- 1 Unmonitored releases of small animals? The importance of considering natural dispersal,
- 2 health, and human habituation when releasing a territorial mammal threatened by
- 3 wildlife trade.

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6 Abstract

7 Unmonitored release is a common practice, especially in small animals, that present a series

- 8 of adverse conditions if not well-planned. Small research centers and non-governmental
- 9 organizations in developing countries often receive animals that are then subject to
- 10 unmonitored releases. We explored the patterns of post-release and natal dispersal in the
- 11 Javan slow loris, a Critically Endangered venomous and territorial mammal that is highly
- 12 threatened by wildlife trade. We then determined the importance of health status and
- 13 human habituation for the survival of translocated and natally dispersing animals. We
- 14 collected data from 2012 to 2018 on pre-release and pre-dispersal health conditions and
- 15 human habituation, post-release and post-dispersal presence of wounds, behavior, and
- 16 ranging patterns of 11 translocated and 11 natally dispersing individuals and compared
- 17 them with 12 stable resident individuals. Translocated animals had a larger home range size
- 18 (15.9±4.1 ha) and higher wound presence during recaptures (0.47±0.13) than stable resident
- individuals $(3.2\pm3.0 \text{ ha}; 0.10\pm0.06)$ but they did not differ from natally dispersing individuals
- 20 (13.8±3.7 ha; 0.28±0.11). Both translocated and natally dispersing individuals can move to a
- 21 different habitat type compared to their release area or natal range. The fate of both
- translocated and natally dispersing individuals was influenced by their health state
 (p<0.001), and human habituation significantly affected the possibility of being captured for
- wildlife trade of translocated individuals (p=0.048). We highlight the importance of
- considering natal dispersal, health state, and human habituation before the release of small
- 26 animals to avoid death and capture for wildlife trade.

27 Keywords

28 Population restoration; re-enforcement; health index; NGO; research center; pet trade.

29 1. Introduction

30 Despite evidence on best practices in planning and monitoring translocation projects being

- available (IUCN/SSC 2013, see Batson et al. 2015b for a review), unmonitored releases of
- 32 animals are still frequent and can result in a series of adverse conditions if not well-planned
- 33 (e.g. genetic changes, diseases, competition with resident individuals; Laikre et al. 2010,
- Champagnon et al. 2012). The reason for translocation failures is often unknown due to a
- 35 lack of post-release monitoring (Griffith et al. 1989; Wolf et al. 1996; Fischer &
- Lindernmayer 2000; Seddon et al. 2007; Beck 2016). For example, a survey from 30 rescue
- 37 centres revealed that only a third of respondents followed criteria to assess translocation
- 38 success (Guy et al. 2013). Small research centers and non-governmental organizations in
- 39 developing countries often receive animals brought in by villagers or law authorities and do
- 40 not have the infrastructure to keep them (Cuarón 1997, Cuarón 2005, Agoramoorthy & Hsu
- 41 2007, Nijman et al. 2009, Kenyon et al. 2015). These animals are often former pets or wild
- 42 animals adapted to live in human-modified habitats that people perceive as forest animals
- 43 (Kumar et al. 2014). As a result, they are subject to unmonitored releases (Dodd Jr & Seigel

44 1991; Agoramoorthy & Hsu 2007; Moore et al. 2014; Kumar et al. 2014; van der Sandt, 2017; Beck 2019). 45

46 Animals translocated to an area where conspecifics are present may be forced to disperse

(Le Gouar et al. 2012), thus translocated animals may share common characteristics with 47

48 animals dispersing from their natal habitat (Macdonald & Johnson 2001). Understanding

49 patterns of natal dispersal in wild animals is, thus, fundamental when planning

50 translocations (Armstrong & Seddon 2008). Dispersal from the release site to another area is

51 usually considered a criterion for failure in translocation projects, but often the information

52 on wild dispersing animals is lacking (Stamp & Swaisgood 2007; Le Gouar et al. 2012;

53 Villaseñor et al. 2013; Berger-Tal et al. 2019), so such secondary dispersals may be natural

54 for some species (Sutherland et al. 2000 for a review).

