

INVITED EDITORIAL

Conservation Efforts of the American Society of Primatologists

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INTRODUCTION

The American Society of Primatologists (ASP) was founded in 1976 as an educational and scientific organization dedicated to primatology (J. Erwin, personal communication). Its purpose is to promote and encourage the discovery and exchange of information regarding primates, including all aspects of their anatomy, behavior, development, ecology, evolution, genetics, nutrition, physiology, reproduction, systematics, conservation, husbandry, and use in biomedical research (ASP Constitution).

Primate conservation has always been a high priority of the ASP. In the November 1977 (Vol. 1, No. 4) issue of the *ASP Bulletin*, Orville A. Smith, then ASP president, stressed that an immediate objective of the society must be to “establish broad areas of agreement on primate use and primate conservation, so that we can formulate common approaches toward a fundamental goal in which we already have agreement: the continued existence of nonhuman primates” (p. 1). That same year, the Conservation Committee was established as a standing committee of the ASP, charged with the oversight of Society-related conservation efforts. Peter Rodman was asked to serve as the first chair of the Conservation Committee. See Table I for a complete list of the ASP Conservation Committee Chairs.

During the past 20 years, the ASP has made significant progress in promoting primate conservation worldwide. This editorial provides an overview of the ASP's conservation efforts to date. It is not intended to be a complete historical account of all ASP conservation-related activities but rather a summary of the major contributions and initiatives that best characterize the conservation efforts of the American Society of Primatologists. Most information originated from the ASP Conservation Committee reports published in the *ASP Bulletin*. Where data were inconsistent or incomplete, past chairs of the Conservation Committee were contacted to help supplement the reports and clarify discrepancies. We apologize for any oversights or omissions.

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TABLE I. American Society of Primatologists Conservation Committee Chairs

Year appointed	Committee chair	Affiliation
1977	Peter Rodman	University of California, Davis
1980	Stephen Gartlan	Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center
1982	Bernadette Marriott	Johns Hopkins University, School of Medicine
1984	Charles Snowdon	University of Wisconsin, Madison
1986	Jo Fritz	Primate Foundation of Arizona
1988	Jo Fritz	Primate Foundation of Arizona
1990	John Anderson	University of California, Davis
1992	Ramon J. Rhine	University of California, Riverside
1994	Ramon J. Rhine	University of California, Riverside
1996	Randall C. Kyes	University of Washington, Seattle
1998	Randall C. Kyes	University of Washington, Seattle

ASP CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The ASP Conservation Committee is responsible for overseeing Society-related conservation activities. Committee duties include 1) establishing liaisons between the Society, conservation groups, and research resources development agencies; 2) providing information on the status of wild populations of nonhuman primates; 3) monitoring primate trade, research demands, the success of captive breeding programs, and the enactment and abuse of legislation aimed at conservation of nonhuman primates; 4) cooperating with all other committees of the Society in the mutual exchange of relevant information; and 5) recommending individuals deserving of special recognition because of their outstanding contributions to primate conservation.

The ASP Conservation Committee has addressed each of these duties over the years, although the activities associated with the fifth objective encompass the most visible conservation efforts of the Society. Each year, the ASP presents several special conservation awards and makes a number of small grant awards for conservation-related activities (described below). The ASP conservation awards and grants program has proven to be an effective mechanism by which to promote and enhance conservation awareness, education, and research. Maintaining a special fund to support these conservation-related activities has in and of itself developed into a major conservation initiative of the ASP.

ASP CONSERVATION FUND

It was recognized early on that ensuring available funds to support ASP conservation efforts was a necessary component of an effective conservation program. In 1985, the ASP opened a separate account to process tax-deductible donations made to the Society in support of primate conservation. A substantial donation was received by the ASP earlier that year from Mrs. Leslie Smithgall to promote conservation work with gorillas. As a result of that gift and in conjunction with the efforts of Charles Snowdon and the other Conservation Committee members, the Society established the ASP Conservation Fund to manage financial contributions in support of primate conservation. The funds are allocated on the recommendation of the Conservation Committee with the approval of the ASP Board of Directors.

