



Primate Society of Great Britain

PSGB Conservation Working Party



What is the Conservation Working Party?

The Conservation Working Party (CWP) of the Primate Society of Great Britain focuses on all aspects of primate conservation. CWP members are actively involved in primate conservation across many different settings, and are active in research, training and hands-on conservation.

Aims of CWP

To report to and bring relevant conservation issues to the attention of the PSGB Council
To disburse the PSGB Conservation Fund through several small grants in support of conservation work

Grants (<£750) which support projects involving:

- Applied research of benefit to primate conservation
- Short surveys to identify locations of primate populations, to assess status and understand threats
- Conservation education

The financial value of these grants is small but this money can make a difference in local currencies, and CWP grants often act as seed money encouraging others to fund PSGB-supported projects. Grants are awarded twice yearly with deadlines at the end of February and August. **Details on how to apply are on the website: <http://www.psgb.org/Conservation/grants>**

Members of CWP are actively seeking funds to support additional Conservation Grants. Currently: **The Born Free Foundation** supports 2 grants of £500 each year, and in April 2008, **Knowsley Safari Park** donated £1500. This money will be used to support 2 projects from those submitted over the next year. We would like to thank Knowsley (www.knowsley.com) and The Born Free Foundation (www.bornfree.org.uk) for their support, which is greatly appreciated.

CWP would like to hear from any individuals organisations willing to help in this way.

Please contact Dr Caroline Harcourt at cwp@psgb.org

Projects supported by CWP

Projects awarded Conservation Working Party small grants

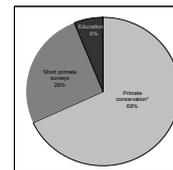
Summary information:

- Total no. projects funded between February 2004 – February 2008 = 31 (including 9 funded by the Born Free Foundation)
- Principal Investigator is a primate range country national in ~ 42% of projects funded (including BFF grants)
- Mean grant size, excluding BFF grants = £471 (see tables below)

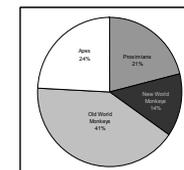
| Continent/Region | Country | No. projects | PI = national | PI = non national |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| North Africa | Morocco | 1 | | √ |
| West Africa | Equatorial Guinea | 1 | | √ |
| East Africa | Cameroun | 4 | √√ | √√ |
| East Africa | Uganda | 2 | √ | √ |
| South Africa | Malawi | 1 | | √ |
| Madagascar | | 3 | √ | √√ |
| South Asia | Bangladesh | 1 | | √ |
| | India | 2 | √√ | |
| | Nepal | 1 | √ | |
| | Sri Lanka | 2 | | √√ |
| South East Asia | Borneo | 1 | | √ |
| | Java | 1 | √ | |
| | Sulawesi | 2 | | √√ |
| | Sumatra | 2 | | √√ |
| | Thailand | 1 | √ | |
| | Vietnam | 2 | √√ | |
| South America | Brazil | 1 | √ | |
| | Ecuador | 1 | | √ |
| | Guyana | 1 | | √ |
| | Peru | 1 | √ | |

| PI status | No. | PI national | PI non-national |
|------------------------|-----|-------------|-----------------|
| Independent researcher | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| PHD student | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Masters student | 10 | 2 | 8 |
| Unknown | 7 | 6 | 1 |

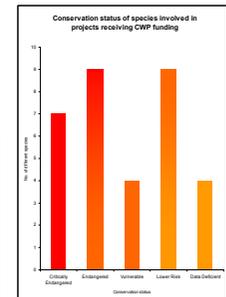
Status of Principal Investigator (PI)



Types of project funded between Feb 2004- Feb 2008



Primate species involved



IUCN status of focal species

The geographical foci of projects funded between Feb 2004 – Feb 2008. Each project represented by √ (N=31)

Barbary Macaque Conservation in the Rif (BMCRif) (2004)

