PRIMATES IN PERIL

The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates 2004-2006

Russell A. Mittermeier, Cláudio Valladares-Pádua, Anthony B. Rylands, Ardith A. Eudey, Thomas M. Butynski, Jörg U. Ganzhorn, Rebecca Kormos, John M. Aguiar, Sally Walker

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Logos - PSG, SSC, IUCN, IPS, CABS, CI

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IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group (PSG)
International Primatological Society (IPS)
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Introduction

In all the living world, primates are humanity's closest kindred - we can see ourselves in their eyes, thinking and feeling beings who use their hands as we do, to shape their surroundings and hold their family close. Surviving in tropical forests and savannas scattered across three continents, far widespread but nowhere safe, they live in a world which industrial humanity has long since forgotten. Their dawnsongs and duets rival the music of any bird; their faces are a riot of brilliant color, from sky-sharp blue to incandescent bronze.

They are among the most beautiful and intelligent of tropical wonders, and they are among the most persecuted - relentlessly hunted for their meat and fur, bodies broken for dubious medicines, shot for stealing crops in fields which were once their home. All the forests of the world cannot satisfy the sum of human hunger: they are cut and burned, day and night, and the remnants of their grandeur will not long survive without our intervention.

Thus no primate is entirely free from danger; but the few highlighted in this report are those whose very existence is in doubt. Each one named here is almost lost - each an entire race of beings, now reduced to a tattered remnant: two or three dozen in the worst of cases, a mere few hundred for the rest. To their greatest fortune, none so far have vanished; for despite the overwhelming loss of forests worldwide, we believe no primate has gone extinct in all the twentieth century. But bare survival should not deceive us: their luck is almost spent, and they cannot long withstand the dangers which steadily erode the final slivers of their habitat. From the Atlantic Forest of Brazil to the monsoon slopes of Madagascar, from the mountains of southwest China to the islands of Mentawai, these primates are caught between fading hope and hard oblivion. And if through our failure of action they should cease to exist, we will have lost our nearest companions, and a part of ourselves, from what wilderness remains in the world.

By focusing on a handful of the most imperiled primates, we hope to put a face on a series of daunting, disturbing numbers which describe the global situation of primates today. The full diversity of the primates - monkeys, apes, lemurs, and their less familiar kin - is not widely known to the public, and even the experts must continually revise their estimates; fresh discoveries are made even as forests burn, and new species and subspecies are described on a regular basis. What we do know is that there are at least 625 distinct kinds of primates, species and subspecies together; and of these a full 26% are in immediate danger of extinction. If we do nothing - we who bear the responsibility for these many threatened lives - as many as one-quarter of all today's primates will be dead within twenty years.

The great engines that drive this gathering wave of extinctions are familiar, in their various guises, to those who understand the threats to tropical ecosystems around the world. Wholesale deforestation has reduced entire rainforest landscapes to stubble and short-lived fields; and those stands of forest which yet remain are hunted so mercilessly that some are empty of moving things. Traditional medicines and emerging markets encourage the commercial hunting of species, threatening them on a scale they have never faced before. And beneath it all is the great challenge of a human population on the inexorable rise, wrenching resources from a depleted world which has little more to give.

But even as the risk and threats increase, so too does our understanding of primates and their diversity, the patterns of their extent and those species which most require our aid. The status of

primates in the wild, along with many other plants and animals, has long been tracked by the Species Survival Commission of the IUCN-World Conservation Union, and their assessments are continually refined as new information and techniques become available. In 1996 the IUCN/SSC published a new version of the Red List, the standard assessment of all species known to be threatened in the world. Out of 620 primate taxa, 93 were listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered - a full 15% of all primates known at the time.

In its own analysis conducted in 2000, the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group listed 120 primate taxa in the same EN/CR categories, raising the proportion of seriously threatened taxa to almost 20% of the known total - which itself had risen steadily owing to new discoveries. Now, as we present this report in 2005, the IUCN recognizes 230 threatened primates, of which at least 160 are Endangered or Critically Endangered. Thus the primates as a whole are facing the worst odds in all the years they have been assessed: 26% of the global total is now at risk, over a quarter of all living taxa. The threats have grown and intensified, but primate populations have not grown to match - rather there are fewer primates now than ever before, surviving as best they can: and without our help, their best will not be enough.

Table 1. Numbers of nonhuman primates in the Neotropical region, Africa, Madagascar and Asia, and worldwide, and numbers of Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable primates in each, and worldwide according to the Red List 2004. The last column shows the percentages primates threatened in each region and worldwide.

	Total taxa	**CR**	**EN**	**VU**	**Numbers threatened**	**% of primates threatened**
Neotropical region	202	20	14	27	61	30%
Africa	168	9	34	8	51	30%
Madagascar	71	11	17	13	41	58%
Asia	184	16	39	22	77	42%
Total worldwide	**625**	**56**	**104**	**70**	**230**	**37%**

Of the four global regions where primates are found, their situation is most severe in Madagascar - the island nation so long isolated it is a realm unto itself. No other country may claim so many endemic primates - those species found nowhere else on Earth - and in no other region are so many primates now endangered. Almost 60% of the Malagasy taxa are threatened, 28 of them severely so; they are the final remnants of a prehistoric wonderland of giant lemurs and unique, peculiar forms. Much has been lost already, and should we fail to safeguard those who remain, a great chapter of evolutionary history will have been torn out within our lifetimes.

Hard behind Madagascar is the Asian realm, in which almost 50% of native primates are threatened, 56 direly so. It is in Asia that the rarest of all primates survive: a few dozens of one, perhaps a hundred of another, constantly poached in their final refuge. Much of the listed increase in threatened species the world over, in fact, results from new surveys and information from Southeast Asia. Nations such as Indonesia, China, Vietnam and India continue to contribute a disproportionate number of imperiled primates, due in large part to the near-total destruction of their original forests, and all the iron hammerstrokes of human domination.

In the final two regions, Africa and the Neotropics, their respective primates are equally matched in threat; in each case 31% are at some level of risk. Africa has more severely threatened species overall, but it is in South America - above any other region, even Madagascar - where the greatest number of critically endangered primates is found. This is owing in large part

to the near-total annihilation of the Atlantic Forest, the great coastal rainforest which was once an emerald ribbon of life along the shores of Brazil, and now is threadbare and torn beneath an urbanizing tide.

Although the numbers and percentages have changed - unerringly for the worse - the underlying causes of primate decline have remained consistent for decades, and the warnings of prior generations are now coming to pass. The greatest threat, and the most difficult to halt or reverse, is the global erosion of forest habitat under the countless needy hands of humankind. Tropical forests, rich as no others in raw biodiversity, are felled in swathes for agriculture - both small-scale, temporary cultivation as well as massive industrial farms. Multinational logging companies continually seek out virgin stands of timber, often in flagrantly illegal operations, plundering forests even when they are protected by national and international law. And those which remain are often whittled away from within, as men and women gather fuelwood for hundreds of millions of daily cooking fires.

Table 2. Occurrence of Critically Endangered (CR) and Endangered (EN) primates in 7 Biodiversity Hotspots.

Hotspot	**CR**	**EN**	**Total**
Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands	11	20	31
Guinean Forests of West Africa	1	16	17
Indo-Burma	4	11	15
Sundaland	5	8	13
Atlantic Forest	6	5	11
Western Ghats and Sri Lanka	0	10	10
Himalaya	1	8	9
	28	**78**	**106**

See Mittermeier, R. A., P. Robles Gil, M. Hoffmann, J. Pilgrim, T. Brooks, C. G. Mittermeier, J. Lamoreux and G. A. B. da Fonseca (eds.). 2004. *Hotspots Revisited: Earth's Biologically Richest and Most Endangered Terrestrial Ecosystems*. CEMEX, Agrupación Serra Madre, S.C., Mexico.

In decades past the harvest of live monkeys for biomedical research also had catastrophic consequences; the ubiquitous rhesus monkey, among many others, was severely depleted before its wild populations were ever fully surveyed. This practice has largely been curtailed, although it remains an issue for certain species; and likewise the capture of monkeys for the pet trade, while still a serious concern, is no longer an engine of potential extinction. The greatest threat which has arisen in recent years is the organized commercial hunting of primates - not only for rural subsistence, but to provide a steady supply of primate meat to major population centers. This is especially prevalent in Central and Western Africa, where monkeys and apes are presented as a luxury protein source; and in China and neighboring countries, where the organs of many animals, primates included, are prized components of traditional magic and medicine.

All these threats and pressures are not unique to primates; and the structure of human impact has not gone unnoticed, nor unchallenged. The cornerstone strategy of Conservation International is based on comprehensive analyses of global diversity and endemism, overlaid with the spatial imprint of human affairs. Those regions where the greatest diversity of life suffers the heaviest threats are considered *hotspots* - a total of 34 critical ecoregions occupying only 2.3% of the Earth's land surface, yet harboring over 50% of all terrestrial biodiversity. Twenty-three of these hotspots contain primate habitat, sheltering at least 286 species, and 176 of these are found *only* within the hotspots - almost 30% of global primate diversity, contained within 14 hotspots occupying little more than 1% of the planet's total land area.

Of those 14 hotspots, seven are considered the highest priority for primates; together they harbor 106 severely threatened species and subspecies, representing 46% of *all* threatened primate taxa. The fate of nearly half the world's imperiled primates, then, is tied to the future of only seven of the world's most threatened ecoregions. How well these regions are able to manage their scant remaining forests - and their overflowing population centers - will determine how many of these primates will survive.

John M. Aguiar

The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates

To promote the public awareness of the critical situation of primates today, the first Top 25 list was presented in 2000 by the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, together with Conservation International, to mark the end of a century which had witnessed no primate extinctions - and yet had ushered in the wholesale decimation of primate populations around the world. This paradox had only one resolution: the recognition that research and awareness must be focused on the primates of the world to promote their conservation.

The 2000 list received exceptional coverage in a media environment already saturated with millennial news, and in some cases a primate's listing on the Top 25 led to real improvements in its conservation status. With this in mind, an updated Top 25 list was released in 2002, following a special open session at the 19th Congress of the International Primatological Society (IPS) in Beijing, China, in which primatologists contributed information fresh from the field. Their revisions culminated in the official endorsement by the IPS of the Top 25, which is now a joint endeavor of the Primate Specialist Group, the IPS and Conservation International. In August 2004, at the 20th Congress of the IPS in Torino, Italy, nearly two hundred primatologists attended a second open session, which developed this most recent incarnation of the Top 25.