The ASP Conservation Fund has shown substantial growth since 1985 as a result of generous contributions from the general public, private organizations, ASP membership, and Society-related fund-raising activities. Some of the more notable fund-raising initiatives include the annual ASP Conservation Silent Auction (initi-

ated by Kenneth Gold in 1992), the annual Conservation Challenge (offered by David Taub/LABS of Virginia, Inc., since 1992), and sales from various ASP-sponsored books, such as *Primate Humor* and, from the ASP Special Topics in Primatology Series, *Primate Conservation: The Role of Zoological Parks* (both edited by Janette Wallis in 1994 and 1997, respectively). The ASP Conservation Silent Auction and Conservation Challenge are held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the ASP.

Although it is not possible in this overview to recognize all the people who have contributed their time and effort to the development of the Conservation Fund, there are two individuals whose efforts were central to its growth: Jo Fritz and Ramon Rhine. During her double term as chair of the Conservation Committee, Jo Fritz, affectionately known as the “the bag lady” for her famous monkey chow bag solicitations (for conservation donations) during the annual banquet at the ASP meetings, was instrumental in promoting awareness of the need for regular contributions in support of primate conservation. More recently, Ray Rhine, who also served a double term as Conservation Committee chair, was very successful in generating considerable financial support for the Conservation Fund.

ASP CONSERVATION AWARDS

The focus of ASP’s conservation efforts has been to promote and enhance conservation awareness, education, and research, especially in habitat countries (countries with native primates). To help achieve this goal, the ASP created a number of special conservation awards presented to deserving individuals in recognition of their dedication and contribution to primate conservation. Awards are made once a year during the annual ASP meeting. Award nominations are reviewed and evaluated by the Conservation Committee during the meeting. The Committee’s recommendations are then submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval. There is no requirement that an award be limited to a single individual or that an award should be made each year. Nomination information is published in the *ASP Bulletin* and available on the ASP Web page (www.asp.org).

Conservation Award

This award provides recognition and financial support (\$500) for students and young investigators from habitat countries who demonstrate potential for making significant and continuing contributions to primate conservation. Those eligible include students, researchers, and educators from primate habitat countries for whom no more than 5 years have elapsed since receipt of their terminal degree. A nominating letter is required and should provide background information about the nominee along with a statement about the nominee’s qualifications for the award, focusing on past and potential contributions to primate conservation. Past awards have been presented by US ambassadors or other senior officials, thereby obtaining favorable publicity for the award, its recipient, and primate conservation in the recipient’s country.

Conservation awards were first presented in 1985 to Fatima Omari of Tanzania and to Ilmar Bastos Santos and Cristina Alves of Brazil. To date, 14 awards have been presented to individuals in eight different habitat countries. Table II provides a summary of Conservation Award recipients.

Subscription Award

This award provides the *American Journal of Primatology* to worthy individuals in habitat countries who otherwise would have little access to the scientific literature

TABLE II. American Society of Primatologists Conservation Awards

Year	Recipient	Affiliation
1985	Fatima Omari Ilmar Bastos and Cristina Alves ¹	University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania University of Minas Gerais, Brazil
1986	Potin Rakotomanga Claudio V. Padua Mariella Leo Luna	University of Madagascar, Madagascar Rio de Janeiro Primate Center, Brazil Univeridad Nacional Agraria de La Molina, Peru
1987	Alejandro Estrada	Instituto de Biologica-UNAM, Mexico
1988	Fallet Young	Community Baboon Sanctuary, Belize
1989	Jatna Supriatna	University of Indonesia, Indonesia
1990	No awards given	
1991	Andreia Martins	Golden Lion Tamarin Conservation Project, Brazil
1992	Albertus H. Pramano	Yayasan Bina Saina Hayati, Indonesia
1992	Felix Rakotondrapary, Gilbert Rakotoarisoa, Nasolo Rakotoarison, Julien Ramanamparony, and Herilala Randdriamahazo ¹	Parc Tsimbazaza, Madagascar
1993	Eduardo M.V. Veado	Estação Biológica de Caratinga, Brazil
1994	No awards given	
1995	No awards given	
1996	Mukesh K. Chalise	Natural History Society of Nepal, Nepal
1997	Juan Carlos Serio Silva	Instituto de Ecologia, A.C., Mexico
1998	No awards given	

