrate in favor of the despicable animal trade and traders?

Among groups signing the “open letter” were the American Fur Industry, the Committee for the Conservation of Chimpanzees (a group formed by lawyers for the Austrian drug company Immuno not to be confused with Jane Goodall’s Committee for the Conservation and Care of Chimpanzees), the International Association for Falconry, the International Exotic Leather Council, the International Shooting and Hunting Alliance, the National Rifle Association, the National Trapper’s Association, and, last but not least, the Safari Club International (the US group that had the gall to apply to import gorilla and orangutan trophies to the United States in 1978).
THE CITES INFRACTIONS REPORT

In the course of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in October 1989, the Treaty Secretariat presented a report on Infractions occurring from May 1987 to the present. Thus the “Polish Connection” shipments of 1986 were omitted because they occurred prior to May 1987, although they were only uncovered later. A selection chosen from among over 400 reported violations was included in this report. It shows an alarming pattern of illegal trading.

Unfortunately, the Infractions Report, which should have been a prominent agenda item, was scheduled for presentation at an evening session which very few delegates attended. The session was chaired by Mr. Veit Koester of Denmark, who tried to minimize participation in order to rush the session along.

Besides the official Infractions Reports, the International Primate Protection League circulated to governmental delegations, observers, and the media its own specially prepared, hard-hitting “Infractions Report” on infractions relating to primates. Shirley McGreal was interviewed by several TV stations about primate smuggling. It is a good thing that IPPL prepared its own report as most of the Infractions studied by IPPL were not even mentioned in the CITES Secretariat Report, probably because of the volume of infractions being studied.

The Secretariat noted that it was commenting only on cases in which the Secretariat had been directly involved. Thus it is clear that, since most violations never come to the Secretariat’s attention, the reported infractions are just the tip of the iceberg of the illegal international wildlife trade.

The Infractions Report noted that, “for some of the Parties [to the Treaty] the frequency of the alleged infractions has reached alarming proportions.” It noted with regret that, while some infractions resulted from human error, “there are still cases where an infraction is deliberate and is due to domestic policy, economic reasons, or even corruption.”

The Secretariat lamented that many countries seldom or never respond to its requests for information on illegal shipments (including Thailand and Spain, major treaty violators) and that the use of forged documents is on the increase. Although this is preventable by the use of special security stamps, not all countries use them or check them.

The Infractions Report also noted the large number of irregularities found in transit shipments. Although CITES does not apply to transit shipments, a Resolution of the Parties recommended careful scrutiny of such shipments and confiscation if possible according to local law.

The Convention requires that member nations set up internal legal measures to enforce the treaty, submit Annual Reports to the Secretariat, and establish Scientific Authorities to advise on the scientific aspects of imports and exports. The Infractions Report notes that many countries are still not living up to these obligations.

Among ways in which CITES is violated are:

1) improper issuance of “pre-Convention” permits for live animals or parts, (pre-Convention specimens of wildlife and wildlife products are exempt from the Treaty, a horrendous loophole),

2) improper issuance of “captive-bred” certification for wild-caught animals (an example cited was that of two gorillas exported to Japan from Spain with a fraudulent document indicating that they were “captive-bred” at a Spanish circus).

3) exporters using fraudulent names so that they cannot be traced,

4) some countries allow commercial exportation/importation of Appendix I species, which is not allowed under the Treaty,

5) at least a dozen chimpanzees were exported from Uganda (a non-member of CITES) to the United Arab Emirates. They were said to come from Zaire, but were accompanied by no CITES export documents from Zaire,

6) use of the “personal effects” exemption for commercial shipments, (even gorillas have been shipped as “personal effects),

7) violation of the Convention’s requirement that “any living specimen will be so prepared as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health, or cruel treatment.” Many shipments sustain high mortality,

8) some countries take “reservations” on certain species, which mean that they will not adhere to CITES as far as that species is concerned. Japan has taken many reservations.

9) Thailand allows importation of smuggled South American crocodile skins and issues re-export permits under which the skins are sent to Singapore and Hong Kong,

10) use of false telexes confirming validity of dubious export permits; CITES Secretariat and Party Suite enquiries sometimes appear to fall into traffickers’ hands. The cited example was a fraudulent confirmation of the legality of a caiman skin shipment provided by a dealer with access to Thai government telexes,

11) use of false export documents,

12) retroactive issuance of import permits for Appendix I shipments presented without the required import document,

13) exportation of protected wildlife under diplomatic cover.

Concerned at the use of fraudulent “captive-born” documents for live animals belonging to Appendix I species (which include such primates as gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, gibbons, and many monkey and prosimian species), the CITES Secretariat proposed as part of a draft resolution presented to the parties that export permits identify the owners of the parent animals, the identify of the parents, and whether “biological finger-printing” had been carried out to confirm captive birth.

When this part of the resolution was under discussion by a screening committee, Belgium immediately demanded that it be withdrawn. Belgium was, for an unclear reason, supported by the United States. The session was so rushed that this important protection for animals was dropped at the committee level. Since captive-born specimens of Appendix I species are treated as if they are on Appendix II (only export permit required), a trade door open for animals falsely declared to be captive-born was deliberately left open. We are likely to see continued trade in gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, gibbons and other primate species fraudulently claimed to have been “born in captivity” in non-existent zoos like the Koh Khong Provincial Park in Cambodia or Polish zoos.

IPPL

December, 1989
Mr. Chambatu works with the chimpanzees at Sheila and Dave Siddle’s Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia

My name is Patrick Chambatu. I was born in 1960 in Zambezi District North Western Province. In 1983 I decided to go to Chingola to the place where my mum was. She was staying at Chimfunshi Ranch. I went there looking for a job.

