

PRIMATE AWARE

CONSERVATION & PHOTOGRAPHY
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PRIMATES IN CRISIS
60% THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION
BY PETER HUDSON

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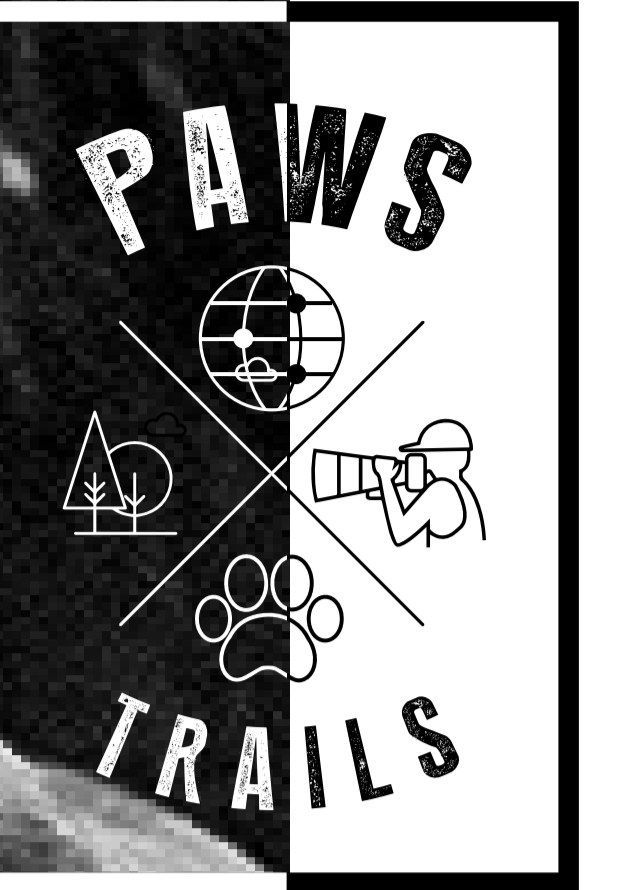
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Primates in Crisis
By Peter Hudson



Raghul Patteri
Editor

Welcome to PT Aware – a new Paws Trails initiative, the sister magazine to PT Explorers.

PT Explorers will continue to be published every other month as a magazine focused on travel and wildlife photography with unique content, including exclusive interviews with photographers, articles focused on species, photographic techniques and reviews, cub's corner, art and the recognized collection of outstanding photographs. You will notice in the coming months that PT Explorers will be increasing the number of excellent photographs and be less text-based.

The new magazine, PT Aware will run in the alternate months between each copy of PT Explorers. This magazine will be complimentary to PT Explorers but focused more on conservation, science and community photography. The birth of this magazine arose during discussions at the Paws Trails International Wildlife Festival held in Dubai in November 2018. PT Aware will seek to increase awareness about wildlife conservation issues around the world – highlight both worrying and exciting facts illustrated by photographs provided by the Paws Trails community.

To be a part of the PT Aware Community, we look forward to your support by requesting your submission online of your exceptional photographs on relevant subjects. The editors will then select and publish a collection of interesting and unusual photographs that help illustrate the issues the animals face.

This first issue of PT Aware highlights some recent research on the state of primate populations around the globe – and the frightening issue that 60% of them face critical problems and are threatened with extinction. The thought of losing even one of our close relative is worrying, and we need to make more people aware of these issues if we seek to save them.

Our next issue will focus on Lions, therefore prepare to start uploading your photographs of these big cats!

<http://www.pawstrails.com/register>
Register > Login > Contribute > PTAware



The Black and White Ruffed Lemur from Lemur Island, Andasibe National Park, Madagascar. This is a critically endangered species, threatened by habitat loss from logging, agriculture and mining. When humans encroach upon rainforest habitat, this species is one of the first lemurs to disappear since it is obvious and vulnerable to hunting.
Photo by Peter Hudson

EDITOR'S DEN



FOUNDERS' NOTE

Introducing yet another initiative in our third year of existence: PT Aware - the sister magazine to PT Explorers.