¹Shared award.

on nonhuman primates. Preference is given to individuals who will make the journal available for use by students and colleagues. A nominating letter is required and should describe the nominee's credentials and primate-related activities.

Subscription awards were first presented in 1987 to ten individuals. The recipients were also awarded a 1 year membership in the ASP. Prior to 1991, subscription awards (and ASP membership) were renewed for 1 year. Since 1991, a number of awards have been renewed for several years. Currently, subscription awards are granted for a 5 year period. Recipients are requested to submit a brief report every 2 years summarizing the use of the journal. To date, subscription awards have been presented to 38 individuals in 21 different habitat countries. There are 21 *AJP* subscription awards currently in effect. Table III provides a summary of Subscription Award recipients.

Senior Biology and Conservation Award

This award is one of ASP's highest honors. It carries a \$500 honorarium and is given to recognize an individual without an advanced degree who has made substantial contributions over many years to promote primate conservation either through direct action or via enhancement of biological knowledge or the well-being of primates. Past nominees have included park rangers, census takers, animal caretakers, research technicians, and individuals involved in private enterprise that benefits primate conservation. A nominating letter is required and should detail the nominee's qualifications, contributions to primate biology and conservation and his or her period of service. The award is typically presented at public ceremonies by senior officials.

The Senior Biology and Conservation Award was first presented in 1989 to

TABLE III. *American Journal of Primatology* Subscription Awards

Year	Recipient	Affiliation
1987	José Márcio Ayres	Universidade Federal do Pará, Brazil
	Jito Sugardjito	Research and Development Center, LIPI, Indonesia
	Adelmar F. Coimbra-Filho	Rio de Janeiro Primate Center, Brazil
	José Vincent Ridriguez	Colombia
	Wang Sung	China
	Ferdinand Baal	Suriname Forest Service, Suriname
	Filomeno Encarnación	Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Peru
	Marios A.F. Malacco	Centro Nacional de Primatas, Belém, Brazil
	Pothin Rakotomanga	University of Madagascar, Madagascar
	Mariell Leo Luna	Universidad Nacional Agraria de La Molina, Peru
1988	No new awards given; 10 subscriptions were continued	
1989	Elvira Maria Pereira	Universidade Federal do Acre, Brazil
	Alejandro Diego Brown	Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Argentina
	J. Mangalaraj Johnson	India
1990	Julio C. Ruiz	Centro Argentino de Primates, Argentina
1991	Juan Carlos Serio Silva	Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico
	Felix S. Nunez	Universidad de Panama, Panama
	Alcides Pissinatti	Rio de Janeiro Primate Center, Brazil
	Alphonse Nemeye	D.A.I.-N.R.M.P., USAID, Rwanda
	Sharon Matola	Belize Zoo, Belize
	Dondin Sajuthi	Institut Pertanian Bogor, Indonesia
	Tony A. Ohaeri	University of Ibadan, Nigeria
	Ruth Tiffer	Area de Conservacion Guanacaste, Costa Rica
1992	Jatna Supriatna	University of Indonesia, Indonesia
	Marina Wong	Brunei Museum, Brunei
	M.K. Giri	Natural History Museum, Nepal
	Frenando Nassar-Montoya	La Salle University, Colombia
	Lawrence Sirengo	Institute of Primate Research, Kenya
1993	Eduardo Marcelino Veadó	Estação Biológica de Caratinga, Brazil
	Maria Fatima Arruda	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil
	Gilbert Isabirye-Busata	Makerere University, Uganda
1994	Grace Wong	Universidad Nacional, Heredia, Costa Rica
	Gabriel Zunino	Museo Argentina de Ciencias Naturales, Argentina
	Farid Ahsan	University of Chittalong, Bangladesh
1995	No new awards given; 16 subscriptions were continued	
1996	Júlio César Bicca-Marques	Universidade Federal do Acre, Brazil
	Mewa Singh	Mysore University, India
	Arun Srivastava	NE Center, Indo-US Primate Project, India
1997	Minna J. Hsu	National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan
	Komang Gde Suaryana	Universitas Udayana, Indonesia

