



Russell A. Mittermeier

Chair

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Red List Authority Coordinators

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Location/Affiliation

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Number of members

688



Mission statement

The mission of the Primate Specialist Group (PSG) is to maintain the current diversity of the order Primates by ensuring the survival of threatened species wherever they occur and providing effective protection for large numbers of primates in areas of high primate diversity and abundance. In essence, the PSG has a Zero Extinction policy for all primate species.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Conservation activities

i. We have already completed a Red List workshop for the African Primates (18-23 April 2016 – Università di Roma, Roma, Italy). In May 2018, we are planning to hold a workshop to assess the lemurs in Madagascar. (KSR #1)

■ Research activities

i. Taxonomic, geographic and conservation status (RL) data base for primates has been maintained and kept updated.

Bolster work at national scales

■ Conservation activities

i. Primate ecotourism initiatives. Application for lemur watching is nearly completed. We have conducted funding training of some 50 tourist guides in community tourist guide associations in Madagascar. Pocket guides and field guides for lemurs in French and English now available in Madagascar. (KSR #37)

ii. Organisation, through GERP, of the Annual World Lemur Festival to promote conservation awareness and tourism in Madagascar. (KSR #37)

Capacity building

■ Capacity building

i. Two field courses for primate field research and conservation were funded in Madagascar. (KSR #17)

Communications

■ Communication

i. The following newsletters/journals were published and posted open access on the web: *Neotropical Primates* Vol. 23(1), 23(2); *African Primates* Vols. 11, 12; *Asian Primates Journal* Vol. 6(1); *Lemur News* Vol. 20. (KSR #28)

ii. The following issues of *Primate Conservation* were published and posted open access on the web: *Primate Conservation* 30 (2016) and 31 (2017). (KSR #28)

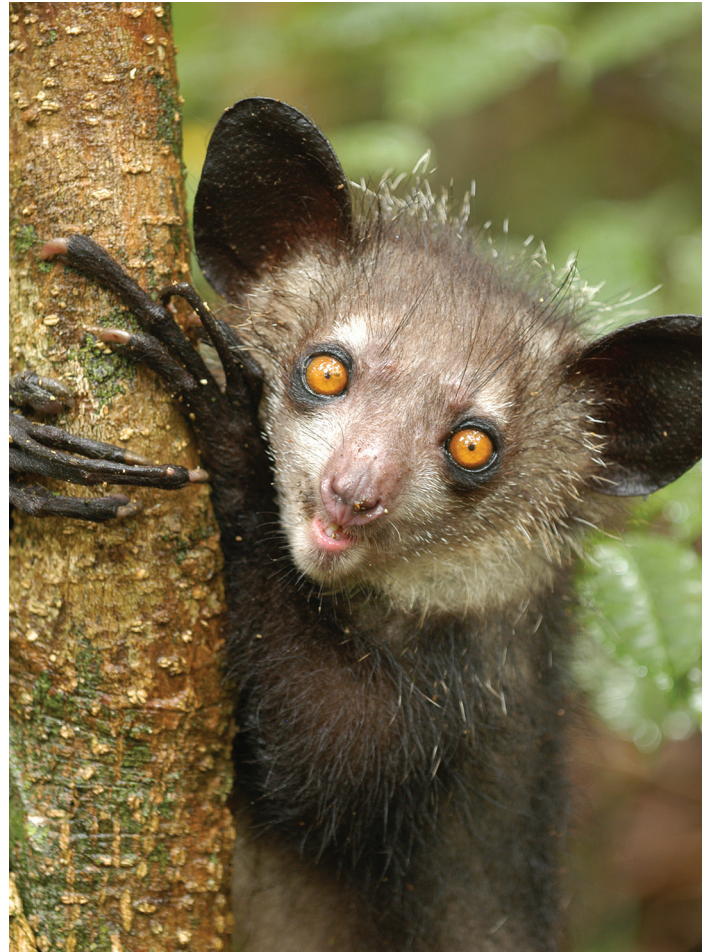
iii. The list of the world's 25 most endangered primates 2016-2018 was put together during the Joint Meeting of XVIth Congress of the International Primatological Society and the American Society of Primatologists, Chicago, 21–27 August 2016. The report on the list was published: Schwitzer, C. et al. 2017. *Primates in Peril: The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates 2016–2018*. IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group, International Primatological Society (IPS), Conservation International (CI), and Bristol Zoological Society, Arlington, VA. 107pp. (KSR #28)

iv. Production of field guides and pocket field guides. Link, A. et al. 2018. *Primates de Colombia, Guía de Identificación de Bolsillo*. Tropical Pocket Guide Series, Series editors R. A. Mittermeier and A. B. Rylands. Global Wildlife Conservation, Austin, TX. [In Spanish]. De Jong, Y. A. and Butynski, T. M. 2018. *Primates of East Africa: Pocket Identification Guide*. Tropical Pocket Guide Series, Series editors R. A. Mittermeier and A. B. Rylands. Global Wildlife Conservation, Austin, TX. (KSR #28)

