Lagothrix flavicauda observed in Junín, Peru
(Photo Elvis Charpentier).

Primate Conservation Inc.

UPDATE

2020

Director's Report

2020, PCI's 27th year of giving small grants and matching funds to help graduate students and conservationists, has been a challenging year. Many scientists have not been able to conduct field research. Travel restrictions substantially curtailed tourism and the dollars that follow to parks and reserves. Study sites are temporarily restricted. Zoos and sanctuaries are closed to the public. Everywhere and anywhere, there is either no money or money that cannot be spent. This global calamity exacerbates years of domestic and international governmental policy failures that have been bad even hostile to conservation. Opportunities delayed will be opportunities lost. As we look forward to our next year, our work must be redoubled to make up for lost time.

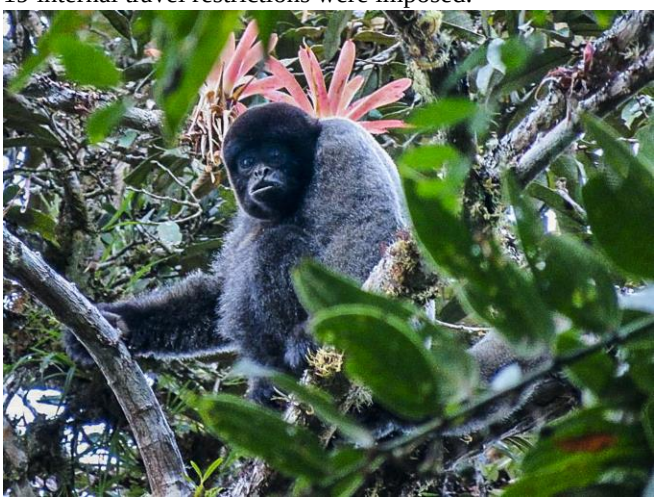
Despite the difficulties, committed researchers and conservationists are persevering. Several grants were awarded to habitat country grantees who could do their projects without international travel. The first article describes work being done in Peru by PCI grantees under difficult circumstances.

Please support PCI with a check or you can donate by credit card or PayPal at www.alltheworldsprimates.org. Members are rewarded with access to our exclusive All the World's Primates website, which has well-referenced information, as well as photos, video and audio recordings covering all the currently known primates. The book version of *All the World's Primates*, with over a 1800 photos of all 511 species, can be bought at www.pogonias.com, with free shipping.

I wish you all a happy, health new year with a vaccine and leadership that improves the protection of endangered species and works to limit climate change to protect the only live able planet we primates have.

Yeissy Sarmiento, Elvis Charpentier, and Sam Shanee:
Field surveys and Environmental Education for Sustainable Protected Area Management for the Yellow Tailed Woolly Monkey and Peruvian Night Monkey

This paraphrased message from Yeissy Sarmiento sent earlier in the year: "Things have been difficult in South America. We had made plans to finish the project at the start of the year but ran into difficulties. Elvis, whose primate survey work was already in a dangerous cocaine production area in the Ayacucho region, was trapped in a tiny village for more than two months when strict COVID-19 internal travel restrictions were imposed.



Lagothrix lagoricha tschudii observed in Cerro de Pasco region
(Photo Elvis Charpentier)

I [Yeissy] was supposed to finish my MSc in Brazil at the start of February but had to delay return until March. Just as I was about to leave, Peru started its national quarantine measures, closing all borders and cancelling all

flights. I had to stay in Brazil. Thankfully, the university let me stay in their dormitories, even though my scholarship ended as I was no longer a student. I managed to return to Peru in July, thanks to an emergency flight from the Embassy, but the quarantine here lasted for 7 months. Only recently are we able to resume any activities. We had to send emergency money to Elvis while he was trapped but still have funds left for more field work. Our plan is to make one or two more trips. So long as no new restrictions are put in place, we will be able to finish field work and the education activities, finishing all the planned project activities by April next year."

Despite these enormous challenges, the project continued and filed a report later in the year. Their preliminary results include:

"To date, we have surveyed 34 sites in Ayacucho, Cerro de Pasco, and Junín. In total, we recorded the presence of primates in 25 sites. These came from at least eight species. The most encountered species were *Lagothrix lagotricha tschudii*, found at 12 sites in Cerro de Pasco, and *Ateles chamek*, found at nine sites across the three regions. *L. l. tschudii* was observed in Cerro de Pasco region. We recorded the presence of *Lagothrix flavicauda* at five sites in Junin but were not able to find the species in Cerro de Pasco, where it appears to be replaced by *L. l. tschudii*. These sightings were ~300 km south of the previously known distribution. *Lagothrix flavicauda* was observed in Junín. We recorded the presence of *Aotus sp*. at 5 sites. The sighting of *Aotus sp*. at Torrebamba in Cerro de Pasco is most probably *A. miconax*, based on altitude and habitat at the site. We were also able to collect fecal samples from a captive *Aotus sp*. for genetic analysis.

Pamela Narváez-Torres and Steig Johnson:
Assessing Lemur Functional Diversity Through the Use of Arboreal Camera-Traps in Reforested and Disturbed Forests in South East Madagascar

Research took place from the beginning of May until the first week of September of 2019. This study was based at the Kianjavato Ahmanson Field Station (KAFS), in the fragmented forests of Kianjavato-Vatovavy. The natural vegetation is lowland humid forest, but the majority of the immediate area has been the subject of extensive forest clearing and slash-and-burn agriculture. Currently, this highly fragmented forest landscape consists of seven forest fragments each of which ranges in size from 80 to 1,100 hectares). Since 2009, there has been an extensive forest restoration project by the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership (MBP), and over 3 million trees have been planted in the area. In 2013, an IUCN Species Survival Commission published a 3-year action plan for the conservation of lemurs. This action plan proposed 28 priority conservation sites, based on the number of critically endangered and endangered species present and one of the sites selected was the Kianjavato region.

To determine which lemur species are present at specific locations in KV, we placed terrestrial camera-and added arboreal camera-traps (average height = 10m) at the same trapping points. Traps were set at 57 points (30 in the forest fragments and 27 in the reforestation areas).

Pictures of the 9 species of lemurs captured by the arboreal camera traps in Kianjavato-Vatovavy.

During this period, we captured all 9 species of lemurs known to be distributed within the forest fragments. However, only one species of lemur was captured in the reforestation areas. Further analysis looking at the differences in vegetation structure and human disturbance between forest fragments and reforestation areas is pending. *Eulemur rufifrons* was the species with the most recordings during the day and *Cheirogaleus majo*r the species with the most recordings at night.

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,

Noel Rowe