

information that should be further researched; for instance, captive data results differed from the few field study results available. Why and how can we alter enclosure design to reflect more natural behaviour?



Nycticebus javanicus. Photograph by K.A.I. Nekaris

When data collection was completed, many positive opportunities followed. First, the data from this study contributed to the Indonesian slow loris

data forms used for Noel Rowe's new edition of "The Pictorial Guide to Living Primates". Second, these data were used to support an elevation in conservation status for all Indonesian slow loris species at the IUCN Red List conference in Cambodia this September.

Although these data have already been used for the benefit of slow loris conservation, much more effort is necessary. Still left to be done is an updated, accurate distribution of slow lorises, habitat assessment for release sites, further research on taxonomy and behaviour and securing funding for these projects and the rescue, rehabilitation and release programme.

As this project will combine research and conservation objectives, future captive and field data on slow lorises will influence conservation policy while the rescue centre will save animals that have been affected by the trade.

Feasibility study for population reinforcement of the brown headed spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi fusciceps*), Ecuador.

Sam Shanee

The brown headed spider monkey is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN, with an estimated population of less than 250 individuals in the wild. This sub-species is endemic to Ecuador and its range is limited to the Cotacachi-Cayapas and Los Cedros reserves, a total area of just over 50,000 ha. The purpose of my study was to determine whether or not suitable conditions exist for a reinforcement program.

Population reinforcement can be defined as the release of animals to an area with an existing population of conspecifics; this is generally done for one of two reasons firstly, as a conservation measure to bolster the wild population and so increase its chance of persistence and secondly, as a welfare initiative to improve the quality of life of captive animals.

To evaluate the feasibility of reinforcement, I conducted investigations into habitat quality and carrying capacity of the Los Cedros biological reserve and made a survey of

relevant socio-economic factors in villages surrounding the reserve.

The main complications came from the reserve's high altitude as this may lower food production levels and therefore reduce carrying capacity. Hunting still occurs at fairly high levels in the region but as primates are uncommon near settlements, this may not be a problem.

Although large areas are either devoid of, or under-populated by spider monkeys, I was not able to determine whether or not these are of a high enough quality to support additional animals. It is mainly for this reason that I have recommended against the use of

reinforcement as a means of conserving this sub-species, at least until further investigation.



University Events

Seminar Series:

The Seminar Series is made up of a number of guest lecturers who have been invited to present their research at Oxford Brookes. The seminars are open to everyone, not just the students from the primate conservation MSc. There is generally one seminar each week which is given on Monday evenings.

We are still in the process of recruiting speakers for our spring semester. If you are interested in attending part of our Seminar Series a list of upcoming guest speakers will soon be available on our website: <http://ssl.brookes.ac.uk/primate/lecture-series.htm>
The website will also contain information of where each seminar will take place. Directions to our Headington campus can be found at: <http://www.brookes.ac.uk/findus>

To give you an example of the seminars given, here is the list of the guest lecturers from the autumn semester of 2006:

4 October 2006

Chris Huhne MP; Liberal Democrats Shadow Spokesperson for the Environment
'Politics and Conservation – can politics really sort it out?'

9 October 2006

Dr. Stefan Merker; Institute of Anthropology, Johannes-Gutenberg University, Mainz
Tarsiers: Ecology, Evolution and Conservation of Sulawesi's Tiny Primate'

16 October 2006