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Journal of the MSc in Primate Conservation

Canopy

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Front Cover Photography by

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Chimpanzee at Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Kenya

Content

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to the 2010 winter edition of Canopy the in-house journal of the MSc in Primate Conservation at Oxford Brookes University.

This issue has a special focus on chimpanzee research to mark the 50th anniversary of Jane Goodall's work at Gombe. In addition to this we have interviews with a variety of primatologists discussing their inspirations, current research and future aspirations and we are proud to showcase the work of previous MSc students highlighting their successes in the field.

The MSc continues to bring together an ethnically diverse range of students; this year's cohort of 23 individuals represents students from 10 different countries across 3 continents with a wide range of interests. We all hope to contribute to a brighter future for primates and their habitats.

The course tutors are an invaluable resource to us, with a great breadth and depth of knowledge encompassing many aspects of primate conservation, and over 40 years of experience, research and expertise in the field. We are privileged to be the last cohort of the MSc that will be lead by Professor Simon Bearder, a true inspiration to many of the current generation of primate conservationists. We wish him a happy retirement.

Enthusiastic and passionate, we are currently taking our first steps into the field of primate conservation by planning our final research projects, with proposals ranging from occupancy modelling in Peru, great ape rehabilitation in Borneo and conservation education in Madagascar.

We hope you find this issue informative and inspiring and that it highlights to the wider primatological community the achievements of the MSc in Primate Conservation.

Best Wishes,

The Editors:

Sophia Daoudi | Jessica Wilkinson | Lucy Radford | Abbie Parker | Magdalena Svensson | Tatiana Iseborn | Marie Vimond

Letter from the Course tutor

Welcome by Simon Bearder

Congratulations to the editors of *Canopy* for, once again, producing an edition in time for the Winter Scientific Meeting of the Primate Society of Great Britain. This year we are proud to celebrate "Gombe 50" with all those who have contributed so much to our understanding of other primates, and particularly our closest living relatives. For 32 of those years I have been teaching at Oxford Brookes University and it was a letter from Jane Goodall in 1967 that launched my fieldwork. I had written to her to ask for advice about where to go and what to study. She replied 'I recommend that you work on something large that will be easy to see'. Little did I know that I would end up studying small, nocturnal bushbabies! But they were a passport to a career in primatology, and although I officially retire in June this year, there is so much to be done that I feel that my career is still in its infancy.

Our MSc in Primate Conservation is now in its eleventh year and has proved to be hugely popular. This is hardly surprising considering the state of the world's dwindling natural resources and the importance of functioning ecosystems in providing ecological services that are vital for the welfare of us all. But we face an enormous task in getting this message across, let alone to reverse the mindless over-exploitation of resources for short term gain. New generations of primatologists are well placed to continue this struggle and it is their energy and dedication that shines through in courses such as ours.

Looking back over the years at Oxford Brookes is made easier by frequent surprise encounters with past staff and students. Recently, for example, I found someone waiting outside my office as I returned after teaching and she asked if I remembered her. I said yes, but asked her to remind me which year she had started. The answer was 1979! On talking to her I did remember her surprisingly well, although I think that I may easily have passed her in the street. In the last year alone I have bumped into three students who were here 8, 17 and 22 years ago. But then, the courses that I have taught that include primatology have been taken by at least 5000 people.

As you can imagine, it is with some sadness that I withdraw from teaching and administration to concentrate more on research. But I do so with the confidence that those who follow will continue a fine tradition and I wish them every success. I take this opportunity to thank all those who have been so supportive over the years. Your contributions are deeply appreciated and I thoroughly enjoy being a part of such a generous primatological community.

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Jane Goodall – A short biography of an extraordinary life

By Tatiana Iseborn & Jessica Wilkinson

Dame Jane Morris – Goodall DBE, a world-famous primatologist, anthropologist, activist and UN Messenger of Peace was born in London in 1934. Since her early childhood Jane was passionate about animals and their behaviour.

Inspired by stories of Dr. Doolittle and Tarzan, Jane dreamt of travelling to Africa and experiencing African wildlife. However, the realities of war-torn Europe were harsh and for many years her dream remained just a dream. After finishing secondary school in 1952 Jane took a position as a secretary at Oxford University and later moved on to work in the film industry choosing music for documentaries. In May 1956 Jane was invited to visit a friend in Kenya and this was an invitation Jane could not decline. This trip to Kenya proved to be a life-changing event because during her stay, she met Dr. Louis S. B. Leakey, a famous anthropologist and palaeontologist who at the time was looking for someone to study chimpanzees in Tanzania. Jane's strong interest in wildlife and perseverance made her a perfect candidate for the job.