The primary objective of Paws Trails is to be the voice for the voiceless and spread awareness about problems animal populations face and the issues associated with vanishing habitats. When the PT core group met for a discussion, at the Paws Trails International Wildlife festival in Dubai, we decided to ramp up our awareness building activities. As such PT Aware was born - a short crisp magazine that would be published in the months between editions of our flagship magazine, PT Explorers. Each edition will be a focused publication, highlighting conservation issues for one, or a related group of species, habitat or environmental issue. Of course, the stunning photographs that our readers expect will also be present.

Similar to our other projects, we would like this to be a community project, with inputs from the large Paws Trails community of contributors and readers. We believe that success on conservation efforts is based on large-scale community participation, and hence we take this opportunity to thank our many contributors. Your undying commitment has allowed us to remain a true community powered project. We reiterate our commitment to get maximum viewership for your images and produce articles to highlight conservation issues.

PT Aware will strive to bring the latest scientific perspective within each article. We hope to instill the spirit of inquiry and the will to explore among our readers around the world. The broader community should explore the wild, and thereby experience first-hand the beauty of Mother Earth. In doing so, we appeal to your humane side to be wary of the impacts of man-made activities that disturb the natural ecosystem of the wild. Feel free to ask us about our many photographic expeditions in which we encourage photographers to use their skills to promote conservation.

Thank you for supporting PT explorers in the last two years and we expect that you will enjoy PT Aware as much as we love putting it together for you.

Let us hold our hands together for this new journey!

www.pawstrails.com

Hermis Haridas & Nisha Purushothaman

Founders - Paws Trails Explorers

THE STORY

Primates in Crisis – 60% threatened with extinction

By Peter Hudson,
Conservation Director, Paws Trails





Canon
IMAGING PARTNER

Peter Hudson is a scientist, photographer and conservationist. He undertook his first scientific expedition to Africa at the age of 21 and has been a regular visitor ever since. Passionate about nature, he manages his own 36-hectare nature reserve in Pennsylvania which is home to bears, bobcats and other animals.

In his professional career, Peter is the Willaman Professor of Biology at Penn State University. The focus of his research has been the infectious diseases of wildlife and in particular how new diseases emerge. He has been running scientific studies on the wolves in Yellowstone, tortoises in the Mojave Desert and bighorn sheep in Idaho. He is currently involved in a major project in Australia investigating the viruses associated with bats.

Peter established a new global health institute at Penn State that seeks to develop the concept of One Health, whereby the future health of humans is dependent on that of the environment, livestock management and the conservation of wildlife. He is an adjunct Professor at The Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology based in Arusha, Tanzania and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

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Geoffroy's Tamarin. Tamarins include some of the most endangered primates in the world, species like Cotton-top Tamarins from Columbia and Golden Lion Tamarins from Brazil are in big trouble. Geoffroy's Tamarin is a species of least concern, partly because it can utilize second growth forests. Even so, some populations are declining through hunting and habitat destruction. This photograph was taken from Canopy Tower Lodge, Panama. Photo by Peter Hudson.

I can't think of anything in this world worse than losing a close relative - just the thought of losing a loved one has most of us wracked with anxiety and despair and I for one would gladly lay down my life for any of my children and grandchildren. So, when I tell you that 60% of your closest relatives face imminent extinction and 75% of all primate species are declining at an alarming rate then you should feel concern. When I tell you that this is happening through human activities, some of which you could change, then you should feel deep remorse and want to take action.

These alarming statistics arise following a detailed and extensive review of the current scientific literature by more than 30 scientists - known as primatologists. They examined and integrated all the current knowledge of the state of primate populations globally and information available from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and then presented their findings in the leading journal *Science Advances* (Estrada et al. 2017, 3: e1600946).

Primates are our closest living relatives and include the lemurs of Madagascar, the diverse flat-nosed monkeys of the new world and the apes; both the lesser apes like the gibbons and the great apes, our closest relatives, such as the chimpanzee, bonobo, gorilla and orangutan. Primates are important to us culturally, for religious reasons and the role they play in tropical ecosystems. Studies of these animals provide insight into who we are, how we evolved, how our complex



The Indri, is without question one of the most spectacular as well as one of the biggest of the living Lemurs. They produce the most incredible distinctive songs that can be heard for miles. Unfortunately this species is critically endangered, numbers are falling fast and once again are threatened through deforestation. This photograph was taken in Andasibe National Park by Peter Hudson.



