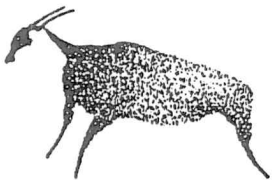


ASIAN PRIMATES

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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS AND STATUS OF THE PAGAI MACAQUE

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The Mentawai Islands are some of the most remote and little studied islands of the Indonesian Archipelago. Lying 85 to 135 km off the coast of West Sumatra, between 0.55' and 3°20' S, the four islands of Siberut, Sipora, North and South Pagai are host to four unique primate species. All four of these species (including one genus) are endemic to the Mentawai chain, each having evolved separately from their Sumatran counterparts over the 10,000 to 500,000 year isolation of the Mentawai Islands. Two of the species, Kloss's gibbon (*Hylobates klossii)* and the Mentawai Island langur (*Presbytis potenziani),* have been the subject of doctoral dissertations and other research projects (Fuentes, 1994; Tenaza, 1975; Tilson, 1980; Whitten, 1982). The other two, the pig-tailed langur *(Simias concolor)* and the Mentawai macaque *(Macaca pagensis)* have not been studied intensively. This report presents observations on and conditions of the Mentawai macaque on North Pagai Island.

Two observers, Agustin Fuentes (AF) and Monica Olson (MO), observed *M. pagensis* on North Pagai Island during 1991 and 1992. AF spent three weeks on the Pagai Islands in 1989-90 surveying the region and seven months during 1992 in southwestern North Pagai (Betumonga region) studying the Mentawai Island langur (*P. potenziani*). MO spent four months during 1991 in the Betumonga region of North Pagai studying the four sympatric Mentawai primates. In all there were 47 encounters with macaques totaling 17 hours of visual contact.

The Mentawai macaque is the least studied of the four endemic Mentawai primates and little has been published regarding its behavior and ecology. There appear to be two subspecies: *M. p. pagensis* (Miller 1903), of the Pagais and Sipora, and *M. p. siberu* (Wilson and Wilson, 1976; Whitten and Whitten, 1982), found on the northern island of Siberut. Whitten and Whitten (1982) describe the morphological differences between the two subspecies and provide some basic socio-ecological data on the Siberut Island form.

We saw five groups of Mentawai macaques throughout the Betumonga region. These groups ranged in size from five to 25 animals, and the largest group had two adult males. Solitary males also were seen on occasion. Most frequently the groups split up into smaller foraging units during the day and were seen en masse only while feeding in coconut gardens or moving through primary forest. The macaques fed on a variety of plant species both in primary and secondary forests and in the gardens and coconut groves surrounding villages.

Like the other Mentawai primates the macaques frequently vocalized in the early morning hours, but they did not exhibit the multi-group vocal interactions common to the gibbons and langurs of the archipelago. However, the macaques did interact with both species of langurs, moving and feeding on occasion with langur groups.

It has been suggested that the crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela sipora*) and the reticulated python *(Python reticulatus)* are potential predators on the primates of the Mentawai Islands (Whitten and Whitten, 1982; WWF, 1980). There have been no reports of any predation attempts by these two species on any primates in the



The Pagai macaque (***Macaca pagensis pagensis***). Photo: Monica Olson.

Mentawai Islands, and no response by *M. pagensis* to either of these predators has been noted by any observer. It is most likely that humans are the only predator on primates in the Mentawai Islands (Fuentes, 1994). Various researchers have noted the devastating effect of humans on the Mentawai primates (Mitchell and Tilson, 1986; Tenaza, 1987, 1989; Whitten and Whitten, 1982). Although macaques are not hunted frequently for food on the Pagai Islands (as compared with Siberut [see Whitten and Whitten, 1982]) they often are poisoned or shot as crop pests (Tenaza, 1987, 1989; Fuentes, pers. obs. 1992). The macaques also have been affected deleteriously by the high rate of deforestation on the Pagai Islands, where up to 75% of the original forest cover has been destroyed ar altered (Fuentes, 1994; Tenaza, 1987).

Because the macaques use the gardens and groves much more than do the other Mentawai primates, they continue to be seen as pests by the local villagers. For these macaques it is the combined threat of poisoning by villagers and loss of habitat due to deforestation that brings them dangerously near the point of extinction. WWF (1980) reports a population of 39,000 macaques on Siberut but admits that it is at best an educated guess and that the actual population may be significantly lower. Sipora has very few macaques left due to over 90% deforestation and the transmigration of many Indonesian settlers from other islands. The Pagais have been heavily logged and lack any complete census of their primate communities but are very likely to have far fewer macaques than Siberut because of the smaller land area and severely reduced habitat.

All of the Mentawai primates are threatened with extinction. However, in the Pagai Islands, education programs and a move away from hunting in many villages are reducing the actual rate of hunting primates for food. It is the macaques who continue to be highly at risk, even in the absence of hunting, because they rely on human crops and groves as important food sources. As the knowledge of traditional traps and poisons is lost by the younger generations and villages become increasingly reliant on cash crops for subsistence, the macaques face a greater risk. This risk is the widespread use of imported chemical poisons (such as Union Carbide's Aldicarb) as anti-monkey pesticides. These poisons affect the macaques and many other potentially unique Mentawai forms in a much more indiscriminate manner than did the traditional method.

Our brief observations suggest that the Pagai macaques are very similar, both ecologically and behaviorally, to the macaques observed on Siberut. However, human influences are potentially greater and more devastating in the Pagais than on Siberut. More research is urgently needed on the Pagai form of *M. pagensis* to ascertain any potential subspecific differences for conservation action. Additionally it is important to inform the international community that the Pagais contain very important, potentially unique, faunal elements within the Mentawai Archipelago and stress that there is need for conservation efforts throughout the region.

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DISTRIBUTION AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF DOUC LANGURS IN VIETNAM

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Introduction

Four seasons were spent during 1994-1995 surveying national parks, nature reserves and local forests in Vietnam to determine the distribution and population density of douc langurs (***Pygathrix nemaeus***). Numerous locations have been surveyed to date, and doucs have been located inside and outside of protected areas (Lippold, in press). Doucs often are found in association with other threatened primate species (Lippold, 1995), and these associations along with group size, forest type and vertical stratification were recorded for contacts. Information on the type and degree of threat to each primate taxa also was gathered. The results of these surveys will form the basis for recommendations for new reserves as well as suggest appropriate conservation action for existing areas.

Methods

Survey localities were determined through discussions with local scientists and Ministry of Forestry (MOF) officials and reviews of recent vegetation maps, aerial photographs and satellite imagery. The resulting surveys were concentrated in areas where live animals were known to be sold in markets and where stuffed doucs were for sale to tourists, on the borders of ranges and in locations for which there were few or no reports. During this first phase of distribution surveys, existing trails were utilized because of the possibility of contacting undetonated munitions.

