THAILAND BREAKS INTERNATIONAL
CONSERVATION TREATY
n 1983 Thailand joined the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which meant that Thai authorities were to investigate and prosecute anyone found trafficking in endangered species or their body parts. However, since 2000 Monkey World, in collaboration with the Pingtung Rescue Centre in Taiwan, has been conducting investigations into the illegal trade in endangered primates that are for sale at markets and that are used for entertainment in some of Thailand’s largest zoos and safari parks.

Jimm and Jerry the orangutan

Over a three-year period, the team documented dozens and dozens of illegal primates, mainly orangutans, that were being sold as zoos, as photography props, or in citrus type shows. The worst offender was Safari World, outside of Bangkok, where the team found at least 45 illegal orangutans being used for photo shoots. In 2000 Jim and Alisa Cripps presented a dossier of three years’ investigations to Thai officials at the London Embassy. Since then, government raids have uncovered 115 illegal orangutans at Safari World, yet a year later and still no one has been charged with a crime and none of the illegal apes have been confiscated. And to add insult to injury, Thailand is due to host the next CITES conference in Bangkok, starting October 4th.

The Ugly – The Thai Government who refuse to acknowledge that there is a huge problem with endangered species smuggling in their country. What is going on in Thailand is an international outrage that is likely to contribute to the extinction of the orangutan in the wild. They should enforce the international CITES treaty that they signed in 1983.

Monkey World will continue to campaign for the release of the orangutans and for a full investigation of the trafficking. We will also continue to document and publicize the illegal trade in orangutans throughout SE Asia. Already we believe that more than 30 young orangutans have been illegally smuggled from the wild into Thailand, and then onto Cambodia where they are now working in the entertainment industry – guess what? This too! We will keep you posted on our progress and investigations.

Over the past 5 years, Monkey World has worked in cooperation with the Pingtung Rescue Centre in Taiwan, to rescue and rehabilitate four of the twelve species of gibbons found in the forests of Southeast Asia. In 2001 ten individual gibbons arrived at Monkey World from the Pingtung rescue centre that had been confiscated from the illegal pet trade. Other keepers and myself were amazed at how aggressive and psychologically disturbed gibbons, that were twitching and roosting, could soon be found laughing and enjoying life once they were introduced to others of their own kind. Even some of the most disturbed gibbons, like the golden-crested gibbons, for that so matter how bad their psychological problems, gibbons have friends to social and special freedoms, that drive them to be with others of their kind and to give delicate care and protection to their babies, and in the wild.

In 2000, we were surprised to find that the illegal trade in gibbons was not confined to SE Asia but that one of the rarest species had just been confiscated by HM Customs and Excise in Cambridge. A small female golden crested gibbon, Peru, was brought to Monkey World and more recently a male that was confiscated in France. This, too, was sent to the wild.

So where are they all coming from, how many are left in the wild, and how can we stop the illegal traffic.

Golden-cheeked gibbons (Hylobates gularis) are found in the Southern Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. It is surprising but very little is known about them. This species is highly prized in the pet trade. What do they eat, how big are their home ranges, are they monogamous like other species of gibbons, and importantly how many are left in the wild.

One hundred and forty km north of Ho Chi Minh City, in Vietnam, is Cai tan National Park. The park was formed in 1965 and is 500km2. There is a population of golden crested gibbons! Monkey World agreed to sponsor both the fieldwork and a study on golden-cheeked gibbons and Cambridge University accepted our proposal. "I am very excited to be part of this," said Jennifer measurements and plans to find the group of gibbons in different habitats. A great deal of work needs to be done to get the gibbons habituated so that they are comfortable to be followed down the hill. If I could habituate the gibbons to my presence then I would be able to collect behavioural and ecological data as well as faecal samples to find out what institutional parasites they carry as well as identifying direct family members.

In my first week in the National Park, I heard many gibbons calling at 5:30 am from a ranger station, in the East of Cat Tien. I was working with some of the best rangers in the world, with over 10 years experience and a passion for primates. When I saw the first gibbon, by far, it was only a testing sip of a sip of the cup. In one word, individual, possibly a sub-adult female changing colour. For the next few months I concentrated my efforts to select a group to get them familiar with me. For the first few days I focused on a group that was led by a male I named Sebastian. I first saw Sebastian’s group eating "chay millet" fruit (Jack fruit). This was more than I could hope for, as this family of four remained eating for an hour and appeared for several days until finally our sightings of the group started to decline. We could not find the group and they called very incoherently. This made me wonder what do golden crested gibbons call and does this change through the season? While looking for Sebastian’s family, we heard another group off to the east call over and over. On more to Sebastians we came across an adult male, sub adult male and a small infant in the same yellow colour phase. The young male in this group, who we named David, had an unforgettable urge to sing. His singing was telling any young females in the area that he was there and he was available. Some families only call once a week but David’s group calls every day. Some days the parents call off for 5 minutes before David takes over, and he continues for a further 20 – 40 minutes. Because of his high frequency of calls, nearly every day I have no problem locating his group.