Anguelo Figueroa of Puerto Rico. Subsequent recipients include Chuck Darsono, Gerry Ruppenthal, Robin Kingston, Hilali Matama, Dehua Yang, Alexander Peal, Nancy Czekala, and Jeremy Mallinson. These nine individuals represent six different countries. Table IV provides a summary of Senior Biology and Conservation Award recipients.

Special Recognition

In addition to the three main awards described above, the Society also has recognized individuals for their outstanding commitment to the conservation of nonhuman primates. Two individuals have been recognized to date. In 1985,

TABLE IV. American Society of Primatologists Senior Biology and Conservation Awards

Year	Recipient	Affiliation
1989	Anguelo Figueroa	Cayo Santiago, Puerto Rico (USA)
1990	Chuck L. Darsono	C.V. Primates, Indonesia
1991	Gerry Ruppenthal	University of Washington, USA
1992	No awards given	
1993	Robin Kingston	Primate Center, Belem, Brazil, ¹ UK
1994	Hilali Matama	Gombe Stream Research Center, Tanzania
1995	Dehua Yang	Yunnan Laboratory Primate Center, China
1996	Alexander Peal	Society for the Renewal of Natural Conservation in Liberia, Liberia
1997	Nancy Czekala	Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species, USA
	Jeremy Mallinson	Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, British Isles
1998	No awards given	

¹Last known affiliation.

Farood Siddiqi received special recognition for his many years of research and conservation work on primates in India. Jo Fritz was honored in 1995 for her long-term dedication to the interests of primates and conservation.

Travel Award

This award provides financial support (\$500) for students and scientists from habitat countries to attend the International Primatological Society (IPS) Congress. In 1994, the ASP allocated \$500 to be administered by the IPS in support of travel to the IPS Congress in Bali, Indonesia. In 1996, the ASP presented travel awards to Mukesh Chalise of Nepal and Shu-Yi Zhang of China to assist with travel expenses to attend the joint IPS/ASP Congress in Madison, Wisconsin. In 1998, the ASP allocated \$1,000 to be administered by the IPS in support of travel to the IPS pre-Congress conservation workshop in Madagascar. Travel awards were also presented to Júlio César Bicca-Marques of Brazil and Mewa Singh of India in support of travel to the IPS Congress. The Conservation Committee is currently establishing a formal mechanism by which to administer this award.

ASP CONSERVATION GRANTS

In addition to the Conservation Award, the ASP also maintains an active small grants program for conservation-related projects. This program is particularly significant, as it provides support for projects that have direct impact on primate conservation. Project proposal guidelines are published in the *ASP Bulletin* and available on the ASP Web page (www.asp.org).