The number of encounters with douc langur groups or individuals was recorded. Following this, the distance to the center of the group was measured. This was then calibrated with line transects to give a semiquantitative method of sampling abundance (see Brockelman and Ali, 1987). Whenever a primate was encountered, the time of observation and location were noted on a reserve map. The number of individuals, their sex and an estimation of each individual's age also were recorded. This was followed by a detailed description of the face and coat coloration of adults of both sexes and of infants. Photographs and recordings of vocalizations were made whenever possible.

Results

The following is a brief description of some of the findings to date. Bach Ma National Park (Thua Thien-Hue Province) contains several groups of red-shanked douc langur (***P. n. nemaeus***).

Groups were observed at several locations within the park. Groups always were multi-male and multi-female with approximately two females for each male. Groups ranged from 4-5 individuals near heavily traveled trails to 20-25 near less frequented trails near the center of the park. During surveys in the months of January and May, infants of various sizes were observed.

Groups were found most frequently in primary forest although some inhabited secondary forest. Groups utilized the upper canopy on mountains and in valley areas and never descended to the ground. No doucs were found in regenerating forests that had been sprayed with Agent Orange.

In Son Tra Provincial Park (Quang Nam-Danang Province) red-shanked douc langurs were located in the park in spite of severe deforestation in recent years (Lippold, 1977). Several groups with numbers ranging between 6 and 10 were found primarily on the eastern end of the peninsula. On one occasion the local guide recounted seeing a group numbering at least 25 individuals.

In Kong Cha Rang (Gia Lai Province) both red-shanked (***P. n. nemaeus***) and black-shanked douc langurs (***P. n. nigripes***) were found at several locations within the reserve. These are the first recorded sightings of both color variants of the douc langur at the same location. Group size was substantially larger for both taxa with group size close to 40 individuals. A long term field study presently is under way at this location because of its potential for answering questions on the taxonomy and adaptation of douc langurs.

Conservation

On 20 April 1994, Vietnam officially became a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); however, this has not affected the widespread hunting, capture and sale of endangered animals. Endangered animals of all types are found regularly in the local markets. Primates are hunted for food or to sell for medicinal purposes in all areas that we have visited. Adults are eaten and infants are sold at the markets or kept alive to be offered for sale to foreigners. On many occasions, I was offered baby primates for prices ranging from $5 to $100. Whenever our team visited a survey site, hunters offered to bring live primates to our camp. They even offered us half of all the meat that they could obtain if we would provide them with bullets.

Every national park and nature reserve that we visited was understaffed and under financed. Few of them had roads, vehicles, radios or telephones. Rangers did not even have binoculars. Forest trails are patrolled by the rangers frequently and various rangers are assigned sectors of the parks. However, since there are no radios, reports are done by word of mouth several days after a patrol has taken place and well after infractions have occurred.

Summary

The findings of our surveys generally agree with Pham Nhat (1993) that the general coordinates of distribution of both ***P. n. nemaeus and P. n. nigripes*** are from Tay Ninh Province (11°22'N) to Nghe An Province (19°16'N and between 104°21'E and 109°00'E). The red-shanked douc langur is found in north and central Vietnam between 19°16' and 12°00'N and the black-shanked douc langur is found in central and southern Vietnam between 14°22' and 11°22'N. There is an overlap of red-shanked and black-shanked douc langurs in Kon Tum, Gia Lai and Dae Lac Provinces (Lippold, in press).

Group size is variable with larger numbers found in primary forest. The largest group encountered contained 45 individuals. Group sizes tend to be smaller in more disturbed and secondary

forests. Groups were multi-male and multi-female with ratios of approximately two females to each male.

Douc langur populations are widespread and are confined to primary and secondary forests in national parks, nature reserves and local forests. Subsistence hunting and collection of all primate species for medicinal purposes and trade continues in all area of the country. Despite efforts by local, provincial and state authorities little or no protection of these populations exists at the present time.

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by the National Geographic Society, Primate Conservation, Inc., The San Diego State Foundation and The University of Hanoi. Thanks to Professor Dr. Le Vu Khoi, DIrector, Department of Science and Equipment, and Professor Dr. Vo Quy, Director, Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (CRES), University of Hanoi, for sponsoring me during the course of this study. I am grateful to Professor Dr. Dang Huy Huynh, Director, Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources (IEBR), for inviting me to resume my studies in Vietnam and Professor Dr. Cao Van Sung, Deputy Director, IEBR, for help in arranging permission to visit various research sites. The assistance of Mr. Vu Ngoc Thanh, Department of Vertebrate Biology, The State University of Hanoi, is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks also to Noel Rowe, Director, Primate Conservation, Inc.; David Hulse, WWF Vietnam Program Officer; and Ardith Eudey, Vice Chairwoman for Asia, IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, for aid and encouragement during this study.

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A NEW LOCATION FOR *TRACHYPITHECUS FRANCOISI HATINHENSIS*

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Introduction

Trachypithecus francoisi is a leaf eating monkey which is restricted in distribution to Vietnam, southern China and Laos. Six subspecies have been identified, with three of them found only in Vietnam (Weitzel and Vu Ngoc Thanh, 1992). All of the ***T. francoisi*** taxa have a "very high" conservation rating in the **IUCN/SSC Action Plan for Asian Primate Conservation** (Eudey,1987).

T. f. hatinhensis is differentiated from the other subspecies of ***T. francoisi*** by Dao Van Tien (1970) by the following physical characteristics. The body is entirely black and the tail is long. The head is principally black with a ray of yellow-white in the female and white in the male, which goes from the

forests. Groups were multi-male and multi-female with ratios of approximately two females to each male.

Douc langur populations are widespread and are confined to primary and secondary forests in national parks, nature reserves and local forests. Subsistence hunting and collection of all primate species for medicinal purposes and trade continues in all area of the country. Despite efforts by local, provincial and state authorities little or no protection of these populations exists at the present time.

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corner of the mouth across the front of the ear and then to the rear, passing across the whole of the posterior side of the temple and crossing, as it widens, the sides of the nape of the neck.

Formerly the taxon was thought to be quite localized in distribution (Le Xuan Canh, 1992; Pham Nhat, pers. comm., 1994). This report provides evidence of a wider distribution for this subspecies.

Distribution

The type specimen of *T. f. **hatinhensis*** was collected in 1942 from Xom Cuc (17° 55'N, 105° 48'E) in Tuyen Hoa District, northern Quang Binh Province. A second specimen also is recorded from Tuyen Hoa District (Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, 1992).