A Mountain Gorilla female - this is Umoja from the Hirwa group with her 3-month-old son. Mountain Gorillas are one of the success stories in conservation where the numbers fell to just 250 individuals and now through funds raised from ecotourism and spent on care and action, the numbers now exceed 900. Even so they are still classified as endangered and a virus outbreak or conflict could push them towards extinction. This photo was taken in Virunga National Park, Rwanda by Peter Hudson



Alpha male Chimpanzee watching the behavior of the other males in his troop. Chimps live in a tense society with complex alliances and aggression. With only about 200,000 chimpanzees left in the wild these are classified as Endangered. This photo was taken in Mahale National Park by Peter Hudson

social society developed and could even provide guidance on how we should behave. Look at our very closest relatives, the chimpanzees whose male dominated society run through frequent tension and warfare. This is in total contrast to their very close relatives the bonobos which exhibit a matriarchal society based on finding peaceful solutions through frequent and high rates of copulation, a society run essentially by making love and not war. On this account, even the most self-centered person should agree that saving our primate cousins is important for humanity.

There is no question that over the past 50 years, humans have been totally exploitative in the tropics and removed large areas of tropical rainforests and in doing so destroyed the habitat used by most species. A report by the United Nations shows we are losing about 13 million hectares of tropical rainforest every year. This unsustainable destruction of habitat is reducing the distribution and abundance of a significant proportion of the global primate populations. There are 701 primate species in the world, about 60% are threatened with extinction through unsustainable human activities. If you look at the map (Page 22) and figure from the paper (Estrada et al. 2017, 3: e1600946) you will see a summary of these data that show that 87% of species in Madagascar are threatened, as are 73% in Asia. Globally, 75% of primate populations are decreasing. Considering the large number of species currently threatened and experiencing population declines, the world will soon be facing a major extinction event and if effective action is not implemented and implemented soon we will lose our

closest relatives.

This situation has arisen primarily through escalating anthropogenic pressures and increased human population size. Agricultural developments for local food and global market demands for wood and palm oil have led to extensive habitat loss and this includes the actions of industrial agriculture, large-scale cattle ranching, logging, oil and gas drilling, mining, dam building, and the construction of new road networks in areas inhabited by primates. Over and above this are direct actions, which reduce the size of the shrunken primate populations through increased bushmeat hunting, the illegal trade of primates as pets, the use of primate body parts coupled with more recent emerging threats such as climate change and infectious diseases that jump from humans to primates and kill them. Ebola, measles and influenza can wipe out small vulnerable populations or at least reduce them to be no longer viable. While habitat destruction is without question the overpowering cause of the decline, many of these factors act in concert exacerbating primate population declines.

The threats on the different primate species are not independent of each other – closely related species tend to live in the same region and are vulnerable to the same threats and so we see a really worrying decline in whole groups of primates. This is clearly the case for the lemurs in Madagascar, the most threatened group of mammals on earth. The lemur that usually comes to the mind of most people is the iconic ring-tailed lemur that is facing rapid decline and extinction from numerous anthropogenic



threats. Across its range, at least 12 of the 32 populations have gone extinct since the year 2000 which represents a decrease of more than 95% of all ring-tailed lemurs. The causes are primarily habitat loss, bushmeat hunting and the illegal pet trade and these are the same reasons for most of the other lemur species in Madagascar. Similarly, several of the colobine monkeys in Asia share biological traits known to increase their exposure and vulnerability to threats because they often inhabit small islands, are diurnal and have a large body size.

