



Grey shanked Douc Langur
in central Viet Nam photo by Vu Noc Than

PRIMATE CONSERVATION INC. UPDATE

2000

Director's Report

The mission of Primate Conservation Inc. is to give grants for research and conservation of the least known and most endangered primates. We are proud to be preserving these species by supporting individuals who are doing the difficult work, working in the field studying and protecting the animals.

The January 17, 2000 edition of *Time Magazine* reported on "Primates on the Brink; the top 25 most endangered primates." The article originated from the chairman of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Primate Specialist Group, Dr. Russell Mittermeier. A photo or an illustration accompanied a short description of each endangered taxa. Though PCI is a small conservation organization, in its seven years of operation it has helped to fund research and conservation projects on over half of these 25 species. We couldn't have done it without the support of our generous donors. I salute you, on behalf of PCI, for helping to make a difference and hope you will continue your support.

World's Top 25 Most Endangered Primates

PCI has funded projects studying and protecting the species highlighted in bold type.

Madagascar

1. Golden bamboo lemur *Hapalemur aureus*
2. Lac Alaotra bamboo lemur *Hapalemur griseus alotrensis*



3. **Perrier's sifaka** *Propithecus diadema perrieri* photo by Shawn Lehmann
4. **Silky sifaka** *Propithecus diadema candidus*
5. Golden-crowned sifaka *Propithecus tattersalli*

South America

6. **Black lion tamarin** *Leontopithecus chrysopygus* Brazil
7. Golden lion tamarin *Leontopithecus rosalia* Brazil

8. Black-faced lion tamarin *Leontopithecus caissara* Brazil
9. Buff-headed capuchin *Cebus xanthosternos* Brazil
10. Yellow-tailed woolly monkey *Lagothrix flavicauda* Peru
11. **Northern muriqui** *Brachyteles hypoxanthus* Brazil

Africa

12. **Miss Waldron's red colobus** *Procolobus badius waldroni* Ghana and Ivory Coast
13. **Sclater's guenon** *Ceropithecus sclateri* Nigeria
14. Sanje mangabey *Cerocebus sanje* Tanzania
15. **White-naped mangabey** *Cerocebus atys lunulatus* Ghana and Ivory Coast
16. Drill *Mandrillus leucophaeus* Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria
17. **Cross River gorilla** *Gorilla gorilla diehli* Nigeria
18. **Mountain gorilla** *Gorilla gorilla beringei* Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda

Asia

19. **Gray-shanked douc langur** *Pygathrix cinerea* Vietnam
20. Cat Ba Island golden-headed langur *Trachypithecus poliocephalus* Vietnam
21. Delacour's langur *Trachypithecus delacouri* Vietnam
22. **Tonkin snub-nosed monkey** *Rhinopithecus avunculus* Vietnam
23. Hainan gibbon *Hylobates concolor hainanus* Vietnam and China
24. Javan gibbon *Hylobates moloch* Indonesia
25. **Sumatran orangutan** *Pongo abelii* Indonesia



REPORT OF PRIMATES SURVEYS IN EASTERN MADAGASCAR

By Dr. Shawn M. Lehman

Department of Anthropology SUNY-Stony Brook &
Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments

I conducted some of the first primate surveys in a large forest corridor from October 1999 to March 2000 in eastern Madagascar. This forest corridor is located in a chain of mountains and steep valleys approximately 120 kilometers SE of the capitol of Antananarivo. This corridor represents some of the last unexplored rain forest in eastern Madagascar.

My team was composed of Malagasy biologists and local people. Our first observations were of the forest destruction as the result of slash and burn agriculture, known locally as tavy. The destruction in the corridor mirrored that seen for much of the island: approximately 85-90% of the forest had been burned and cleared for agriculture. The tavy was on steep mountainous slopes, many of which exceeded 45 degrees.

Amazingly, despite the incredible rates of deforestation, we were able to find patches of undisturbed forest along the mountaintops and in some of the more remote valleys. At the northernmost sites, it became readily apparent that the lemur populations had been seriously affected by trapping and hunting. Snare traps were abundant around the site.

We then moved further south into less disturbed forest habitats. Our efforts were rewarded with sightings of red bellied lemurs (*Eulemur rubiventrer*), a few black-and-white ruffed lemurs (*Varecia variegata variegata*), sportive lemurs (*Lepilemur mustelinus*), mouse lemurs (*Microcebus rufus*), greater dwarf lemurs (*Cheirogaleus major*), and common brown lemurs (*Eulemur fulvus fulvus*). We were very excited to see common brown lemurs because they were thought to be restricted to forests

far north of the corridor. There was also ample evidence of feeding by bamboo lemurs (*Hapalemur griseus griseus*) in bamboo patches and by the rare and elusive aye-aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*) on dead tree stumps. Perhaps our most exciting finding was of two groups of what may be a hybrid form of common brown lemur and red-fronted brown lemur (*E. f. rufus*). Hybrids form when two subspecies meet and interbreed, producing a creature that differs in appearance from the parent forms. One can then imagine the fascinating effects that hybrids have on such things as mate selection and reproductive success. We were surprised and disappointed that Milne-Edward's sifakas (*Propithecus diadema edwardsi*) were neither seen nor heard during our surveys. Although local people reported that these large, black lemurs were abundant, they also admitted to systematically hunting the sifakas with blowguns. Local people described using the large white patch on the animal's back as a target for darts fired from blowguns. Therefore, it seems likely that the conservation status of Milne-Edward's sifakas is far more precarious than we had previously imagined.

Plans are currently underway to protect some part of the forest corridor as a reserve or, perhaps, a new national park. Management plans for the new protected area will include education on forest conservation.

If you would like to donate to PCI to help one of the projects like this one, please contact me at the new address below. We have moved our office to Charlestown, Rhode Island. You can also visit us on the world wide web at <http://www.primate.org> and for a donation to PCI find how you can get a copy of *The Pictorial Guide to the Living Primates*. Pogonias Press, Inc. the publisher of this book has become a major contributor to PCI.

Sincerely,

Noel Rowe