The animal was then identified in the Phong Nha forest in Bo Trach District, Quang Binh Province (coordinates 17°20'-17°35'N and 106°05'-106° 25'E) by Canh (1992-93) and Weitzel and Vu (1992). MacKinnon (1992) reports *T. f. **hatinhensis*** in Vu Quang reserve in Ha Tinh Province. *T. f. **hatinhensis*** also is reported at Bach Ma National Park (16° 05'-16° 16'N--107° 43'-108° 12E) (Bach Ma Management Plan, 1990).

Methods

Thousands of kilometers have been covered by vehicle and on foot in the course of an extensive country wide survey of the distribution and status of douc langurs (***Pygathrix nemaeus***) in Vietnam (Lippold, in press). During field surveys for douc langurs, the presence of all primate species routinely is recorded and these distributions are substantiated by the local human populations. Photographs of primate species known to occur locally are mixed with those of various other species and are shown to local hunters and villagers for their identification.

Results

In January 1995, during the course of a survey for douc langurs in Kong Cha Rang Nature Reserve in Gia Lai Province (14°33'N, 108°35'E) evidence of *T. f. **hatinhensis*** was found. Our sightings of this subspecies were confirmed by local Bahnar hunters who regularly collected this subspecies in the area. The Bahnar reported that populations of *T. f. **hatinhensis*** are relatively small in the area with groups ranging in size from 5 to 10 individuals. The Bahnar also noted that while they preferred to hunt larger monkeys, they did kill *T. f. **hatinhensis*** on many occasions.

Hunting and habitat destruction appear to be the major threats to the survival of all of the primates in this area including *T. f. **hatinhensis***. Primates are on the menu of the Bahnar people, who also sell them to the local Vietnamese population for use in traditional medicine (Lippold, in press).

Acknowledgments

This study was supported by the National Geographic Society, Primate Conservation, Inc., The San Diego State University Foundation and The University of Hanoi. Special thanks are extended to Tru'o'ng Nho Hu'o'ng, General Director, Union of Forestry, Agriculture and Industry at K'Bang for extending permission and aid to our survey. Thanks also to Nguyen Van' Thanh, director; Tran Van Dan, vice director and Njuyen Van Tu', vice director and all of the staff of the Tram Lap Forestry Farm for assistance and advice during our stay. The assistance of the Bahnar people is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks also to Vern Weitzel for support and encouragement during all phases of this study.

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MORE ON THAI GIBBON PHVA

Asian Primates (vol. 4, nos. 2-3) carries a report by W.Y. Brockelman[1] on the Population and Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) for Thai gibbons, led by R.L. Tilson and U.S. Seal on behalf of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), during an April 1994 workshop hosted by the Royal Forest Department on "Thai Conservation Policy for Rehabilitation and Reintroduction". The official report of the PHVA workshop entitled ***Population and Habitat Viability Analysis Report for Thai Gibbons: Hylobates lar and H. pileatus***, edited by S. Tunhikorn, W. Brockelman, R. Tilson, U. Nimmanheminda, P. Ratanakorn, R. Cook, A. Teare, K. Castle and U. Seal, was published subsequently in 1994 (see **Recent Publications of Interest** [this issue] for the complete citation and summary of contents). The recommendations comprising Chapter 3, which is subtitled "Thai Gibbon Action Plan", were formulated to assist the Royal Forest Department in developing a national conservation strategy for gibbons and are reproduced below. The problems of managing large populations - the total Thai populations of ***Hylobates lar*** and ***H. pileatus*** are on the order of 110,000 and 30,000, respectively - and finding an institutional mechanism for cooperation between the Royal Forest Department and the Zoological Parks Organization (ZPO), as alluded to by Dr. Brockelman, remain to be examined.

1 Brockelman, W.Y. (1994) Thai Gibbon Population and Habitat Viability Analysis. Asian Primates 4(2 & 3): 1-2.

Recommendations for Wild Thai Gibbon Populations

1) The current combined subpopulations of ***Hylobates lar*** (in each of 4 regions of Thailand) are sufficiently large to not require exchange of individuals between the regions or the addition of captive bred individuals for either genetic or demographic support or augmentation of the populations over the next 100 years.

2) The current combined subpopulations of ***Hylobates pileatus*** (in each of 2 regions of Thailand) are sufficiently large to not require exchange of individuals between the regions or the addition of captive bred individuals for either genetic or demographic support of augmentation of the populations over the next 100 years.

3) Subpopulations of 1000 or more individuals within the regions will not benefit genetically or demographically by the addition of individuals from any source over the next 100 years unless a local extinction or decline in numbers (that is not a result of habitat loss) into one of the lower population size categories occurs.

4) Subpopulations of 200-1000 individuals, in habitat capable of sustaining larger populations, should simply be protected and allowed to expand

in numbers by natural reproduction with no additions of individuals from other sources.

5) Subpopulations of 200-1000 individuals, near maximum densities in the occupied habitat, may benefit genetically by the periodic exchange of individuals from other populations. The addition or exchange of about 1-5 individuals, who reproduce in the population, per 20-40 years would be sufficient. *This type of translocation was not considered as a mangagement option during the workshop. The feasibility of such translocations is questionable.*

6) Stable populations of 200 or more individuals (considered to at or near maximum densities) cannot sustain losses exceeding about 5 adult females with young per year per 1000 population without declining or increasing the risk of extinction. The effects of removal are so severe that losses should be eliminated as much as possible.

7) Populations of 200 or fewer individuals, in habitat that will not support a larger population, will require continuing monitoring and will benefit genetically by periodic supplementation with 2-5 individuals of known provenance at about 20 year intervals. These small populations should be evaluated individually and suitable conservation management plans developed for their particular needs. *Again, it is questionable whether such translocations are feasible.*

8) The **Gibbon Disease** working group recommended that complete medical examination, disease testing and biomaterials collection be performed on every gibbon captured from the wild or involved in translocation programs.

Recommendations for Gibbon Monitoring and Habitat Protection

9) Natural gibbon populations must be regularly monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of existing protection methods. A simple monitoring program using protected area personnel should be implemented in selected key gibbon population areas, under the supervision of wildlife technical officials and resident biologists.

10) Royal Forest Department protected area personnel should be provided with training to more professionally administer their duties, to be more effective in educating people on the values of the protected area, and to better gain the confidence and trust of local people.

11) In general, every effort should be made to enhance the value of protected areas to adjacent human communities through easier access to self-sustaining resources (picking up dead wood, mushrooms, bamboo shoots), informal understandings with regard to what constitutes serious infractions (hunting), and providing jobs to members of local communities such as planting trees, clean-up activities, or construction projects.

