



The pygmy slow loris is under threat from hunting in Viet Nam's Kon Ka Kinh National Park.

Primate Conservation Inc. UPDATE

2019

Director's Report

Now in its 26th year of giving small grants and matching funds to help graduate students and conservationists, PCI continues its mission to study, preserve, and maintain the habitats of the world's least-known and most endangered primates. Without our funds, such projects would not go forward, and the primate subjects would be less well known and more vulnerable to the threats they face, including hunting and habitat loss. PCI grantees bring attention to these primates' beauty and their importance to the forests and the people of their habitat regions and the world.

Primates are threatened globally and nowhere more so than in Viet Nam, which is rich in primates. Of the country's more than 20 taxa, 7 are listed by IUCN as Critically Endangered, 10 as Endangered, and 6 as Vulnerable. Over the past decade, 6 Viet species have been included in IUCN's biennial list of the world's 25 most endangered primates. Two recent Viet projects supported by PCI are featured in this update.

If you haven't supported PCI yet, 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 and video and audio recordings of all the species and subspecies of primates currently known. 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.

Trinh Dinh Hoang and Nguyen Tuan Anh:
Cautious Good News from the Population Survey for Delacour's Langur (*Trachypithecus delacouri*) in Kim Bang Forest, Ha Nam Province, Viet Nam. Spring 2018, \$4500



Delacour's langur in Kim Bang forest.

Delacour's langur is endemic to Viet Nam. Recent surveys indicated that the species' population has decreased rapidly, now likely totaling fewer than 500 individuals. A survey by Trinh Dinh and Le (2016) identified the second-largest population, consisting of an estimated seven groups totaling 40 individuals in Kim Bang forest, Ha Nam Province (the largest is in Van Long, with 120 individuals). Their survey confirmed only three groups (20 individuals) but surveyed only one-third of the forest.

Because most remnant populations of Delacour's langur are small and scattered, it was important to determine this population's viability. A census was conducted from August 15 to October 8, 2018, aiming to fully determine the population's status, identify threats and measures for future conservation, and explore the conditions to set up a community-based Delacour's langur monitoring group.

We analyzed Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) data collected by the local Community Conservation Team members, interviewed 16 local people

about Delacour's langur, and conducted point-survey and transect walks in the forest.

Our findings increased the confirmed langur groups and population from 3 groups with 20 individuals to 13 groups with 73 individuals. The field survey recorded 5 or 6 new groups in the extended survey area, which the previous surveys did not cover.

Delacour's langurs, given protection, have rebounded robustly in other areas, so improved protection in Kim Bang is vitally important. Hunting with guns and snaring were found to be serious threats to the langurs. Habitat loss due to stone mining also continues.



Mining area close to Dat Nang cliff, a known sleeping site of a langur group.

We recommend further fieldwork to confirm the provisional groups, a community conservation awareness-raising program, strict protection from hunting and snaring, and a consent program in the site to support the establishment of a species and habitat conservation area for the Delacour's langur in Kim Bang Forest. This Delacour's langur population in Kim Bang has the potential for recovery and growth. If well protected, it can be the second viable population for the long-term conservation of the whole species.

Nguyen Ai Tam, Nguyen Kim Thong, Nguyen Van Mau, and Nguyen Huu Qui:

Study on the Status, Distribution, and Densities of the Pygmy Slow Loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) in Kon Ka Kinh National Park, Viet Nam. Spring 2017, \$3750

Because of its topography, climate, soil conditions, and other factors, Kon Ka Kinh National Park in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam has high biodiversity. Protections are lax, and wildlife, especially primates, face high hunting pressure, habitat loss from illegal logging, and removal of other forestry products. The goal of this project was to gather biological data on the pygmy slow loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*) as background for conservation interventions.

Fifty-one pygmy slow lorises were observed on 16 line transects over a 6-month period. Lorises were more numerous in areas away from human impact and in areas better patrolled by park rangers.



Field survey research team studying the pygmy slow loris.

The distribution density of the pygmy slow loris in Viet Nam is generally low. Other parks previously surveyed have yielded densities of 0.15 or fewer individuals/km. In contrast, this park's pygmy slow loris density was estimated at 0.20 individuals/km. We attributed this higher density to a larger percentage of suitable habitat, especially secondary forests with many small and medium-sized timber trees, vines, bamboo forests, and plantations.

In addition, 102 of the local Ba-na people were interviewed. They concurred that pygmy slow lorises were more often seen in secondary forest as well as adjacent to fields and some restored forest in the park. These slow lorises are seen less often at elevations above 1400 meters. Forests at those elevations have larger trees and so may offer less appropriate habitat. People use homemade guns to hunt animals at night. Interestingly, lorises are used to feed domestic animals, for the Ba-na people claim that human consumption of lorises may lead to misfortune.

This survey formed the basis for a proposal for monitoring the status of hunting and gun use that was submitted to the park's management board. We also conducted an educational program on laws, awareness raising, and restrictions on the use of guns for hunting lorises.

How to Support PCI

PCI is an all-volunteer, tax-deductible private operating 501(c)(3) foundation. Since our first grant in 1993, we have supported with full, partial, or renewal funding more than 700 projects in more than 30 countries with primate habitats throughout the world.

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