One day I was sitting on a stool watching the Kafue River and a good view of a Chimfunshi dambo. White storks were following the cows, women were going to the river and, as it was morning, the sun was out and on its way climbing up Konkola Mountain.

From there I saw a car coming to the house where I was sitting. When it reached the house it parked under a Kotapela tree. In the car there was a white woman. I also saw a different face. I asked myself “Who is this one? Which animal is this that looks like a man?”

That was the first day since I was born to see a chimpanzee. He followed the woman out of the car. When he came near me he stood. He was just looking at me and I also was looking at him.

The things which we have they are having too. I saw ears, nails, fingers all similar to the human. And the way he was blinking his eyes it was just the same.

When I was looking at him I was thinking that maybe he will bite me. Without wasting time I said “Hello, boy.” I saw him turning his face and I said again “Hello boy, my friend.” He came straight to me and gave him my hand. He held my wrist and then sniffed his own hand and that was to know me.

When it was time to go the woman called him. His name was Pal. “Let’s go, Pal.” He followed her and jumped in the car. That was the day which I first started studying the chimpanzees.

When people heard the message that Chimfunshi is keeping chimpanzees as an orphanage place more chimpanzees came, mostly from Zaire. Some were confiscated by the game rangers and some were being kept as pets by people. They could not know the chimpanzees when they get bigger. They become too big to stay in the house and will be in trouble like opening cupboards looking for drinks or other foods. And they are very strong. You cannot stop them from something they are trying to do.

One day the madam wanted someone who could be taking the chimpanzees into the bush so that they would not have to be sitting in their cages all the time. I went to tell her that I would do the job. She said okay.

By that time the chimpanzees were four in number but the first time I only took out one. In the morning I went to find a chimpanzee named Charley sitting on the ground. I called to him and gave him my hand and he came to me. I lifted him up. The madam said “He has agreed with you so go with him into the bush.”

I took him some meters from the house. When we reached the bush we sat under a tree which was very thick. He was sitting on a log watching, his ears moving from side to side, his eyes looking in all directions. By that time I knew he was a little bit afraid because he could not know the bush. It was new to his mind.

The following week I took all four chimpanzees out. They were playing in the trees and building their nests. A big chimp can build a nest and a human can sleep in it for all night and not feel a thing. I was sitting on a log watching what was happening and the way they play. I was looking up through the trees when an insect entered my eye. There in the bush there was nobody to help me. I tried by all means but failed to take the insect from my eye.

I had no help and my eye was hurting and itching. My common sense came to tell me “Don’t be in trouble while you are with the friends.” I realized to call the chimpanzee named Spencer. When he came near I opened wide my eye. I heard him clapping his teeth. They do that when they are grooming or taking dirt off each other’s bodies. When he started doing that I knew he saw the insect. I suspected that he might scratch my eye. He pulled himself near me and brought his finger straight to my eye. He took the insect out very gently.

I will not forget about that. I was very happy that day. I said “I have never seen an animal do like this before.” From there on I trusted the chimpanzees.

Another time in the bush I was sitting under a tree. The chimpanzees were playing above me and they were shaking the branches. A snake was lying very still in the tree. The chimpanzees could not see the snake. I could not see it either. But Charley who was sitting beside me saw it. He started alarming to me - hoo, hoo, hoo - and looking up to the tree.

In his hand he had some stones. I started thinking maybe he will throw them at me. I looked in his eyes. He was not looking at me. I followed very carefully to where Charley was looking. I saw the snake dropping down. It was a big snake and very poisonous. It was coming to where I laid my head.

I jumped away from the tree and when I stood away Charley threw a stone at it. I don’t know what would have happened to me if Charley did not act that way and warn me. When we left that place I knew that, if anything will approach you, once a chimp sees it they will say something and you will know it too.

All these years I have been walking with the chimps I have seen very great things. They like to use tools and they can hold anything in their five fingers as we do. They will study a thing until they discover it - like a scientist who can study fruit to decide if it is edible or not. If they want some water they will look at the water bottle, turn their eyes to me and look again at the water bottle.

When visitors come they will welcome them in chim-
panzee language. When people come near them they will all keep quiet, some raising their hands to greet them. And they do pay attention to visitors and those that are laughing at them. Some, like Chiquita, don’t like people laughing at them. He will start to throw rocks coming very close to hitting the people.

The chimps spend their time grooming each other, making friends and taking care of those that are sad. They are jealous, loving and hating. They can walk on two legs like a man and they can laugh. There are 20 chimpanzees at Chimfunshi and they have 20 different characters.

Most of us young Zambians don’t know a chimpanzee with our own eyes. We are just hearing the older people talking about “Soko Muntu.” To explain about the chimps is to stay with them for an hour. I have been with them for five years. I have studied them, learned from them and loved them. And I have seen that we humans are not the only intelligent animal in the world.

Photo Right: Raa Watching Patrick Note Taking
Photo: Noel Rowe

BABY CHIMPANZEE BORN WITH AIDS VIRUS

At the present time, AIDS is a major concern of researchers and is a prestigious study area. As a result, many publications about AIDS projects have up to a dozen listed authors. However, it was somewhat surprising to find an article in the 13 September 1988 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine in which 7 researchers signed their names to an article describing a terrible mistake that caused a baby chimpanzee, a member of an endangered species, to be born infected with the AIDS virus.

The reason for this unintended result was that:
During a recent efficacy trial with human HIV globulin, we used a female chimpanzee that, unknown to us, was approximatley three months pregnant.

The baby was moved from his mother at birth and a blood sample obtained immediately. HIV was isolated from the animal’s blood, as well as antibodies to the virus.

Consoling themselves for the error, the scientists state that, “This inadvertent experiment will probably determine whether the infant chimpanzee might serve as a model of HIV disease.”

Use of adult chimpanzees is a potential disaster to a species whose numbers are estimated at around 100,000 in the wild. Use of infant chimpanzees would only compound the disaster.