12) In general, every effort should be made to enhance ecotourism income for members of local communities. An eco-development fund should be established to support local community projects that will benefit protected areas.

Recommendations for Thai Gibbon Captive Management

13) It is recommended that a captive management program for gibbons in Thailand be initiated for gibbons and linked with other global gibbon regional programs, particularly the Southeast Asia Zoo Association (SEAZA), as outlined in the *ThaiZoo Masterplan for Conservation.* It was suggested that the species most in need of conservation action, both in the wild and in captivity, is *H. pileatus.*

14) This captive management program should be under the direction of the Zoological Parks Organization of Thailand (ZPO), and should have the participation of gibbons being held by the RFD at long-term holding facilities or sites.

15) The other critically endangered gibbon species held in ZPO zoos is *H. concolor*; however, these gibbons are not native to Thailand. Despite this, the ZPO, working with reference to the *Thai Zoo Masterplan for Conservation*, may decide in the future to initiate a program for *H. concolor* as part of its international efforts to protect this taxon.

16) The ZPO captive management program for gibbons should be based on founders already in captivity, and not extracted from wild populations.

17) Specific recommendations for ZPO gibbon management protocols were established by the **Thai Gibbon Captive Management Working Group.**

18) Specific recommendations for ZPO gibbon medical management protocols were established by the **Gibbon Diseases Working Group.**

19) Specific recommendations for diseases of captive gibbons, particularly hepatitis B and tuberculosis, and the need to establish a regional or national wildlife disease and diagnostic laboratory in Thailand to support gibbon conservation efforts, were made by the **Gibbon Diseases Working Group.**

20) It was recommended by the **Genetic Management Working Group** that all gibbons in managed ZPO programs be genotyped, breeding combinations attempt to match gibbons of known geographic providence, inter-regional and interspecific hybridization be avoided, and additional characterization of wild populations of known providence be undertaken, particularly populations of ***H. pileatus.***

Recommendations for Gibbon Reintroduction Programs

21) It is recommended that a long-term rehabilitation and release program should be considered for gibbons held in captivity in Thailand. Protocols for such programs need to be developed at a future workshop.

22) If the Royal Forest Department decides to reintroduce gibbons, a possible list of protected areas of Thailand that could be considered as suitable sites for gibbon reintroduction or translocation program was suggested by the working group on **Gibbon Rehabilitation and Release.**

23) If the Royal Forest Department decides to reintroduce gibbons, a preliminary set of guidelines regarding information needs for each gibbon reintroduction site and program was made by the **working group on Selection of Reintroduction Areas** as a basis for consideration at a future workshop.

24) If the Royal Forest Department decides to reintroduce gibbons, the **Gibbon Disease Working Group** recommended a series of protocols regarding pre-lease quarantine, physical examination, and disease testing to eliminate any risk of introducing diseases or abnormal animals into wild populations.

IPS/ASP 1996 CONGRESS SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

The 16th Congress of the International Primatological Society (IPS) will be held 11-16 August 1996 in Madison, Wisconsin, USA, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Society of Primatologists (ASP). The joint meeting is being hosted by the Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center.

Registration Registration materials and abstracts must be received by 1 February 1996. The provisional registration fees are $150.00 for regular members, $80.00 for student members. If you currently are not a member of IPS or ASP, you may contact:

Edi Chan
Wisconsin Regional Primate Center
1220 Capitol Court
Madison, WI 53715-1299 USA
Phone: (608)263-3500
Fax: (608)263-4031
e-mail: ipsasp-info@primate.wisc.edu.

Accommodations A block of hotel rooms has been reserved that range in price from US$58 - $105. A list of hotels and student accommodations will be provided in August 1995. Reservations must be made by 15 June or 10 July 1996 depending on the hotel. Student dorms for one person (US$40) or two people (US$27) per day are air conditioned and include breakfast and shared restroom facilities. Reservations must be made by 10 July 1996.

Abstracts Abstract forms for free communications and for symposia will be circulated in August 1995. The closing date for free communication abstracts is 1 February 1996 and for symposia is 1 November 1995. Individuals may appear as first author on one scientific abstract only, but may appear as co-author on up to three additional scientific abstracts. The first author is expected to make the presentation at the Congress.

Participation in conservation sessions will be considered separately. The Scientific Committee will encourage international collaboration in the symposia presented at the Congress.

Symposia The closing date for abstracts for Symposia is 1 November 1995. Symposia organizers must submit: (a) one abstract providing the symposium title, the organizers' names and their affiliations, and a summary of the symposium (including its significance to primatology), and (b) an abstract for each symposium presenter. For further information regarding symposia, please contact:

Dr. David Abbott, Scientific Program Chair
Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center
1220 Capitol Court, Madison, Wisconsin
53715-1299 USA
Phone: (608)263-3583
Fax: (608)263-4031
e-mail: ips-symposium@primate.wisc.edu.

Financial Assistance There will be no support to individuals from the Conference. Registration fees have been set as low as possible to encourage wide participation from international visitors and students. There is no flexibility in this budget to subsidize any travel or other costs.

NINTH MEETING OF CITES PARTIES

The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES took place in Florida, USA, from 7 to 18 November 1994. The meeting drew a record number of Parties and observers, with 119 Parties (96%), several non-Party governments and 221 non-governmental observers attending.

The Parties adopted a resolution (Resolution Conf. 9.24) establishing new criteria for the amendment of Appendices I and II, by which they repealed the Berne criteria, which had been in effect since the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1976. In an unprecedented coalition, the main producing and consuming countries of tiger bone and tiger bone medicines (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) came together with a resolution on the conservation of and trade in tigers (Resolution Conf. 9.13), urging Parties to strenghten or adopt national legislation to control the illegal killing of tigers and prohibit the sale of products claiming to contain tiger-derived substances. These and other resolutions are summarized by Bobbie Jo Kelso in ***TRAFFIC Bulletin***, vol.,15, no. 2 (March 1995). Official proceedings will be published by the CITES Secretariat.

The present members of the CITES Standing Committee for Asia are Japan and Thailand. The Chairmanship (Japan) is currently held by:

H.E. Ambassador Nobutoshi Akao
Permanent Mission of Japan
to the International Organizations in Vienna
Prinz Eugene Strasse No. 8-10
1040 Vienna AUSTRIA

Asia representatives to the Animals Committee and Plants Committee are the following:

Animals Committee
Asia Representative: Singapore
Dr. Giam Choo Hoo
Primary Production Department
Ministry of National Development
National Development Building
Maxwell Road
SINGAPORE 0106
Fax: 65-2206068

Plants Committee
Asia Representative: Malaysia
Mr. Zulmukshar Shaari
Forestry Department Headquarters
Peninsular Malaysia
Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
Kuala Lumpur 50660 MALAYSIA
Fax: 603-2925657

The Standing Committee has agreed that the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES will be held from 9 to 20 June 1997 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

TRAFFIC NETWORK IN ASIA

The TRAFFIC Network is supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to monitor trade in and utilization of wild plants and animals, in cooperation with the CITES Secretariat. Current contacts for TRAFFIC offices in Asia and the Pacific are listed below.