Jane arrived in Tanganyika (present Tanzania) at Gombe Stream in 1960. She travelled with her mother as it was considered inappropriate for a young woman to live alone in the jungle. The first few months at Gombe were challenging, as the chimpanzees were not yet habituated, which made them difficult to observe and they often ran away every time they saw Jane. However, Jane did not let this deter her research and she soon found a place where she could observe the chimpanzees from a distance through her binoculars. She spent long hours working to gain the trust of the chimpanzees, tracking them through dense forests gradually moving closer and closer until she could finally sit among them. Jane was the first person to give names to studied animals instead of numbers and although at the time this was widely criticised, eventually the scientific community accepted and adopted Jane's approach. While Jane was accepted into

the chimpanzee group she was able to observe and record behaviours that had not previously been known. Jane made a controversial proclamation that chimpanzees were capable of displaying 'human' emotions such as sadness as well as possessing individual personalities. However, a crucial finding from Jane's observations was that chimpanzees ate meat and were successful hunters, and were not vegetarians as was previously thought. In addition to this Jane also observed tool use in chimpanzees; two males were stripping a branch of its leaves and using it as a rod to extract termites from a termite mound. This was an extremely important finding, because until that moment, tool use was presumed as a 'human-defining' behaviour. When Dr. Leakey heard about Jane's discovery he famously said: ""Now we must redefine tool, redefine Man, or accept chimpanzees as humans."

In 1962 Jane was accepted to Cambridge University to study for a PhD in ethology and she completed her thesis titled "Behaviour of free ranging chimpanzees" in 1965.

Jane Goodall's achievements go beyond the habituation and observation of the Gombe chimpanzees. In 1965 Jane and her husband Hugo started the Gombe Stream Research Centre, a facility dedicated to the study of chimpanzees and training of primatologists. In 1977 Jane founded the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) to raise awareness of the effects of deforestation and the importance of conservation. The JGI also runs numerous programmes designed to aid African peoples living in poverty. Then in 1991 Jane set up the global Roots and Shoots program, which was designed to motivate young people to care for the environment.

Jane's numerous books and articles are read and appreciated by not only the scientific community but also the general public. She has also participated in making educational films and has received many prestigious awards for her work as a scientist, conservationist, activist and humanitarian. At present Jane continues her work travelling around the globe talking to people about the necessity of protecting the environment and how we as individuals hold the power to save our planet.

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The Great Primate Handshake: Conservation Volunteering With a Difference

By Lucy Radford

Back in 2005, Laurence Hall and Alasdair Davies met while volunteering at the Vervet Monkey Foundation in South Africa. Laurence, now a lecturer in Film Studies at Lampeter University, had with him a camera which he was using to document the work being carried out at the sanctuary, while Alasdair, a web developer, was creating a website for them. The two became friends and spent evenings in their tents discussing ways of using their respective skills for conservation, eventually dreaming up the idea of a responsible travel project which would use primates as its focus, and draw on their skills to promote and benefit conservation initiatives in Africa.

After a further three years of planning and hard work, the Great Primate Handshake was born. The first trip, a 28-day expedition around South Africa, saw Laurence and Alasdair, along with several other volunteer staff members, lead a team of 16 volunteers in producing videos and web content to raise awareness of several sanctuaries and projects around the country. The success of this trip led to a further three trips (to Kenya, Uganda and South Africa) over the summer of 2009, and trips to Uganda and Kenya in the summer of 2010 with volunteers contributing skills in anything from video production and editing, photography, and web development to music, journalism, and anthropological research.

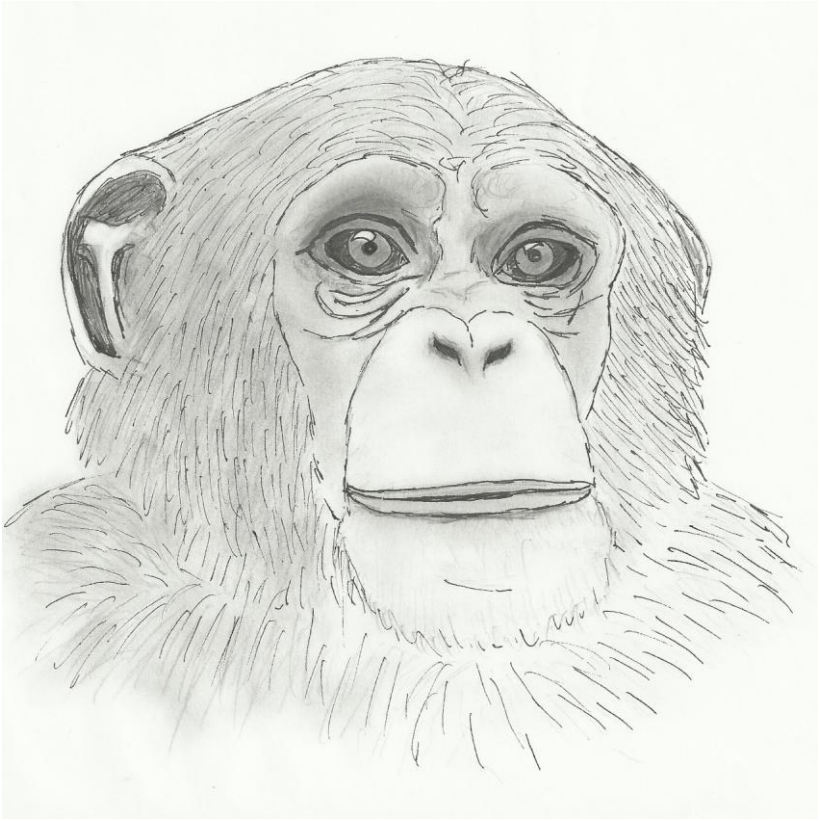
The website has grown and become an interactive tool for a wide range of people, while the organisation's YouTube channel is the third most-watched non-profit channel in the world. Through the content produced across the six expeditions, the Handshake has helped organisations ranging from the Jane Goodall Institute (Uganda) to Kakamega Environmental Education Programme (Kenya) to the Baboon Research Unit (South Africa) and the Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (Uganda).