55 The health condition of animals immediately after the release is considered a main factor determining translocation success and should be taken into consideration and monitored 56 57 (Mathews et al. 2006; Dickens et al. 2010). Health condition (considering both visible signs 58 and pathogens), however, needs to be considered carefully even before the release since it 59 may determine the translocation success (Mathews et al. 2006; Parker et al. 2012; Portas et 60 al. 2016). Furthermore, health monitoring after release is often limited to direct 61 observations of diseases and mortality, while comprehensive health evaluations are often 62 missing (Deem et al. 2012; Portas et al. 2016). Another fundamental factor to be considered 63 before the release is the habitat suitability in the release area, although the definition of 64 suitable habitats is not always clear since it is species-specific (Osborne & Seddon 2012). An 65 unsuitable release area can determine a post-release dispersal as a consequence of the 66 Natal Habitat Preference Induction (i.e. animals look for stimuli from their natal habitat 67 instead of evaluating the habitat quality of the release site; Stamps & Swaisgood 2007). An 68 additional factor to be taken into consideration when planning population restoration 69 projects, often neglected, is the involvement and attitudes of the local community, 70 especially for species subjected to hunting and other forms of wildlife trade (Hunter et al. 71 2007; Nilsen et al. 2007; Jule et al. 2008). Areas with long-term conservation projects that 72 also include conservation education or community outreach programs may thus be more 73 suitable for restoration of threatened populations.

74 We explored the patterns of post-release and natal dispersal and investigated the role of 75 health state and human habituation on the fate of translocated and natally dispersing Javan 76 slow lorises Nycticebus javanicus, a nocturnal mammal, as part of a long-term conservation 77 and research project. Slow lorises are the only venomous primates and it is suggested that 78 the main use of their venom is against conspecifics (Rode-Margono & Nekaris 2015). Javan 79 slow lorises are highly territorial and animals can have severe wounds that are usually more 80 frequent during dispersal (Fuller et al. 2018). Slow lorises are widely threatened by illegal 81 trade for pets, medicines and tourist photography props (Nekaris & Starr 2015), meaning 82 that a low alert response towards humans may be detrimental for their survival. 83 Furthermore, traders may cut their teeth to prevent venomous bites, which has implications 84 for feeding on their main food resources – exudates, which they must gouge from trees 85 (Nekaris & Starr 2015). Slow lorises, despite being highly territorial and threatened by wildlife trade, are frequently subjected to unmonitored releases (Kumar et al. 2014). We 86 87 collected data on translocated and natally dispersing animals and predicted that health 88 state and human habituation would have been significant factors in determining animal 89

survival and success in settling in a stable area. We then compared the presence of wounds

- 90 and animals' ranging patterns after release or dispersal with those of stable resident animals
- 91 present in the area to determine whether translocated and natally dispersing animals are
- 92 similar. This information is important to determine whether post-release dispersal is
- abnormal or whether it is similar to the process of animals dispersing from their natal range.
- 94 If unmonitored releases are to continue by welfare charities and governments, these data
- 95 may provide some information on how to select appropriate release candidates.

96 2. Methods

97 2.1. Study site and subjects

98 We examined pre-release and pre-dispersal health conditions, human habituation, post-99 release and post-dispersal presence of wounds, behavior, and ranging patterns of 11 100 translocated (4 females, 7 males) and 11 natally dispersing (3 females, 8 males) Javan slow 101 loris Nycticebus javanicus in Cipaganti, Garut District, Java, Indonesia (7° S, 107° E, 1200 m 102 a.s.l.). The habitat consists of a mosaic of agricultural fields, bamboo patches, shrubs, and small agroforest patches in the vicinity of a protected rainforest watershed. We also 103 104 collected data on presence of wounds, behaviors, and ranging patterns of 12 stable resident individuals (7 females, 5 males) as control data. Translocated animals were all rescued from 105 areas adjacent with the study site, usually brought in by local villagers who found them 106 during daily activities such as cutting bamboo. Three translocated animals (T-BK, T-CK and T-107 108 LA) were rescued from pet trade and required a longer pre-release monitoring time done at 109 Cikananga Wildlife Rescue Centre, Sukabumi, West Java. Translocated animals were 110 released in the study area where other wild animals were present. We can thus refer to this 111 translocation as a re-enforcement (i.e. release of individuals of a species in their historic range conspecifics are present in the release area; Seddon et al. 2012). Please refer to Table 112 1 for more information on the translocation design based on the Translocation Tactics 113