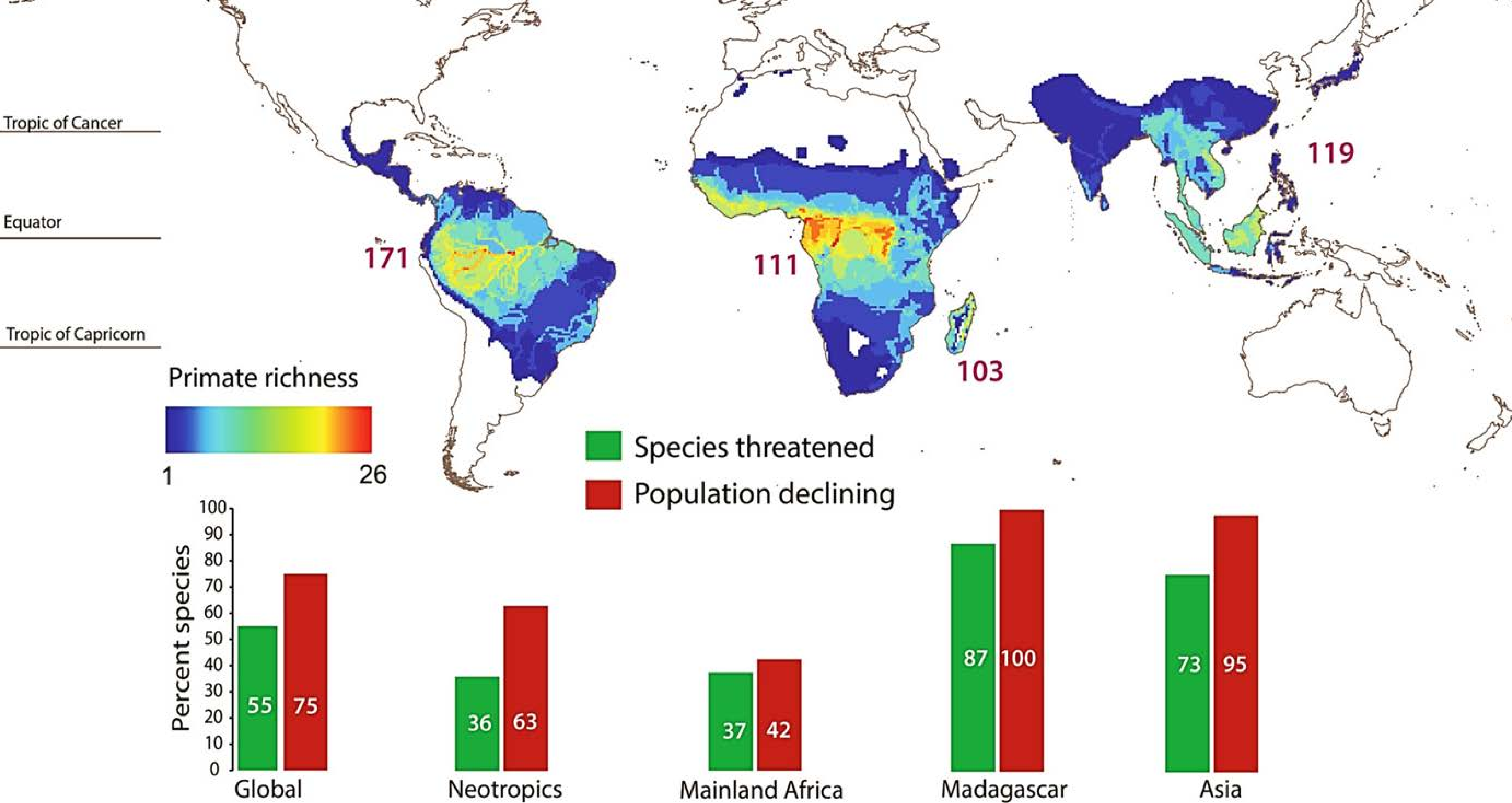
While the forecast for primate populations is grim, primate conservation is not yet a lost cause, and mitigation

of environmental and anthropogenic pressures leading to population declines can be reversed. This is dependent on the immediate implementation of scientific, political, and management actions. This is a formidable challenge and success requires that sustainable solutions address the social, cultural, economic, and ecological interdependencies that are the basis of primate conservation. The first step is really to publicize the plight of these important animals so that people, governments, NGOs and others are really aware of what is happening to our close cousins and then to encourage urgent and effective conservation policies. Such policies vary from one country to the next and from one primate species to the next.

