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EUROPEAN ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAMME (EEP) PRIMATE TAG

The European Endangered Species Programme (EEP) was formed in 1985. Its mission is to coordinate and stimulate the endeavours of European zoos towards the conservation of endangered species. Breeding programmes for 17 species were established in 1985, and the number has since increased to more than 80, today including several New World primates (see box). The aim is to include several hundred species by the year 2000. Within the EEP framework, a "species coordinator" is appointed for each species programme; usually someone who is an employee in one of the participating zoos, and is an expert on the species in question. The coordinator compiles the regional studbook, and provides recommendations concerning the species' management (breeding strategies, exchanges) on a year-to-year basis, aided by an elected "species committee" of five to 10 people representing zoos and other institutions from different European countries (including Great Britain), that participate in the EEP and have experience in keeping the species in question. All species coordinators meet once a year, and are supported by the "EEP Committee", a group consisting of leading zoo representatives from each of the European countries with EEP institutions. The EEP Committee is the general policy-making organ of the EEP organisation, and also selects which species should be included in the EEP programmes. The EEP Executive Office in Amsterdam is responsible for the daily business on behalf of the Committee.

The EEP works in collaboration with similar programmes in North America, Australasia, Great Britain, India and Japan, with an underlying worldwide coordination in the form of the IUCN/SSC Captive Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), and IUDZG - the International Zoo Organization.

The largest problem encountered in the functioning of the EEP is undoubtedly the actual execution of breeding management recommendations: it is often difficult to develop policies applicable to an entire group of zoos (varying from 10 to well over 50 depending on the species programme) when these are spread through several countries with different languages and laws, and with dissimilar political and economic backgrounds. The incongruencies in laws alone can sometimes make exchange of specimens for breeding purposes by two closely situated zoos a formidable task if a border happens to lie between them. Yet successes have been achieved.

The growth of the EEP-organisation has been considerable: now more than 350 zoos from 32 European countries are involved in breeding programmes. The EEP is strongly supported by the various national zoo federations and especially by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), a recently formed pan European zoo association that, among other tasks, is responsible for EEP affairs.

NEOTROPICAL PRIMATES WHICH HAVE EEP BREEDING PROGRAMMES AND THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL COORDINATORS FOR EACH

Cebuella pygmaea - Wim B.Mager, Stichting Apenheul, J.C.Wilslaan 21-31, 7313 HK Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.

Saguinus imperator - Robert Colley, Penscynor Wildlife Park, Cilfrew, Neath, Glamorgan SA10 8LF, South Wales, UK.

Saguinus oedipus - Robert Colley, Penscynor Wildlife Park, Cilfrew, Neath, Glamorgan SA10 8LF, South Wales, UK. (Provisional)

Leontopithecus rosalia - Ron Willis, Royal Zoological Society of Ireland, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8, Ireland.

Leontopithecus chrysomelas - Helga de Bois, Antwerp Zoo, Koningin Astridplein 26, B-2000 Antwerpen, Belgium.

Callimico goeldii - Gustl Anzenberger, Anthropologisches Institüt und Museum, Universitat Zürich-Irchel, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zürich, Switzerland.

Lagothrix lagotricha - Wim B.Mager, Stichting Apenheul, J.C.Wilslaan 21-31, 7313 HK Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.

The EEP formed a Primate Taxonomy Advisory Group during the 9th EEP Annual Conference held at Edinburgh Zoo in July 1992. The Co-chairs are Miranda Stevenson (Edinburgh Zoo) and Christian Schmidt (Zoologischer Garten Zürich). The Primate TAGs within Europe, such as that of the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland (see *Neotropical Primates* 1(1):9-10), are separate but comprise part of the EEP. At a meeting during the Congress of the International Primatological Society (IPS) in Strasbourg in August 1992, a number of people were designated the task of providing reviews of the populations of captive primates in European countries in order to evaluate space available, a survey coordinated by Michael Schwibbe and Joachim Wilde of the German Primate Centre. This review should be ready for an EEP Primate TAG meeting on December 4-5th 1993 at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, Jersey, and will allow for the establishment of a Regional Collection Plan (RCP).

A further meeting of the EEP Primate TAG, held in Salzburg in June 1993, recommended that it be split into sub-groups concerned with prosimians (Achim Johann, Tierpark Rheine), Old World monkeys (Neil Bemment, Paignton Zoo), the gibbons (Jean-Marc Lernould, Mulhouse Zoo), the great apes (Marianne Holtkotter, Stuttgart Zoo), and the New World Monkeys, with Bryan Carroll, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, responsible for the callitrichids (including *Callimico goeldii*), and Leobert de Boer, Apenheul Zoo, Apeldoorn (Netherlands), responsible for the cebids.

Koen Brouwer, EEP Executive Office, c/o Amsterdam Zoo, Postbus 20164, 1000 HD Amsterdam, The Netherlands, **Miranda Stevenson**, Royal Zoological Society of Edinburgh, Scottish National Zoological Park, Corstorphine Road, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 6TS, Scotland, and **Christian R. Schmidt**, Zoo Zürich, Zürichburgstrasse 221, CH-8044 Zürich, Switzerland.

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RESEARCH ON GOLDEN - HEADED LION TAMARINS AT ANTWERP ZOO

In 1986, one captive and seven wildborn golden-headed lion tamarins arrived at the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp (RZSA). Since then, more than 100 animals have been born, about 30 of which have died, and 24 were transferred to other locations (data: May 1993). The sex ratio at birth has been biassed in favour of males: five males for every four females. Breeding pairs have produced on average more than two litters (or 3-4 offspring) a year. 13% of the offspring were stillborn, but only 5% of the young born alive died in their first year.

In recent years, research projects have been carried out on these animals, in collaboration with the University of Antwerp. Parental care was the first topic (Van Elsacker *et al.*, 1992). Studies on other callitrichids have suggested that the relative contribution of the mother in infant care is largely influenced by the social environment; the number and sex of helpers and infants, and such factors as the experience of the helpers. Two families at the RZSA with a nearly identical social situation were observed, and it was found that there was still a big difference in relative maternal investment. In one family the father was the primary carrier, in the other it was the female. It was also clear that infant transfers between the male and the female were controlled by the female. The results suggested that maternal behaviour in the golden-headed lion tamarin may depend primarily on the female's physical and hormonal condition.

In this context, a preliminary study was carried out to examine the possibility of associations between prepartum and postpartum hormonal levels in the females and their maternal behaviour (Van De Veegaete, 1991), as has been demonstrated for other callitrichids. The level of oestradiol (an oestrogen metabolite) in the urine was measured during the three weeks before birth in two females with differing maternal behaviour. No difference was found for prepartum levels, although the laboratory kit used was for measuring oestradiol in humans, and this might not have been entirely adequate. However, a relation has been detected