Conservation Small Grants

Proposals for Conservation Small Grants are solicited on an annual basis for conservation research, education, or related projects. Members of the ASP or IPS working in habitat countries are especially urged to apply or to assist someone from a habitat country in designing a conservation project or submitting a proposal. Conservation Small Grant awards are made once a year for a 1 year period and range from \$500–1,500. Grant proposals are reviewed by the members of the ASP Conservation Committee during the annual meeting of the ASP. Award recommendations are then presented to the ASP Board of Directors for final ap-

TABLE V. American Society of Primatologists Conservation Small Grants

Year	Recipient ¹	Affiliation and Project Title
1989	Diane K. Brockman	Yale University, USA Determination of <i>Propithecus</i> Reductive Physiology Through Fecal Steroid Analysis (Madagascar)
	Lisa Paciuli	Monkey Jungle, USA Use of Training for Enrichment Purposes (USA)
1990	No grants awarded	
1991	No grants awarded	
1992	Rodrigo M. Avila	Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica The Significance of Keystone Plant Species for the Maintenance of Primate Populations in the Tropical Forests of Costa Rica (Costa Rica)
	Anne Savage	Roger Williams Park Zoo, USA Proyecto Titi: The Development of an International Primate Conservation Education Program (Colombia)
1993	Thad Bartlett	Washington University, USA Feeding and Ranging by the White-Handed Gibbon (<i>Hylobates lar</i>) in Central Thailand (Thailand)
	Anne Savage	Roger Williams Park Zoo, USA The Use of Water Quality Monitoring to Enhance Conservation of Endangered Primates in Colombia: An International Exchange of Information Between Colombia and Rhode Island (Colombia)
1994	Anwaruddin U. Chodhury	Gauhati University, India Survey and Eco-Behavioral study of the Hoolock Gibbon (<i>Hylobates hoolock</i>) in Eastern Assam and Adjacent Areas of Arunachal Pradesh (India)
	A.K. Gupta	Forest Training Division, India Effects of Shifting Cultivation on the Ecology and Conservation of Mammals in Northeast India, With Special Reference to <i>Trachypithecus phayrei</i> (India)
	Dawn Hawkins	University College London, UK Consequences and Causes of Population Decline in Yellow Baboons (<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>) (Tanzania)
	Madhu Rao	Duke University, USA Secondary Extinctions Due to the Extirpation of Lion-Tailed macaques (<i>Macaca silenus</i>) From Rain Forest Fragments in the Western Ghats of Southern India (India)
1995	Lilan Basse	Tufts University, USA A Study of Inter-Relationships of Gastro-Intestinal Parasitic Diseases Humans and Chimpanzees Along the Boundaries of Kibale National Park, Uganda (Uganda)
	Loretta Cormier	Tulane University, USA The Ethnoprimateology of Guaja Hunter-Gathers (Brazil)
	Anne Savage	Roger Williams Park Zoo, USA The Development of Artificial 'Bindes' to Reduce Firewood Consumption in Coloso, Colombia (Colombia)
	Lori Sheeran	California State University, Fullerton, USA A Conservation Plan of the Gibbons of Xiaobahe, Wuliang Reserve, China (China)
	Carey Yeager	Fordham University, USA Conserving Borneo's Rainforest: An Integrated Approach (Indonesia)

Continued

TABLE V. American Society of Primatologists Conservation Small Grants (*continued*)