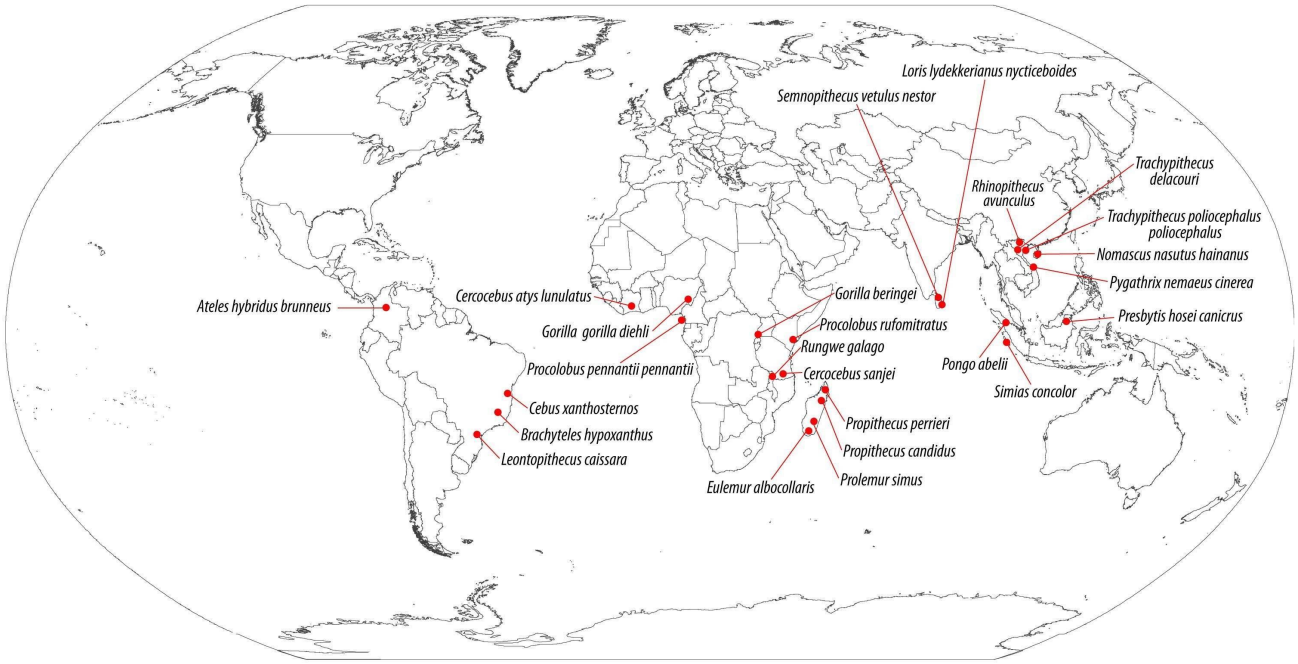
And so from its origins as a stand-alone warning, the list of the Top 25 has evolved into a periodic survey of those primates which researchers and conservationists feel would most benefit from - and most desperately need - the widest possible awareness of their rarity and peril. As such, this list is not ordered by raw threat alone; rather these particular primates have been selected from a broad group of more than fifty critically endangered taxa, any of whom equally deserve our attention and deep concern. Those species and subspecies which appear in this edition have been chosen both for their inherent fragility and as representatives of a region, ecosystem or taxonomic group. As such, individual primates may be added exposure of new species; their departure, unfortunately, does not necessarily mean that they are no longer on the brink of extinction. Protecting these primates requires prolonged research and lasting conservation measures. New information is constantly incorporated into strategies and assessments, both at Conservation International and the IUCN, and is actively included in successive versions of the Top 25.

As such this is a document in motion; less a final arbiter of primate doom than a running commentary from a dim and fading world. This list is only successful insofar as it teaches us something difficult and true about our closest living kin: how they live and how they may die, and what bearing our own actions will have upon their fate.

Table 3. The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates 2004-2006.

	Madagascar		
1.	*Prolemur simus* (Gray, 1871)	Greater bamboo lemur	Madagascar
2.	*Eulemur albocollaris* (Rumpler, 1975)	White-collared lemur	Madagascar
3.	*Propithecus candidus* Grandidier, 1871	Silky sifaka	Madagascar
4.	*Propithecus perrieri* Lavauden, 1931	Perrier's sifaka	Madagascar
	Africa		
5.	*Galagoides* sp. (undescribed)	Mt. Rungwe galago	SW Tanzania
6.	*Procolobus pennantii pennantii* (Waterhouse, 1838)	Pennant's red colobus	Bioko Is., Equatorial Guinea
7	*Procolobus rufomitratus* (Peters, 1879)	Tana River red colobus	Kenya
8.	*Cercocebus atys lunulatus* (Temminck, 1853)	White-naped mangabey	Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana
9.	*Cercocebus sanjei* Mittermeier, 1986	Sanje mangabey	Tanzania
10.	*Gorilla beringei*	Eastern gorillas	Rwanda, Uganda, DRC
11	*Gorilla gorilla diehli* Matschie, 1904	Cross River gorilla	Cameroon, Nigeria
	Asia		
12.	*Loris lydekkerianus nycticeboides* Hill, 1942 *	Horton Plains slender loris, Ceylon mountain slender loris	Sri Lanka
13	*Simias concolor* Miller, 1903	Pig-tailed langur, Pagai pig-tailed snub-nosed monkey Siberut pig-tailed snub-nosed monkey	Mentawai Is., Indonesia
14	*Presbytis hosei canicrus* Miller, 1934	Miller's grizzled surili	Indonesia (E. Central Kalimantan
15	*Trachypithecus delacouri* (Osgood, 1932)	Delacour's langur, white-rumped black leaf monkey	Vietnam
16	*Trachypithecus poliocephalus poliocephalus* (Trouessart, 1911)	Golden-headed langur, Tonkin hooded black langur	Vietnam (Cat Ba Island)
17	*Semnopithecus vetulus nestor* Bennett, 1833	Western purple-faced langur	W. Sri Lanka
18	*Pygathrix nemaeus cinerea* Nadler, 1997	Grey-shanked douc	Vietnam
19	*Rhinopithecus avunculus* Dollman, 1912	Tonkin snub-nosed monkey	Vietnam
20	*Nomascus nasutus hainanus* (Thomas, 1892)	Hainan black-crested gibbon	China (Hainan Is.)
21	*Pongo abelii* Lesson, 1827	Sumatran orangutan	N. Sumatra, Indonesia
	Neotropics		
22	*Leontopithecus caissara* Lorini & Persson, 1990	Black-faced lion tamarin	Brazil
23	*Cebus xanthosternos* Wied-Neuwied, 1826	Buffy-headed tufted capuchin	Brazil
24	*Ateles hybridus brunneus* Gray, 1872	Brown spider monkey	Colombia
25	*Brachyteles hypoxanthus* (Kuhl, 1820)	Northern muriqui	Brazil

= *Loris tardigradus nycticeboides* in Nekaris, K. A. I. 2003. Rediscovery of the Ceylon mountain slender loris in the Horton Plains National Park, Sri Lanka, *Asian Primates* 8(3/4): 1-7, and Nekaris, K. A. I. and Jayewardene, J. 2003. Pilot study and conservation status of the slender loris (*Loris tardigradus* and *L. lydekkerianus*). *Primate Conservation* (19): 83-90.



The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates 2004–2006

Of the 25 primates in the 2004-2006 most-endangered list, four are from Madagascar, seven from Africa, 10 from Asia, and four from the Neotropics (Table 4). They are distributed through 17 countries: four are endemic to Madagascar and four occur in Vietnam, without doubt the two countries most in need of major efforts for the protection of their forests and wildlife (Table 5).

Table 4. The distribution of the world's 25 most endangered primates in through Madagascar, Africa, Asia and the Neotropics.

Madagascar	4
Afric	7
Asia	10
Neotropics	4

Seven of the 25 primates are listed for the first time: the white-collared lemur (*Eulemur albocollaris*), the Mt. Rungwe galago (as yet undescribed), the Bioko red colobus (*Procolobus pennantii pennantii*), the Horton Plains slender loris (*Loris tardigradus nycticeboides*), Miller's grizzled surili (*Presbytis hosei canicrus*), the western purple-faced langur (*Semnopithecus vetulus nestor*), and the Colomnbian brown spider monkey (*Ateles hybridus brunneus*). Fifteen of the primates have been members on this list since the first edition in 2000 (Table 5).

Table 5. distribution of the world's 25 most endangered primates-countries.

Madagascar	*Prolemur simus, Eulemur albocollaris, Propithecus candidus, Propithecus perrieri*	4
Vietnam	*Trachypithecus delacouri, Trachypithecus p. poliocephalus, Pygathrix nemaeus cinerea*, *Rhinopithecus avunculus*	4
Brazil	*Leontopithecus caissara, Cebus xanthosternos, Brachyteles hypoxanthus*	3
Indonesia	*Simias concolor*, *Presbytis hosei canicrus, Pongo abelii*	3
Sri Lanka	*Loris tardigradus nycticeboides, Semnopithecus vetulus nestor*	2
Tanzania	Mt. Rungwe galago, *Cercocebus sanjei*	2
Colombia	*Ateles hybridus brunneus*	1
Cameroon	*Gorilla gorilla diehli*	1
China	*Nomascus nasutus hainanus*	1
Côte d'Ivoire	*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*	1
DRC	*Gorilla beringei*	1
Equatorial Guinea	*Procolobus pennantii pennantii*	1
Ghana	*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*	1
Kenya	*Procolobus rufomitratus*	1
Nigeria	*Gorilla gorilla diehli*	1
Rwanda	*Gorilla beringei*	1
Uganda	*Gorilla beringei*	1

Table 6. The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates: 2000, 2002 & 2004. Shading indicates the primates which have been included in the list since 2000.