AFRICAN CHILDREN PETITION AGAINST CHIMP AIDS RESEARCH

The International Primate Protection League has received a copy of a petition signed by 140 Kenyan schoolchildren. The petition, with the text in Swahili and English, was circulated by J.J. Okelo of Mbita, a town on Lake Victoria.

The young Africans expressed their opposition to the use of chimpanzees in AIDS research. One page of the petition is reproduced below:

IPPL applauds the young people who so clearly perceived the dangers posed by AIDS research to the survival of the chimpanzee and the suffering that AIDS experiments would cause Chimpanzees, Man’s Closest Living Relatives in the Animal Kingdom. For a species numbering 5 billion to exploit a species numbering around 100,000 in potentially fatal experiments simply does not make sense.

IPPL also feels that it is time for people in Third World nations to start protesting against the horrible cruelties inflicted on animals in Western nations just as we do and should protest animal abuse in Third World nations.
The Yakushima Research Group is composed of a
group of Japanese field primatologists affiliated with Kyoto
University. Among the scientists are Drs. Takeshi Furui,chi,
Tamaka Manuhashi, Toru Oi, Shigeru Suzuki, Suehsa Kuroda,
Masumuki Mitani, Naobi Okuyasu, and Yukio Takahata. These
scientists have all studied the behavior of the Yakushima ma-
caque (a subspecies of the Japanese macaque) and are greatly
concerned at the persecution of the species by hunters and
trappers. They have contacted IPPL requesting that we join their
protest. A copy of the group’s statement is reproduced below.

Yakushima, an island 60 kilometers south of Kyushu, is
the southern limit of the distribution of the Japanese macaque,
and the monkeys there are classified as an endemic sub-species
Macaca fuscata yakui. The forests of Yakushima are unique in
Japan. They show a continuous gradation from warm temperate
forest near the sea, to cool temperate forest at higher altitudes.
As the only large animals, monkeys and deer are very important
elements of the forest ecosystem. Much of the island is included
in the Kirishima-Yaku National Park and UNESCO designates
Yakushima as a “Man and Biosphere Reserve.” It is also one of
the very few places left in Japan where many troops of monkeys

live in continuous distribution in undisturbed or secondary
forest. But now the Yakushima macaques face a major threat to
their survival - and possibly, extinction.

The island is small (about 500 square kilometers) and
very mountainous, with a highest peak of around 1,939 meters.
All agricultural and human settlements are confined to the
narrow coastal plain and low foothills. In many areas monkeys
raid orange orchards and other crops causing considerable
damage. The problem is a recent one and is thought to be the
result of the destruction of much of the monkeys’ natural habitat
in the 1960s and 1970s by huge logging operations in the moun-
tains, and by the expansion of orchards on the lower slopes.

At first farmers tried to protect their crops on a piece-
meal basis using fences made of fishing nets and guard dogs.
These early attempts were largely unsuccessful, probably be-
cause they were made individually and without coordination.
The reaction of the local government was to supply traps to
capture the monkeys and to issue hunting permits to shoot them.
The number of monkeys removed over the past 6 years is in excess of 2,200. But trapping and shooting do not appear to be effective measures. As one troop is removed, another comes down from the logged areas in the mountains and the damage continues. This means that trapping could only be effective by removing all of the monkeys from the mountains above.

Since there has been no official census of the monkey population, the only available estimate comes from an unofficial survey conducted by Japanese primatologists in 1977 and 1978. This gave an estimated population of only 2,400-3,600 monkeys for the whole island. This may have been an underestimate, and the rate of population growth over the past ten years is not known. Nevertheless, it is clear that if the current policy of trapping and shooting continues the subspecies could soon be faced with extinction.

Alternative methods of crop protection such as audible scarers triggered by the monkeys' approach, and keeping dogs in the orchards, have been used successfully by farmers in some parts of the island. Furthermore, electric fences have been used successfully in other parts of Japan where crop raiding by monkeys was a serious problem. Trapping is preferred by the local government, however, because the alternatives are either more costly, more troublesome, or both. No attempt has been made to assess the effectiveness of trapping in reducing damage to crops or to monitor its effects upon the monkey population. It seems quite likely that the use of traps will increase. Unless the local government can be persuaded to change its policy, in the very near future the sub-species may face extinction.

Monkeys, deer and people have co-existed in Yakushima for several thousand years. The problems of crop damage are recent and we believe they can be solved without threatening the survival of the monkeys. We propose the formation of a new organization with the following aims: to census the remaining monkey population, to promote alternative methods of crop protection, and to monitor their effectiveness. This organization would consist of farmers, representatives of local administrative bodies, and ecologists, working together to conserve the natural environment of Yakushima for future generations.

A letter accompanying the petition notes that the trapping and shooting of monkeys has recently escalated, with around 14-20% of the entire population being destroyed annually, a far higher percentage of animals than can be replaced by breeding.

IPPL is fearful for the fate of the trapped monkeys, who could well end up in laboratories undergoing painful experiments. Please send letters of support for the monkeys and protesting the trapping/shooting program to Dr. Takesha Furuki, (a leader of the Yakushima Research Group trying to help the monkeys) who will copy your letter to the appropriate local and national officials in Japan. You may also want to prepare a petition for you and your friends to sign.

Address: Dr. Takesha Furuki
Laboratory of Human Evolution Studies
Faculty of Science
Kyoto University
Sakyo, Kyoto
Japan

Overseas airmail costs 45 cents per half-ounce and 90 cents per ounce.

LETTERS BRING RESULTS

The March 1989 issue of the IPPL Newsletter told how a member visiting Northern Thailand had seen skins of protected animals for sale at the Meta Dispensary, a drug-store in the town of Fang. Several loris skin were observed. Members were asked to write the Thai Ambassador in their country of residence and many did.