TRAFFIC International
Executive Director: Jorgen Thomsen
219c Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DL UNITED KINGDOM
Tel: 44-1223 277 427
Fax: 44-1223 277 237
E-mail: traffic@wcmc.org.uk

TRAFFIC East Asia Regional Office
Judy Mills, Director,
c/o WWF Hong Kong
1 Tramway Path, GPO Box 12721
Central HONG KONG
Tel: 852-2526 1011
Fax: 852-2530 0864
E-mail: WWF-Hong(u)Kong@WWFnotice.infonet.com

TRAFFIC East Asia-Japan
Programme Officer: Hisako Kiyono
7th Fl. Nihonseimei Akabanebashi Bldg., 3-1-14
Shiba, Minato-ku, 105, Tokyo JAPAN
Tel: 81-33 769 1716
Fax: 81-33 769 1304
E-mail: trafficjapan@twics.com

TRAFFIC East Asia-Taipei
National Representative: Marcus Phipps
PO Box 7-476
Taipei TAIWAN
Tel: 886-2 362 9787
Fax: 886-2 362 9799
E-mail: treatai@hntp2.hinet.net

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
Director: Hin Keong Chen
Locked Bag No. 911
Jln. Sultan P.O. 46990
Petaling Jaya, MALAYSIA
Tel: 60-3 794 7220
Fax: 60-3-791-3159
E-mail:trafficmya@wwfnotice.infonet.com

TRAFFIC India
Administrator: Ranjit Talwar
172-B Lodi Estate
New Delhi 110003 INDIA
Tel: 91-11-693-744
Fax: 91-11-611-0844
E-MAIL: wwfindel@unv.ernet.in

TRAFFIC Oceania
Director: Debra Callister
PO Box R594 Royal Exchange
Sydney, NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA
Tel: 61-2 247 8133
Fax: 61-2 247 4579
E-mail: traffico@peg.pagasus.oz.au

PROPOSED NOMENCLATURAL CHANGE

As reported in ***Folia Primatologica*** (63:155 [1994]), the genus name ***Loris***, for the slender loris of Sri Lanka and southern India, is being threatened by a senior synonym, ***Tardigradus***, due to the proposed rejection of Brisson's (1792) ***Regnum Animale*** as a consequence of strict interpretation of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Opinions opposing or supporting this change should be submitted in writing to:

The Executive Secretary, ICZN
c/o Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road
London SW7 5BD UNTED KINGDOM

ZOO ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE SUMMER SCHOOL 17-28 JULY 1995 EDINBURGH ZOO

The Zoo Animal Behaviour and Welfare Summer School is designed for all those involved in the management and husbandry of captive animal populations in zoos, safari parks, wildlife centers or rear and release schemes and will update participants on the latest scientific theory in the areas of behavior and welfare, showing how this theory can be practically implemented in the participant's place of work.

Edinburgh Zoo, in conjunction with the University of Edinburgh, has devised this course which will include: 1) Study of Animal Behavior, including behavioral needs and motivation, captive animal behavior and measuring behavior; 2) Animal Welfare, including concepts of stress, methods of assessing animal welfare, causes of behavioral problems and solving behavioral problems; 3) Environmental Enrichment, including enclosure design, environmental enrichment management, environmental enrichment devices and studies of behavioral enrichment; 4) Global Context of Zoos, including captive breeding programs, inter-zoo cooperation, the role of zoos in conservation and the in-situ perspective.

The course fee is 750 pounds sterling (about US $1,200), VAT exempt. This fee includes lunch and course materials. Airfare and accommodations are not included. A special package is available for accommodations at the University's apartments at the cost of 140 pounds sterling (about US $224), VAT exempt. No scholarships are available. Registrants requiring financial assistance should seek alternative sources. The deadline for registration is 31 May 1995.

To receive further information please contact:

Hamish Macandrew
UnivEd Technologies Ltd.
Abden House, 1 Marchhall Crescent
Edinburgh EH16 5HP U.K.
Fax: 0131 650 3474.

IN MEMORIAM

On 3 May 1995, Dao Van Tien, Emeritus Professor of Biology at the National University of Hanoi, Vietnam, died at the age of 78. Professor Dao Van Tien was educated in Hanoi under the French colonial administration. He taught several generations of Vietnamese scientists and carried his Biology Faculty through the difficult years after his country gained its freedom in the 1950's. All senior biologists today in northern Vietnam may be considered to be his students. Professor Dao Van Tien's principal works and many of his papers were in mammalian zoology. Among his recent contributions to primatology are "On the trends of the evolutionary radiation of the Tonkin leafmonkey (***Presbytis francoisi***, Primates: Cercopithecidae)", ***Human Evolution*** 4:501-501 (1990), and "Ecologie et ethologie du gibbon de Hainan (***Hylobates concolor hainanus***, Primates, Hylobatidae) au Vietnam", which appears in the ***Hylobates concolor (Harlan, 1826) International Studbook 1990***, published by J.-M. Lernould (1993). He left the world an incalculable legacy of studies of the rich biology of Vietnam, and a scholarly tradition for those who will follow in his footsteps. (Adapted, with additional information, from ***Laboratory Primate Newsletter***, vol. 34, no. 3 (July 1995), based on Primate-Talk postings by C.P.Groves and V. Weitzel.)