Year	Recipient ¹	Affiliation and Project Title
1996	Mukesh K. Chalise	Natural History Society of Nepal, Nepal Familiarization of Environmental Problems Through Conservation Education (Nepal)
	Anwaruddin Choudhury	The Rhino Foundation, India A Survey of Primates in the Jaintia Hills District of Meghalay (India)
	MaLinda Henry	Miami University, USA Inter-Specific Competition for Food Resources Between <i>Pan paniscus</i> and <i>Homo sapiens</i> in Lomako Forest of Zaire (Zaire)
	Zhaoyuan Li	Academia Sinica, China Impacts of Habitat Fragmentation on the Behavior and Social Structure of the White-Headed Langur, <i>Presbytis</i> <i>leucocephalus</i> , in China (China)
	W. Scott McGraw	SUNY, Stony Brook, USA Survey of Endangered Primates in Eastern Ivory Coast (Ivory Coast)
	Richard Nisbett	University of Oklahoma, USA Continuation of Radio Broadcasts in Support of the Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (Liberia)
	Erwin Palacios	Natura Foundation-Caparú Biological Station, Colombia Ecological Bases for Lake- and River-Side Habitat Use of <i>Alouatta seniculus</i> in Colombian Amazonia (Colombia)
	Anne Savage	Roger Williams Park Zoo, USA The Use of 'Bindes' as an Alternative to Long-Term Resource Consumption in Colombia (Colombia)
	Ian Singleton	Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, British Isles Seasonal Migration and Population Structure of Sumatran Orangutans (<i>Pongo pygmaeus abelii</i>) in the Gunung Leuser National Park (Indonesia)
	Júlio César Bicca-Marques	University of Illinois, USA/Universidade Federal do Acre, Brazil Cognitive Aspects of tamarin (genus <i>Sanguinus</i>) foraging decisions (Brazil)
1997	Joanna E. Lambert	University of Florida, USA The Status of Red Colobus (<i>Procolobus badius</i>) Populations in Regenerating Areas of Kibale National Park, Uganda (Uganda)
	Zhaoyuan Li	Academia Sinica, China The Impacts of Habitat Fragmentation on the Behavior and Social Structure of the White-Headed Langur, <i>Presbytis leucocephalus</i> , in China (China)
	Kimberley A. Phillips	Hiram College, USA Conservation of Capuchin and Howler Monkeys in Trinidad (Trinidad and Tobago)
	Rondang S.E. Siregar	Orangutan Reintroduction Project, Wanariset Station, Indonesia Assessing the Behavioral Competence of Rehabilitant Orangutans Reintroduced to the Meratus Forests, East Kalimantan (Indonesia)
	Rebeca Araya	New York University, USA Genetic structure in two sympatric and behaviorally diverse saki monkeys <i>Pithecia pithecia</i> and <i>Chiropotes</i> <i>satanas</i> (Platyrrhini, Pitheciinae) (Venezuela)

Continued

TABLE V. American Society of Primatologists Conservation Small Grants (*continued*)

Year	Recipient ¹	Affiliation and Project Title
1998	Lucy Beresford-Stooke	UK Primate Population Densities After Pitsawing in Budongo Forest, Uganda (Uganda)
	Mukesh K. Chalise	Natural History Society in Nepal, Nepal Environmental Protection in Makalu-Barun Conservation Area Through Conservation Education (Nepal)
	Mugambi Karere	Institute of Primate Research, Kenya Pre-Translocation Ecological Study of De Brazza's Monkeys (<i>Cercopithecus neglectus Schlegel</i>) in Western Kenya (Kenya)
	Christian Mokalulu	Universitas Sam Ratulangi, Indonesia Population Survey of the Sulawesi Black Macaque (<i>Macaca nigra</i>) at the Tangkoko-Duasudara Nature Reserve, North Sulawesi, Indonesia (Indonesia)
	Erwin Palacios	Natura Foundation-Caparú Biological Station, Colombia Density of the Red Howler Monkey (<i>Alouatta seniculus</i>) in Southeastern Colombia (Colombia)
	Jill Pruettz	University of Illinois, USA Forest Characteristics and Spider Monkey (<i>Ateles geoffroyi</i>) Densities in Forest Fragments at La Suerte Biological Field Station, Costa Rica (Costa Rica)
	Juan Carlos Serio Silva	Instituto de Ecología, A.C., Mexico The Primates of the Peninsula of Yucatan: Current State and Strategies For Their Conservation (Mexico)
	Kimberly Williams-Guillen	New York University, USA The Behavioral Ecology of Mantled Howling Monkeys Living in Nicaraguan Coffee Plantations (Nicaragua)

¹Only the principal investigator is listed. A number of projects involve participating investigators from habitat countries.

Countries named in parentheses indicate the country where the project was conducted.

proval. Recipients of grants are asked to submit a brief progress report within 12 months of the award for publication in the *ASP Bulletin*.