114 Classification System (Batson et al. 2015b).

115 **2.2. Behavior and ranging patterns**

116 We followed wild individuals at Cipaganti via radio telemetry between 17:00 and 05:00 h 117 using Instantaneous Focal Sampling every 5-min (Altman 1974) and collected animal locations every 15-min via a handheld GPS Garmin GPSMAP® 60CSx with an accuracy of at 118 119 least 6 m (Cabana et al. 2017). We followed slow lorises for a total of 6590 h from April 2012 120 to December 2018. We collared the slow lorises following previous protocols with radio 121 collars (BioTrack, UK – 17 g) (Poindexter & Nekaris 2018). We tracked the slow lorises using 122 a six-element Yagi antenna and SIKA receiver (BioTrack, UK) and observed them using LED 123 headlamps with a red filter (Cluson Engineering Ltd., Hampshire, United Kingdom). No negative effects of collaring animals have been noted during the study period. We selected 124 125 the 11 individuals that naturally dispersed from their natal area by investigating their 126 ranging patterns every two months. We considered dispersal as the movement of an 127 individual out of an area larger than its home range, with no predictable returns (Bunnell & 128 Harestad 1983). Slow lorises usually disperse when they are around 20 months old and they have already reached an adult body size (Poindexter & Nekaris 2018). We calculated the 129 home range size via 95% fixed kernel estimates using Ranges 9 software with least square 130 131 cross validation as smoothing parameter (Seaman & Powell 1996). We selected the 12 132 stable resident individuals based on behavioral and ranging data and selected 8-month 133 periods when more data were available on the individuals during the study period. We

134 calculated the level of alertness (i.e. remain stationary like in rest but with active

- 135 observation of environment or observer) for each stable resident individual during the 8-
- 136 month periods and used them for comparison with levels of natally dispersing and
- 137 translocated individuals. Translocated individuals were radio-collared and intensively
- followed during the first week after the release, and then followed in a similar pattern to
- the other individuals. For this reason, we used the level of alertness during the first week for
- 140 translocated individuals, while for natally dispersing individuals we considered the first two
- months after dispersal. During the same period, we considered the occurrence of abnormal
 behaviors to include in a health index (see below). Abnormal behaviors included
- 143 overgrooming and abnormalities in feeding such as reduced/abnormal gouging (i.e. feeding
- on gum, the main food item of Javan slow loris, by making a hole in the tree with their
- 145 anterior teeth, Cabana et al. 2017).

146 **2.3. Health and human habituation indices**

We checked the health state of translocated animals before release by measuring body 147 weight and anatomical characteristics, and by evaluating their general conditions. For the 148 149 whole study period, we regularly checked and monitored natally dispersing and stable resident individuals. We created a health index score based on previous criteria presented in 150 a guide for recognition and alleviation of distress in laboratory animals, which we found 151 152 applicable to wild animal conditions (NRC 2008). We gave positive scores if the animals, 153 before release or at the time of dispersal presented the following: i) underweight; ii) presence of abnormal skin or hair-coat/mucous membranes; iii) presence of 154 155 parasites/worms in fecal samples; iv) missing body part, including tail, ears, limbs, etc.; v) 156 abnormalities of the eye; vi) abnormalities of the teeth; vii) presence of unusual behaviors after release/dispersal (e.g. overgrooming, abnormal feeding behavior). The health index 157 thus varied between 0 (normal condition) to 7 (severe distress). We considered an animal 158 underweight when the body weight was lower than the body weight of the stable adults 159 considered in this study using a one sample t-test. When the translocated animals presented 160 161 abnormalities, we included a pre-release stage in which they were in a rehabilitation cage of 162 12 m² X 1 m high until any abnormal condition ameliorated (maximum two weeks and depending on health state). Healthy animals were immediately released the night after the 163 health check to reduce their capture-related stress (Parker et al. 2012). Translocated animal 164 165 health was re-checked after the release via re-captures (one or two times per loris, with 15 re-captures in total) to evaluate their general conditions and to see whether the animals 166 presented new wounds and weight loss. These data were compared to the regular health 167 checks of natally dispersing and stable resident individuals. 168

We created a human habituation index based on the behavior during animal handling and the alertness state post-release or dispersal, considering being calm and less alert than normal as a negative condition (Teixeira et al. 2007). We gave a positive score when the