Amongst their other achievements, Laurence and Alasdair have also been asked to present at previous Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) management workshops, and have recently been awarded the TalkTalk Digital Heroes award for Wales, which puts them in the running to win the overall UK award, to be judged in late 2010.

In the future, Laurence and Alasdair plan to develop the Handshake to target more specific areas, taking smaller groups of volunteers to produce content specially requested by sanctuaries and NGOs. This doesn't mean the end for the

traditional expeditions, however; the Handshake will continue to reach out to a huge variety of primates and people as volunteers old and new sign up to commit their skills to this innovative scheme.

For further information, articles, photographs and a full explanation of the Handshake's work with all the organisations it has helped over the last three years, visit www.primatehandshake.org and to see the videos produced visit www.youtube.com/primatehandshake



Drawing of a chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)
By: Sophia Daoudi,
MSc cohort 2010-2011

MSc Primate Conservation 10th Anniversary Conference: What is Primate Conservation?

By Sophia Daoudi & Abbie Parker

In April 2010, Oxford Brookes University hosted a two-day conference celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the MSc in Primate Conservation. This brought together past and present students and research associates, highlighting the research and achievements of students during ten years of Primate Conservation at Oxford Brookes University.

Disciplines explored:

- Primate Diversity and Status
- Human-Wildlife Interaction
- Research Methods
- Captive Management and Rehabilitation
- Genetics
- Environmental Education

Each session focused on the research of previous graduates with an introduction by a recognized authority in the field. This included former staff members and PhD research students, honorary research associates and visiting speakers.

The conference addressed and suggested answers for the central question: 'What is primate conservation?' There were both oral and poster presentations from past students whose work has impacted the conservation field, and renowned primatologists including, Dr David Chivers, Dr Christoph Schwitzer, Professor Phyllis Lee, Dr Alison Jolly, as well as Professor John F Oates and Ian Redmond OBE. Round-table discussions were lead by Professor John F Oates and Dr Anthony Rylands.

Since 2000, the Primate Conservation programme has reached over 300 students of >36 nationalities, with a total of 211 projects being conducted in 42 countries. Furthermore, each year, three habitat-country students are provided with scholarships to attend the MSc, bringing a diverse range of knowledge and experiences to the course.

Disease Transmission from Humans to Chimpanzees and Mountain Gorillas

By Olivia Brown
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Chimpanzees and mountain gorillas are listed on the IUCN red list as Endangered, with threats to their survival consisting of deforestation, poaching, and infectious human diseases and Ebola (Oates et al., 2008; Robbins and Williamson 2008). There have been publications about the transmission of disease from humans to chimpanzees and mountain gorillas, which have included solutions to fix the problem. These publications range from 1999 (Wallis and Lee 1999) through to the present (Macfie and Williamson 2010) and the same recommendations for disease transmission prevention are made in each publication. For this study I wished to determine how often articles about disease transmission from humans to non-human primates was published.

The Web of Knowledge was used to compile articles about the subject, the articles were then separated into 6 different categories based on the species most mentioned; chimpanzee, gorilla, ape (including chimpanzee and gorilla if mentioned together and the other apes), primate (including chimpanzee and gorilla if mentioned with other primates), human, and other (all non-primate animals including chimpanzee and gorilla if mentioned with other animals). Furthermore, excel 2007 was used to create bar charts of the publications per year.

There was an increase in articles published throughout the years and of all the apes, the majority of articles were published about chimpanzees. Moreover, these articles were predominantly from the biomedical field and not from articles specifically on human to non-human disease transmission within ecotourism and long-term research sites. Furthermore, there was a larger increase in the number of articles published about disease transmission in the wild than disease transmission in captivity.

It can be argued that the increase in publications on disease transmission in the wild suggests an increase in the concern for wild population health, and the need for development of health programs for wild populations. The Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project was developed in 1985 for the specific reason of treating severely injured or ill gorillas (Mudakikwa et al., 2001). In 1970 a behavioural and health checklist was developed and put into use for the evaluation of the overall health of chimpanzees in Gombe National Park, Tanzania (Lonsdorf et al., 2006). The publication by Boesch (2008) noting each disease outbreak of the chimpanzees at Tai Forest, Cote d'Ivoire, and the subsequent changes in human hygiene regulations shows that there is concern regarding disease transmission from humans to chimpanzees and mountain gorillas, yet outbreaks continue to happen. This is often due to these hygiene rules not being enforced (Lukasik-Braum and Spelman 2008; Sandbrook and Semple 2006; Nakamura and Nishida 2009). Therefore, a successful method of enforcing these rules is needed in order for disease transmission between humans and primates to decrease.