2000	**2002**	**2004**
Madagascar		
Hapalemur aureus		
Hapalemur griseus alaotrensis		
	Hapalemur simus	*Prolemur simus*
		Eulemur albocollaris
Propithecus perrieri	*Propithecus perrieri*	*Propithecus perrieri*
Propithecus candidus	*Propithecus candidus*	*Propithecus candidus*
Propithecus tattersalli		
Africa		
		Undescribed Mt. Rungwe galago
	Cercopithecus diana roloway	
Cercopithecus sclateri		
Mandrillus leucophaeus		
	Cercocebus galeritus galeritus	
Cercocebus galeritus sanjei	*Cercocebus galeritus sanjei*	*Cercocebus sanjei*
Cercocebus atys lunulatus	*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*	*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*
Procolobus badius waldroni	*Procolobus badius waldronae*	
		Procolobus pennantii pennantii
	Procolobus rufomitratus	*Procolobus rufomitratus*
Gorilla gorilla beringei	*Gorilla beringei beringei*	*Gorilla beringei*
Gorilla gorilla diehli	*Gorilla gorilla diehli*	*Gorilla gorilla diehli*
Asia		
		Loris tardigradus nycticeboides
	Simias concolor	*Simias concolor*
	Presbytis natunae	
Trachypithecus delacouri	*Trachypithecus delacouri*	*Trachypithecus delacouri*
Trachypithecus poliocephalus	*Trachypithecus poliocephalus*	*Trachypithecus poliocephalus poliocephalus*
	Trachypithecus leucocephalus	
		Presbytis hosei canicrus
Pygathrix nemaeus cinerea	*Pygathrix nemaeus cinerea*	*Pygathrix nemaeus cinerea*
Rhinopithecus avunculus	*Rhinopithecus avunculus*	*Rhinopithecus avunculus*
	Rhinopithecus bieti	
	Rhinopithecus brelichi	
		Semnopithecus vetulus nestor
Hylobates moloch		
Hylobates concolor hainanus	*Nomascus nasutus*	*Nomascus* sp. cf. *nasutus hainanus*
Pongo abelii	*Pongo abelii*	*Pongo abelii*
Neotropical region		
Leontopithecus rosalia		
Leontopithecus chrysopygus		
Leontopithecus caissara	*Leontopithecus caissara*	*Leontopithecus caissara*
Cebus xanthosternos	*Cebus xanthosternos*	*Cebus xanthosternos*
		Ateles hybridus brunneus
Brachyteles hypoxanthus	*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*	*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*
Lagothrix flavicauda		

The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates 2004-2006

Profiles

The profiles presented here provide a compact overview of each of these most threatened primates - a photojournalist's glimpse, grainy and uncertain, blurred with the haste of their passing. Each profile shares the essence of what is known: the extent of the primate's range in its home country, the approximate number which have survived to date, and those measures which are - or should be - underway to attempt their rescue.

These profiles are not the work of any one person, nor could they be; they have been compiled by several dozen of the world's most active and experienced primatologists - men and women who know these primates better than anyone else alive, and who have kindly taken untold hours to write, review and revise these contributions. The Primate Specialist Group thanks them for their efforts, and recognizes that in many cases these are people who have devoted the fullness of their lives to understanding and defending the primates we only touch on here. They are the ones who have spent long years on journeys and struggles in that world which is almost lost, working with these and many other threatened primates; and so we salute them.

Madagascar

Greater Bamboo Lemur
Prolemur simus (Gray, 1871)
Madagascar
(2002, 2004**)**

Formerly in the genus *Hapalemur*, Groves (2001) placed the greater bamboo lemur in the genus *Prolemur* based on a suite of distinctive dental and chromosomal characteristics (Vuillaume-Randriamanantena *et al*., 1985; Macedonia and Stanger, 1994; Stanger-Hall, 1997). As its common name implies, the greater bamboo lemur is the largest of Madagascar's bamboo-eating lemurs (Albrecht *et al*., 1990). Genetic studies further support its separation from the other bamboo lemurs and suggest that *Hapalemur* may, in fact, be more closely related to the genus *Lemur* (Rumpler *et al*., 1989; Macedonia and Stanger, 1994; Stanger-Hall, 1997). Historical records (Schwarz, 1931) and sub-fossil remains confirm that it was once widespread throughout the island (Godfrey and Vuillaume-Randriamanantena, 1986; Wilson *et al*., 1988; Godfrey *et al*., 1999). Documented populations are very patchily distributed and restricted to the south-central portion of the country's eastern rain forests, including those of Kianjavato, Ranomafana and Andringitra National Parks (and the corridor between them), Evendra (near Ivato, southeast of Andringitra), Karianga (near Vondrozo), and possibly the forest fragments south of Ifanadiana (Meier and Rumpler, 1987; Wright *et al*., 1987; Sterling and Ramaroson, 1996; Goodman *et al*., 2001b; Irwin *et al*., 2005). Recent unpublished reports also indicate its presence in the forests of Karianga, northwest of Manombo (E. E. Louis, Jr., pers. comm.) and north up to the region of Moramanga (Dolch *et al*., 2004; Rakotosamimanana *et al*., 2004). Shoots, young and mature leaves, and pith of the bamboo *Cathariostachys madagascariensis* can account for as much as 95% of the diet (Tan, 1999, 2000). Other food items include flowers of the traveler's palm

(*Ravenala madagascariensis*), and fruits of *Artocarpus integrifolia*, *Ficus* spp. and *Dypsis* spp., and leaves of *Pennisetum clandestinum* (Meier and Rumpler, 1987). Observations of animals in the wild and captivity suggest that *P. simus* is cathemeral (Santini-Palka, 1994; Tan, 1999, 2000). They live in polygynous groups of seven to 11 animals occupying home ranges of 60 ha or more (Sterling and Ramaroson, 1996; Tan, 1999, 2000). The greater bamboo lemur is threatened by slash-and-burn agriculture, illegal logging, the cutting of bamboo and hunting with slingshots (Meier, 1987; Meier and Rumpler, 1987). It has vanished from most of its former range and only a few relatively small populations have been documented thus far in the southeast. Hunting and habitat destruction are the presumed causes. It occurs in the national parks of Ranomafana and Andringitra (although limited by suitable microhabitat within these protected areas), and perhaps a thousand or more individuals inhabit the Ranomafana region, but not all within the national park. Opportunities exist to extend protection to lemur populations in neighboring forests, as well as to develop a fairly long corridor of protected forests between Ranomafana and Andringitra, within which it is presumed other greater bamboo lemur populations will be found.

William R. Konstant, Jörg R. Ganzhorn & Steig Johnson

White-collared Lemur
Eulemur albocollaris (Rumpler, 1975)
Madagascar
(2004)

Although very similar in appearance to *E. collaris*, genetic analyses support full species status for *Eulemur albocollaris* (Djletati *et al*., 1997; Wyner *et al*., 1999), as do field studies in apparent hybrid zones with *Eulemur fulvus rufus* (Sterling and Ramarason, 1996; Johnson and Wyner, 2000; Wyner *et al*., 2002). The white-collared lemur has the most restricted range of any species of the genus, occuring only in southeastern Madagascar in a thin strip of forest that runs from just north of the Manampatrana River south to the Mananara River (Petter and Petter-Rousseaux, 1979; Tattersall, 1982; Irwin *et al*., 2005). A hybrid zone with *E. fulvus rufus* appears to lie within the headwaters region of the Manampatrana River in Andringitra National Park. An isolated population occurs in the Manombo Special Reserve near Farafangana. Recent analyses combining ground surveys and Landsat imagery indicate that the total habitat remaining within this species' range is approximately 700 km², with an estimated remaining population of 7265 ± 2,268 individuals (Irwin *et al*., 2005.). Information regarding the natural history of this lemur comes largely from recent studies conducted in the forests of Vevembe. According to Johnson (2002), it is largely frugivorous, its diet supplemented with flowers, leaves, and fungi. Flowers are an especially important food late in the dry season. The species is cathemeral (active both day and night throughout the year). Social groups tend to be multi-male/multi-female, relatively large, and regularly exhibit fission-fusion. Selective logging, hunting and the continued conversion of its rain forest habitat to agricultural land are the greatest threats to the survival of the white-collared lemur. It is found in only two protected areas, the Andringitra National Park and Manombo Special Reserve, but the Andringitra population hybridizes with *E. fulvus rufus* (CBSG, 2002). Recent surveys have identified populations in unprotected forests (Vevembe, for example) that could be added to existing parks and reserves (Johnson and Overdorff, 1999).

William R. Konstant & Steig Johnson

Silky Sifaka
Propithecus candidus Grandidier, 1871
Madagascar
(2000, 2002, 2004)

Propithecus candidus is a large white sifaka from northeastern Madagascar. Its extremely restricted range includes the humid forest belt extending from Maroantsetra to the Andapa Basin and the Marojejy Massif, although the precise limits are unknown (Tattersall, 1982). It is believed to have occurred as far north as Sambava, but its range appears never to have included the Masoala Peninsula. What we know about the ecology and behavior of the silky sifaka has come from short-term research conducted in the montane forests of Marojejy National Park (Duckworth *et al*., 1995; Kelley and Mayor, 2002; Patel, 2002; Patel *et al*., 2003). Population surveys have been carried out in Marojejy National Park by Sterling and McFadden (2000), and in Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve by Schmid and Smolker (1994). The species has a patchy distribution and is absent from large parts of both reserves as well as areas to the south. Groups are most commonly encountered at altitudes above 1000 m. Group sizes range from three to seven animals. The diet is highly folivorous, including mature and young leaves, but they also eat fruit, seeds, bark, soil and roots. Marojejy and the Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve are the only officially protected areas where the silky sifaka occurs, and their forests are not immune from disturbance and the hunting that accompanies encroaching human settlements (Garbutt, 1999). The remaining population could be as low as several hundred, and is unlikely to be more than 5,000. A small number of unexplored forest reserves and classified forests in northeastern Madagascar are within the presumed range of this species and should be surveyed (Mittermeier *et al*., 1994). The silky sifaka has been spotted in the proposed Makira conservation site but population density appears extremely low and distribution very patchy.