The Conservation Small Grants program was established in 1989. To date, the ASP has funded 38 conservation projects conducted in 19 different habitat countries. Table V provides a summary of the Conservation Small Grant awards.

Emergency Grants

This granting mechanism provides emergency funds for conservation projects of critical importance. The ASP Conservation Committee reviews emergency grant proposals at any time and submits favorable recommendation to the ASP Board of Directors for final approval. In 1993, Patrick Mehlman (of LABS of Virginia, Inc.) received emergency funding for a project aimed at preventing the premature culling of free-ranging Barbary macaques in Morocco.

DISCUSSION

From its inception, the ASP has championed the well-being and conservation of nonhuman primates. Through the efforts of the Conservation Committee and strong support from the Society's membership, standing committees, and Board

of Directors, the ASP has made significant progress in promoting primate conservation worldwide. But much more needs to be done.

In 1995, Ray Rhine and the members of the Conservation Committee drafted a conservation action plan designed to guide future ASP conservation activities. Foremost among the aims was the establishment of an ever-increasing financial base to provide greater funding for a growing number of conservation-related projects. The goal is to accumulate a large enough endowment to make a noticeable impact on primate conservation and to ensure continued support during periods of limited contributions. With the continued growth of the ASP Conservation Fund, the American Society of Primatologists is committed to supporting a greater number of conservation activities and providing recognition for those individuals whose dedication and commitment to primate conservation is so critical to the survival of the species.

The future of nonhuman primates in the wild depends largely on the steps that are taken today to ensure their preservation. This is as true today as it was 20 years ago, but the present outlook is much less optimistic than it used to be. Primate conservation has entered a period of urgency, and all those who study or admire these creatures should consider the implications of their disappearance. Without increased support for important conservation initiatives, the future of the world's primate populations is questionable.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX

ASP Resolution Regarding Conservation of Wild Primate Populations

On September 10, 1993, the ASP Board of Directors approved a resolution outlining the Society's position on the conservation of wild primate populations. The text of the resolution follows:

WHEREAS, many wild populations of nonhuman primates are declining due to habitat loss associated with increasing human demands for agricultural land and forest products; and

WHEREAS, eradication of primates as agricultural pests and hunting of primates for food are also contributing to the decline of wild primate populations; and

WHEREAS, careless capture of nonhuman primates can threaten the viability of natural populations and result in unnecessary suffering, mortality, and wastage; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the world's largest importer of nonhuman primates for scientific use and is a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES); and

WHEREAS, the scientific study of nonhuman primates contributes to advances in human and veterinary medicine and yields information that is essential to the conservation of wild primate populations; and

WHEREAS, all primate species are listed in Appendix I or Appendix II of the Convention and the Convention recognizes that trade in species threatened with extinction should be regulated; and

WHEREAS, many of the primate species most often involved in scientific research and testing in the United States are available from sources other than wild populations within the natural ranges of these species,

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PRIMATOLOGISTS RESOLVES:

To encourage actions that provide for appropriate scientific access to nonhuman primates while ensuring that importation of primates into the United States does not contribute to the decline of natural primate populations;

To support limitation of importation of nonhuman primates to those that are humanely obtained through purpose breeding or, when necessary, capture in accordance with good wildlife management practices;

To recognize that the availability of purpose-bred primates can never fully replace the need for scientific access to the full-range of primates from wild populations and that prediction of which primate populations may yield critically important information is not possible;

To respect the rights of primate habitat countries to decide for themselves, within the terms of the Convention (to which we are all Parties), whether or not to make nonhuman primates available for export;

To seek means of promoting the health and well-being of primates during all phases of trade from capture through quarantine; and

To recognize the continuing need for objective and reliable population data on wild primate populations.

This resolution does not imply endorsement by the American Society of Primatologists of any specific legislation or other activity, and may not be represented by anyone as such an endorsement (Approved by the ASP Board of Directors 9/10/93).