On 29 June 1989, a British member, Mrs. M. Ewes of High Wycombe, received a letter from Miss Yuthika Tansanguan of the Thai Embassy in London, informing her that the complaints had resulted in a raid on the drug-store. Among items confiscated were 2 monkey skulls, 1 tiger jawbone, 3 bear paws, 2 bear foot bones, 2 tiger skins, 1 leopard skin, 1 golden cat skin, 2 pangolin skins, 1 otter skin, and a variety of deer horns.

The owner of the Meta Dispensary was said to have been charged with several offenses.

Please don't get discouraged at the seeming futility of letter-writing campaigns. Sometimes letters bring results. We must never give up!

UPDATE ON HOTEL CHIMPANZEEES

The August 1989 IPPL Newsletter included a letter from an Italian reader who had visited Africa and observed captive chimpanzees kept in poor conditions at tourist hotels.

First, we'd like to make a correction. The city of Bujumbura is in Burundi, not Rwanda (whose capital is Kigali). The chimps living at the Hotel Club des Vacances are therefore the responsibility of Burundi authorities.

The chimpanzees kept in Rwanda were at the Hotel Akagera and the Gabiro Guest House.

Unfortunately, the fate of the Gabiro chimpanzees has been sealed in a tragic manner. According to Dr. Fritz Jantschke of Das Tier, a German animal magazine:

Just when my friend and I visited Gabiro Guesthouse, we experienced a very dramatic ‘highlight’ of the long history of keeping chimps there. During the second evening of our stay the young adult animals, two males and one female, escaped from their dreadful cage, injured several people, and after about three or four very amateurish attempts at catching, they were finally shot by the Army.
The two younger chimpanzees were moved to the now-empty larger cage. Dr. Jantschke believes that the only solution for the confiscated chimpanzees of Rwanda would be to export them to zoos in America or Europe. He comments that it is senseless to exhibit captive animals near national parks where they can be viewed in a natural setting. Dr. Jantschke also expresses his admiration for Rwanda’s conservation successes which include national parks. Besides the well-known Parc des Volcans, there are the Akagera National Park and the Nyungwe Forest, home to many primate species.

IPPL also received a letter about the chimpanzees from Aloys Uwimana, Rwandan Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Uwimana explains:

The problems described in these articles arose from the fact that the anti-poaching patrols in the protected areas were able to catch poachers carrying very young chimpanzees, whose parents had been killed in order to get them. Since those chimpanzees could not survive if put back into the wild, the Office of Tourism and National Parks has decided to put them temporarily in cages, in the perimeter of the Guest House of Gabiro and the Hotel Akagera, in the Akagera National Park, and asked the management of these hotels to take care of them while trying to arrange an acceptable long-term solution.

Unfortunately, that temporary solution has become permanent for some of the chimpanzees, especially the ones which have grown old and become irritable and bad-tempered. The hotels, whose occupation rate is only 28%, do not seem to have enough resources to take care of them and the Office [of National Parks] which has budgetary problems, has tried, without success, to look for funds to improve the housing and care for these animals. Ideally, the Office would love to find funding for a project designed to provide housing and caring for all animals confiscated from poachers. Because of the diligence and effectiveness of our anti-poaching patrols, this is a constant problem for us.

The Ambassador states that Rwanda would welcome financial support to solve this problem. Should any readers visit Rwanda or Burundi, please try to get information on the current situation for chimpanzees kept at tourist facilities, including photographs.

Needless to say, the comments about the bad conditions in which the chimpanzees are housed do not mean that IPPL is not impressed with Rwanda’s all-over conservation efforts. However, the chimpanzees are suffering and their plight should not be overlooked because other animals in Rwanda are faring better.

The International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens (IUDZG) held its annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, on 17 September 1989. Wildlife smuggling was on the agenda as IPPL had provided information on “The Polish Connection,” the Guadalajara Zoo gorilla acquisition, the disappearance of gibbons from the Dusit Zoo, Bangkok, and other zoo abuses to IUDZG’s President, Roger Wheater of Edinburgh Zoo, Scotland.

Animal activists from Voice for Animals, a San Antonio animal protection organization, demonstrated against wildlife smuggling outside the conference hall. IPPL co-sponsored the demonstration and briefed Voice for Animals Chairman John Holbrah on the dubious activities of some zoos and animal dealers. The protestors demanded that zoos boycott unethical animal dealers such as Walter Sensen of West Germany and Pinmai Birds of Bangkok, Thailand.

Although some of the zoo directors expressed concern over the activities of wildlife smugglers, their meeting was held in secret. To the best of IPPL’s knowledge, no boycott or blacklisting of unethical animal dealers and zoos will be instituted.

San Antonio Zoo Protest
Photo: Andy King

IPPL WISHES ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!
AMA'S PLAN TO DESTROY THE ANIMAL PROTECTION MOVEMENT

The American Medical Association is a Chicago-based organization which serves as a lobby for the wealthy doctors of the United States. Most US doctors are desensitized during their education to the plight of research animals. It is therefore not surprising that many, but by no means all, medical doctors are supporters of unrestricted animal experimentation.

In June 1989, the American Medical Association published its "Animal Research Action Plan" outlining its plans to destroy the animal protection movement.

The AMA paper discusses animal activists, admitting their dedication and hard work, but noting that they oppose animal experimentation, commercial animal agriculture (factory farming of food animals) and "sport hunting and trapping." (It is amazing to IPPL that the AMA should appear to endorse factory farming - which involves the feeding of antibiotics potentially harmful to humans to food animals, hunting, and such brutal practices as leghold trapping but perhaps the AMA is looking for "allies" in its battle against animal activists.