William R. Konstant, Frank Hawkins & David Meyers

Perrier's Sifaka
Propithecus perrieri Lavauden, 1931
Madagascar
(2000, 2002, 2004)

The striking black Perrier's sifaka inhabits a small area of dry forests in extreme northern Madagascar, including the Analamera Special Reserve and Andrafiamena hills, and the northeastern limits of the Ankarana Special Reserve (Petter *et al*., 1977; Tattersall, 1982; Hawkins *et al*., 1990). Very little is known of its habits in the wild. It occurs in small groups of two to six individuals which range over an area of up to 30 ha, and it eats a variety of leaves, unripe fruit, stems and flowers (Meyers and Ratsirarson, 1988, 1989; Mayor and Lehman, 1999). Like much of Madagascar's wildlife, Perrier's sifaka is threatened by hunting, clearing land for agriculture, timber-cutting for Charcoal and construction, fire to clear pasture for livestock and, most recently, small-scale mining for gemstones. It is the rarest, least-studied and most endangered of all Madagascar's sifakas. The only two protected areas in which Perrier's sifaka is found are the Analamera and Ankarana Special Reserves, the former apparently harboring the largest remaining populations (Ganzhorn *et al*., 1996/97). It has recently been seen in the area

between Analamera and Ankarana Special Reserves, and these forests should be annexed to the existing protected areas to increase the chances of this species' survival (D. Meyers, pers. obs.). The only other site where the species occurs (in small numbers) is in Andavakoera Classified Forest (ZICOMA, 1999), and conservation efforts are urgently required there. Total numbers are unknown, but could be as low as a thousand or as high as 8,000. Comprehensive density estimates are urgently needed.

William R. Konstant, Frank Hawkins & David Meyers

Africa

Mt. Rungwe Galago
Galagoides sp. nov.
Tanzania
(2004)

Recent surveys for galagos on Mt. Rungwe in the southwest highlands of Tanzania, confirm the presence of an as-yet-unnamed galago species. This may be the same form that Groves (2001) referred to as the Ukinga galago from the Ukinga Mountains, part of the Livingstone Mountains, off the northeast shore of Lake Malawi, and adjacent to and east of Mt. Rungwe. The Livingstone Forest Reserve, now included within the proposed Kitulo National Park, is linked with Mt. Rungwe by a 2-km long corridor of degraded montane forest near Bujingijila. Judging by its size and vocal repertoire, the Rungwe galago belongs to the genus *Galagoides*. Tape recordings of vocalizations, photographs, and preliminary comparisons with museum specimens reveal characters that distinguish the Rungwe galago from other known dwarf galagos (*Galagoides*). To date we have recorded it on Mt. Rungwe and in low densities in Mporoto Ridge Forest Reserve and Livingstone Forest Reserve. The species-specific advertisement call of the Rungwe galago, which is of the "incremental" type, and at least two alarm calls are distinct from those of other galagos which have an incremental advertisement call. These include *Galagoides orinus,* a highland forest galago from the nearby Eastern Arc Mountains. Other distinguishing features are the dark brownish-green pelage, very bushy tail and face markings.

Preliminary ecological evidence indicates that the Rungwe galago prefers areas of forest with large numbers of wild bananas, although it is also found in the *Hagenia*-dominant montane forest in the north of Mt. Rungwe where there is little, if any, wild banana. Animals have been seen entering the large, cone-shaped banana flowers and eating the nectar. Large amounts of pollen stick to the fur of the feeding animals. This might indicate a significant role as a pollinator.

The forests of Mt. Rungwe and the surrounding highlands are affected by widespread logging, charcoal manufacture and hunting, as a result of a long-term lack of effective management. Pressure on the Rungwe area forests is high due to agricultural expansion because the high rainfall and the fertile volcanic soils make this one of most productive areas in Tanzania. The Rungwe galago is known to only a few local hunters and is rarely hunted. Systematic surveys to estimate population densities have yet to be carried out. The conservation status of this species no doubt depends on the conservation of remaining habitat. The total area of the remaining forest patches on Mt. Rungwe, the Mporoto Ridge Forest Reserve and the Livingstone Mountains is believed to be less than 300 km². Further surveys are underway in the region to gather more data.

*Andrew Perkin, Simon Bearder, Tim R. B. Davenport & Thomas M. Butynsk***i**

Pennant's Red Colobus Monkey
Procolobus pennantii pennantii (Waterhouse, 1838)
Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea
(2004)

The endangered Pennant's red colobus monkey *Procolobus pennantii* (Waterhouse, 1838) is presently regarded by the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group as comprised of four subspecies, but their relationships within *P. pennantii,* and with other taxa of red colobus, need clarification (Groves, 2001; Grubb *et al*., 2003). Future research may reveal that these four "subspecies" are better referred to as full species. *P. pennantii* takes its name from the form restricted to Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea, *P. pennantii pennantii*. This endangered subspecies probably has the most restricted range of all of Bioko's unique primates, and is now only found in the southwest of the island where it is threatened by commercial bushmeat hunting (Butynski and Koster, 1994). The other three subspecies are: the critically endangered Bouvier's red colobus *P. p. bouvieri* (Rochebrune, 1887) of east-central Republic of Congo; the endangered Niger Delta red colobus *P. p. epieni* Grubb & Powell, 1999, of Nigeria; and the endangered Preuss's red colobus *P. p. preussi* (Matschie, 1900) of southeastern Nigeria and western Cameroon (Oates, 1994, 2000; Struhsaker, in press). *P. p. pennantii* and *P. p. preussi* are particularly distinct taxa in terms of their vocalizations, while the vocal repertoire of *P. p. epieni* most closely resembles those of the red colobus in Central and eastern Africa (T. Struhsaker, unpublished data).

To the northwest of the *P. pennantii* complex of subspecies occurs the critically endangered Miss Waldron's red colobus *P. badius waldroni* (Hayman, 1936) of southwestern Ghana and southeastern Côte d'Ivoire (Struhsaker, 1999; Oates *et al*., 2000; Groves, 2001; Grubb *et al*., 2003). All five of these subspecies are today close to extinction, with very restricted ranges and small numbers as a result of intensive hunting and extensive habitat degradation and loss (Wolfheim, 1983; Oates, 1994, 1996; Oates *et al*., 2000; Struhsaker, in press). Neither *P. p. bouvieri* nor *P. b. waldroni* have been observed alive by scientists for at least 25 years, raising concerns that they may be extinct. However, a single skin of *P. b. waldroni* in possession of a hunter in southeastern Côte d'Ivoire in early 2002, and recent reports of red colobus in nearby Isles Ehotiles National Park (Kone 2004), give hope that at least one population of this subspecies remains (McGraw and Oates, 2002; McGraw, in press).

The red colobus monkeys of West Africa and west Central Africa are probably more threatened than any other taxonomic group of primates in Africa. This is partly due to the fact that red colobus are especially sensitive to habitat degradation and vulnerable to hunters (Oates, 1996; Oates *et al*., 2000; Waltert *et al*., 2002; Struhsaker, in press). None of the few protected areas in which any of these five subspecies of red colobus occur is well protected (e.g., McGraw, 1998). It is a priority for the conservation of primate biodiversity in Africa to (1) immediately undertake field surveys to determine the current distributions and abundance of these five subspecies of red colobus while, at the same time, (2) rigorously protect all of those populations that are known to still exist.

Providing adequate protection to viable populations of these five subspecies of red colobus would greatly assist the conservation of numerous sympatric threatened taxa. Among primates, these include: the mainland Preuss's monkey *Cercopithecus preussi preussi*; Bioko Preuss's monkey *C. p. insularis*; Bioko red-eared monkey *C. erythrotis erythrotis*; golden-bellied crowned monkey *C. pogonias pogonias*; Roloway monkey *C. diana roloway*; Bioko black colobus *Colobus satanas satanas*; white-naped mangabey *Cercocebus atys lunulatus*; mainland drill

Mandrillus leucophaeus leucophaeus; Bioko drill *M. l. poensis*; western chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes verus*; and Nigeria chimpanzee *P. t. vellerosus*.

If a concerted effort is to be made to save all of the diversity present within red colobus, then the major international conservation NGOs will need to focus their efforts on this taxonomic group and work closely with national conservation NGOs and national protected area authorities. For *P. p. bouvieri* and *P. b. waldroni*, however, it may already be too late.

Thomas M. Butynski, John F. Oates, W. Scott McGraw & Thomas T. Struhsaker

Tana River Red Colobus
Procolobus rufomitratus (Peters, 1879)
Kenya
(2002, 2004)

The gallery forests of Kenya's lower Tana River are home to two Critically Endangered primates, the Tana River red colobus and the Tana River mangabey, *Cercocebus galeritus* Peters, 1879. Along with six other primates, they inhabit a 60-kilometer stretch of forest on both sides of the river, from Nkanjonja to Mitapani. While the other species of monkeys have geographically larger distributions, the red colobus and mangabey are found nowhere else. These two species are offered some protection in approximately 13 km² of forest within the 169 km² Tana River Primate National Reserve. Forest loss to agriculture has increased greatly over the last 15 years or so, resulting in a loss of roughly 50% of the original vegetation. Local communities continue to degrade the remaining forest for products used in the construction of homes and canoes, the collection of wild honey, and the topping of palms to make palm wine. One result of this widespread loss and degradation of habitat is that the populations of the red colobus and the mangabey are believed to have each declined to fewer than 1,000 individuals. A 5-year World Bank/GEF project begun in 1996 was originally designed to relocate several hundred families that presently live within the Reserve, but financial support was withdrawn well before completion of the project due to poor project management. This left responsibility for the protection of the Tana River's remaining forests and primates entirely to the Kenya Wildlife Service. Further losses have resulted from the failure of the Tana Delta Irrigation Project's (TDIP) rice-growing scheme (under the administration of the Tana and Athi Rivers Development Authority - TARDA) to protect either the habitat or the primates in the 14 Tana River forest patches under its management. This rice-growing scheme was financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Additional new threats are now on the horizon with a proposal to establish a large sugar cane plantation in the Tana Delta. An accurate census of the primates of the forests of the Lower Tana River is urgently needed.

Thomas M. Butynski

White-naped Mangabey
Cercocebus atys lunulatus (Temminck, 1853)
Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire
(2000, 2002, 2004)

While the Upper Guinean Forests of West Africa have been reduced to less than 10% of their original size, so too has the habitat of West Africa's forest primates, including the white-naped mangabey, *Cercocebus atys lunulatus*. Terrestrial mangabeys (genus *Cercocebus*) are close relatives of mandrills; both live in multi-male societies and forage predominantly for hard-object foods on the forest floor (Fleagle and McGraw, 2002). -This species is distinguished by its gray-brown coat, white inner limbs and underside, long black stripe on its back and the white patch on the back of the head. Found east of the Côte d'Ivoire's Sassandra River and west of Ghana's Volta River, the white-naped mangabey spends the majority of its time on the forest floor but uses the canopy as well. Their ability to use the ground allows them to live in a broad range of habitats including swamp and agricultural areas. Nevertheless, the most recent surveys have confirmed their presence in only a few of the remaining forest patches in the Guinean Forest Zone; these include Ankasa Resource Reserve, Dadieso Forest Reserve and Yoyo Forest Reserve in Ghana (Magnuson, 2002); and Marahoué National Park, Dassioko Forest Reserve, Niegre Forest Reserve and forest east of the Ehi Lagoon in Côte d'Ivoire (McGraw, 1998; McGraw and Oates, 2002; Kone, 2004). While the forests have become smaller and more fragmented, hunting pressure has increased. Oates *et al.* (1996/1997) and McGraw (1998) suggest that one of the greatest barriers to their conservation is lack of local support. Recent civil conflict in Côte d'Ivoire has also made this a challenging area in which to work.