- animal was very calm during captures and when it was presenting a proportion of time
 resting alert lower than the value for stable adults considered in this study using a one
- sample t-test. The health index thus varied between 0 (normal condition) to 2 (not alert and
- 175 calm during captures) (Table 2).
- 176 RISTEK (Indonesian Ministry of Science and Technology) approved this study
- 177 (039/SIP/FRP/SM/22; 5619/FRP/SM/1; 1393/FRP/SM/V; 070/2I83; 070/2828). We
- 178 conducted all animal research in adherence with RISTEK, as well as ethical guidelines

provided by the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour; Oxford Brookes University
Animal Ethics Sub-committee granted our research approval. We informed local Indonesian
conservation authorities (BKSDA Garut) of any animal translocations and had their approval
to act as we saw fit.

183 2.4. Statistical analysis

184 To determine whether translocated individuals differed from natally dispersing and stable 185 resident individuals in terms of home range size in the first two months after the release or 186 dispersal and in the proportion of wounds during captures, we ran generalized linear models with a sequential Bonferroni post hoc test and used the estimated means for graphical 187 representation. For stable resident individuals, we considered eight months of stable home 188 189 range and computed an average home range size between four 2-month periods. To test whether the fate of animals was determined by their health state, we ran a Goodman and 190 191 Kruskal's gamma correlation since the dependent variable was set as ordinal (fate was 0 when the animal was dead or captured by traders, 1 when the animals was alive but not 192 settled, 2 when the animal was alive and settled). We considered an animal as settled when 193 194 the home range was stabilizing with time and the overlap of points in the previous home 195 range was not statistically different from the mean home range of stable individuals (using a 196 one sample t-test). If prolonged home range data were not available (for animals that 197 moved out of the main study area to locations where we did not have the required permits 198 to follow them, see table 2), the animals were considered settled when their health conditions remained stable and they did not move far from release point (we estimated 199 their locations via the triangulation method from the forest boundary, Gese 2001). After an 200 201 animal was considered as settled outside the main study area, we removed its collar. To test whether the fate of animals was determined by their habituation to humans, we ran a 202 203 generalized linear model with fate as binary dependent variable (0 when the animal was 204 dead or captured by traders, 1 when the animal was alive). We ran the tests using R

software v3.5.1 considering p=0.05 as significance level.

206 **3. Results**

- 207 The probability of wounds was significantly different between translocated (estimated
- 208 mean: 0.47 ± SE 0.13), natally dispersing (estimated mean: 0.28 ± SE 0.11), and stable
- resident individuals (estimated mean: 0.10 ± SE 0.06) (generalized linear model: Wald
- 210 χ^2 =6.42, p=0.040), with a significant difference between translocated and stable resident
- individuals (Sequential Bonferroni: p=0.029) (Figure 1). The home range size in the first two
- 212 months after release or dispersal was also different between translocated (estimated mean:
- 15.9 ± SE 4.1 ha), natally dispersing (estimated mean: $13.8 \pm SE 3.7$ ha), and stable resident
- individuals (estimated mean: 3.2 ± SE 3.0 ha) (generalized linear model: Wald χ^2 =6.89,
- p=0.028), with a significant difference between translocated and stable resident individuals
- (Sequential Bonferroni: p=0.039), and between natally dispersing and stable resident
 individuals (Sequential Bonferroni: p=0.043) (Figure 2). The home ranges of translocated
- and natally dispersing individuals decreased after the exploratory period in settled animals,
- 219 until they reached home ranges similar to stable individuals, while not settled animals kept
- large home ranges during the eight-month period. There were cases in both translocated
- 221 (N=1) and natally dispersing individuals (N=4) when the individuals left the main study area
- and settled in a nearby forested area (Table 2).

- 223 The fate of translocated and natally dispersing animals was negatively related to their initial
- health state (Goodman and Kruskal's gamma: γ =-0.90, p<0.001) (Table 2, Figure 3).
- 225 Abnormalities of the teeth and in feeding behavior may be detrimental even after a
- prolonged time. For example, T-BT exhibited abnormal gouging behavior from the
- beginning, with no gouging teeth marks on offered substrates before the release. After the
- release, she started gouging only after three days and gouged at lower frequencies than
- stable resident animals for the first three months. After this period, she started over-
- 230 gouging and this abnormal feeding behavior could have been the reason for her death since
- she was found with a deformed jaw.