The AMA describes "hardcore" animal activists as "generally prepared to resort to violent tactics," claiming that, between 1980-89, 2000 animals have been "stolen" from laboratories (a somewhat small number in view of the fact that millions of research animals are used annually in the United States). The AMA goes on to describe the "activists who may participate in demonstrations in their spare time" and what it calls the "sympathizers."

The AMA states that its goal is "to defeat the animal rights movement" by peeling away "the outermost layers of support" by "exploiting the differences that already exist over goals and tactics." In order to "scare away" sympathizers, the AMA calls for portrayal of activists as "anti-science" and likely to act in a "violent and illegal" way. The AMA complains about animal activists' victories in getting larger cage sizes for laboratory animals and a legal requirement that the psychological well-being of laboratory primates be considered.

The AMA then goes on to describe its "strategy," which consists of "mobilization of defense of research and opposition to animal activists at the community, at the state, and at national levels across the country."

Among the AMA's proposed strategies are:
1) smearing animal rights activists as "anti-science" and "anti-progressive"
2) speaking at "public forums" with "controlled audiences,”
3) using an emotional approach
4) "legal challenges to activists' efforts" wherever "appropriate."

Among the "specific objectives" are:
1) distribution of pro-research brochures and an AMA "White Paper" on the use of animals in research,
2) development of programs "for controlled audience groups such as Kiwanis or Lions Clubs, PTA [Parent-Teacher Associations] groups, AARP [the American Association of Retired Persons], and religious organizations."
3) development of "forums [debates, town meetings, etc.] to explore issues surrounding controversy ... AMA to provide physician spokespersons at all forums" However, this is "only appropriate under 'controlled audience circumstances,'"
4) meetings with media groups to discuss the "real threat" of animal activists,
5) retaining media or sports "personalities" to speak in favor of the use of research animals,
6) use of advertising.

Special programs to indoctrinate children are also proposed. Doctors and nurses would be asked to promote animal experimentation to their hapless patients. A brochure would be produced "regarding the need [for doctors and nurses] to explain relevance of animal research in development of drugs, procedures, to patients undergoing specific treatment." Students entering medical and nursing schools would receive propaganda "detailing the importance of animals in biomedical research."

The AMA also proposes to develop "legal strategies" to counter the animal rights movement and what it calls "restrictive legislation." These include:
1) "development of legal means for contesting the tax-exempt status of animal rights groups,
2) legal assistance to scientists targeted by animal rights groups,
3) lobbying on animal research legislation,
4) intervening in court cases by filing Friends of the Court briefs and providing expert witnesses,
5) promoting "the formation of a special investigative unit within government to examine animal rights activities,
6) "consultation with state, local, and federal and international policing authorities about illegal activities relating to animal rights groups: stress importance of animal rights violence being placed high on priority list: lobby for creation of Justice Department database to monitor and prosecute illegal activities of animal rights groups,
7) "use of courts to develop policy,
8) "building private database on animal rights activities,"
9) working for "amendments to or repeal of existing statutes that are unduly restrictive or duplicative,"
10) development of "Foundation for Animal Health" to "attract funding away from animal rights groups."

IPPL finds the undemocratic attitude of the big-wigs of the American Medical Association to be appalling. Doctors who support animal experimentation (and many do not, to varying degrees) have no business trying to impose their beliefs on their sick patients. Stress and harassment of patients by medical personnel could impede recovery and foster resentment of the doctor which the patient might be reluctant to or unable to express from his sickbed.

Many nurses are animal advocates and might face the prospect of losing their jobs if they defied authoritarian doctors by refusing to distribute literature to their patients. Further, the AMA talks about "violence" without mentioning the hideous violence being perpetrated by scientists against defenseless animals.

The idea of getting the US Justice Department to place priority on "investigating" thousands of innocuous animal protection organizations operating in the United States is ludicrous in view of the fact that the United States is now faced with a massive drug problem with accompanying horrendous violence that keeps hospital emergency rooms busy nationwide. In this context, the "theft" of 200 animals a year falls into insignificance and can easily be handled at the local level as any other theft.

Not only does or should the Justice Department have better things to do with its time, but so should the nation's medical professionals since many sick people receive inadequate medical care (mainly the aged, the medically uninsured, and poor children and adults).

IPPL believes that the controversy over the use of animals in experiments should remain in the public domain. Under US law, there is no such thing as a "false idea." All ideas should be debated in the marketplace of ideas, without coercion from vested interests like the AMA.

A full copy of the "AMA Animal Research and Action Plan" is available free to IPPL members.
ORANGUTANS MISTREATED IN LAS VEGAS SHOW

For many years, the late Bobby Berosini used trained gorillas and chimpanzees in his Las Vegas shows. IPPL is totally opposed to the exploitation of primates in such shows. We find them demeaning and totally devoid of educational value.

However, Berosini was greatly admired by the late Geoffrey Bourne, former Director of the Yerkes Primate Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Bourne so enjoyed Berosini’s act that he even provided Berosini with orangutans from the Yerkes colony.

On his father’s death, Berosini’s son, also named Bobby, took over the act. Las Vegas dancers concerned at the beatings they saw administered to the animals placed a hidden camera backstage and captured footage of Berosini striking the orangutans. The film was shown on the US television program “Entertainment Tonight.”

The Animal Welfare Act regulates the housing of primates used in entertainment. However, it is not illegal to strike a primate. Under the Endangered Species Act, it is illegal to harm or harass an animal belonging to an endangered species. Please write a letter asking the Division of Law Enforcement of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to investigate, prosecute Berosini if the evidence warrants, and take away his permit to own orangutans.

Address: Clark Bavin, Chief, Division of Law Enforcement, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington DC 20240.