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Why the Threat Status of the *Chlorocebus* Species Group is in Need of Reassessment

by Aoife Healy

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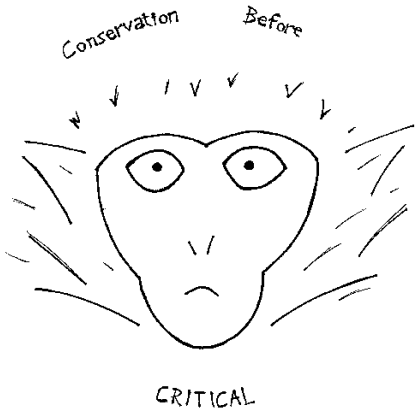
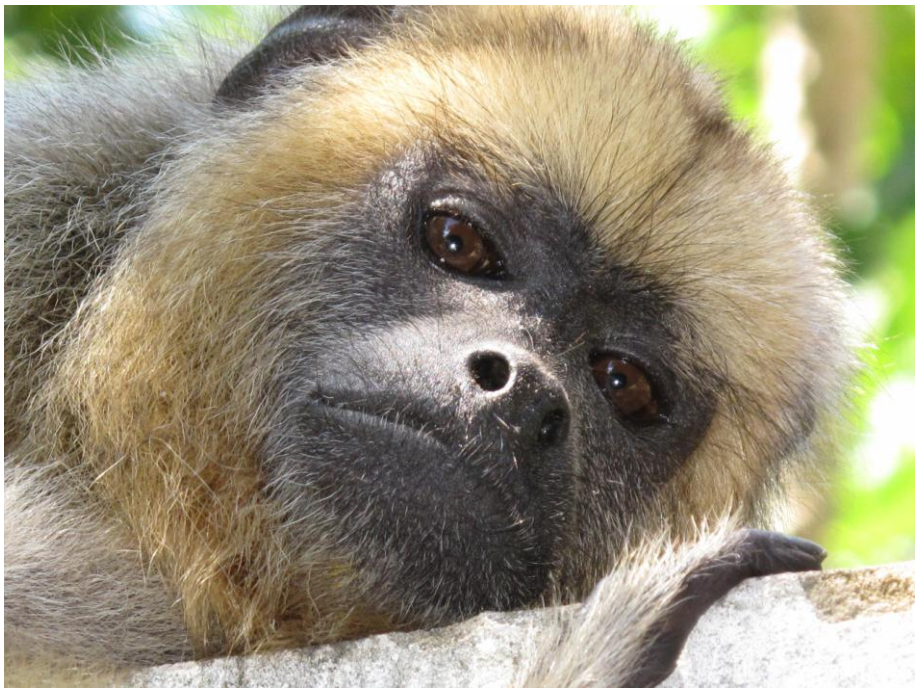


The vervet monkeys, *Chlorocebus spp.* are perceived to be common and well studied primates. These are the two misconceptions that I addressed in my study. Through three independent literature searches of the published data my study showed that there is a significant difference in representation of each of the six species in the literature and that to assume they are well studied is incorrect. The research questions I addressed were: 1) How many publications are there for each of the six species of vervet? ; 2) What kinds of studies are they (animal models; ecology/behaviour; anthropology; or miscellaneous)? ; 3) What do we know about each species in the wild? ; 4) What survey data is available for each species? ; 5) What literature is available that supports or disputes the taxonomic revision of this group?

Literature was found to be significantly imbalanced across the six species with vervets, *Chlorocebus pygerythrus*, and green monkeys, *Chlorocebus sabaeus*, being more frequently studied than others. But more worrying still, was the finding that survey data is dramatically out of date with the only two relatively recent studies, both reporting extirpations from former ranges in Côte d'Ivoire and Eritrea.

When species lists play such a key role in setting conservation priorities this lack of up to date data has serious conservation implications for vervets. Listed as 'Least Concern' species they receive little conservation attention or funding. The results of this study highlighted the need for systematic monitoring of these 'common' and 'well studied' species to ensure their threat status is accurate. It also highlights the merits of proactive conservation efforts for these less threatened taxa.

Visit www.vervet.org (an educational website I designed) for a general description of conservation, primates, the vervet species group and the threats they face.



Photograph of howler monkey (*Alouatta caraya*)
By: Maren Huck, the Owl Monkey Project, Argentina.

MIDSPREAD WITH COLOUR PHOTOS WILL GO HERE.

MIDSPREAD WITH COLOUR PHOTOS WILL GO HERE.