CURRENT PRIMATE FIELD STUDIES SUPPLEMENT
1994-1996

Primate field workers are requested to complete the following questionnaire for inclusion in the next issue of ***Current Primate Field Studies Supplement*** (CPFSS), a publication of the Primate Society of Great Britain. A copy or facsimile of the questionnaire will be satisfactory. Copies of the questionnaire should be distributed to others in your institution, university or department who are carrying out or planning to undertake primate field studies during the period January 1994-January 1996. Please note that, beginning with the CPFSS presently under preparation, research teams with ongoing projects are requested to verify either by letter or questionnaire that their studies are continuing. **The deadline for inclusion of all field studies in the next issue of CPFSS is January 1996.** Please complete the questionnaire in BLOCK CAPITALS and return as soon as possible to:

Julia M. Casperd
Church House, Pump Lane
Churton, Chester CH3 6LR
UNITED KINGDOM

Name:_____ Title of project:_____

Director of project:_____

Current research team:_____
_____

	Correspondence address	Field site address
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
City	_____	_____
Post code	_____	_____
Country	_____	_____

Precise location of field study (please include map coordinates):
_____

Habitat:_____

Status: planned _____ current _____ completed (after Jan 1994) _____

Start date of field study/project: Month _____ Year _____

Duration (months): _____

Species (common and Latin name) of primate studied: _____
_____
_____

Aims of project/ field work: _____
_____
_____

Financed by: _____

Further information: _____

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Lemurs of Madagascar, Conservation International Tropical Field Guide Series 1. Russell A. Mittermeier, Ian Tattersall, William R. Konstant, David M. Meyers and Roderic B. Mast, editors. Illustrated by Stephen D. Nash. Conservation International, 1015 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C., USA, 1994.

Summary: This is the first in a series of Tropical Field Guides being produced to fill a largely vacant niche: to increase knowledge of and further appreciation for wildlife of the tropical world, and to help stimulate a tradition of "watching" and "life-listing" for other wildlife in addition to birds. The book focuses on the endemic lemurs of Madagascar. The guide discusses the origins, discovery, study and conservation of Madagascar's lemur fauna, and provides in-depth profiles of each of the country's 50 species and subspecies. The guide is illustrated with 35 color plates, maps of the distribution of all species and a series of 135 postural, locomotor and behavioral drawings to assist in field identification. A Lemur Life-List is included for recording field sightings. Other volumes in this series are planned for the near future.

Lion-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca silenus*) Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop. Ajith Kumar, Sanjay Molur and Sally Walker, editors. A Collaborative Workshop with Zoo Outreach Organisation/CBSG, India, No. 65 Bharathi Colony, P.B. 1683, Peelamedu 641 004, Coimbatore,Tamil Nadu, INDIA, 1995.

Summary: This report constitutes the results of a Population and Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) Workshop for lion-tailed macaques held at Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Madras on 11-14 October 1993. The workshop focused on the distribution, status and threats of lion-tailed macaques. A problem statement and overview of lion-tailed macaque status and ecology is provided in a contribution by Ajith Kumar, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore. The following working group reports are included: Census and Distribution, with populations, locations and recommendations identified for Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; Threats and Disasters; Health Considerations; Population Modelling; Translocation and Reintroduction; Genetics; Assisted Reproduction; Captive Husbandry and Global Animal Survival Plan (G.A.S.P.); Education.

Thai Gibbon Population and Habitat Viability Analysis Report for Thai Gibbons: *Hylobates lar* and *H. pileatus*. Schwann Tunhikorn, Warren Brockelman, Ronald Tilson, Usum Nimmanheminda, Parntep Ratanakorn, Robert Cook, Andrew Teare, Kathy Castle and Ulysses Seal, editors. IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, 12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley, MN 55124, USA, 1994.

Summary: This report is the result of the Thai Gibbon Population and Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) that was held 25-29 April 1994 at Khao Yai National Park, Thailand. The following working group reports are included: Thai Gibbon Habitat and Population Status, Thai Gibbon Life History and Vortex Analysis, Human Demography and Community Participation, Genetic Aspects of Gibbon Management in Thailand, Estimates of Captive Gibbons in Thailand, Captive Management Plan for Gibbons in Thailand, Captive Management of Thai Gibbons, Gibbon Diseases, Selection of Gibbon Reintroduction areas, Gibbon Rehabilitation and Release, SPARKS Training and Data Entry Assumptions. The report contains an action plan for Thai gibbons formulated to assist the Royal Forest Department to develop a national conservation strategy for gibbons. Supporting documentation includes reports entitled "Criteria for rehabilitation of gibbons" by W. Brockelman and "Evaluation of captive Thai gibbons" by R. Cook and P. Ratanakorn.

Reflections of Eden, My Years with the Orangutans of Borneo. Birute M. F. Galdikas. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, New York, Toronto, and London, 1995.

Summary: This book is an autobiography in that it provides a description of the people who have influenced Birute Galdikas professionally and personally, and at the same time it is a study in natural history from the standpoint that it recreates Borneo and the forests as she encountered them when she first began field

studies of orang-utans in 1971. Both wild and former captive orang-utans are described as unique individuals, and threats to the survival of orang-utans are discussed. The book contains black and white photographs reflecting both components of the book.

Orang-utans in Borneo. Gisela Kaplan and Lesley Rogers. University of New England Press, PO Box U199 University of New England, Armidale NSW 2350, AUSTRALIA, 1994.

Summary: This is a collaborative publication between a social scientist and an ethologist. **Chapter 1: The Cultural Context,** includes an examination of western attitudes to orang-utans through history. **Chapter 2: Orang-utan Habitat,** concludes with a description of rehabilitation centers, national parks and reserves, paying particular attention to the Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre where most of the authors observational work was conducted. **Chapter 3: Debates Surrounding the Orang-utan,** details observations of characteristics that are typical and specific to orang-utans and are distinctly different from humans, including locomotion, arboreal living and dietary habits. **Chapter 4: Sexual Behaviour and Reproduction,** examines the social organization of orang-utans and their social interactions. **Chapter 5: Introducing 'Our' Orang-utans,** looks at orang-utan/human contact and the phenomena of rehabilitation. **Chapter 6: A Brain Like Humans?,** presents documentation of brain lateralization in the orang-utan. The book is illustrated with color photography.

Current Primatology, Vols. I, II, and III. Universite Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, 1994. (Available through TT4 Promotion, 3, rue Colette, 67800 Bischheim, FRANCE.)

Summary: These three volumes constitute the Selected Proceedings of the XIVth Congress of the International Primatological Society (IPS) in Strasbourg, France in 1992. **Volume I: Ecology and Evolution,** edited by B. Thierry, J.R. Anderson, J.J. Roeder, N. Herrenschmidt, contains papers on ecology, conservation, functional morphology, anatomy, palaeontology, systematics and genetics (398 pp.).

Volume II: Social Development, Learning and Behaviour, edited by J.J. Roeder, B. Thierry, J.R. Anderson, N. Herrenschmidt, contains papers on socio-sexual behaviour, social dynamics, communication, behavioural development, social learning and cognition (404 pp.).

Volume III: Behavioural Neuroscience, Physiology and Reproduction, edited by J.R. Anderson, J.J. Roeder, B. Thierry, N. Herrenschmidt, contains papers on neuroscience, lateralization, endocrinology, reproduction, physiology, captive management and medical primatology (294 pp.).

GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

On 17 April 1995, six environmental grassroots heroes from each of the six continental regions received the sixth annual Goldman Environmental Prize at a ceremony in San Fransisco, California, USA. Each of the 1995 winners received a "no strings attached" award of $75,000 from the Goldman Environmental Foundation. The Asian recipient, Yul Choi, 46, was a student leader in college and was later imprisoned for his activism during the late 1970's. After his release, he established the Korean Research Institute of Environmental Problems in response to the widespread pollution caused by the nation's rapid industrialization. He succeeded in evacuating 10,000 households affected by toxic waste related illness in the city of Onsan. In 1988, Choi became the first chairman of the Korean Anti-Pollution Movement (KAPMA), informing the Korean public about the problems with nuclear waste disposal. He was put under house arrest for these activities, but anti-nuclear sentiment grew. In 1990, a demonstration of 20,000 people stopped a nuclear waste facility plan for Anmyon Island. In 1993, Choi reorganized activists nationwide by launching the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM). As KFEM's secretary-general, Choi is considered to be Korea's most prominent environmentalist.

NEW LOCALITIES FOR THE GOLDEN LANGUR

R.P. Mukherjee
c/o Zoological Survey of India
M' Block, New Alipore
Calcutta 700053 INDIA

The golden langur (*Trachypithecus* [=*Presbytis*] *geei*) earlier had been reported from Jamduar and Raimona in western Assam, India. In 1993, Mukherjee reported its occurrence in the Chakrasila forest of Dhubri district. In recent surveys conducted by Mukherjee under a grant from the National Geographic Society (Grant No. 5206 - 94), the golden langur has been recorded from some more areas of Assam. These areas are Bismurei, Ultapani, Karigaon, Haltugaon, Nayakgaon and Kachugaon in Kokrajhar district; Chaprakata and Khokarpara hill ranges in Bongaigaon district and in many places in and around Chakrasila in Dhubri district. The golden langur from these areas of western Assam had not been reported earlier. The details of the taxon's present distribution, abundance, social structure and ecology will be incorporated into the final report.

ADDRESS CORRECTION

An incorrect address for Ramesh Boonratana, coordinator for the Southeast Asia Subregion under the Secretary for Asia of the International Primatological Society (IPS), was reported in an earlier issue of *Asian Primates* (vol 4, nos. 2-3). His correct address is:

Dr. Ramesh Boonratana, Research Fellow
Wildlife Conservation Society - Sabah
P.O. Box 14669
88853 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
MALAYSIA
Fax: 60-88-720976

DEVELOPMENTS OF INTEREST

On 28 February 1995, the City Council of Berkeley, California, USA, by a vote of 8 to 1, passed a resolution banning the city from buying products from companies operating in Myanmar (Burma). The council cited Myanmar's military leaders, the State Law and Order Restoration Council or SLORC, who are accused of physically abusing their ethnic minorities and political opponents. The U.S. companies that are most affected by the ban include Texaco Inc., Unocal Corp and PepsiCo Inc.

On 4 April 1995, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that Chang Hao An, 39, a resident of Ji Ling Province in northeaster China, was sentenced to 21 months in federal prison for smuggling a complete Siberian tiger skeleton and parts of other endangered animals into the United States. Chang was intercepted at Los Angeles International Airport in September with $800,000 in tiger bones, bear gall bladders and rhinoceros horn pills. Chang claimed that he purchased the skeleton from Russian hunters who had killed the tiger.

On 10 April 1995, former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai died at the age of 99. He was responsible, on humanitarian grounds, for India banning the export of primates in December 1977, a ban which went into affect in April 1978 and is still enforced today. The Indian government cited the United States for using rhesus monkeys (*Mucaca mulatta*) for defense-related research, in violation of the terms of a 1955 agreement restricting the use of monkeys to biomedical research.

On 25 April 1995, Malaysia's ruling National Front won a landslide victory in national elections, leaving the country's small opposition in disarray. The National Front is a coalition of 14 parties including the United Malays National Organization, which represents ethnic Malays, and is headed by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed, who has governed the nation of 19 million people since 1981. The National Front took 162 seats in the 192-member national parliament, increasing its majority from 125 seats held since 1990. The opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP) witnessed its 20-seat presence in Parliament decrease to nine seats. The vote was considered a resounding personal victory for Mahathir, who had campaigned on his record of leading the country toward the status of

a fully developed country by the year 2020. It also strengthened his position in dealing with rival factions within the National Front. The only opposition strength appeared to be in the state of Sabah on the island of Borneo, where the Parti Bersatu Sabah won eight of the 20 parliament seats. The National Front also was not expected to unseat a fundamentalist Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party in Kelantan, the only one of Malaysia's 13 state legislatures in opposition hands.

On 4 May 1995, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, composed of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, ended a three-day summit in New Delhi, India. Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, the summit's host, stated that the aim was to have a South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement ratified and in place by 8 December 1995, the 10th anniversary of the regional organization's creation. Countries in the region often have used high tariffs to protect national industries and markets. The demand of Pakistan and some other members that the organization amend its charter to enable it to consider political disputes among members, such as territorial disputes in Kashmir, was not included in the summit's final Declaration.

On 4 May 1995, the ***Los Angeles Times*** reported that at the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank(ADB), Japan announced that it is ready to step up its contribution to the bank's "soft loan " or interest-free fund and urged the United States and Singapore to contribute their monetary share to Asia's poorest countries. The United States has yet to provide the full amount of funds pledged, and Singapore has said it will continue to offer assistance in technical training but ruled out cash. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka were the main countries to benefit last year from the $1.2 billion in soft loans approved by the ADB. Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea have been targeted as new donors.

On 15 May 1995, the People's Republic of China conducted an underground nuclrat test, estimated by the Australian Seismological Center to be equivalent to be between 40 and 150 kilotons of dynamite. The test occurred a few dats after more than 170 nations agreed to extend indefinitely the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Chinese Foreign Ministry stated that the country expects to conduct four more tests by the end of 1996 and that China wil stop nuclear testing once an international comprehensive test ban treaty is implemented.

On 16 May 1995, the People's Republic of China warned the Philippines that it could face "serious consequences" following a confrontation a few days earlier in which Chinese fishing trawlers intercepted a Philippine naval vessel carrying journalists to see Chinese construction, including gun emplacements, on Mischief Reef, 150 miles west of the Philippine island of Palawan. The Chinese had claimed that they only were building shelters on the Spratlys to protect fishermen. This was the first physical confrontation between China and the Philippines since February, when Chinese construction was discovered on eight of the Spratly Islands within the Philippines' 200-mile economic zone and hundreds of miles away from the Chinese mainland. China and Taiwan claim all of the hundreds of Spratly Islands scattered in the South China Sea, although Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines and Brunei Darussalam each claim a number of them. The islands occupy a strategic location, on shipping lanes between Japan and Europe, and may lie atop a vast oil field.