The fate of translocated and natally dispersing animals was also significantly dependent on human habituation (generalized linear model: β =-1.69, p=0.048). The fit line for translocated animals suggests that human habituation is influencing the fate only in translocated animals (Figure 4).

236 4. Discussion

237 4.1. Translocated animals may be forced to disperse

Here we showed that translocated animals in re-enforcement programs may act as natally 238 239 dispersing animals, showing similar home ranges and probability of wounds. It is often 240 assumed that post-release survival and settlement in a release area are the main criteria for 241 a successful translocation (Le Gouar et al. 2012; Parker et al. 2012). As a consequence, many 242 management tools are often used to mitigate post-release dispersal (Richardson et al. 243 2015b). The biology and ecology of a translocated species, however, can be incomplete, and 244 a deep knowledge is required when planning a translocation program (Dodd Jr & Seigel 1991; Stamps & Swaisgood 2007; Parker et al. 2012; Villaseñor et al. 2013; Berger-Tal et al. 245 2016, 2019). The post-release dispersal shown by one individual that moved from the 246 247 agroforestry area to the forest could have been confused with a natal habitat preference 248 induction (sensu Stamps & Swaisgood 2007) if the information on natally dispersing animals was lacking. Moving from the agroforestry area to the forest, however, was a common 249 250 practice in this study for Javan slow lorises naturally dispersing from their natal home range 251 (Table 2), which could have home ranges larger than 50 ha during this process, compared to their usual home range of around 3 ha (Figure 1). Many studies reported the proportion of 252 253 individuals remaining in the release area but do not consider the natural dispersal 254 tendencies of the animals (e.g. Ostro et al. 2000; King & Gurnell 2005; Hardman & Moro 255 2006). It is often true that dispersal from a release site can be associated with a high 256 mortality rate (Bright & Morris 1994), but in highly territorial animals such as slow lorises, 257 secondary dispersal appears to be a natural behavior. For example, repeated releases of the 258 territorial Persian fallow deer (Dama dama mesopotamica) determined a larger dispersal 259 area in newly reintroduced individuals (Dolev et al. 2002). As also pointed out by Berger-Tal 260 et al. (2016), post-release dispersal should be better defined since it is dependent on the species and moving from the release habitat to another habitat and extending home ranges 261 is not unusual. We also need to consider that animals recovered and successively released in 262 this program may have been natally dispersing animals that arrived in proximity of the 263 village (thus found by farmers during their usual activities) while exploring new areas. That 264 265 may be another reason to explain their post-release dispersal.

266 4.2. Health and human habituation

267 The health index was a main factor influencing the fate of translocated and natally dispersing Javan slow loris. A health check of translocated animals is often missing, even 268 though it has important implications to avoid disease transmission (Mathews et al. 2006; 269 270 Ewen et al. 2012). In Javan slow lorises, we did not find many pathogens; rather, we found 271 individual health problems that determined the death of animals. The common issue between animals that died after the translocation was related to abnormalities of the teeth 272 273 or the related abnormalities in gouging behavior. It is evident that for a species that spends almost half of its feeding time gouging on tree exudates (Cabana et al. 2017), having 274 275 problems with teeth or an abnormal gouging behavior is detrimental. It has been proposed 276 that the high amount of exudates with medicinal properties eaten by slow lorises may be 277 associated with recovery from frequent wounds in these territorial taxa (Das et al. 2014). It 278 is noticeable that releasing animals with abnormalities of the teeth or in gouging behavior 279 brings consequences such as a reduced recovery from wounds that can be detrimental for 280 their survival. Some behaviors are species-specific; we thus highlight again the importance 281 of knowing the biology and ecology of a species before the release. We should also note 282 that the health index here is easy to apply and could be useful for studies of other animals.