White-naped mangabeys have a geographic distribution similar to that of the Critically Endangered Roloway guenon, *Cercopithecus diana roloway* (Schreber, 1774), and conservation efforts for both should be coordinated. The Roloway monkey occupies forested areas between Cote d'Ivoire's Sassandra River and Ghana's Pra River. Surveys in the tropical forests of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire have documented its steady decline. In 2001 they were still found in Ghana's Ankasa Resource Reserve, Dadieso Forest Reserve, Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve and Yoyo Forest Reserve. However, their presence could not be confirmed in a number of forests where they were found in 1995/6 (Oates *et al*., 1996/1997; Abedi-Lartey and Amponsah, 1999), including Bia National Park - where they were abundant 25 years ago (Asibey, 1978). In Côte d'Ivoire they are now known to occur in only one of the protected areas: the Yaya Forest Reserve on the western bank of the Comoe River (McGraw, 1998). With the mangabeys, Roloways have also been reported in the swamp forest east of the Ehi Lagoon, but they are quite scarce there (McGraw and Oates, 2002). The establishment of systematic hunting patrols, and elevating the status of forests containing mangabeys and Roloway monkeys to that of National Park, are measures that could help secure their future as well as that of a number of other threatened primates and wildlife in the region (McGraw, 1998). The initiation of conservation trust funds for these last remaining forests would also be an important step to ensure the survival of their dwindling populations of primates (Oates *et al.*, 1996/1997). Since 2001 a group of European zoos involved in the breeding programs (EEPs) of the white-naped mangabey and the Roloway monkey decided to collaborate under the name of WAPCA (West African Primate Conservation Action), together with CEPA (Conservation des Espèces et des Populations Animales, France) and ZGAP (Zoologische Gesellschaft für arten- und Populationsschutz, Germany) for the conservation of these primates in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. First steps were taken in Ghana in 2001, and the first survey was carried out in Côte d'Ivoire in 2004.

W. Scott McGraw, Lindsay Magnuson, Rebecca Kormos & William R. Konstant

Sanje River Mangabey
Cercocebus sanjei Mittermeier 1986
Tanzania
(2000, 2002, 2004)

The Sanje mangabey, discovered in 1979 (Homewood and Rodgers, 1981; Groves, 1996), is endemic to the Udzungwa Mountains of Tanzania, the southern-most and largest forest block of the Eastern Arc Mountains. The fragmented relict forests of the Udzungwas (*c.* 1017 km² of forest) hold 11 species of primates. In addition to the Endangered Sanje mangabey, there are two other threatened endemic or near-endemic species of monkey, making these mountains arguably the most important single site in Africa for the conservation of primate diversity. There are likely fewer than 1300 Sanje mangabeys, in two populations that are located about 85 km apart (Ehardt, 2001; Ehardt *et al.*, 1999; Ehardt *et al*., in press). The largest population (~60%) occurs within the recently established Udzungwa Mountains National Park (UMNP), while the second is confined to Udzungwa Scarp Forest Reserve. This Forest Reserve, separated from UMNP by fire-maintained grassland, is significantly impacted by hunting, and by habitat degradation and loss. Until recently, a third population was believed to exist in Ndundulu Forest Reserve, but surveys in 2004 confirmed that the earlier reports by ornithologists (Dinesen *et al*., 2001) were based on misidentification of the primates present there. This has led to scaling down of the already low combined population estimate and to increased efforts promoting the expansion of the boundaries of UMNP to include the inadequately protected Forest Reserves to the west and south of the UMNP. Additional activities directed toward conservation of the Sanje mangabey include ecological and demographic research (Ehardt *et al*., in press) to assess its habitat requirements and conservation status. These data indicate that the Sanje mangabey feeds on seeds, nuts, and invertebrates on the forest floor, in addition to fruit, a diet characteristic of other species of *Cercocebus,* as well as of the closely related *Mandrillus* spp. The characteristic of spending ~50% of its time on the forest floor, however, subjects the mangabey to risk from snares set for hunting of other animals such as duikers, a concern justified [?]in finding an adult Sanje mangabey trapped by a snare in 2004. Continued research documenting the conservation ecology and habitat of the Sanje mangabey should contribute to improved management of the two remaining populations, and will support efforts to expand the Park and reduce forest fragmentation through the establishment of effective corridors.

Carolyn L. Ehardt & Thomas M. Butynski

The Eastern Gorillas
Gorilla beringei Matschie, 1903
Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda
(2000, 2002, 2004)

The eastern gorilla is the world's largest living primate, one of the best studied, and unfortunately, one of the most threatened. Approximately 385 eastern gorillas, well-known as the mountain gorilla, survive in the Virunga Volcanoes (375 km², 700-4,000 m a.s.l.) where they are protected in four national parks - Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo), Parc National des Volcans (Rwanda), and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park (Uganda). Another 320 or so gorillas live in the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, Uganda (320 km², 1,500-2,300 m a.s.l.). The Virunga Volcanoes and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest are surrounded by dense human settlements and agricultural lands on some of the most fertile volcanic soils in the world. Nonetheless, these four national parks are among the best-protected in Africa. As such, both populations have increased in recent years. The vast majority of eastern gorillas, however, live over an area of roughly 15,000 km² in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These belong to a distinct subspecies; Grauer's gorilla, *G. beringei graueri* Matschie, 1914. The number of eastern gorillas in DRC was estimated at 8,660-25,500 individuals (in at least 11 populations) in 1995, with about two-thirds living in the Kahuzi-Biega and Maiko National Parks. There has been considerable insecurity and civil strife in eastern DRC in recent years, with the result that gorillas in this region have likely declined in number-perhaps dramatically. The entire region over which eastern gorillas live has experienced devastating human conflicts in recent decades, with an estimated human mortality of almost 5 million people. Despite these problems, the International Gorilla Conservation Program (IGCP)-a coalition of the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, The Wildlife Conservation Society, and many other organizations-has maintained long-term support of the eastern gorilla, worked with the national park authorities in the three countries (Uganda Wildlife Authority, Office Rwandais de Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux, and the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature) and local populations, coupled with sustained anti-poaching efforts against relentless pressure, to successfully establish this magnificent primate as one of the premier tropical forest tourism attractions on the African continent.

Annette Lanjouw, Thomas M. Butynski & William R. Konstant

Cross River Gorilla
Gorilla gorilla diehli Matschie, 1904
Nigeria and Cameroon
(2000, 2002, 2004)

Until very recently, the Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) had been the most neglected of the four subspecies of gorilla presently recognized. It was originally named in 1904 as a distinct species, *Gorilla diehli*, based on a few specimens collected in what was then the German colony of Kamerun, close to the Nigerian border at the headwaters of the Cross River. The Cross River gorilla was subsequently reclassified as a local population of western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*), until its distinctive features were recognized again by Sarmiento and Oates (2001). Present populations are restricted to densely forested hills and mountains across the Nigeria-Cameroon border, of which some are surrounded by sizeable human communities. The most northern and western gorilla, the Cross River gorilla is separated by about 300 km from western lowland gorillas (and around 200 km from the recently discovered Ebo gorilla population). Current surveys suggest that there are between 250-300 Cross River gorillas remaining, with the population fragmented across ten or more hill areas, most of them not legally protected. The only exceptions are the subpopulations in Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary and in the Boshi Extension Section of Cross River National Park, Okwangwo Division in Nigeria. The conservation status of the habitat in other areas, especially the Mbe Mountains (Nigeria) and the Takamanda and Mone River Forest Reserves (Cameroon), needs to be improved.

A number of important conservation efforts on behalf of the Cross River gorilla have been launched over the past few years. Notable is the recent commitment from host governments to protect Cross River gorilla habitat. In collaboration with local governments, the Wildlife Conservation Society supports Cross River gorilla conservation and research programs in both Cameroon and Nigeria. In Cameroon, field studies confirmed the gorilla's presence in the Mone River Forest Reserve and the Mbulu Forest, areas contiguous with the Takamanda Forest Reserve. A number of other recent surveys are investigating their presence in areas east of Mone and Mbulu. As part of an overall land-use plan, the government of Cameroon has proposed upgrading the protected status of Takamanda to a National Park, and creating a Gorilla Sanctuary on Kagwene Mountain in eastern Mbulu. Objectives of the Nigerian program include determining the extent of the gorilla's distribution within national park boundaries and assessing potential population links with the Takamanda gorillas, examining options for establishing formal conservation management of the community-controlled Mbe Mountains, and working with other organizations to improve the protection of the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary. Further conservation priorities for Cross River gorillas include developing land-use plans for the Takamanda-Mone-Mbulu area in Cameroon, and the Afi-Mbe-Okwangwo area in Nigeria. More general actions needed include a review and evaluation of the impact of a road development program in Cameroon, and the maintenance and expansion of basic research into the ecology, distribution and population biology of these gorillas, as well as the strengthening and expansion of conservation education and awareness programs at all levels. It is also necessary to build the capacity of relevant institutions in Nigeria and Cameroon, and to ensure that local community needs are incorporated into the development of management strategies, including the study of options for alternative livelihoods.