Pre-release monitoring of play behaviour and relationships in a group of orphaned chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) at the H.E.L.P. Congo sanctuary and release site

By Halit Khoshen Kraselnick
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Over the last few decades, we have seen many primate release initiatives come into place, yielding varied degrees of success. Although pre-release monitoring is of great importance, there have been few studies that have been published on this topic. In-depth monitoring and documenting of behaviours such as identifying and modifying unwanted behaviours as well as encouraging skill acquisition and evaluating relationships, may be useful during pre-release stages. The chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in this study were orphaned and at some stage the adolescents in the group may be introduced to wild chimpanzee communities. Strong relationships among the orphans is of great importance, because they can provide them with the emotional, complementary skills and physical support they may need in the near future when joining an established wild chimpanzee community. It may be difficult for the orphans to be accepted into an established group, because it has been observed that resident females including nulliparous females would frequently show aggression to newly arrived females (Nishida 1989).

Chimpanzee infants must observe, imitate and practice behaviours in order to learn the appropriate ways of interacting with others and their long developmental period aid in acquiring these needed behaviours. Through play behaviours juveniles can practice, perfecting and acquiring many of the skills required for their adulthood in a safer manner such as 'play' fighting (van Lawick-Goodall 1968, 1973; Poirier & Smith 1974; Smith 1982).

This study aimed to document the development of pre-released orphaned chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) in order to gather data that may be helpful in explaining results of post-release individuals and identifying behavioural problems that need to be modified.

The study was carried out over a period of 11 weeks, in which species-specific play behaviours and relationships were analyzed in a group of six female pre-released pre-adult orphaned chimpanzees at H.E.L.P. Congo. This was done thorough analysis of play behaviour, which included: frequencies, durations and forms of lone and social play sessions, success rates and aggression in play, initiation and termination of play bouts, partner preferences and invitation

frequencies. In addition to this, proximity indexes during different activities were examined, as well as activity budget percentages and presence of stereotypical behaviours.

The results were similar to the findings of other play behaviour studies, which looked at immature chimpanzees living in wild troops or in captivity where both mothers and adults were present (e.g.: Van Lawick-Goodalll 1968; Goodall 1986). The orphaned chimpanzees were likely using play for both short-term and long-term benefits. Short-term benefits include chimpanzees reducing confrontation during stressful situations (van Lawick-Goodall 1968; Goodall 1986) and long-term benefits could be for locomotive/motor and object skill acquisition, as well as relationship formation and social skills (e.g.: Loizos 1967; van Lawick-Goodall 1968; Poirier and Smith 1974; Smith 1982). The results demonstrated that the orphaned chimpanzees live in a cohesive group, where altercations are practically none existent. Most individuals maintain strong relationship bonds with all of their peers, although differing in quality and form, ranging from strong friendship bonds to caretaking associations. Only one dyad presented an unfriendly relationship, which may still change over time.

One individual presented lower than expected social and lone play interactions and low success rates in play. She also presented higher 'non-active' counts, the lowest 'activity' counts and a high degree of stereotypical behaviour. The behaviours observed for this individual were similar to those observed in other primate species, including physically abused and neglected human children (Mason 1961; Aber and Allen 1987). However, this female has improved in all aspects of her behaviour now that she lives in a secure social setting. Given time, she may improve even further, as observed in human children studies (Fantuzzo et al., 1987).

Welfare advocates sate that each individual is valuable and this should also be applied within the conservation field. Bekoff (2010, pg. 25) suggested: "we need to focus on solutions that advocate the well-being of individual animals and not allow them to be harmed or killed for the good of their own or other species" and although it was written in a different context, it can also be applied to release. Pre-release monitoring and selection of release candidates should be performed over a long period of time (years), in order to make informed decisions on necessary training, socialization and readiness for release. Each individual being evaluated on the basis of their own behaviours and their relationship to other group members, this way, casualties of post-release individuals may be decreased and in turn release successes can increase

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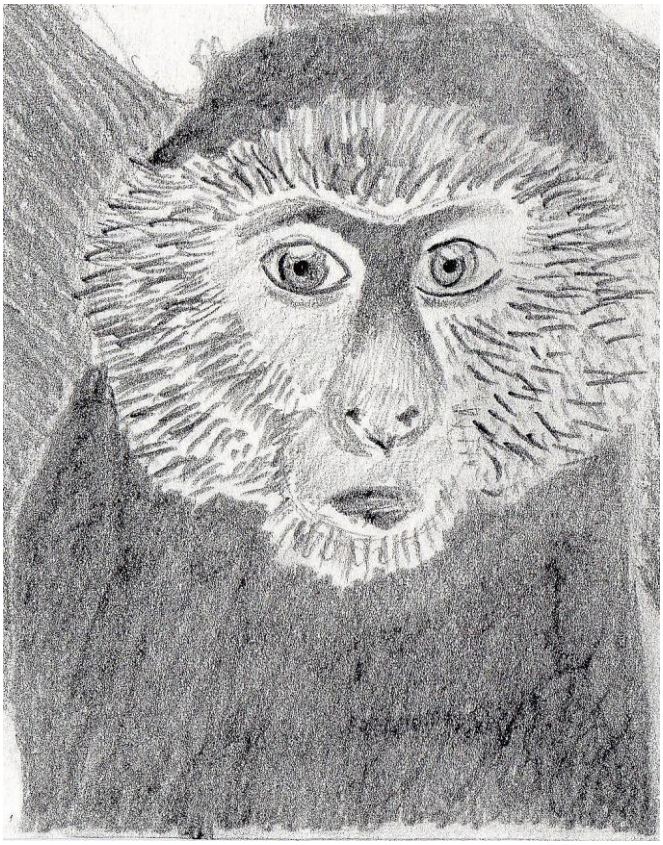