On 16 June 1995, the People's Republic of China recalled Ambassador Li Daoyu from the United States in protest of the granting of a U.S. visa to President Lee Teng-hui, of Taiwan, Republic of China (R.O.C.), to permit him to attend a 9 June reunion at Cornell University, where he attended graduate school. On the same day, the Pentagon announced that Taiwan had applied to buy US$192 million worth of fighter aircraft parts and components. The four-day visit by Lee was overwhelmingly supported by the U.S. Congress and was the culmination of years of high-pressure lobbying by Taiwan to upgrade its international status. Lee's administration has offered US$1 billion to assist developing nations in exchange for Taiwan's entry into the United Nations. The Beijing government considers Taiwan to be an integral part of China that someday must be reunited politically with the mainland and that such a visit is a violation of agreements signed with the United States when the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1979. On 21 July, China began a week of tests of surface-to-surface long-range missiles in a zone about 85 miles distant from Taiwan's northern tip. This followed small-scale Chinese military exercises off Taiwan's eastern coast and the cancellation of high-level Beijing-Taipei talks scheduled for July. According to the Taiwan government, Taiwanese corporations already have

invested an estimated US$20 billion in mainland China, however.

On 16 June 1995, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit denied the appeal of Miami, Florida animal dealer Matthew Block to overturn an April 1993 sentence to 13 months in jail and a $30,000 fine for the smuggling of endangered orang-utans (***Pongo pygmaeus***). The defendant had pleaded guilty to arranging a shipment of six infant orang-utans that was discovered at the Bangkok, Thailand airport on 20 February 1990, in transit between Singapore and Yugoslavia, en route to the Soviet Union.

On 26 June 1995, ceremonies were held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco, California, USA. The signing by delegates from 50 countries prepared the way for the United Nations, which began operations soon after the charter was ratified in October 1945. There are now185 member nations, although UN operations are constrained by staggering debt. At the end of 1994, member states owed US$1.3 billion for peacekeeping activities.

On 30 June 1995, the People's Republic of China and the United Kingdom signed an agreement on the financing of Hong Kong's new airport. The two countries had agreed to the construction of the airport in 1991 although they disagreed on how to fund it. The world's largest civilian aviation project of the 1990's will not be completed before the colony reverts to China on 30 June 1997.

On 2 July 1995, the Chart Thai, or Thai Nation party, the main opposition party, which was accused of widespead vote fraud in national elections, defeated incumbent Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai's bid to win a second term in office with 93 to 86 seats in Parliament. Banharn Silpa-archa, Chart Thai leader who is described as an old-fashioned political boss from the city of Suphan Buri, announced that he had reached an agreement to share power with five other political parties, including the devout Buddhist Palang Dharma party, giving the coalition a combined 216 seats out of a total of 391 seats in the lower house of Parliament. Leekpai, leader of the pro-reform Democratic Party, had resigned in May 1995 following a land scandal. The Democratic Party had established the longest record of an elected civilian government in Thailand following its victory in September 1992 after a bloody confrontation between Thailand's military and pro-democracy supporters and the emergence of a bloc of affluent middle-class voters.

On 10 July 1995, Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient and opposition leader in Myanmar (Burma), was freed by the military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), after six years under house arrest. Guidelines proposed for a new constitution would bar Myanmar citizens married to foreigners from holding executive positions in government. Suu Kyi is married to an Oxford University professor in the United Kingdom.

On 11 July 1995, President Bill Clinton of the United States extended diplomatic recognition to Vietnam. Vietnamese cooperation with U.S. efforts to determine the fate and recover the remains of military personnel missing in acttion (MIA's) was cited as a deciding factor. The interest of U.S. firms in entering Vietnam's booming economic market of 71 million people also appears to have contributed to his decision. The Vietnamese Embassy opened in Washington, D.C. on 5 August, while the U.S. Embassy opened in Hanoi on 6 August. In April, Vietnam announced that it had approved US$1.9 billion worth of ventures and projects during the first quarter of 1995, almost triple the value of those licensed in the same three moths last year. The 270% increase, reported by the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment, was attributed partly to the emergence of U.S. investment. Full economic relations betwen the United States and Vietnam remain to be established.

On 28 July 1995, the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam experienced their worst loss in recent years when more than 200 fighters were killed during a raid on the Sri Lankan army's Welioya base complex on the northeast coast. On 19 April, the Tamil insurgents had resumed a series of attacks, resulting in the deaths of at least 550 government troops, following more than a three-month cease-fire. The attack is reported to have followed a leak of information about a government peace package in which a new northeast regional council with widespread autonomy is proposed for Tamils and Muslims. On 3 August, President Chandrika Kumaratunga proposed giving greater autonomy to regions in the north and east where the Tamils have been seeking a homeland since 1983 in a war that has killed more than 50,000 people. The plan would require the rebels to contest

elections to govern the area, much of which they already control. A 7 August attack by a suicide bomber in Colomboin which 22 people were killed and more than 40 wounded was widely seen as the response of the Tamil Tiger separatists to the government's plan for power-sharing.

On 28 July 1995, Vietnam formally joined Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand to became the seventh member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the ASEAN meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

MEETINGS

1995

The Twelfth Annual Berkeley Conference on Human Rights in Southeast Asia, 25-26 February 1995. Contact: Dr. Eric Crystal, Coordinator, Center for Southeast Asia Studies, 2223 Fulton St., Room 617, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-2318, USA. Fax: 510-643-7062. **Proposal deadline: 21 November 1994.**

The Second China Primate Conference, 7-11 August 1995, Nanning, Guangxi, CHINA. Contact: Mr. Quan Guoqian, Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, 19 Zhong Guan Cun Road, Haidian, Beijing, CHINA. Fax: 861-256-5689.

International Conference and Workshop on the Biology and Conservation of Prosimians, 14-16 September 1995, Upton by Chester, U.K. Contact: Dr. Gordon Reid, Curator in Chief, Caughill Road, Upton by Chester, Ch2 1LH, U.K. Fax: 44-244-381352.

1996

IPS/ASP Joint Meeting, 11-16 August 1996, Madison, Wisconsin, USA. Contact: Ms. Edith Chan, Congress coordinator, Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, 1223 Capitol Court Madison, WI 53706, USA. Fax: 608-263-4031.

IUCN World Conservation Congress, 14-23 October 1996, Montreal Conference Centre, Montreal, Canada. Contact: John Burke, Director of Communications, IUCN The World Conservation Union, rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland Switzerland.

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