Jacqui Sunderland-Groves & John F. Oates

Neotropical Region

Black-Faced Lion Tamarin
Leontopithecus caissara Persson and Lorini, 1990
Brazil
(2000, 2002, 2004)

For over a century and a half, biologists heard rumors of an unknown primate living in seaside forests on the far southeastern coast of Brazil. Despite expeditions throughout the 20th century, nothing conclusive was found - until in 1990, two Brazilian researchers, Maria Lorini and Vanessa Persson, surveyed the island of Superagüi in the state of Paraná, and discovered the black-faced lion tamarin, the fourth and least-known species of the genus *Leontopithecus*. Named *Leontopithecus caissara* after the *caiçaras*, the local people of the island, the black-faced lion tamarin survives only in low-lying coastal forests, including the specialized dune forests known as *restingas* and the swamp forests called *caxetal* on the island and mainland. Probably never common or widespread, today there are fewer than 400 black-faced lion tamarins, surviving in less than 300 km² of remnant forests. Recent surveys by IPÊ - Instituto de Pesquisas Ecológicas indicate a population of about 180 individuals on the island of Superagüi (11,000 ha) in the Superagüi National Park (33,928 ha), the most representative population. The researchers also found that its geographic range on the mainland is much more restricted than was previously thought. Like other lion tamarins, *Leontopithecus caissara* feeds mainly on small fruits and invertebrates, including insects, spiders and snails. They also drink the nectar of certain flowers, and will eat the leaf bases of young bromeliads, as well as certain seasonally available mushrooms. In addition to sometimes sheltering in clumps of bromeliads, the lion tamarins depend on these sturdy plants to provide habitat for their invertebrate prey, which they feel out and catch with nimble, grasping fingers. Bromeliads are thus a vital part of lion tamarin habitat, and their dense presence in untouched primary forest - such as the coastal forests and *restingas* of Superagüi - is one reason why this rare habitat is crucial to the survival of *L. caissara* and the other lion tamarins.

John M. Aguiar, Alexandre T. Amaral,
Cláudio B. Valladares-Padua & Fabiana Prado

Buff-headed Capuchin or Yellow-breasted Capuchin
Cebus xanthosternos Wied 1820
Brazil
(2000, 2002, 2004)
Unlike the majority of the highly adaptable capuchin monkeys, the buff-headed capuchin, endemic to Brazil's Atlantic Forest region, is seriously threatened with extinction. There are no reliable estimates of remaining populations, but the forests of its natural range in North-east Brazil (Bahia and extreme northern Minas Gerais) have been largely devastated, and it is hunted as well. Adults are relatively large (about 6 pounds) and provide sufficient meat to warrant the

cost of a shotgun shell, while the young are popular as pets. It has been extirpated over a large part of its former range. Surveys begun in 2002 and, supported by Conservation International, the Instituto de Estudos Sócioambientais do Sul da Bahia - IESB (Ilhéius, Brasil), the European zoos involved in the breeding program (*C. xanthosternos* EEP), Conservation des Espèces et des Populations Animales - CEPA (Schlierbach, France), the Zoological Society for Conservation of Species and Populations (Zoologische Gesellschaft für arten- und Populationsschutz, Germany - ZGAP) (München, Germany), and the Disney Conservation Fund, are providing a clearer understanding of its status. Although more widespread than previously believed, the remaining populations are extremely small and isolated and still subject to hunting, and there is no forest large enough to support a viable population. The the largest single block of forest in their known range, the Una Biological Reserve in Bahia, is estimated to protect a population of 185 individuals. In 1992, the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) set up an International Committee for the Conservation and Management of the species, which is promoting conservation action *in situ*, besides a captive breeding program based on the numerous individuals which are kept as pets in Brazil. At the beginning of 2004, there were 85 animals being maintained in 13 zoos and breeding facilities in Europe and Brazil.

Maria Cecilia M. Kierulff, Jean-Marc Lernould, William R. Konstant, Gustavo Canale, Gabriel Rodrigues dos Santos, Carlos Eduardo Guidorizzi & Camila Cassano

Brown Spider Monkey
Ateles hybridus brunneus Gray, 1872
Colombia
(2004)

There are two recognized subspecies of the variegated or brown spider monkey, *Ateles hybridus* (I. Geoffroy, 1829). *A. hybridus brunneus* is restricted to Colombia, occurring between the lower Ríos Cauca and Magdalena in the Departments of Bolívar, Antioquia and Caldas, and the nominate form occurs east from the right bank of the Río Magdalena extending into western Venezuela. Both are Critically Endangered due to loss of habitat (conversion to agricultural land, fragmentation) and hunting. The large size, slow reproductive rate (single offspring at 3-4 year intervals) and generally low population densities of spider monkeys make them especially vulnerable to hunting. *A. h. brunneus* has a small geographic range in a region where forest loss, degradation and fragmentation is widespread. A refuge remains, however, in the Serranía San Lucas in southern Bolívar, identified as an important site for the establishment of a national park. There is also a population in northern Antioquia which has yet to be investigated. A park in the Serranía San Lucas would protect a number of species endemic to the Nechi center (or refugium), including two other threatened endemic primates, the white-footed tamarin, *Saguinus leucopus*, and the woolly monkey, *Lagothrix lagothricha lugens*. However, the region has been a center of civil unrest for years, and census work there would be hazardous, since guerilla groups have placed anti-personnel mines in some parts of the mountain range. Although civil unrest is limiting opportunities for surveys and conservation action, it is probably the reason why there is still forest remaining, considering the rapacious destruction of the forests elsewhere in the brown spider monkey's range.

Thomas R. Defler, Alba Lucia Morales-J. & José Vicente Rodríguez-M.

Northern Muriqui
Brachyteles hypoxanthus (Kuhl, 1820)
Brazil
(2000, 2002, 2004)

The two muriqui species (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus* and the southern muriqui, *B. arachnoides*) are the largest primates in South America and both are endemic to Brazil's Atlantic Forest region. They live in multi-male groups which can reach more than 50 animals, and were once widespread through the forests of south-east Brazil, from the northern part of the state of Paraná, through São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Espírito Santo to coastal Bahia. Both have suffered from hunting and the destruction of their forests since the 16th century. The northern muriqui, occurring in Minas Gerais, Espírito Santo and Bahia, is the more threatened of the two, its numbers being lower and its populations smaller and more fragmented than those of the southern muriqui which, although also endangered, has benefited from refuge in the relatively intact and inaccessible forests of the Serra do Mar in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. The largest known population of the northern muriqui today is in the forests of the Caratinga Biological Station, an 890-ha private reserve in the state of Minas Gerais (in 2004 numbering approximately 225 individuals). Karen Strier (University of Wisconsin-Madison) has led a research program there since 1983, which has provided invaluable insights into their demography, ecology and behavior. A second major field site is now being set up in Santa Maria de Jetibá, Espírito Santo, by Sérgio Mendes and his colleagues from the state's federal university. Recent surveys in the Rio Doce State Park (Minas Gerais) and the Caparaó National Park (on the border of Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo) are indicating the occurrence of populations which may be as large as, or even larger than, those at Caratinga. Besides the Caparaó National Park and the Augusto Ruschi Biological Reserve, surveys over the last few years have located northern muriquis in 12 localities in the municipality of Santa Maria de Jetibá in Espírito Santo. The Serra do Brigadeiro State Park (Minas Gerais) also protects a significant population, estimated at more than 100 animals. Groups have also been found in two forests in north-eastern Minas Gerais by teams from the Minas Gerais State Forestry Institute. One was rapidly turned into a large federal protected area, the Mata Escura Biological Reserve, and the other, extending across the border into Bahia (Alto Cariri), is currently under study for the creation of a protected area as well. These are the northernmost localities where the species is known to survive today. In 2001, a survey by a team from the Federal University of Minas Gerais also confirmed the survival of a small population of at least 13 in the Fazenda Córrego de Areia, municipality of Peçanha, eastern Minas Gerais, and they also occur in the Ibitipoca State Park in the south. The total known population today is estimated at between 700 and 1000 animals.

Karen B. Strier, Sérgio L. Mendes, Jean Philippe Boubli & Luiz G. Dias

Asia

Horton Plains Slender Loris, Ceylon Mountain Slender Loris

Loris lydekkerianus nycticeboides Hill, 1942
Sri Lanka
(2004)

Four taxa of slender loris, spindly nocturnal primates characterized by short soft fur, no tails, long limbs, and woeful and enormous eyes, are endemic to the critically endangered rainforests of Sri Lanka. Although all taxa have been classified as Endangered, those found in the island's Wet Zone, where only 3% of rainforest remains, are the most imperiled. Restricted to a potential range of no more than 250 km², or, more realistically, 30 km², the Ceylon Mountain (or Horton Plains) slender loris (*Loris tardigradus nycticeboides*) is the most extraordinary of the already specialized slender loris taxa. This cold-adapted slender loris' pelage is so thick, it obscures its ears and thickly clothes the animals' otherwise pencil-thin limbs, adapting it to its life in the montane rainforests, where temperatures may drop to -4ºC. In 1980, the meticulous expert on Sri Lanka's mammals, W. W. Phillips, wrote that the Ceylon Mountain slender loris "would appear to be the rarest of all mammals in Sri Lanka (p. 127)." In fact only four confirmed sightings have been made since 1937, despite several recent systematic surveys in its restricted range by researchers from the Nocturnal Primate Research Group, Oxford Brookes University, and Wildlife Heritage Trust of Sri Lanka. Although the Horton Plains National Park is officially protected, gem mining, collection of fuelwood, agricultural encroachment, the pet trade, forest diebacks in the park, and stochastic effects on the small isolated forest patches to which it clings, continue to threaten this rarest of Sri Lankan primates.

K. Anna. I. Nekaris

Pagai Pig-tailed Snub-nosed Monkey or Simakobu

Simias concolor Miller, 1903
Indonesia
(2002, 2004)

The genus *Simias* is known only from Indonesia's Mentawai Islands, a small archipelago situated off the west coast of central Sumatra. Until humans arrived approximately two millennia ago, its only predators were probably large constricting snakes and birds of prey. Today, however, hunting and forest conversion are two substantial threats to the four indigenous Mentawai primates, all of which are endemic to these islands. *Simias concolor* was originally considered monotypic, but is now believed to include two subspecies, *S. c. concolor* from the Pagai islands and Sipora, and *S. c. siberu* Chasen and Kloss, 1927 from the island of Siberut. The common English name of this large monkey is derived from its short pig-like tail and its shortened nose, which very much resembles that of the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*) of Vietnam, another Critically Endangered species. *S. concolor* lives in relatively small social groups with usually one male and one or more females and offspring. *Simias concolor* occurs in the few small remaining forest patches on the islands of North and South Pagai and Sipora, and in

the large National Park on Siberut. It may still occur in a few forest patches on small islets off southern South Pagai Island. However, of the four Mentawai primates, *Simias* is the most sensitive to deforestation, having significantly lower densities in logged forests than in unlogged. Thus, while *Simias* still survives in spite of human encroachment, hunting, and habitat disturbance, the vast majority of its remaining natural habitat lies outside of officially protected areas. These areas are in logging concessions and could very well be lost in the near future.