We are down to the last round and have one last opportunity to reduce or even eliminate the human threats to primates and their habitats, to guide conservation efforts, and to raise worldwide awareness of their predicament. Primates are a critical part of who we are, and it is your responsibility to make people aware and to pressurize others to stop habitat destruction and animal killing.

As conservation photographers our first job is to show the beauty and charisma of these animals. Persuade your friends, family and colleagues to look at the photographs exhibited here and to subscribe to this free online magazine.

Make your stance against global markets exploiting rainforest products such as not buying furniture made from tropical hard woods. Orangutans are being driven to rapid extinction through the planting of palm oil plantations so seek out ways of avoiding products with palm oil. This is not easy since palm oil is found in many products, ranging from candy bars to toothpaste and rarely is it clearly labeled. The best way is to simply choose products that contain clearly labeled oils, such as 100 percent sunflower oil, corn oil, olive oil, coconut oil, or canola oil. Together we can save these animals - our closest relatives.



Geographical Distribution and Conservation Status of Primates

Numbers in red by each region refer to the number of extant species present. The bars show the percent of species threatened with extinction and the percent of species with declining populations in each region. Reprinted with permission from Estrada et al 2017, Science Advances 2017; 3:e1600946. DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1600946



Silvery Lutung is a langur monkey species from Malaysia and Borneo that is classified as near threatened. Despite its IUCN status the habitat is heavily threatened throughout most of its range by oil plantations and logging. The species is hunted and caught for the pet trade. Photo by Hermis Haridas



The Proboscis Monkey, endemic to southern Borneo is without question one of the strangest looking primates. The current population has fallen by more than 50% through logging operations and plantations for palm oil. The species is classified as Endangered and this photograph was taken by Hermis Haridas in Central Kalimantan.



Orangutan mother and young. These are one of the primates declining at a very rapid rate with only about 60,000 remaining in the wild. There are about 3000 killed each year and this is one of the species believed to face extinction within the next 50 years unless serious action is taken. They have lost 80% of their habitat and the recent fires are believed to have killed many. Photographed by Hermis Haridas in Central Kalimantan



Delacour's Langur from northern Vietnam is a critically endangered primate. There has been a dramatic decline population such that there is currently believed to be less than 200 individuals alive in the wild. The primary reason for its decline appears to be hunting for traditional medicine in concert with habitat loss. This photograph was taken by Jayaprakash Bojan in Northern Vietnam



Diademed Sifaka is a critically endangered lemur species with only about 6000 individuals remaining in the wild. Once again the species is suffering from habitat loss brought about by slash and burn agriculture. This photograph was taken by Sascha Fonseca in Andasibe National Park, Madagascar.



When you think of lemurs then the first one that comes to mind is the Ring-tailed Lemur, the lemur flagship species. Even so this is an endangered species whose population has declined by more than 95% in the past 20 years, primarily through habitat destruction. Photo by Peter Hudson at Anja Community reserve, Madagascar.



Agile Gibbon, a monogamous primate species that lives high up in the tree canopy and defends their territories with the most remarkable and beautiful songs. The species continues to decline through logging and disturbance and is classified as Endangered. This photo was taken by Hermis Haridas in Central Kalimantan



The Crowned Lemur lives at the very northern end of Madagascar and is classified as endangered. The species is threatened by habitat loss due to cultivation, logging, development and forest fires. While they exist in a number of reserves it appears that logging, grazing and hunting continue even within these reserves. Photographed by Peter Hudson in the Ankarana Reserve.



The Lion-tailed Macaque native to the evergreen forests of the Western Ghats, SW India. A very special primate, with less than 2500 individuals in the wild and currently classified as endangered, threatened by continued deforestation. This photo was taken by Nisha Purushothaman in Anamalai Tiger Reserve.

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UPCOMING EDITION
**CONSERVATION ISSUES
FOR AFRICAN LIONS**