SCHOOLCHILDREN RUN FOR GORILLAS

On 21 April 1989, the Chadwick School in Palos Verdes, California, held a “Fun Run” to raise money to protect the mountain gorillas of Central Africa. The International Primate Protection League was selected as a recipient organization after West Coast Representative Evelyn Gallardo presented a slide lecture about the critically endangered gorillas at the school.

Recently, Martin Byhowe, 7th Grade Life Science teacher and Ecology Club Advisor presented Evelyn with a check for $3572.51. The majority of the funds will be used for the Mgahinga Gorilla Sanctuary in Southwestern Uganda and a small portion will be used for conservation education.

IPPL extends its thanks to the Chadwick School students for turning their concern for the gorillas into funds that will help protect gorilla lives. We know that Dian Fossey, who always emphasized the importance of children in wildlife conservation, would have been thrilled to learn about young people running to help save gorillas.

RECOMMENDED READING

A new book published in October 1989 would make an excellent holiday gift book for friends or relatives interested in wildlife in general and primates in particular.

The book is entitled The Deluge and the Ark and it was written by IPPL member Dale Peterson. Jane Goodall wrote the introduction. The sub-title is “A Journey into Primate Worlds.”

Dale Peterson began work on The Deluge and the Ark in 1984, after reading a newspaper article about the endangered "muriquis" (species of spider monkey) of Southeastern Brazil. He borrowed money from family and friends, and set off to find the world’s most endangered primates in their habitats. His odyssey took him to Southeastern Brazil, where he saw the “muriquis,” and then to the Amazon, West and Central Africa, Madagascar, southern India, the Mentawi Islands off Sumatra, Indonesia (home to a variety of primates found nowhere else), Sumatra, and Borneo.

Here are some of the reasons to read and re-read The Deluge and the Ark.

- It is the only commercially published book that describes in a readable yet carefully presented way the issues of primate conservation world-wide. It includes the most complete discussion of the international primate trade as a global issue (with much of the information for this chapter having been provided by IPPL). It also contains first-rate discussions of tropical forests and deforestation, subsistence hunting, captive breeding and national parks.
- The book is extremely easy to read and is told in an anecdotal way. It was favorably reviewed by Newsweek as both a “singular work of literature” and a “travel-adventure” book.
- The Deluge and the Ark is published by Houghton Mifflin. If it is not in display in your book-store, it can easily be ordered for you.
- Another attractive new book is Travels in Search of Endangered Species, by Jeremy Mallinson of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. Fortunately, Mallinson was not just searching for endangered species to try to get possession of specimens as his boss Gerald Durrell did so often: in most cases, Mallinson went as an observer and his observations are interesting. The photographs are extremely attractive and a wide range of primate and non-primate species are covered. Travels in

The Great Rift was written by Anthony Smith and was published in 1989 by Sterling Publishing, New York. The book is a companion book for a BBC-TV series on the valley. Smith has viewed the valley from balloons, airplanes, and motor-bikes. The Rift runs from the Mozambique Channel through East Africa and Ethiopia and along the Red Sea to the Jordan Valley. The book describes the wildlife and people of the plains, mountains, and lakes of the valley, including mountain gorillas, colobus and Sykes monkeys. The photographs are excellent and include a section on the marine life of the Red Sea.

Oxford University Press, New York, has just published The Unheeded Cry: Animals in Research by Dr. Bernard Rollin. Jane Goodall wrote a foreword to the book. Rollin is a philosopher and, in this book, he examines the issue of animal pain and suffering and animal awareness.

British members can obtain a copy of the calendar "Animals at Risk, 1990" from the Merlin Press, Ltd., 10 Malden Road, London NW5 3HR for 6 pounds sterling. Each month features a different aspect of man's problematic relationship with the living creatures that share our world: factory farming, pollution, and experimentation are among the themes explored. The calendar is printed on recycled paper. It is also available in bookstores.


**RARE TAMARIN RETURNED TO BRAZIL**

Martha Gutierrez, IPPL Representative for Argentina, reports that the survivor of 2 golden-lion tamarins smuggled from Brazil to Argentina was returned to Brazil for rehabilitation.

In October 1988, two Argentinean nationals, Claudio Beryonatti and Tomas Waller, asked the National Administrative Investigations Bureau to take action against a pet shop named "Parrots" that was offering two golden lion tamarins for sale. The golden lion tamarin is a highly endangered monkey living only in the few remaining Atlantic rain-forests of Brazil.

The Bureau did follow up and "raided" the dealer, confiscating the two animals, a male and a female. The Bureau informed the Brazilian Embassy of the seizure. The Brazilian Government requested the return of the monkeys.

Unfortunately, the male tamarin died before he could be returned. On 21 March 1989, the female was returned to Brazil on a Varig flight. Brazilian Embassy officials, the two citizens who had "turned in" the dealer, and Martha Gutierrez were present to see the animal off to her new life.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Enormous Primate Center in China**

The Yunnan National Laboratory Primate Center of China is located in Yunnan Province. According to an article in Primates (30-1: January 1989), the Center’s dual purposes are "to protect and exploit" the wild primate resources of China.

The Center currently houses over 2,000 primates, including rhesus macaques, pig-tailed macaques, stump tail macaques, Assamese macaques, slow lorises, Concolor gibbons (two sub-species), and Hoolock gibbons.

The Center has supplied laboratories in the United States, Japan, and West Germany with rhesus monkeys. The Center admits to obtaining primates removed from the wild "to avoid in-breeding."

In addition to breeding monkeys for experimentation, the Center conducts research projects, including studies of "siaman AIDS" and other diseases, and field surveys of rhesus macaques and gibbons. The "siaman AIDS" studies may well be encouraged by US experimenters since AIDS is not yet a major public health problem in China.