Lisa Paciulli, Agustin Fuentes & William R. Konstant

Miller's Grizzled Surili
Presbytis hosei canicrus Miller, 1934
Indonesia (E. Central Kalimantan)
(2004)

All four subspecies of the Asian colobine monkey *Presbytis hosei* are endemic to north Borneo. The high forehead and crest linking it with the white-fronted surili (*P. frontata*) from the southern part of the island, mark the crested grizzled surili, *P. h. sabana* (Thomas, 1893) from eastern Sabah (East Malaysia) as the most divergent subspecies. Its western neighbor, Everett's grizzled surili, *P. h. everetti* (Thomas, 1893) is unique to the genus in being sexually dichromatic. The bandanna-like white tract of hair across the forehead of juveniles and male adults is reduced to a white spot in female adults. In the south-eastern subspecies, Miller's grizzled surili (*P. h. canicrus*), all adults and juveniles much resemble adult female *P. h. everetti*, but have no frontal white spot. *P. h. canicrus* is known only from the north-east Indonesian part of Borneo as far south as the Kutai National Park, the only protected part of its recorded range (Brandon-Jones, 1997). Only an estimated 5% of the forest in this National Park has escaped timber concessions, illegal settling, industrial development and fire (Meijard and Nijman, 2000). This leaves *P. h. canicrus* probably critically endangered or even extinct, although no surveys have been undertaken. The western subspecies, Hose's grizzled surili, *P. h. hosei* (Thomas, 1889), is even more likely to be extinct as most of its distribution coincides with that of the oilfields which straddle the frontier between Sarawak (East Malaysia) and Brunei. *P. h. hosei* resembles *P. h. everetti*, but the female retains her juvenile color at maturity (Brandon-Jones, 1997). There is a slim chance that *P. h. hosei* survives in the northern part of the Similajau National Park in central coastal Sarawak (Duckworth, 1995, 1998). Populations may also exist in Brunei which have been much less subject to hunting and deforestation, but they are likely to be intermediate with *P. h. everetti*. The reputed medicinal value of the bezoar stones sometimes formed in the gut makes this species a target even for hunters uninterested in its meat.

Douglas Brandon-Jones

Delacour's Langur
Trachypithecus delacouri (Osgood, 1932)
Vietnam
(2000, 2002, 2004)

Delacour's langur is one of the most highly endangered of Southeast Asia's colobine monkeys. The species is endemic to Vietnam. During the decades following the discovery of the species in 1930 there was only scanty information on its existence and distribution. The first sightings of living Delacour's langurs were reported in 1987. The most important, and for some subpopulations the only, factor for the decline in numbers is poaching, which is not primarily for meat, but for bones, organs and tissues that are used in the preparation of traditional medicines. Nineteen isolated wild populations of Delacour's langur have been confirmed over 10 years of surveys and monitoring by the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The total population comprises 280 to 320 individuals. The recorded numbers of animals hunted over the 10 years totalled 320, an annual loss of more than 30 individuals, but the real number is undoubtedly higher. Sixty percent of all existing Delacour's langurs occur in isolated populations with less than twenty animals. The loss of these subpopulations, and consequently sixty percent of the whole population, is foreseeable without management, strict regulations and law enforcement. Four areas where Delacour's langurs are protected are: Cuc Phuong National Park, Pu Luong Nature Reserve, Hoa Lu Cultural and Historical Site, and the newly-established Van Long Nature Reserve, which is believed to harbor the largest remaining population of about 50 to 60 animals. This population is well protected due to patrols and close cooperation between the provincial forest protection authorities and Frankfurt Zoological Society. Monitoring surveys in 2003 and 2004 in Cuc Phuong National Park and in Pu Luong Nature Reserve show declines in numbers. Efforts to save this species are being led by Tilo Nadler, manager of the Vietnam Primate Conservation program of Frankfurt Zoological Society and director of the Endangered Primate Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park, established in the 1990s primarily to safeguard the future of this and other endangered Vietnamese primates.

William R. Konstant & Tilo Nadler

Golden-headed Langur or Cat Ba Langur
Trachypithecus poliocephalus poliocephalus (Trouessart, 1911)
Vietnam
(2000, 2002, 2004)

This rare Asian colobine monkey is known only from Cat Ba, the largest of more than 3,000 islands located in northeastern Vietnam's Halong Bay. The greatest part of the islands' mountain range, like most of the smaller offshore islands, is covered by tropical moist limestone forest. Local livelihoods are built upon subsistence agriculture and more recently on a growing tourism industry, supplemented by hunting of wildlife and the collection of firewood, medicinal plants, honey and other forest products. Poaching has been the major threat to the golden-headed langur and has resulted in a population decline from an estimated 2,500-2,800 langurs in the 1960s to a mere 53 individuals by 2000-a 98% decline in 40 years. Langurs were poached mainly for the

preparation of traditional medicines. After the implementation of strict protection measures, for the first time in decades the population of the golden-headed langur increased to a minimum of 59 individuals at present. However, population fragmentation and low reproductive output also threaten them. The remaining population is subdivided into seven isolated sub-populations. Some of these are all-female groups. Allwetter Zoo, Münster, and the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP), München, have been carrying out a conservation program for the golden-headed langur on Cat Ba since November 2000. The aim is to provide for protection, reduce population fragmentation and increase public awareness, in collaboration with Vietnamese authorities with support from Conservation International, among other NGOs. Protection of the golden-headed langur has been designated a priority project of Fauna and Flora International's newly-created Flagship Species Fund. The closely related white-headed langur, *T. poliocephalus leucocephalus* Tan, 1957, is also Critically Endangered due to hunting and habitat destruction (expansion of sugarcane plantations). It inhabits seven isolated karst regions that cover 60-80 km² (in a total distribution of approximately 400 km²) in Guangxi Province, China. The karst formations are found in three separate and isolated protected areas: the Fusui and Chongzuo Rare and Precious Animal Reserves, and the Longgang National Nature Reserve. Estimated total population is about 600-800 animals. In 1998, populations in Longgang and Fusui were found be in decline. A more recent survey (January, 2003) in Fusui, financed by the Asian Development Bank, however, has indicated some recovery since then. Numbers in Chongzuo have risen from less than 100 to more than 200 individuals since Professor Pan Wenshi of Peking University established a biological research program there in 1996. Chongzuo currently has the second largest population after Fusui and represents an example of how scientific presence can contribute significantly to wildlife conservation strategies. Dr. Chia Tan, a research fellow for the Zoological Society of San Diego, is working with the Peking University team to conduct ecological and behavioral studies and education campaigns at Chongzuo.

William R. Konstant, Roswitha Stenke, Tilo Nadler
Roland Wirth, Zhaoyuan Li & Martina Raffel

Western Purple-faced Langur
Semnopithecus vetulus nestor Bennett, 1833
Sri Lanka
(2004)

Endemic to Sri Lanka, this langur is restricted to a small area of the wet zone in the west of the country, most of which is threatened due to human activities (crops, infrastructure and industry, settlements, deforestation and forest fragmentation, and hunting). Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka, is in the center of its very limited range. Hill (1934) indicated that it was common around the capital, but this is no longer the case. Forest cover in Sri Lanka has declined drastically since the late 1950s, and the area of occupancy of this langur has been reduced to a highly fragmented 1,900 km² (Molur *et al*., 2003). Although still quite numerous (>10,000), the declines in numbers are expected to have been precipitous-estimated at more 80% in three generations due to urbanization and development. They are highly arboreal and need good canopy cover, and there are possibly less than three forests that can support viable populations, none of which are protected areas set aside for conservation. The human-modified areas that sustain much of the langur population, such as gardens and rubber plantations, are under private ownership and changing rapidly due to human population expansion and development; large trees are cut down

and entire forest patches are destroyed for housing and development. This severely restricts home ranges, isolating the groups, and resulting in escalated conflict with humans and low juvenile recruitment rates (Dela, 1998). Long-term studies by Dela (1998) have shown that this taxon is unique in having subpopulations adapted to a diet high in mature/ripe fruit, a feature as yet unrecorded for any other colobine, and are dependent on fruits cultivated by humans. Its geographical range has a very high human population density, and home ranges are being compressed due to loss of tree cover. Censuses are urgently needed identify forest areas for conservation and to better quantify the decline of subpopulations in space and time, and to provide a better understanding of their demographics (especially reproductive rates, population turnover and dispersal) in the extremely disturbed habitats where they survive today.

Jinie Dela & Noel Rowe

Grey-shanked Douc
Pygathrix cinerea Nadler, 1997
Vietnam
(2000, 2002, 2004)

Colobine monkeys of the genus *Pygathrix* are native to Southeast Asia. Until only a few years ago, just two distinct taxa were recognized: the red-shanked douc, *Pygathrix nemaeus*, named by Linnaeus in 1771, in the northern part of Central Vietnam; and the black-shanked douc, *P. nigripes*, from South Vietnam and east Cambodia, described exactly a century later by Milne-Edwards. From August 1995 through January 1998, however, six male specimens of a new and distinctive *Pygathrix* were confiscated by Vietnamese forest protection authorities and placed at the Endangered Primate Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. The animals had evidently originated in Central Vietnam. The grey-shanked douc appears to be restricted to mountainous regions of Vietnam's Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Kon Tum, Gia Lai and Binh Dinh provinces, where it is threatened throughout by hunting and habitat loss. Hunting is with guns as well as baited traps. Forest loss within at least part of its range is attributable to the expansion of fruit tree plantations, illegal logging and firewood collection. Surveys and research on this recently discovered primate were conducted by the Frankfurt Zoological Society, led by Tilo Nadler, manager of the Vietnam Primate Conservation program of Frankfurt Zoological Society and director of the Endangered Primate Rescue Center at Cuc Phuong National Park. The continuation of this work should provide recommendations for the establishment of special "Species Protection Areas," with links between protected areas. Most of the grey-shanked doucs occur in two large areas in central Vietnam, each comprising four protected areas of differing status. The population is highly fragmented and estimated at 600-700 individuals.

