

## Abstract from 22nd International Primatological Congress

One abstract from Rekha Medhi Chetry, a primatologist from Assam, was inadvertently missed in our October issue. We apologise for that and are happy to include it here.

**Current Status of the Golden langur, *Trachypithecus geei*, in Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India. Chetry (Medhi)Rekha<sup>1,2</sup>; Chetry, D<sup>2</sup> and Ghosh,K<sup>2</sup>.**

### Abstract

The golden langur, *Trachypithecus geei*, is an endangered species and is endemic to India and Bhutan, and hence it is necessary that systematic reports on status and demography of the species from all habitats in its distribution range be assessed for effective conservation. Its distribution is limited to a small forest belt in western Assam in Northeast India and Bhutan between the rivers Manas in the east, Sankosh in the west and the Brahmaputra in the south. Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, between Kokrajhar and Dhubri Districts of Assam, is the only protected habitat for Golden langur in India. We conducted a field survey for the first time in the sanctuary from December 2006 and January, 2007 to investigate the status and demography of the golden langur. Demographic data were collected using line transect methods. In addition, threats to the species were also investigated. During the survey period we counted a total of 419 individuals in 57 troops. The average troop size was 7.35. The sex ratio was 1.48 adult females for each adult male. The age structure of the population was 50.11% adults, 34.12% juveniles and 15.75% infants. Domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) and illegal felling are the major threats for golden langurs in this protected habitat. This study aims to guide the future course of conservation of the golden langur in general and the Chakrashila population in particular. This study was supported by Primate Conservation Inc.

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<sup>2</sup>. Gibbon Conservation Centre, Gibbon Wildlife sanctuary, Mariani, India.

## Call for Applications: 2009 Conservation Leadership Programme Awards

### Deadline: 6th November 2008

The Conservation Leadership Programme aims to contribute to long-term conservation in priority areas by encouraging and engaging potential leaders in biodiversity conservation and providing opportunities for individuals to gain practical skills and experience. This partnership initiative, including BirdLife International, Conservation International, Fauna & Flora International, the Wildlife Conservation Society and BP, has been helping young conservationists across the world to achieve their goals for 18 years.

The Conservation Leadership Programme is offering Conservation Awards to applicants from Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Russia, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey and Venezuela:

- **Future Conservationist Awards:** Approximately 20 awards of up to \$12,500 each.
- **Conservation Follow-up Awards:** Approximately 5 awards of up to \$25,000 each. (Available only to previous CLP/BPCP award winners from any country.)
- **Conservation Leadership Awards:** 2 awards of \$50,000 each. (Available only to previous CLP/BPCP award winners from any country.)

The **application deadline is 6th November 2008 for all awards** and winners will be announced in March 2009. Please visit the **CLP website** for detailed eligibility criteria, guidelines and application form.

Please forward this announcement to other potentially interested individuals, organizations or academic institutions.

Successful applicants will: 1.) Develop the knowledge, skills and abilities of team members; 2.) Implement a focused, high-priority conservation project combining research and action; and 3.) Contribute to the long-term success of local conservation efforts.

All teams submitting an application will receive feedback on their proposal. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact a member of the Programme staff well before the application deadline for advice or input on the proposal. Staff members can help teams determine if their project fits within specified criteria, offer advice on methods and project activities, and put teams in touch with local partner offices or other experts who can provide additional advice.

A representative from each award-winning team will be invited to attend an international training event in Beijing organised by the CLP to share ideas and develop skills, knowledge and contacts. Additionally, winning teams are able to access experts from within each of the five partner organisations and past winners. Programme staff members are available to help with project implementation, including guidance required during the planning and team training stages.

**Contact Robyn Dalzen**  
([rdalzen@conservation.org](mailto:rdalzen@conservation.org)) for more info. Web:  
[www.ConservationLeadershipProgramme.org](http://www.ConservationLeadershipProgramme.org)

a complimentary pattern suitable for the zookeepers based on their nature of work. A panel of experts will be there to validate the knowledge skill and attitude level suggestive to the keepers. Statements will be framed and judged by them to measure the strength of deficiencies. The ultimate result would be an appealing international training curriculum for the zookeepers that can be put into practice periodically by the zoo authorities.

This paper highlights a brief acquaintance of how an appealing training curriculum can be developed for the zookeepers/zoo managers/those engaged with wild animal rearing. It also alludes to the further research opportunities among Indian zoos and zookeepers for all the concerned individuals. The identified methods of testing their level of knowledge, skill and attitude are at a pretesting stage among the keepers of Thrissur zoo, Kerala State, India, of which a fruitful result is expected shortly. The study also aspires at whole of South Indian Zoos and gradually to whole India depending on funding and other financial status.

These procedures, if thoroughly understood by the international expert group in zoo keeping and other stakeholders, further improvement can be made in zoo animal keeping and their welfare by periodically imparting training with the help of these curricula.

Ultimately all resources can be spared. The damage to human life, animal life and wastage of money can be made minimal in zoos and also public. In short the ultimate aim and motto of this study can be a healthy zoo animal achieved through healthy and knowledgeable zookeepers.

## References

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## Indian marine mammal network website

You are cordially invited to [www.marinemammals.in](http://www.marinemammals.in), the Web site of the **Marine Mammal Conservation Network of India**.

This site has been created to provide information about the marine mammals of the seas around India. In this site you will also find details on how to help stranded animals and on how to collect valuable data. It has a searchable database of records to which anyone can contribute their observations and findings.

Closely linked to the site is the electronic group marinemammals of India. Please join this group. You will find details of how to do so on the site. Together the site and the discussion group aim to network all persons with an interest in the marine mammals of the Indian region. We look forward to your participation.

Yours sincerely  
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## "One World, One Zoo" Second Call for Papers

A joint conference: The 3rd International Congress on Zookeeping and the 36th National Conference of the American Association of Zoo Keepers will be held in Seattle, WA, USA, in 2009. This will be hosted by The Puget Sound Chapter of AAZK and Woodland Park Zoo.

You are invited to submit abstracts of papers, posters & workshops on any aspect of zoo work. More information and guidelines can be found at the ICZ website **[www.iczoo.org](http://www.iczoo.org)**

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations should be written in English, no more than 600 words long, and in RTF or MS Word® format. The abstract should contain title, authors and affiliations with the presenting author in bold letters. Body text to be Arial, font size 12 & titles size 14. If you want to run a workshop focused on developing zoo keeper skills, please send a short description.

Please mark 'ICZ Abstract' & send to: Paul Howse, ICZ St. Committee at **[p.howse@chesterzoo.org](mailto:p.howse@chesterzoo.org)**

Estimated attendance is 350 - 400 zoo workers from over 30 countries.

Deadline for abstracts is 1st April 2009  
Conference dates are September 24th - 29th, 2009