A Black-and-white Ruffed Lemur (*Varecia variegata* spp.),
Lemur Island, Hotel Vakona, Andasibe
Photo: Russell A. Mittermeier



Aye-aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*), Endangered
Photo: Russell A. Mittermeier



■ Research activities

i. Numerous articles published. Notably:

(1) Estrada, A. et al. 2017. Impending extinction crisis of the world's primates: why primates matter. *Science Advances* 3: e1600946. 16 pp. DOI 10.1126/sciadv.1600946. Reprinted in: The Amazon, Special Collection, T. Lovejoy (ed.), Science Advances. <<http://advances.science-mag.org/content/advances/suppl/2017/11/20/3.11.eaar3677.DC1/SciAdvAmazonCollection.pdf>>. A promo link <http://promo.aaas.org/images/Publishing/Journals/2017/Advances/Advances_Amazon_Landing_Page.html>; (2) Frasier, C. L. et al. 2016. A new species of dwarf lemur (Cheirogaleidae: *Cheirogaleus medius* group) from the Ankarana and Andrafiarana–Andavakoera Massifs, Madagascar. *Primate Conservation* 30: 59–72; (3) McLain, A. T. et al. 2017. A new Cheirogaleus (Cheirogaleidae: *Cheirogaleus crossleyi* group) species from southeastern Madagascar. *Primate Conservation* 31: 27–36; (4) Gamage, S. N. et al. 2017. The taxonomy, distribution and conservation status of the slender loris (Primates, Lorisidae: *Loris*) in Sri Lanka. *Primate Conservation* (31): 83–106; (5) Gippoliti, S. 2017. On the

taxonomy of *Erythrocebus* with a re-evaluation of *Erythrocebus poliophaeus* Reichenbach, 1862) from the Blue Nile region of Sudan and Ethiopia. *Primate Conservation* (31): 53–59; (6) Peng-Fei Fan et al. 2017. Description of a new species of Hoolock gibbon (Primates: Hylobatidae) based on integrative taxonomy. *American Journal of Primatology* 79: e22631. 15 pp; (7) Shekelle, M. et al. 2017. Two new tarsier species (Tarsiidae, Primates) and the biogeography of Sulawesi, Indonesia. *Primate Conservation* (31): 61–69; (8) Svensson, M. S., et al. 2017. A giant among dwarfs: a new species of galago (Primates: Galagidae) from Angola. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 163(1): 30–43; (9) Masters, J. C. et al. 2017. A new genus for the western dwarf galagos (Primates: Galagidae). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 181: 229–241; (10) Rylands, A. B. and Mittermeier, R. A. 2017. The IUCN Red List and Primate Conservation. In: *The International Encyclopedia of Primatology*, A. Fuentes (ed.), 3 pp. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York. DOI: 10.1002/9781119179313.wbprim0022; (11) Wich, S. A. et al. 2016. Land-cover changes predict steep declines for the Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*). 2016. *Science Advances* 2: e1500789; (12) Nater, A. et al. 2017. Morphometric,

behavioral, and genomic evidence for a new orangutan species. *Current Biology*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2017.09.047>; (13) Rylands, A. B. et al. 2016. Taxonomic review of the New World tamarins (Callitrichidae, Primates). *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 177: 1003–1028. DOI: 10.1111/zoj.12386; (14) Byrne, H. M. et al. 2016. Phylogenetic relationships of the New World titi monkeys (*Callicebus*): first appraisal of taxonomy based on molecular evidence. *Frontiers in Zoology* 13: 10. DOI 10.1186/s12983-016-0142-4; (15) Brennehan, R. et al. 2016. Genetic analysis of the *Indri* reveals no evidence of distinct subspecies. *International Journal of Primatology* 37(3): 460–477. DOI 10.1007/s10764-016-9911-3; (16) Plumptre, A. J., et al. 2016. Catastrophic decline of world's largest primate: 80% loss of Grauer's gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*) population justifies Critically Endangered status. *PLoS One* 11(10): e0162697; (17) Kühl, H. S. et al. 2017. The Critically Endangered western chimpanzee declines by 80%. *American Journal of Primatology* 2017: e22681; (18) Ruliang Pan et al. 2016. A new conservation strategy for China – a model starting with primates. *American Journal of Primatology* 78: 1137–1148. (KSR #43)



Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*), Critically Endangered, Democratic Republic of Congo
Photo: Russel A. Mittermeier



Golden Lion Tamarin (*Leontopithecus rosalia*), Endangered, Fazenda Apetiba, Brazil
Photo: Russell A. Mittermeier



Indri Indri, Special Analamazaofra Reserve Andasibe
Photo: Russel A. Mittermeier

Conservation action

■ Conservation activities

i. Elaboration of action plans for the conservation of primate species and species groups. Meeting: The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group Creative Thinking Session, Minneapolis, MN, US, 27 February – 1 March 2017. Workshop: Oficina de Elaboração do Plano de Ação Nacional para a Conservação dos Primatas Amazônicos. Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade – ICMBio, por meio do Centro Nacional de Pesquisa e Conservação de Primatas Brasileiros – CPB e da Diretoria de Conservação da Biodiversidade–DIBIO, Manaus, 27–30 June 2017. Conservation Action Plan for Ecuador. Cervera, L., et al. 2017. Conservation Action Plan for Ecuadorian Primates: Process and Priorities. *Primate Conservation* 31: 9-15. (KSR #15)

■ Proposal development and funding

i. Management of a small grants scheme for primate conservation, monitoring, surveys, research, and education - the Primate Action Fund. Thirty-five grants were awarded, totalling US\$132,986. (KSR #30)

ii. Management of a small grants scheme for lemur conservation, monitoring, surveys, research, and education - the Lemur Conservation Action Fund. Four grants were awarded, totalling US\$14,100. (KSR #30)

iii. Fund raising: Global Wildlife Conservation, Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation, Andrew Sabin Foundation, IUCN SOS Fund, Virgin Unite, and Conservation International. (KSR #19)

Acknowledgements

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Male White-faced Saki monkey (*Pithecia pithecia pithecia*), Least Concern
Photo: Russell A. Mittermeier

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: complete assessment of 112 lemur species and subspecies.

Research activities: maintain a taxonomic and geographic and conservation status (RL) data base for primates.

Bolster work at national scales

Conservation activities: stimulate primate ecotourism, i.e. primate-watching and primate life-listing as a major conservation tool for primates.

Capacity building

Capacity building: promotion of, organisation, and participation in field courses for primate field research and conservation.

Communications

Communication: (1) compile and edit regional newsletters/journals for the Neotropics, Africa, Asia, and Madagascar: *Neotropical Primates*, *African Primates*, *Asian Primates Journal*, *Lemur News*; (2) edit and publish the journal *Primate Conservation*; (3) maintenance of a list of the 25 Most Endangered Primates; (4) production of field guides and pocket field guides for primates.

Research activities: publish articles on the taxonomy, geographic distributions, surveys and conservation status of primates.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: elaboration of action plans for the conservation of primate species and species groups, notably the red colobus monkeys.

Proposal development and funding: (1) manage a small grants scheme for primate conservation, monitoring, surveys, research, and education - the Primate Action Fund; (2) manage a small grants scheme for lemur conservation, monitoring, surveys, research, and education - the Lemur Conservation Action Fund; (3) fund-raising: dramatically increase funding for primates by 2020.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

During this quadrennium, we will continue to support primate conservation activities worldwide through the maintenance of networks, especially our newsletters and journals, finalize red-listing for all primate species, and continue to fund primate conservation projects through existing sources and new ones to be identified. There will also be a strong emphasis on stimulating appropriate primate ecotourism as a tool for primate conservation through the production of new field guides, pocket guides, apps, and other tools to facilitate primate-watching and primate life-listing. The ultimate goal of all our activities is zero extinctions for primates, i.e., not allowing any named taxon to go extinct.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

Key Priority Area ratio: 5/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (2 activities)
- Bolster work at national scales (2 activities)
- Capacity building (1 activity)
- Communications (5 activities)
- Conservation action (4 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 15, 17, 19, 28, 30, 37, 43

KSR: Key Species Result