William R. Konstant & Tilo Nadler

Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey
Rhinopithecus avunculus Dollman, 1912
Vietnam
(2000, 2002, 2004)

The Tonkin snub-nosed monkey is one of four unusual, large Asian colobine monkeys of the genus *Rhinopithecus*, all of which possess a characteristic turned-up nose. The three other species are endemic to China, while the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey is found only in northern Vietnam. This species was discovered in 1910, collected on perhaps no more than two occasions over the course of the next 50 to 60 years, and subsequently presumed to be extinct by a number of primatologists until it was rediscovered in 1989. Currently, there are only three known locations with recent evidence where Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys occur. In 1992, a population was found in Na Hang District. As a result of the discovery, a nature reserve was established in 1994. Since the creation of the protected area at Na Hang, the existence of two additional Tonkin snub-nosed monkey populations has been confirmed, one in the forests of Cham Chu and another in Du Gia Nature Reserve. The total population is estimated not to exceed 300 individuals. For the largest subpopulation of Na Hang Nature Reserve, the most serious threat is posed by a hydropower and flood prevention dam project. Construction began in 2002. Some 10,000 workers will move into the area for dam construction. This will lead to increased demand for wildlife products, firewood and increased human activities due to improved accessibility by roads and the future lake. Conservation activities carried out by several organizations have been unsuccessful, and a dramatic reduction of this subpopulation is foreseeable. The forests of Cham Chu have no protected status and are under increasing pressure due to resettlement from the Na Hang area. The only population without immediate threat is in the Du Gia Nature Reserve. There, public awareness and community participatory activities are being linked to increased protection efforts under the supervision of Fauna and Flora International (FFI).

William R. Konstant & Tilo Nadler

Hainan Black-crested Gibbon
Nomascus nasutus hainanus (Thomas, 1892)
China (Island of Hainan)
(2000, 2002, 2004)

The black crested gibbons of Vietnam and China are among the rarest primates in the world. Their taxonomy is currently in debate, but experts now believe that there are two species-the western black-crested gibbon, *Nomascus concolor*, with up to four subspecies in China, Laos and Vietnam, and the eastern black-crested gibbon, *Nomascus nasutus*, with two subspecies that are considered the most threatened of all the gibbon taxa (Geissmann, 2003). The Hainan gibbon, *Nomascus nasutus hainanus* (Thomas, 1892) is restricted to the Island of Hainan, and the Cao Vit black-crested gibbon, *N. nasutus nasutus* (Kunckel d'Herculais, 1884), occurs on the continent in northeast Vietnam, and China. The correct scientific names of eastern black-crested gibbons are still under debate (Geissmann, 2000; Groves, 2001; Brandon-Jones *et al*., 2004). They differ in their territorial calls and hair color (La Quang Trung and Trinh Dinh Hoang, 2004). Further

comparisons are needed besides genetic research, however, to determine whether they should be classified as separate species (Nadler, 2003).

Adult male *N. n. nasutus* are black with a slight tinge of brown hair on their chest, and adult male *N. n. hainanus* are entirely black (Geissmann *et al*., 2000, Mootnick, in press). The adult females on the mainland and Hainan Island vary from a buffish to a beige brown and have a black cap (Geissmann *et al*., 2000, Mootnick, in press). Adult female *N. n. hainanus* have a thin white face ring that is thicker above the mouth and below the orbital ridge. Depending on the amount of humidity, female *Nomascus* can obtain a more orangey color resulting from their sweat (Mootnick, in press). There was an adult female "Patzi" in the Berlin Zoo whose vocalizations were similar to that of *N. n. nasutus*, but her pelage differed in that she had a very long and broad black crown streak that went past the nape, and extended to the brow, tapering to a thin face ring and becoming thicker at the chin (Geissmann *et al*., 2000, Mootnick, in press). This female had a narrow blackish brown chest plate slightly wider than the face, beginning at the throat and tapering at the top of the abdomen.

The Cao Vit black-crested gibbon formerly occurred east of the Red River in northern Guangdong and southwestern Guangxi provinces. It disappeared from southeastern China in the 1950s, and today it is restricted to the forests of the Phong Nam-Ngoc Khe Mountains, Trung Khanh District, northern Cao Bang Province in Vietnam (bordering China). Last seen in Vietnam in the 1960s, it was also feared extinct there, but was found again, after intensive searches in January 2002 by Fauna and Flora International (FFI) biologists La Quang Trung and Trinh Dinh Hoang (2004). They found five groups totaling at least 26 individuals in the remaining forest of 3000 ha. Further surveys by the Vietnam Primate Conservation Programme of FFI and Trung Kanh District rangers in November 2004 indicated 37 individuals (VNA, 2004). In the 1950's there were estimates of >2000 gibbons on the island of Hainan in 866,000 ha of forests across 12 counties (Wang and Quan, 1986). By 1989 the *N. n. hainanus* population was reduced to only 21 gibbons in four groups in 1200 ha of the Bawangling Nature Reserve (Liu *et al*., 1989). William Bleisch and Yingyi Zhang found 16 individuals in three groups on Hainan Island in November 2003 (pers. comm. to La Quang Trung and Trinh Dinh Hoang, 2004). Further recent surveys estimated between 12-19 individuals in three groups in the Bawangling Nature Reserve, and a fourth group sighted outside the preserve could have had between 2-7 individuals (Wu *et al*., 2004). Another survey found two groups, and two lone males, comprising a total of 13 individuals (Geissmann and Chan, 2004).

Gibbons generally establish long-term pair bonds, but in the Bawangling Nature Reserve there were observations of two females in the same group both carrying offspring (Liu *et al*., 1989; Bleisch and Chen, 1991). This could be a result of older offspring being unable to locate appropriate mates (Wu *et al.* 2004) and limited space to establish new groups (Liu *et al*., 1989). Efforts are underway by FFI to create new protected areas in forests such as those of Che Tao, Vietnam, where local support for the protection of endangered gibbons is apparently on the rise. There is an urgent need to secure the forests on the Island of Hainan, and the survival of the few remaining gibbons there.

Alan R. Mootnick, Anthony B. Rylands & William R. Konstant

Sumatran Orangutan
Pongo abelii Lesson, 1827
Indonesia
(2000, 2002, 2004)

The Sumatran orangutan is one of two species of the genus *Pongo*. While the viability of both is in question, the Sumatran orangutan faces a more immediate extinction risk than the Bornean, *Pongo pygmaeus* (Linnaeus, 1760), and is considered Critically Endangered. The species is endemic to the Indonesian island of Sumatra, and is now restricted almost entirely to forests in the lowlands of Nangroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) and provinces in North Sumatra. More than 1,500 orangutans remain in the Singkil swamp. Sumatran orangutans are estimated to total about 7,500 individuals (based largely on 2002 satellite images), living in 13 fragmented habitat units stretching from northern NAD south to the Sibolga-Tarutung-Padangsidempuan area. It has been suggested that the southernmost population may be genetically distinct from its northern relatives. The largest populations live within NAD province, where recent political turmoil has made monitoring and conservation work difficult. A large population is found in the Leuser Ecosystem, but less than half of these orangutans live within the Gunung Leuser National Park boundaries. Throughout its range, the primary threat to Sumatran orangutans is logging. Old-growth forests in Indonesia have declined by more than 80% in the last 25 years, and broad surveys throughout the species' range have demonstrated that orangutan populations have plummeted in the region's severely logged areas. Of the 13 identified orangutan populations on Sumatra, only seven are estimated at 250 or more individuals. Six of these relatively large populations have experienced between 10 and 15% annual habitat loss due to logging. Villagers and immigrants from nearby areas such as Nias Island and refugees from NAD accelerate habitat loss through encroachment and conversion of land for agriculture. Hunting often occurs when orangutans steal fruit from gardens at the forest edge and are shot by farmers. Some refugees hunt orangutans for meat, but this generally only occurs in the far south of their range (Sibolga). Key conservation interventions necessary for Sumatran orangutan survival include expanding the moratorium on logging concessions beyond NAD, improving patrols and law enforcement, stopping illegal logging, promoting forest restoration, halting road construction, addressing human-orangutan conflict, and providing connectivity in the landscape to allow for genetic exchange. At current rates of habitat destruction from logging, a further 50% of Sumatran orangutans will vanish in a decade. However, there is as much reason to believe the rate of decline will increase as there is for mitigation of this threat; solutions to conserve the remaining lowland primary habitats are urgently needed.

Susie Ellis, Mark Leighton & Ian Singleton

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Eulemur albocollaris (Rumpler, 1975)

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Propithecus candidus Grandidier, 1871

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Procolobus pennantii pennantii (Waterhouse, 1838)

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Cercocebus sanjei Mittermeier, 1986

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Gorilla gorilla diehli Matschie, 1904

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Neotropical Region

Black-faced Lion Tamarin

Leontopithecus caissara Persson and Lorini, 1990

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Buff-headed Tufted Capuchin or Yellow-breasted Capuchin

Cebus xanthosternos Wied, 1820

Coimbra-Filho, A. F., Rocha e Silva, R. and Pissinatti, A. 1991. Acerca da distribuição geográfica original de *Cebus apella xanthosternos* Wied 1820 (Cebidae, Primates). In: *A Primatologia no Brasil -3*, A. B. Rylands and A. T. Bernardes (eds.), pp.215-24. Fundação Biodiversitas and Sociedade Brasileira de Primatologia, Belo Horizonte

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Brown Spider Monkey

Ateles hybridus brunneus Gray, 1872

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Brachyteles hypoxanthus (Kuhl, 1820)

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Asia

Horton Plains Slender Loris, Ceylon Mountain Slender Loris

Loris lydekkerianus nycticeboides Hill, 1942

Nekaris, K. A. I. 2003. Observations of mating, birthing and parental behaviour in three subspecies of slender loris (*Loris tardigradus* and *Loris lydekkerianus*) in India and Sri Lanka. *Folia Primatologica* 74: 312-336.

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Pig-tailed Snub-nosed Monkey or "Simakobu"

Simias concolor Miller, 1903

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Miller's Grizzled Surili

Presbytis hosei canicrus Miller, 1934

Brandon-Jones, D. 1997. The zoogeography of sexual dichromatism in the Bornean grizzled sureli, *Presbytis comata* (Desmarest, 1822). *Sarawak Museum Journal* 50(71): 177-200.

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Trachypithecus delacouri (Osgood, 1932)

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