When I follow one group, the forest ranger or ‘kien lam’ I work with, Mr. Phong, joins me now and then or vice versa. We have found these groups to have territories no larger than 30 hectares. For most of the groups have young females ready to leave their natal family to find a mate. So, we were watching closely to find out if David finds a mate close to home or will he move far to find the ideal female, how long will he take to find a mate, and where will he establish his new territory?

Mr. David’s family lives in a high altitude area, probably due to the fact that the area has many fruit trees even though it is a secondary forest. In order to compare and contrast the gibbons’ behaviour and ecology, I wanted to find my second study group in a poorer habitat, and I certainly found it. In the northern sector of Cat Tien, on steep banana slopes, I found the second group. It is generally believed that gibbons only occupy primary rainforest where there are tall trees so it took some patience to find the group in the midst of the dense bamboo. I slipped down the steep slope, hot and tired, but I understood myself! I was half way to the bamboo when I was hit by a branch I had heard bamboo snap and the noise was coming up the slope towards me! One by one a group of four golden crested gibbons passed me by. They were only 2 metres off the ground, brachiating up the canopy and out of reach. Tired and exhausted I started to follow again, but before I could do anything I saw a young juvenile and came back to grumble at me before the family continued on. I had found my second group living in the most unlikely and unhabitable place. I had heard David correctly and I was happy that they were not breed and had to learn to move through the bamboo almost gracefully as they swung through the tops of the trees.

Mr. David was thrilled as this meant that my PhD studies were about to start. This was great, but what was also special was my PhD advisor, Mr. Phong, who has spent the last 5 months teaching me he will help us build a kitchen out of bamboo in 10 minutes, how not to get eaten by an anteat at night, and how to sleep without ever hearing a noise! We also had something new about the gibbons while he was working with me. We were both thrilled that it seemed that we were sharing the forest with could also adapt to different habitats in order to survive.
Lynda & Tutti
By Alison and Jim Cronin

In the spring of 2002, Monkey World was contacted by Lynda and Ian McLaren, an ex-pat couple that owned and ran a veterinary practice in Saudi Arabia. Weeks prior, a baby chimpanzee had been left at their offices after a Saudi Prince had decided that he did not want his exotic pet anymore. Lynda and Ian took the new arrival under their wing and immediately started to look for a home where the orphan could grow up with others of her own kind.

Over the next couple of months, Lynda made endless trips back and forth from their home in Davos, to Jeddah, to deepest Arabia, to meet with us and organise Tutti's safe transit. This was no easy matter as politics and bureaucracy in Saudi Arabia is a potential minefield. However, Lynda's care and determination to see her Tutti get the best care possible made all her trouble appear effortless. Indeed, we had found a kindred spirit. Organizing the movement of the chimpanzee was a roller-coaster ride, with good news one day and bad news the next. Lynda and Ian remained focused at all times but were always responsive and sensitive to the needs and requirements of the Kingdom.

Through delicate negotiations, Lynda remained a positive and stable force, always pushing forward for Tutti.

We quickly became close friends with the McLaren's and looked forward to seeing Lynda every time she arrived at the park. Tutti finally made it to Monkey World on July 17th 2002, after a full circumnavigation of Lynda and Ian the whole way. After all the excitement we were happy to find that Lynda voted Tutti (and set) as just as fun as she had while making arrangements for the move. Everyone got to know Lynda, the champagne, the jokes, and the care of her baby, to the Swan in our gift shop who got regular donations of Tutti's photos to sell. Easily two our first days in the park, Lynda was taken from all of us when she lost her battle against cancer. While we had not known the McLarens' for very long we had been lucky to meet such kindred souls. Tutti is now happy with her new family in the nursery group and her secure future is thanks to the passion, dedication and spirit of two people who cared so much. Lynda will be greatly missed by all of us at the park and all our thoughts are with Ian and her family.

RAFAEL ARRIVES FROM SOUTH AFRICA
By Wendy Durham

Rafael, a six and a half year old, bony-checked gibbon (Hylobates hoolock) male arrived at Monkey World on September 1, 2004. Rafael had been born in captivity at Pretoria Zoo in South Africa. As part of the International Breeding Programme (EEP) it was recommended that he be sent to Monkey World to be paired with one of our rescued, wild caught females. Unlike most of our group that were stolen from the wild, Rafael was reared by his parents in a family group, that means that he is confident, well adjusted individual.