283 Human habituation (i.e. reduced response to human presence in a way that humans are not 284 seen as potential predators but are essentially ignored; Ellenberg et al. 2009) was also shown to influence the possibility of death or of being caught by humans. Human 285 habituation can be detrimental for species that are subject to hunting for food or pet trade 286 287 since it increases the risk of being caught (Geffroy et al. 2015; Blumstein 2016). It also reduces the level of alertness and this can also increase the predation risk (Geffroy et al. 288 289 2015). Despite the extensive conservation education program that started in 2012 in the 290 study areas and in nearby villages (Nekaris et al. 2018), it is evident that there is still a 291 potential risk for slow lorises to be caught by humans. Since human habituation is a factor 292 influencing the success of translocation for Javan slow loris and presumably for other 293 species threatened by wildlife trade (Frair et al. 2007; Ellenberg et al. 2009), in certain cases 294 it is important to limit the time spent in the pre-release stage. Many studies showed that a 295 soft release (i.e. extending the pre-release stage) may be better than a hard (i.e. immediate) 296 release since it reduces post-release dispersal (e.g. King & Gurnell 2005; Tuberville et al. 297 2005; Kenyon et al. 2014). Other studies, however, found no effect (e.g. Lovegrove 1996; 298 Hardman & Moro 2006) or even reduction in survival (e.g. Batson et al. 2015a; Richardson et 299 al. 2015a) when soft release was employed. It is thus important to consider the threats 300 faced by the individual species before deciding a soft versus hard release. For Javan slow lorises, a quarantine period to help animals with health problems to recuperate may not be 301 302 a successful strategy in some circumstances since it will increase human habituation and thus the possibility of being caught by humans after the release. When a prolonged 303 304 quarantine period is required, we suggest taking particular care on environmental 305 preconditioning and post-release environmental management tactics (Batson et al. 2015b).

306 4.3. Concluding remarks

The quality of applied methods to wildlife translocation has dramatically improved especially in the last two decades. The large variety of tactics that can be employed during translocations (Batson et al. 2015b), however, suggests that there is a need to have a detailed and species-specific understanding of the biology and ecology of wild animals to be able to plan effective translocation plans. For small nocturnal animals such as slow lorises that are ubiquitous in wildlife trade, ecological field studies are often lacking, but the small

313 size of such animals lends itself to random and unmonitored hard releases, e.g. amphibians and reptiles (Dodd Jr & Seigel 1991), rodents (Villaseñor et al. 2013), primates (Kumar et al. 314 2014; Fuller et al. 2018; Beck 2019). This is especially true in areas where long-term research 315 316 projects are established, where villagers often find animals and give them to researchers 317 who put them back to the forest without post-release monitoring (Agoramoorthy & Hsu 2007; van der Sandt 2017; Beck 2019). Furthermore, the health state of translocated 318 319 animals and the threats to the species in the release area should be carefully taken into 320 consideration before the release. We took the Critically Endangered Javan slow loris, a venomous and territorial mammal that is highly threatened by pet trade, as a model to 321 322 show that i) dispersal from release site/habitat, often considered as main criterion for 323 defining a successful translocation, can be a natural process in a territorial species 324 (Sutherland et al. 2000 for a review), and ii) some factors, such as health and human 325 habituation indices, can predict the fate of translocated animals before the release 326 (Mathews et al. 2006; Frair et al. 2007; Parker et al. 2012; Portas et al. 2016). Despite a lack 327 of scientific data, all too often welfare charities and governments hail unmonitored releases 328 as a conservation success (Dodd Jr & Seigel 1991), especially for charismatic small animals (Moore et al. 2014; Beck 2019) and large mammals (Yeager 1997). Press releases and 329 photographs of such releases even generate funding for such organizations (Dodd Jr & 330 331 Seigel 1991). Clearly, a substantial death rate is to be expected from these releases since the 332 tactical frameworks for translocations are not employed (Champagnon et al. 2012). As 333 unmonitored hard releases of small animals are likely to continue, we hope that these data 334 might provide some aid in selecting candidates suitable for release. We recommend following specific frameworks such as the Translocation Tactics Classification System 335 336 (Batson et al. 2015b) when planning translocations and avoid unmonitored or uncontrolled

releases of animals to the wild.

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Table 1. Checklist of tactics employed for translocated Javan slow lorises at Cipaganti, West

