

Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG), met with government authorities, who indicated their willingness to implement the recommendations of the workshop. From a report to *CBSG News* 1995, 6(1): 23, by Yolanda Matamoros, ALPZA-AMAZOO.

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## BRISTOL ZOO AND ITS COMMITMENT TO CEBIDS

Bristol Zoo has been exhibiting primates since it opened in 1836. At the present time, the cebid collection comprises 2.2 black howlers (*Alouatta caraya*), 2.2 long-haired spider monkeys (*Ateles belzebuth belzebuth*), 3.9 squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) and 3.1 white-faced sakis (*Pithecia pithecia*). Other primate groups are represented in the Zoo and include two species of lemur, three species of callitrichids and five species of Old World monkeys.

As well as exhibiting the above cebids, the zoo demonstrates its commitment to their captive management in other ways. The UK Taxonomic Advisory Group (TAG) subgroup for cebids is chaired by Siân Waters. This group is subordinate to the European subgroup which is chaired by Bert de Boer of Apenheul Zoo in the Netherlands. Siân Waters took over the leadership of the cebid group in 1994, but prior to that Neil Bemment of Paignton Zoo, UK, ran it and much work was accomplished by him. For example, Neil Bemment began a programme to karyotype the British population of spider monkeys, which is now well underway. This work will now be extended to the rest of Europe. Plans for the future include investigating the possibility of initiating breeding programmes for more endangered cebid species, bearing in mind the recommendations of the forthcoming Global Captive Action Plan for primates.

The zoo other contributions involve two breeding programmes for cebid species. One is a European Breeding Programme (EEP) for the white-faced saki, with Siân Waters as the Species Co-ordinator and the other is a European studbook for black howlers compiled by Darren Webster, Bristol Zoo.

Two editions of the European black howler studbook have been published (Webster, 1995, 1996). Black howlers have a small founder base of 16 (7.9) in Europe, and only Twycross Zoo, UK, has had success with sustained breeding. We plan to carry out a husbandry survey for black howlers in Europe and an exchange of potential founder males has already taken place between Bristol and Apenheul. Between them both zoos hold 6 (2.4) potential founders.

The first European studbook for white-faced sakis will

be published in 1996. Many zoos are interested in exhibiting the species and there is even an EEP participant in South Africa. Although the white-faced saki is not an endangered species an EEP was deemed necessary because the species is the only representative of its genus in any numbers in captivity in Europe. A species committee has been elected and comprises representatives from all over Europe. Husbandry guidelines will be formulated in the future, although some information on management is available in Waters (1995).

Although the long-haired spider monkeys are the only species exhibited at Bristol Zoo which are classed as vulnerable in the wild, we feel it important to exhibit cebids which are not endangered to improve techniques and as a way to inform the public about primate biology and the threats faced by more endangered species in South America.

**Siân S. Waters and Darren A. Webster**, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3HA, England, UK.

## References

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- Webster, D. A. 1995. *European Studbook for Black Howlers (Alouatta caraya)*. No. 1. Bristol Zoo Gardens, UK.
- Webster, D. A. 1996. *European Studbook for Black Howlers (Alouatta caraya)*. No. 2. Bristol Zoo Gardens, UK.

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## THE MAMIRAUÁ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESERVE: A NEW CATEGORY OF PROTECTED AREA IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

On the 12th July 1996, the Governor of the Brazilian state of Amazonas, Amazonino Mendes, signed the law approved by the State Assembly to transform the 1,124,000 ha Mamirauá Ecological Station, located 600 km upriver from Manaus on the Rio Solimões, into Brazil's first Sustainable Development Reserve. This action, following four years of work by the Sociedade Civil Mamirauá and the local communities in and around the reserve, legitimizes a unique participatory approach to biodiversity conservation, research and management, and provides the legal framework for the creation of similar reserves throughout the Amazon.

The transformation of Mamirauá into a sustainable development reserve removes the conflicts caused by

the previous legislation, which implied the removal of local residents. Quite to the contrary, the new law will promote their active participation in the management of the reserve, protect their access to the natural resources, and make them principal partners in this conservation endeavor.

While fishing and timber production within the reserve is of crucial importance to local residents and regional markets, the maze of lakes, channels and forests in this inland delta in the upper Amazon is also home to a wide range of endangered or endemic species of wildlife. These include a large number of aquatic birds, the Brazilian manatee (*Trichechus inunguis*), the giant Amazon river otter (*Pteroneura brasiliensis*), the black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*), tapirs (*Tapirus brasiliensis*), and jaguars (*Panthera onca*), and the Reserve covers the entire known geographic ranges of the blackish squirrel monkey (*Saimiri vanzolinii*), and the white-faced uakari (*Cacajao calvus calvus*). The conservation value of Mamirauá's biodiversity and its importance for studying the intricate aspects of *várzea* ecology have resulted in the area being included in the Ramsar list of Internationally Important Wetlands, and also its proposal as a future Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program.

The Mamirauá Project has concentrated its efforts so far in the eastern fifth of the reserve, and has supported local initiatives to protect fishery resources, vital to the lifestyle of the local people (*caboclos*) in the flooded *várzea* forests. In addition to helping residents organize the enforcement of regulations regarding the judicious use of natural resources, the project has developed a wide range of socioeconomic and ecological studies aimed at understanding the workings of this unique ecosystem and developing guidelines for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use aimed at improving the living standards and reducing the impact of subsistence and small scale commercial activities in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Results of the first four years of the project include a wide variety of research projects carried out by more than 80 Brazilian and foreign researchers in anthropology, epidemiology, fisheries management and ecology, terrestrial ecology, agroforestry, soils, and limnology, among other fields. Extension efforts have supported the development of environmental education in local schools, participation of local communities in policy formulation and resource protection, and increasing interest in agroforestry and traditional agricultural techniques.

The Project has been coordinated since its inception by Dr. José Márcio Ayres of the Sociedade Civil Mamirauá

and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Institutional agreements have been signed with both state and national authorities, including the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), the Brazil Science Council (CNPq), and the Institute for Protection of the Amazon Environment (IPAAM). Financial support has come from a wide range of organizations, including the British Overseas Development Administration (ODA), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the European Union (EU), and the Brazil Science Council (CNPq).

**Donald Masterson**, Projeto Mamirauá, Sociedade Civil Mamirauá, Caixa Postal 38, 69470-000 Tefé, Amazonas, Brazil.

### References

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- Queiroz, H. L. de. 1995. *Preguiças e Guaribas: Os Mamíferos Folívoros Arborícolas do Mamirauá*. Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq), Brasília. 161pp.

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### NEW FOUNDATION DEDICATED TO SUPPORT FOR PRIMATE CONSERVATION

We are very pleased to announce the creation of the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation, a new charitable foundation dedicated exclusively to primate conservation. This foundation was created by the late Margot Marsh of La Jolla, California, a long-time supporter of a wide variety of primate research and conservation efforts, who died in May 1995.

I had the great privilege of knowing Margot Marsh for 13 years, and was able to enjoy her company on various trips, including one to Madagascar to see lemurs and another to Kenya and Rwanda to see mountain gorillas and some of savanna-dwelling species of Kenya's Masai Mara Reserve. Margot was extremely knowledgeable about primates and human evolution, not to mention many other aspects of biodiversity, and was a great friend and supporter of many of our organizations. We should all be honored that she saw fit not only to remember us in her will, but also to ensure that the kinds of projects that she supported during her life would continue receiving support in the future.

The Primate Specialist Group was specifically mentioned in Margot's will, as were some of our newsletters, journals and action plans, so she clearly recognized the