As Rafael has good gibbon etiquette and is used to group living. His introduction to Zoey, one of our females from Taiwan, went extremely well. Within a week of his arrival, following a few medical checks, he was ready to meet Zoey face to face. Two hours into this first meeting the pair were busy grooming and playing. Rafael and Zoey now spend all of their time together and they are showing signs of developing a strong bond pair. It can however, take a very long time for gibbons to establish a bond but for now we have two very happy, playful new friends. We hope that this relationship will grow stronger so that Rafael will play an important role in the EEP and be a good father to his own babies some day soon.
Pregnancies and New Arrivals

At the park we currently have two beautiful babies that are growing up rapidly and at least one that we expect soon. One of these is a March baby orangutan Haiso-spuy is growing quickly after a summer of outdoor climbing and play. She was born on August 3rd and is full of life. Up until recently, the rest of the orangutans were in quarantine after the arrival of A-Mehe so Haiso-spuy was not allowed to visit. But now that it is finished, she will begin meeting several of the adult orangutans. We also have plans for a new house and enclosure for her along side of the adults.

Meanwhile baby woolly monkey, Lena, is becoming very independent and has started climbing off of her mum Lorna to explore. Lorna is a good mum and gives Lena a bit of space to explore but she is never far away! Lena is very precocious youngster and all the others in the group are fond of her.

Back over at the orangutans, we think Xan is going to be a dad again when Haiso-spuy gives birth to her first baby. Of course it is early days yet as the baby is not expected until March 2009. As it is her first pregnancy, there is a lot that could go wrong but for Haiso-spuy talking things is stride. We are also planning to introduce Haiso-spuy to Haiso-soup so that she has some experience dealing with infants before the baby is born.

Cercopan's Heaven on Earth

"They are in heaven" said Chief Ekutor of Ilo East in Cross River State, Nigeria, when he first saw them. To the 18 red-capped mangabeys he referred to, it must indeed have seemed pretty close to their idea of heaven, as they foraged for insects and cavorted in trees. It had been a very long time for many of them since they had seen their rainforest home, and for some those born in captivity, it was the first time.

So what is their story and how did they get there? When Cercopan, a primate conservation project in Nigeria, was founded, the first priority was to establish semi-captive habitats for the critically endangered red-capped mangabey (Cercocebus torquatus) in a semi-captive forest. The project was to protect the animals from poaching and human exploitation. Later, it was realized that the project could be expanded to include the conservation of other endangered species such as primates and other forest animals.

Cercopan was founded in 1995 and has evolved over the past 9 years into a Centre for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature. Their mission is to conserve Nigeria’s primates through sustainable rainforest conservation, community education, primate rehabilitation and research. The Centre's activities include monitoring, research and education programmes. The Centre has also been successful in establishing semi-captive habitats for endangered species of primates such as the red-capped mangabey. In 2003, the Centre received a grant from the UK government to establish semi-captive habitats for the red-capped mangabey in Nigeria. Since then, the Centre has been able to establish semi-captive habitats for the animals and has been successful in establishing semi-captive habitats for other endangered species such as primates and other forest animals.

New to the gift shop are some beautiful shirts designed exclusively for Monkey World by wildlife artist David Dancey-Wood. There are three unique designs available by popular order, our online gift shop at www.monkeyworld.org, or of course at the park.

The first two designs are silhouette line drawings of an orangutan or of a chimpanzee. These designs come in men's and ladies fitted t-shirts and only come in adult sizes. They are £13.99 and are available for men in Small/Large/XXL/XXXL, with the chimpanzee on a black shirt and the orangutan on an orange t-shirt. The ladies style range is available in XS/Small/Large/MD/XXL and comes in yellow or fawn colours.

The third and fourth designs are detailed drawings of Paddy the chimps and Lucky the orangutan on black t-shirts. These are available for children at £10.99 and come in sizes 2-6/7-8/9-10/11-12/13. The adult t-shirts are £13.99 and come in Small/Large/XXL.

These unique designs can be found nowhere else and make excellent Christmas presents.
LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Over the summer the park has been busy with people coming to visit the monkeys and apes from around the world. Jim and I are always amazed when walking through the park we meet people from South Africa, Australia, Singapore, Brazil, America, Canada, Holland, Denmark and of course from all over the British Isles. We have also had many international visitors including Mario and Lesschet Hoedemaker from Amsterdam Zoo in Holland, the Director of Cat Tien National Park in Vietnam, Mr. Hui and his Technical Director and Translators, Mr. Khanh and Mr. Phong, the Director of Pongkyong Rescue Centre in Taiwan and his wife, Dr. Kurtis and Marilie Pie, and Mike and LeeAnn Bates from San Diego Zoo who have been working with our Primates Care Staff on primate conditioning. Their article, in this issue, is very interesting and shows what a good relationship the monkeys and apes can have with their carers when basic lines of communication are opened. We look forward to welcoming them back again in the near future.

