



The Andean Titi monkey (*Callicebus oenanthe*)

# Primate Conservation Inc. UPDATE

2003

## Director's Report

Hunting and habitat loss are the two main threats to primates. This past year I witnessed just how acute a threat hunters are to one particular primate. I was in Peru at my own expense trying to find and photograph the Andean titi (pronounced tea-tea) monkey (*Callicebus oenanthe*), as this species had never been photographed. Several species of titi monkeys are found in South America. Titi monkeys are often pictured in pairs sitting with their tails entwined. They are smaller than the average house cat, with a body length from 10 to 17 inches, and a tail length of 11 to 20 inches. The adults of the various species weigh from 28 to 42 ounces. They are territorial and live in monogamous family groups. They live cryptically in the under story of the forest and the best way to find them is to listen for the loud territorial call they give in the morning between 6 and 9 AM.



An infant Andean Titi monkey (*Callicebus oenanthe*)



A Peruvian hunter in a tree stand by a water hole

In October of 2002, I was walking with the owner in a privately owned forest listening and looking for titi monkeys. One of the techniques used for surveying these primates is to play a recording of their call to see if they call in response. Researchers hypothesize that the titi responds to what they perceive to be another titi in their territory. That morning I played a recording once. Within two minutes four hunting dogs and two hunters appeared ready to shoot a titi monkey.

In many places in the world today there are still good natural forests with big trees and biological diversity. Often these same forests are unnaturally quiet. The monkeys and other animals have been hunted out. They have been killed for food, for the market, for sport, and for the pet trade. In 4 weeks of surveying for primates In South America, I saw more species of monkeys in cages

then I saw in the forest. Hunters shoot mothers with infants to get a baby for a pet. This practice of shooting breeding females has the devastating effect of increasing the decline of an endangered species.

It was only where people are actively studying the forest and the monkeys that I was able to see several species of monkeys. PCI believes that research and conservation go hand in hand. When someone is given a grant to study a particular primate, they help protect it. With over a 100 threatened or endangered primates in the world more people need to be actively involved in conservation. Your support of PCI helps us get dedicated people into the field to study and protect these endangered or little known primates.

A postscript to the above story about the search for the Andean titi monkey, after a week of looking for them in the Rio Mayo valley of Peru near Moyobamba, which is the only place they are known to inhabit, I heard several groups of them on the last morning. The photographs I you see were taken of a family group being held in a tiny cage. The male, female and infant were being sold for the equivalent of ten U.S. dollars. In this region of Peru a lot of conservation work needs to be done. None of the local people I meet knew this species was rare and occurred in only their province. PCI has awarded a matching grant to Melissa Mark from the State University of New York at Stony Brook to do an extended survey of the Andean titi starting in June.

### **PCI Grantees in the Media**

Several articles have appeared recently in popular magazines by or about people who have received grants from PCI. On our web site [www.primate.org](http://www.primate.org), there is a list of over 100 scientific and other publications written by PCI grantees.

National Geographic, April 2003 (pages, 90-103) "Jane in the Forest Again" by David Quammen is about Jane Goodall's visit to the Goulougo forest in Congo where Dave Morgan and Cricket Sanz are studying chimpanzees that are unafraid of humans because they have never been hunted. Dave Morgan and Cricket Sanz received a PCI grant in the spring of 2002.

Natural History, February, 2002 "Slender in the Night" (pages, 55-59) by K. A. I. Nekaris is about her studies of nocturnal slender lorises of India and Sri Lanka. Dr. Nekaris was given a PCI grant in 1997 to study in India for her thesis and a different grant in 2001 to study lorises in Sri Lanka.

SWARA The Magazine of the East African Wildlife Society, January- April 2002 Vol. 25:1 (pages, 36-38) "Changing Its Ways" by Juli Wieczkowski about her study of the Tana River crested mangabey's response to the environmental changes brought about by people cutting the only forests this monkey inhabits. Juli Wieczkowski received a small grant to study in Kenya in December, 1997 and a renewal grant in May, 1999.

World Rivers Review, April, 2002 (page, 11) "Na Hang Dam Threatens Forest, People and Wildlife" by Chris Lang is about the dam being built in Na Hang,

Vietnam which will destroy 220 hectares out of the 1000 hectare Na Hang Nature Reserve which is home to 1 of the 3 remnant populations of the critically endangered Tonkin snub nosed monkey. PCI has supported Tonkin snub nosed monkey project which is directed by Bettina Martin with several grants since 1998. This dam and the care and feeding of the 10,000 workers that are building the dam, increase the threats to this critically endangered species.

### **How to Support PCI**

PCI is an all-volunteer, tax-deductible private operating 501(c)(3) foundation which has supported more than 700 projects in more than 30 countries with primate habitats throughout the world since 1993.

If you would like to contribute cash, stock, or real estate to PCI or would like more information on a specific project, please contact me at the address below. To keep our overhead to a minimum, so that as much as possible of the money raised is used to support field conservation projects, this is our annual appeal for your donations. Please do not forget about this, as you will not receive other mail from us, nor will we share your name with others. We appreciate your support and hope you will give generously to help fund these vital primate projects.

Sincerely,