The Center has announced that it wants to learn "good experiences" from "foreign primate institutions and laboratories." Unfortunately, the lessons to be learned from Western laboratories and primate experimenters are mainly lessons in what not to do since primates do not belong in laboratories but in their forest homes. Most primates in Western laboratories live in tiny single cages for most or all of their (often short) lives and primate experimenters stubbornly fight for the status quo, their most recent dubious accomplishment having been the sabotaging of regulations planned to improve the housing of laboratory primates.

China's primates should be left where they belong in the forests of China.

The status of the joint Government of China-White Sands Research Center project to set up a chimpanzee laboratory in China is unclear. The White Sands Research Center is a chimpanzee facility located in New Mexico, USA which once advertised the availability of chimpanzees and other primates for insecticide testing. IPPL opposes this planned project. Following the brutal repression of the Chinese student protest movement, we contacted Dr. Coulston, President of White Sands, to see whether he had pulled out of the project. We have received no reply.
Indonesian Dealer's Pricelist

The Indonesian animal dealer Rudolf Fauna and Flora of Jakarta issued a pricelist in May 1989 offering various species of wildlife for sale. "Rudolf" now has a fax to expedite his dubious dealings.

"Rudolf" offers silver leaf monkeys for sale at $425-475 per head. Silver leaf monkeys are notoriously fragile, an entire shipment of 20 sent to the Minnesota Zoo, USA in January 1978 having died within three months. This does not stop Indonesia's greedy animal traders from selling the species! Also offered for sale are crab-eating and pigtail macaques.

Among the birds offered for sale are "VERY VERY RARE FOWL SPECIES only found and discovered by us personally," (emphasis as in original). These are the Sumba scrubfowl ($4,000 for "two heads"), the Moluccan scrubfowl ($4,000 for "two heads") and the "New Guinea Brenchely Fowl/Scrubfowl" ($5,000 for "two heads").

"Rudolf" tells his customers that, "We guarantee that NOT EVEN ONE ZOO IN WHOLE Europe, the United States, etc. etc. have those Very rare Fowls. Who will first order will get the first," (Emphasis as in original).

"Rudolf" also offers New Guinea green tree pythons for sale. Since this is a protected animal (at least on paper) in Indonesia, the dealer states that "Chondropyton viridis will be declared as Green Whip Snake if accorded." Misidentifying rare animals on shipping documents is an old and venerable dealers' "dirty trick." Few Customs inspectors are sophisticated enough to be able to identify species, except of the most common animals.

Zoo Director Denounces Animal Activists

In an article published in the St. Louis Post Dispatch, St. Louis Zoo Director Charles H. Hoessle denounced animal activists. One would hope that modern zoo directors would speak up for the rights of animals, but listen to Mr. Hoessle!

A few zealous but vocal activists describe themselves as advocates of animal rights. Their members include some extremists who oppose the use of live animals for medical and scientific research and also object to keeping animals in captivity...Those of us who support zoos believe firmly that we are the real advocates of animal rights because we are dedicated to preserving the wondrous species that inhabit this Earth...Our love for animals, however, does not interfere with our judgment. We understand that animals are a source of food and companionship, and that they are as essential to the advancement of science and medicine as sophisticated researchers and brilliant clinicians...The views of the most extreme animal rights activists are misguided, ill-informed and counter-productive.

It is this attitude that has caused many zoos to see no problem in sending primates, including chimpanzees, into medical research facilities. Detroit Zoo and the Lincoln Park, Zoo, Chicago, as well as many other zoos, have engaged in this practice at various times.

Ecology Funding

In a letter to the Editor of the 20 January 1989 issue of Science, Paul C. James of the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, Canada, noted that the question of the use of chimpanzees in biomedical research will remain controversial, but that "the issue does focus attention on a significant paradox that exists within the scientific framework."

Dr. James comments that "ecologists in Africa operate on shoestring budgets," while researchers enjoy "funding at least several orders of magnitude higher for research using the very same species" and that this situation "is symptomatic of a system with misplaced priorities." According to Dr. James:

Given the massive scale of biomedical research funding, it would be more than appropriate if some proportion of it was recycled back to help maintain the original genetic diversity that spawned such research in the first place. Such a move would significantly increase the pathetic budgets that ecologists are expected to work with. Furthermore, maintaining genetic diversity in the "donor" countries (many of them in the Third World) would help to ensure that they receive the economic benefits derived from these resources. How long will it be before an African country will be paying royalties to an American corporation for the use of chimpanzees in their own research?

Strange Gorilla Goings-on

In 1988, the Ugandan newspaper New Vision told of the alleged transport of a young Mountain gorilla, supposedly caught by poachers in the Mghinga Reserve, from Uganda to Rwanda for sale. An investigation into the story has shown that the poachers were probably transporting a L’Hoeest’s monkey which they intended to sell for a high price by claiming it was a gorilla. Thus, it appears that the gorilla poaching incident did not occur. Later, a mangabeys was also offered for sale as a “baby gorilla.” Both the monkeys were confiscated by Rwandan authorities and action was taken against the poachers, some Ugandan nationals.

Currently, however, neither the Mghinga Forest nor its wildlife can be considered safe. IPPL is helping fund patrols at Mghinga and has donated funds that will be used to set up a guard station.

Thanks to Craig Sholley of the Mountain Gorilla Project in Rwanda for the update.

Army Investigating Zaire Primate Killing

Following IPPL’s expose (IPPL Newsletter, August 1989) of the US Army’s killing of primates at a field station in Zaire and the use of chimpanzees in experimentation, the Army has initiated “an investigation to determine whether there was unauthorized use of primates,” according to information provided to IPPL by Dr. George Galasso of the US National Institutes of Health.