Sian S Waters and Mustapha Aksissou

A PSGB Conservation Working Party grant helped support the first survey in over 20 years of the Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) in northern Morocco along with any potential conflict with humans. Fir and deciduous oak forest habitat in the Rif Mountains and matorral shrub habitat on the Mediterranean coast were surveyed in autumn 2004. Barbary macaques were sighted in all three habitats with a total of 89 individuals observed in nine groups. Villagers reported wild boar were the worst crop raiding species; Barbary macaques were named as the worst crop raiders where fields were in close proximity to forest habitat. Macaques were said to raid regularly, which results in macaques being trapped and killed by farmers. Regular persecution of Barbary macaques by shepherds and their dogs was also observed. Threats to Barbary macaque habitat include overgrazing by livestock and habitat destruction for agriculture. Urgent conservation is needed if it is to survive in this area of its range.

Further work has taken place and further macaque groups have been located and identified. An education project with a Moroccan NGO and local schools is being initiated for autumn 2008. Future research will focus on how humans and Macaques share landscape. This is the first long term project on the Barbary macaque in northern Morocco. The project focuses on research, education and awareness projects to encourage the conservation of this flagship species in an important Mediterranean hotspot.



Photo: Maria E. Hobbelink

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Habitat use and behaviour of two groups of northern muriquis (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*) in an Atlantic forest fragment at the Biological Station of Caratinga, RPPN Feliciano Miguel Abdalla, Caratinga, Minas Gerais (2005)

Carla de Borja Possamai

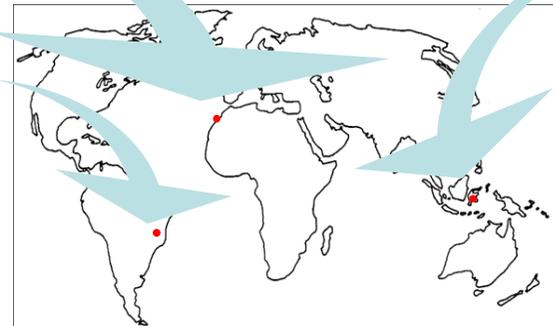
Funding was awarded by the CWP to support a study investigating the social relationships between two groups of northern muriquis (*Brachyteles hypoxanthus*) in the Biological Station of Caratinga, Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural, Feliciano Miguel Abdalla, Brazil. The muriqui population in this region is divided into four multi-male/multi-female groups (Matão, Matão 2, Jao and Nadir) and one all-male unit. Frequent inter-group encounters were observed, with female muriquis typically transferring out of their natal groups. Behavioural data were collected using focal-animal sampling and *ad-libitum* methods. Eleven adult females in each group were selected as focal subjects and the groups' movements were recorded using a GPS. No significant differences were found in the activities and social behaviour of females. Home range size was calculated as 250 hectares for Matão 2 group and 251 hectares for Nadir group.

The demographic data from the two study groups has produced important results contributing towards the knowledge base of muriquis in Caratinga and the conservation of the northern muriqui.



Photo: Carla Possamai

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Production and distribution of educational material on the ecology, behaviour and conservation of the Buton macaque, *Macaca ochreata brunescens*, in villages surrounding a proposed national park (2004)

Nancy Priston

Nancy Priston received a PSGB Conservation Grant in 2004 to develop an education project, as part of a long-term study of the Buton macaque *Macaca ochreata brunescens* (IUCN Red List status – vulnerable) in Southeast Sulawesi. The project distributed data on the ecology and behaviour of the Buton macaque to local villagers, fostered support for the protection of primates and helped design management strategies for wildlife conservation. Leaflets, posters and story booklets were produced for distribution among schools and local authorities.

School visits were made to assess children's knowledge of monkey behaviour, ecology and crop raiding at the start and end of the project phase to measure the effectiveness of the materials distributed. As a result of the project local people better understood the habits and behaviour of macaques and children learnt that chasing primates from farms is a better solution to killing them. Results suggested that further educational workshops would help disseminate results from the behavioural study and summer support for long-term conservation of the Buton macaque.



Photo: Nancy Priston

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