Our supporters have been a great help as always. Most importantly, we want to thank all of those who wrote to send letters to the Thai Embassy the CITES office in Switzerland, and the Minister of the Environment. We have received more than 1,000 copies of these letters and are overwhelmed by all your help. There is no doubt that this kind of support has had a positive effect and we now have been offered full and direct support of the Environment Minister, Elliott Morley. Others have helped our rescue and rehabilitation work by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, seeds, dried fruit, bread, rice cakes, baby milk, eggs, vitamins, dog toys, basketballs, blankets, sheets, towels, fire hoses, dog crates, a baby car seat, and disposable gloves. Knitted jumpers, cuddly toys, figurines, and artwork were also donated to sell in the shop. Everything is used and greatly appreciated by the monkeys and apes. We have received generous donations and some have raised money by sponsored workouts, school collections, donations instead of birthday, wedding, or leaving presents; copper collection; quiz nights; pet care services; market stall collections; fund-raising parties; buying lottery tickets; inkjet cartridge collections; 24 hour fairs; car boot sales; and cake stalls.

Special mention needs to be given to Ryvita, Poole for donating crackers and rice cakes. Rolf C. Hagen Ltd. For sending us many heavy dog toys, Josh’s Ark Charity and Quaker Concern for Animals for a generous donation; the Michael Chamberlain Foundation for donating pet toys, the Community Nursing Team at Wreatham Health Centre for sending us medical supplies; the 'New Forest North Cub Pack and Postills Junior School for fund raising; Lorraine and Alan Yeates for a huge donation of stationery; fruit, and vegetables; Mr. Al Walker for regular donations of jam for the chimpanzee money; Lawrence Page and Penny Dymond for sponsored marathon runs; and Joe Alexander (age 8) for a sponsored climb of Mt. Snowdon. You have all been a great help and it is appreciated. Special thanks also go to everyone involved in Chimpfest 2004.

On the last bank holiday a group of musicians from Leicester came to Monkey World and entertained visitors with their unique selection of monkey and ape hits. It was a beautiful day and we all enjoyed their performances.

On a sadder note, many people who regularly visited the park or were adoptive parents have passed away. Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Mr. Harold ‘Jimmy’ Jarvis, Mr. Christopher Simpson, Mrs. T. Tippett, Mrs. Mabel Willis, Mrs. Sterling, Mr. Manfred Schneider, Mr. Richards, Mr. Derrick Bas, Mr. Gervais Hine, Mr. Arthur ‘John’ Burch, Mrs. Nancey Birkett, and Mrs. Shirley Madhun. They will all be greatly missed.

On the animal side, it has been a relatively uneventful summer with everyone enjoying the warm weather, sunshine, and natural environments. In the next issue of ‘Ape Rescue Chronicle’ it is time for the annual review of everyone at the park but I wanted to give a quick update on Alberto the chimpanzee and Gismo the cup-marked monkey. You may remember that both males had lived on their own for approximately 15 years and both were very unsociable. It has taken a long time but Alberto is now living full-time with 3 (and sometimes 4) other chimpanzees and he is having a good time. He enjoys playing, lazing, and roughhousing with the other boys and we are hopeful that soon the behavior will be at the level it was. Gismo has also been remarkably well and is doing well for the long-term with Jerry and many others. Terti decided to join the two boys. Gismo is very well fed and well looked after. We first brought him to the park but everyday he is beginning to trust us more and more and feel confident in his new home. Of course the biggest change in his behavior was when we felt confident enough to let him stay with Jerry. Quickly Gismo realized that if Jerry was calm and happy, he could be too. Our Primates Care Staff have worked very hard on these two particular cases in order to help these traumatized rescued primates feel secure and confident in their new homes. They can be proud of their efforts.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways in which you can help Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre to rescue and rehabilitate more primates. All donations go into a 100% fund (we are not a registered charity) and NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE REMOVED. There are still a couple more individuals that we are hoping to bring to the park and of course improving and redecorating the animal enclosures is something that we do every year.

You can help by adopting a monkey or ape and you will receive a year’s pass to the park, a photo of your monkey or ape, a certificate, and the Ape Rescue Chronicle three times per year.

Help by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, bread, or redcap baby formula (progress). Any type of melon is good as all the monkeys and apes love them yet they are not too fattening! At present we particularly need small (approximately 11cm) ‘D’ cup feeders for our monkey section. The ‘D’ cup feeders are generally used for birds and can be found at most pet shops. We can also use thick ropes and heavy-duty dog toys. At the moment we are low on either heavy ‘feeding balls’ or ‘kong’ toys. The keepers fill them with food that the monkeys and apes then have to work for in order to get at the hidden treats.

Establish a legacy for the long-term welfare of the primates and be remembered in our memorial garden.

Help us to help them.

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