Nominations Sought for Marchig Award

Long-term IPPL members will know that Shirley McGreal, Chairwoman of the International Primate Protection League, was awarded the first Marchig Award “for practical work in the field of animal welfare by a society or individual anywhere in the world” in 1988. The Marchig Awards were established in 1986 by Madame Jeanne Marchig of Switzerland in honor of her late husband Giannino Marchig, a distinguished artist and animal lover. The award is administered by the World
Society for the Protection of Animals. All nominations are considered by a jury. Nominations are due by 1 March 1990 and should be submitted to:

Trevor H. Scott, Administrator  
Marchig Animal Welfare Awards  
105 Jermyn Street  
London SW1 Y 6EE  
England

Smugglers Foiled

The authorities of East Kalimantan, Indonesia, foiled an attempt by smugglers to take two baby orangutans out of Indonesia on to a foreign ship in the port of Samarinda. The police reported that they suspected a foreign syndicate of being involved in the smuggling attempt. One man was arrested. In 1988, at least 4 infant orangutans were smuggled from Cambodia to Eastern Europe. In addition, an organization called the Pet Bird Farm in the Philippines owns 6 orangutans, of dubious origin.

Origin of Stirling Tamarins

The August 1989 issue of the IPPL Newsletter published the statement on Cottontop tamarins issued by the University of Stirling, Scotland. Dr. William McGrew has asked us to let readers know that the founding animals in the Stirling colony came from the University of Aberystwyth Zoology Department in Wales, which had maintained the tamarins for behavioral studies. The University could easily have sold the animals into biomedical research because they are in demand for studies of colonic cancer. Instead, they sent them into a caring environment.

Japan Answers IPPL Members

The Japanese Government has responded to many IPPL members who wrote in requesting action against the smuggling of 114 slow lorises from Thailand to Japan. Mr. Toru Takimoto, writing for the Japanese Government, acknowledged that the Thai export documents were forged. However, it claimed that "The Customs... were not able to arrest the importer," although no reason was given. Only 4 of the 114 slow lorises are now alive.

Along with his letter, Mr. Takimoto enclosed various press clippings about arrests of Japanese animal dealers. Pressure works! Let's keep it up and demand that governments put wildlife traffickers in jail so that the animals get a chance to survive!

Another Dreadful Facility in Thailand

It is really depressing to have to report constant animal abuse from the Buddhist country of Thailand. The Lord Buddha stated that, "He, indeed, is wise who does not hurt any creature, whether feeble or strong, who does not kill nor cause slaughter," but apparently the operators of "The Thonburi Snake Farm" have not heard of this. According to an IPPL member who visited this facility with his family in the course of a "Floating Market" tour, "Everyone on the tour complained about the sadistic cruelty to animals at this place." The cages, he said, are "filthy and too small" and the animals appeared "starving, thin, ill, and in urgent need of medical attention." Among the animals observed were gibbons, monkeys, bears, tigers, and crocodiles.

Protests may be addressed to:

H.E. General Pramarn Adireksarn  
Minister of the Interior  
Abdang Road, Bangkok, Thailand

Overseas air mail costs 45 cents per half ounce, 90 cents per ounce. Please find time to write and ask for better conditions at "The Thonburi Snake Farm."

Monkeys Relocated

According to an article in the 19 August 1989 issue of the Times of India provided to IPPL by Major Shakti Banerjee, a group of 21 wild monkeys was relocated from the Tughlakabad Fort area to a forest area adjoining Mitha Pur village.

The monkeys had been invading the Air Force base by the fort; the move was planned by Dr. Iqbal Malik, who designed a special capture net to avoid injuring the monkeys. Rather than randomly catching monkeys, a group was carefully selected. It consisted of three males, six females, and various juveniles and newborns. The capture was undertaken at the end of the breeding season to minimize stress. The monkeys settled down well in their new environment.

Dr. Malik’s determined campaign to protect her study animals is an example of what field primatologists can accomplish to help protect the species they are privileged to study.

Sorry, Tober

Due to a typesetting error combined with a proof-reading error, one word in Jayne Herman’s article about Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in the March 1989 IPPL Newsletter came out wrong. Instead of saying that Tober Chimpanzee would vent his frustrations by beating the “ground” with a stick, we said that he beat the “group.” Jayne assures us that the gentle Tober would never do such a thing!

Successful Fund-raiser

On 21 September 1989, IPPL’s West Coast Representatives, Evelyn Gallardo and David Root, held their third annual Mountain gorilla fund-raiser in Manhattan Beach, California. Two hundred guests attended a special presentation of a documentary titled “Promises in the Mist.”

The event netted $8,600, which has been forwarded to the Digit Fund, an organization founded by the late Dian Fossey, to support “The Jobi Patrol,” an extra anti poaching patrol established in 1988 by the couple in memory of their favorite gorilla Jobi who died after walking into a poacher’s wire snare.

Congratulations to Evelyn and David on another successful event. The extra patrols have helped ensure that no more gorillas have been poached recently.

IPPL

December, 1989

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HOW TO JOIN

Complete the form below and mail it with a check payable to the International Primate Protection League to either IPPL: P.O. Box 766, Summerville, S.C. 29484, U.S.A. or IPPL, Clarendon Hall, Penkridge Road, London, N1 9HR, England. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible in the USA to the extent allowed by law.

Netherlands residents, 25% should be paid in guilders to IPPL Nederland, Moederstraat 24-B, 3511 KB Leiden, Netherlands.

Overseas payments should be made in US dollars whenever possible. If payment is made in foreign currency, US $1.00 should be added to cover the bank's service charge on international transactions. Overseas members wishing to receive their newsletters by Air Mail should add US $5.00.

I wish to join IPPL as a:
1. Patron: $100.00 or £50
2. Sustaining: $50.00 or £25
3. Regular: $20.00 or £10
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All members receive complimentary copies of the IPPL Newsletter. Individuals or organizations may subscribe to the IPPL Newsletter at an annual fee of $20.00.

Please suggest names of people who you think would like to receive information about IPPL.

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