537 Java, based on the Translocation Tactics Classification System (Batson et al. 2015b).

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Tactical group	Tactical option	Application
Animal preconditioning	Behavior	Animals with abnormalities of feeding behavior were trained to hunt for insects and gouge for gum
	Health	Animals with health issues (e.g. parasites, worms, skin problems) were treated before the release
	Social	Animals coming from pet trade were kept for a period in communal housing of individuals to establish social networks
Animal release design	Population size	We controlled for population density over time and released in the study area only a limited number of animals to avoid overpopulation
Post-release animal management	Intervention	Animals were regularly checked after the release and we intervened in case of health issues
Environmental selection	Suitability	We previously modelled the habitat use and distribution of the study species (Voskamp et al. 2014). Agroforestry habitats are preferred habitats by Javan slow loris, and the study area limited threats to lorises
	Similarity	Animals were released in the study areas from neighboring areas with similar environmental conditions
Environmental preconditioning	Resource augmentation	We built a plant nursery and provided trees to farmers to be planted to increase connectivity and food resources for animals. We used artificial bridges to increase canopy connectivity (Birot et al. 2019).
	Threat control	We reduced hunting pressure in the study area via different activities involving conservation education and socialization events (Nekaris et al. 2018). We have reached an agreement with local communities for a total hunting ban.
Environmental release design	Timing	Lorises were released after sunset since that is the moment of the night when they are more active and they can have the whole night to habituate to the new environment

Post-release environmental management	Resource augmentation	Refer to environmental preconditioning as the actions described took place during the whole study period		
	Threat control	Refer to environmental preconditioning as the actions described took place during the whole study period		

- Table 2: Health index (0=normal to 7=severe), human habituation index (0=normal to 2=not
- 541 alert during captures and/or behavioral observations), and fate of translocated (T-) and
- 542 natally dispersing Javan slow lorises at the Cipaganti agroforestry area, Java.

Animal	Pre- release/dispersal monitoring time (davs)	Post- release/dispersal monitoring time (davs)	Health Index*	Human habituation index	Fate
T-AJ	4	29	0	0	Alive and settled outside the study area
Т-ВК	259	17	5 a,b,d,e,f	2	Caught by hunters (found cut collar)
T-BT	25	235	3 ^{a,b,g}	2	Survived almost eight months then died, deformed jaw bone
T-BL	49	186	1 ^g	0	Alive but not settled yet
Т-СК	76	73	4 ^{a,b,d,e}	0	Found dead, lost much weight before death
T-GE	4	48	0	0	Alive and settled outside the study area
T-KI	0	32	0	1	Caught by hunters (found cut collar)
T-LA	378	35	3 ^{a,d,f}	0	Alive but not settled yet outside

					the study area
T-PO	0	148	0	0	Alive and settled
T-RO	1	69	0	0	Moved to the watershed rainforest, alive and settled
T-XE	4	762	1 ^c	0	Alive and settled
AL	372	975	0	1	Alive and settled
DL	345	48	0	0	Moved to the watershed rainforest, alive and settled
LU	264	1863	0	0	Alive and settled
LP	413	185	1 ^b	1	Alive but not settled yet
MF	154	549	2 ^{b,e}	0	Alive but not settled yet
МК	418	278	0	0	Alive and settled
MU	275	145	2	0	Killed by villagers seven months after dispersal, health conditions were worsening
SP	312	258	0	1	Alive and settled
ТМ	685	42	0	1	Moved to the

					watershed rainforest, alive and settled
ΤΖ	198	74	0	0	Moved to the watershed rainforest, alive and settled
YO	431	53	0	0	Moved to the watershed rainforest, alive and settled

*underweight (a); abnormal skin/fur (b); parasites/worms in feces (c); missing body part (d);
abnormalities of the eye (e); abnormalities of the teeth (f); unusual behavior (g)

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547 Figure 1. Presence of wounds in translocated, natally dispersing, and stable resident Javan

slow loris at Cipaganti, Java. We considered the presence of wounds during recaptures for
 health check. Values are estimated proportion of wounds (mean ± SE) based on the

550 generalized linear model.

551 Figure 2. Home ranges of translocated, natally dispersing, and stable resident Javan slow

Ioris at Cipaganti, Java. We considered the first two months after the release/dispersal for

translocated and dispersing individuals and the average size over eight months for stable
 individuals. Values are estimated home range sizes (mean ± SE) based on the generalized

555 linear model.

556 Figure 3. Relationship between health index and fate of translocated and natally

557 **dispersing Javan slow loris at Cipaganti, Java**. The model includes data from translocated

and natally dispersing individuals. The dashed line indicates the fit for translocatedindividuals.

560 Figure 4. Relationship between human habituation index and fate of translocated and

natally dispersing Javan slow loris at Cipaganti, Java. The model includes data from

- translocated and natally dispersing individuals. The dashed line indicates the fit for
- 563 translocated individuals.







Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4