Drawings of blue monkeys,
Cercopithecus mitis,
By: Lucy Radford,
MSc 2010 – 2011 cohort

Exploring the potential for toque macaque (*Macaca sinica*) conservation through ecotourism in Sri Lanka

By Kate Grounds
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Ecotourism as a tool for conservation has become a popular concept in the past two decades, with wildlife based tourism activities promoting knowledge and awareness of threatened species and raising funds to support efforts for their preservation (Gossling 1999). Ecotourism activities often focus on a threatened 'flagship' species to draw tourist interest and sympathy in the species conservation plight (Duffus and Dearden 1990). Traditionally flagships species are large, charismatic mammals or birds, such as elephants, tigers, pandas and polar bears, and are used as the central focus of media promotions for conservation initiatives (Entwistle 2000; Clucas et al., 2008). Some academics argue that alternative species, even if smaller or traditionally less charismatic, could also be used as flagship species. This is particularly important for areas where traditional flagships are no longer present or have never existed. Evaluating the potential of a species to be used as a flagship for ecotourism and conservation is extremely important for the successful management and success of tourism initiatives.

This project was a case study for evaluating Sri Lanka's Endangered and endemic toque macaque (*Macaca sinica*) to act as an alternative flagship species to the Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) and Sri Lankan leopard *(Panthera pardus kotiya)*, Sri Lanka's two main flagship species. Sri Lanka is one of the worlds 'Biodiversity Hotspots' (Myers et al., 2000) but this biodiversity is being threatened by increasing rates of deforestation due to human expansion. In some areas of Sri Lanka, for example in the wet zone, habitat degradation is so severe that only small patches of forest remain, which are unable to support populations of elephants or leopards. There are similar situations across Sri Lanka, and outside of protected areas there is little suitable habitat remaining for animals, including primates, to continue to survive in.

The private lands of eco-hotels and resorts act as the last stronghold for many primate populations outside of national parks and reserves; they also hold the potential to contribute to the conservation of primates by educating tourists and

local communities, and raising funds for their protection through primate-focused tourism activities. This study investigated the toque macaques groups residing in the hotel grounds of sister hotels Cinnamon Lodge and Chaaya Village, in Habarana, north central Sri Lanka. They were evaluated in accordance to several criteria suggested by Reynolds & Braithwaite (2001), including visibility, predictability in activity or location, tolerance towards human presence, charisma and possessing an element of rarity. This was conducted through 15 minute instantaneous scan sampling (Altmann 1974) of two toque macaque groups during full follow days. Additionally, *ad libitum* (Altmann 1974) sampling was used to record behaviours of note and human-macaque interactions. Tourist interests in the hotel primates and in forms of education were investigated through a structured questionnaire.

The toque macaques residing in the hotel grounds spend over 90% of scans onsite utilised open or medium visibility habitats for the majority of the time followed, and inhabited areas close to main tourist accommodation and facilities for over 50% of scans. This would allow for easy access to the groups by tourists of all ages and fitness levels, and visibility would be extremely high. This was supported by the fact that two thirds of questionnaire respondents confirmed to have viewed the toque macaques, even without primate-focused activities implemented. The toque macaques displayed playful behaviour which is indicated by tourists as one of the main reasons they enjoyed watching the monkeys. This play behaviour occurs mostly in areas close to tourist accommodation and walking paths and by lake edges. The toques also have a unique and rare behaviour for primates; swimming and diving in water sources. Water use in primates is often due to subsistence activities, predator avoidance, thermoregulation or range expansion (Kempf 2009). For the two groups in this study, water entry was mainly an extension of play behaviour, but thermoregulation influences the water entry of adults and sub-adults, particularly adult females.

Tourists displayed positive interactions towards toque macaques while staff showed a mix of positive and negative interactions. Tourist interest in primates at the hotel was high and they were keen to learn more through a variety of educational methods. The toque macaques not only fill all criteria for an alternative flagship species, they also possess a rare behaviour in primates that can act as a focal draw to appeal to tourists and provide them with their own unique charisma. The hotel site provides a perfect opportunity to engage tourists in primate conservation through education and primate-focused tourism activities, and can help improve human-macaque interactions between staff and locals and the primate groups. The concepts of this study can be applied at other

eco-hotels in Sri Lanka and across the world to find alternative flagship species suitable for promoting conservation of biodiversity.

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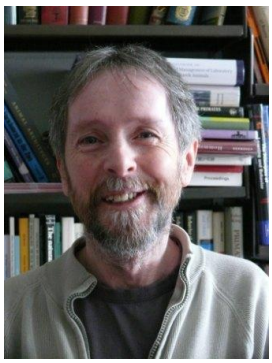
Drawing of a Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) by Sophia Daoudi, MSc cohort 2010-2011

Interviews with primate people

How did you get involved in primatology and who has been your inspiration?

James Anderson



My specific interest in primates was kindled by a couple of lecturers that taught me as an undergraduate (Drs W. McGrew and A. Chamove). Under those lecturers' guidance I was able to conduct an undergraduate research project on captive macaques, conduct field work (on chimpanzees and baboons), and eventually did my PhD on macaques social development and self-awareness. There is little doubt that those two figures were my mentors, largely shaping my approach to primatology. I am also inspired by Robert Yerkes, Wolfgang Koehler, Harry Harlow, K. Hall, and of course field workers including CR Carpenter, J. Itani, Jane Goodall, T. Nishida, Hans Kummer. Almost all of the pioneering folk deserve a mention; there are too many to list.

Susan Cheyne

I volunteered at a gibbon rehabilitation project in Thailand in 1997 as an undergraduate and this lead me to Asia for my PhD, which was on rehabilitating gibbons from the pet trade. My inspiration has been Dame Jane Goodall and Sir David Attenborough, though this may sound like a cliché these 2 people have done an enormous amount of work for the conservation of primates and to raise awareness of their plight.

Karen Strier

My involvement in primatology began when I was offered a chance to be a field assistant on the Amboseli Baboon research project, led by Stuart and Jeanne Altmann and Glenn Hausfater. Glenn was at Cornell and had a PhD student (Jeff Stelzner). I was an undergraduate at Swarthmore College and fortuitously, my letter to Glenn inquiring about field opportunities arrived just around the time he realized Jeff would need a field assistant. My first few weeks in Amboseli, I overlapped with Jeanne Altmann and that was an amazing opportunity. Phyllis Lee was also in Amboseli during this period studying vervet monkeys, and I thought she was pretty amazing, too. Over the years, I have been inspired by too many people to name who are amazing people dedicating their lives to primates with inspiring results!

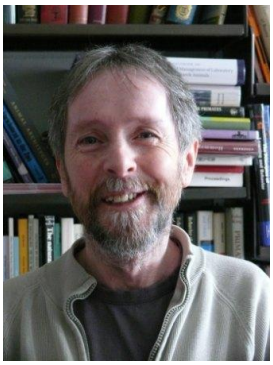
Giuseppe Donati

I have always had a very strong passion for animals, and behaviour in general. At the beginning of my studies I didn't have a special interest in primates, but at the University of Pisa, there was a section for primates in the Department of Anthropology. I became more involved, and found them fascinating. I found both anthropology and animals fascinating, and primates were the link between the two. In the field in Madagascar I saw how bad and dramatic the situation is and this got me more involved in conservation and ecology.

What is your current focus?

James Anderson

Through recently graduated and graduating PhD students I've been interested in chimpanzees' behavioural adaptations to human-altered environments, and their sleep-related behaviour. My own recent research has consisted of experimental approaches to study self-control and self-awareness in New World monkeys, as well as their ability to understand and communicate non-verbally with humans.



Susan Cheyne

To highlight the importance of gibbons in their ecosystem as well as focusing on gibbons as a social species, due to their complex play behaviours and poorly understood social systems. I am also working on wild cats (clouded leopards as a focal species) and monitoring bush meat trade within my main study area, the Sabangau National Park in Indonesian Borneo.

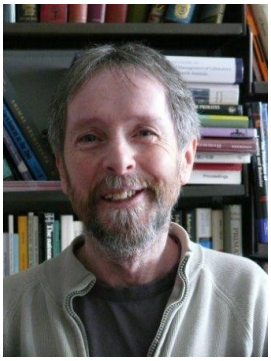
Karen Strier

The focus of my long-term study of the critically endangered northern muriqui monkeys in southeastern Brazil has shifted over the years. Initially, I was most interested in testing hypotheses about primate socioecology, but as the initial questions were answered and the population has grown, I have become increasingly focused on understanding behavioral and life history adjustments to demographic and ecological fluctuations. The common thread throughout my work has been applying the knowledge gained about muriquis to their conservation. This has assumed increasing importance as primatology and conservation efforts in Brazil have expanded.

Giuseppe Donati

I started studying animal behaviour, beginning with cathemerality. In 1995 I began studying lemurs and at this point it was still thought that primates were either diurnal or nocturnal. Therefore, it was interesting to see why some were cathemeral. This was my initial focus, and remains so today. In addition to this, I study how primates deal with secondary habitats and fragmentation, and monitoring lemurs that have been relocated. Sometimes relocation is the only way to save lemurs.

What do you think is the most important issue for the future of primate conservation?



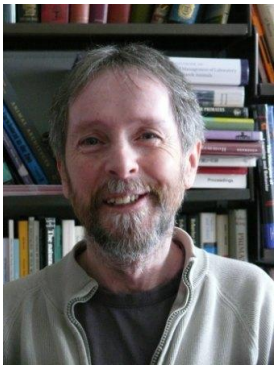
James Anderson
A combination of increasing human populations and habitat loss.

Susan Cheyne
To not lose hope and to work with local people both at the ground level as well as in government. Respect for all forms of life is crucial to their conservation and future protection from exploitation. The demand for forest products is predominantly driven by demand from outside the habitat countries so once we all start to see ourselves as a global community with global consequences of our actions, then conservation and protection of our natural world will become easier.

Karen Strier
We must save primates from hunting and their habitats from destruction or fragmentation. This will require broad educational initiatives as well as access to alternative subsistence and resources for people living near primates. All of these activities will require the commitment of sufficient funds at an international level.

Giuseppe Donati
It is urgent to stop fragmentation and habitat loss. We know that it is very difficult to reintroduce primates from captivity. Whatever way we can find to do this is good. For example, in Madagascar there is a mining company which gives work to the local people; it is a double-faced situation. It is important to give work to local people but we don't have a lot of time to look at ethical issues. We need companies to invest money in local conservation. It is the same in Indonesia.

Do you have any goals that you wish to achieve in the future?



James Anderson

No specific goals other than to continue to contribute to overall knowledge about the psychology of non-human as well as human primates, and hopefully to develop others' interest in some topics.

Susan Cheyne

I would like to see more focus on the hybrid gibbons in the central highlands of Borneo as this population has received no conservation focus at all. I would also like to complete the Borneo-wide survey of *Hylobates albibarbis* to gain an accurate population estimate of this endemic species. I hope also to raise awareness of the Bornean clouded leopard, the islands' largest predator, as well as improving education of conservation for both local people and foreigners.

Karen Strier

I have many goals, but if I limit myself to the muriquis, I would like to see the private protected reserve where I have worked establish a trust fund that would ensure sufficient interest to sustain the protective status and informed research and conservation efforts for perpetuity.

Do you have any advice for aspiring conservationists?

James Anderson

Be prepared for frustrations at all levels! Be aware of the role of captive work in bringing out some abilities that might be difficult or impossible to demonstrate in the field; these can help to increase general awareness of some of the similarities that other species share with our own.

Susan Cheyne

I do not know a single conservationist who has achieved their position through the same route. Lawyers and doctors study law and medicine and then go onto being their chosen profession, conservation is not like this. Determination, passion for the subject or species and good, grounded science will make the difference in the end. A willingness to be in remote places, whether working in captivity or the wild and a willingness to get your results out there for people to use and learn from is essential. And when the world seems against you and you are fighting a losing battle against a logging company or plantation company, make sure you are surrounded by friends who understand and can offer advice and drink beer! At the end of the day, you are here because you want to be and this is a huge step in the right direction, believe in yourself, believe in your colleagues and always, always believe in your local research team.

Karen Strier

Don't lose your optimism, and be willing to take chances for good causes. And, be open to advice, and don't let individual careerism interfere with establishing the collaborations that are necessary for conservation to work.

Giuseppe Donati

Go into the field! I wasn't that close to conservation issues before having seen them in the field. You realise what it means to do conservation. It is so important to be there in the forest, with the local communities, and seeing what happens in the field. Always try to include local people in the project. For example, in Madagascar it was not ethical to habituate primates because of hunting. We needed to educate the local people not to hunt primates. It is easy in words, but it was very hard in real life. But they started to trust me, and now they don't hunt anymore. This is the most important thing – your relationship with the local people. You need to talk to them, plan with them and involve them. If they trust you, you can do beautiful things.

University Events

Seminar Series

The seminar series is a weekly event which invites guest speakers to present their research. We are currently in the process of recruiting speakers for our spring semester if you are interested in attending or presenting please do not hesitate to get in contact with us. Contact details are provided within the contents page.

Here is a list comprising of the guest speakers from the autumn semester:

September 27th 2010
Camille Coudrat, Dept. Anthropology and Geography, Oxford Brookes University

October 4th 2010
Dr Susan Cheyne, WildCru, Oxford University and Dept. Anthropology and Geography, Oxford Brookes University

October 11th 2010
Prof Adrian Parker, Dept. Anthropology and Geography, Oxford Brookes University

October 18th 2010
Alan Knight, International Animal Rescue

November 1st 2010
Juliet Wright, Lebialem Hunters' Beekeeping Initiative, Cameroon

November 8th 2010
Dr Julia Lehmann, School of Human and Life Sciences, Roehampton University

November 15th 2010
Dr Kim Hockings, Dept Anthropology, University of Lisbon

November 22nd 2010
Dr Giuseppe Donati, Dept Biology, University of Pisa

November 29th 2010
Prof Stuart Harrop, Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent

2010-2011 Cohort trip to the Cotswolds

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