1996 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals (see *Neotropical Primates*, 3 (suppl.), 1995). The results of this analysis indicated that 95 out of 275 primate species fall into the critical, endangered and vulnerable categories. This is almost certainly an underestimate, given the fact that many animals were in the data deficient category, which, as information, becomes available, are likely to be added to the threatened list. Furthermore, the PSG undertook an analysis of primate status at the most basic taxon level (subspecies), since it rapidly became obvious that the species level was not adequate for fully understanding the conservation situation of the Order Primates. This analysis indicated that of the approximately 620 taxa of primates, fully 35 are in the critical category, 70 in the endangered category, and another 101 in the vulnerable category. Of particular concern are the 35 critically endangered species, which are literally on the verge of extinction. Although the Order Primates is the only large Order of mammals that has not lost a single taxon in this century, a record of which we are particularly proud, we may not be so fortunate in the next century. Indeed, it is possible that one subspecies, Miss Waldron's red colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*) from Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, may already have gone extinct. Clearly these critical primate taxa need very special attention from the primate conservation community.

The PSG also organized a two day symposium at the recent Congress of the International Primatological Society, held in Madison, Wisconsin in August, 1996 (see *Neotropical Primates*, 4(3), 1996, pp.89-90). This was the largest meeting of primatologists in history (1200 participants), and our symposium attracted a large audience. Its principal objectives were to provide a retrospective of what had been accomplished in primate conservation over the past two decades (particularly the activities of the PSG and Conservation Breeding Specialist Group - CBSG), and also a look at the future, focusing on the critically endangered. More than 35 scientists gave presentations in the symposium and there were more than 300 participants in this event, which also included a closing roundtable looking at possibilities for action in the 21st century. One of the conclusions was that we might consider an *Action Plan for the Critically Endangered*, to guide at least one portion of our activities over the next few years. Several areas of particular concern emerged, especially Vietnam, which has a large number of critical and endangered species, most of which are receiving little or no attention. Brazil, Madagascar, Indonesia, China and parts of West Africa emerged as major priorities once again, to no one's surprise. The issue of the bushmeat trade in Central Africa and its impact on primates was also raised and is clearly a major issue in primate conservation with which we will have to deal in the future.

At this meeting, we also announced the appointment of Anthony Rylands as Deputy Chairman of the PSG, replacing William Konstant who had served in that position for almost a decade.

Finally, we are pleased to announce the creation of two new foundations devoted specifically and exclusively to primate conservation. The first of these, the *Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation*, will provide several hundred thousand dollars per year for priority primate conservation projects. It is named after the late Margot Marsh, a great supporter and friend of conservation during her lifetime (see *Neotropical Primates* 4(2), 1996, pp.65-66). PSG Chair, Russell Mittermeier, serves as President of this new foundation. The other, entitled *Primate Conservation Inc.*, is headed by PSG member Noel Rowe, and will provide several tens of thousands of dollars for selected primate conservation projects (see *Neotropical Primates*, 3(1), p.23, and 3(3), p.91, 1995).

We look forward to continued growth during the next triennium, and to accompanying and participating in further efforts to maintain the diversity of the Order Primates.

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The Primate Center at the University of Brasília

The Primate Center of the University of Brasília (CPUnB) was established over 20 years ago under the leadership of Prof. Milton Thiago de Mello and has played an important role in the development of primatology in Brazil. During this time, the CPUnB, working together with the Brazilian Primatological Society (SBPr), has promoted six specialization courses in Primatology, and hosted four SBPr congresses and the 1988 Congress of the International Primatological Society (IPS).

The CPUnB is currently in the process of being reorganized, with the construction and refurbishment of

the facilities, improvement of the breeding conditions of the animals, development of new research programs, and expansion of the staff. The main objective of the Center is to provide a captive breeding colony of Brazilian Primates for ethological and biomedical research.

The CPUnB is located in the Fazenda Água Limpa (FAL) about 30 km from the University of Brasília (16° 30' S and 46° 30' W). The FAL, a farm of 4.062 ha, is an experimental station for agronomic, forestry, and ecological research. About one half of the area is an ecological reserve. Surrounding the FAL there are two other reserves, the Brasília Botanical Garden and the Ecological Reserve of the Brazilian Institute for Geography and Statistics (IBGE), together comprising a continuous protected area of 10.000 ha.

The Center is within an area of 30 ha of Cerrado (tropical savanna) vegetation with tropical semideciduous riverine forest. Three primate species occur there naturally: the marmoset (*Callithrix penicillata*), the black howler monkey (*Alouatta caraya*), and the tufted capuchin monkey (*Cebus apella*). The facilities include a laboratory, offices, classroom, kitchen, quarantine facilities, and 36 cages, each with indoor-outdoor sections.

At present the colony has 50 individuals of five primate species: *Callithrix penicillata, Callithrix jacchus, Saguinus midas, Saimiri ustus* and *Cebus apella.* The following research projects are currently undertaken with these animals: learning abilities in capuchin monkeys; color vision in capuchin monkeys and tamarins; temporal and spatial memory in callitrichids; environmental enrichment; spontaneous periodontal disease and diet in squirrel monkeys; and cytoarchitecture of the visual cortex in callitrichids. Research activities are partially supported by Brazilian National Research Council (CNPq) and are in accordance with the regulations imposed by the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama). Furthermore, one of the goals of the Center is the breeding of endangered species along with the development of research on reproductive behavior relevant to their husbandry and management.

The staff is composed by two Senior researchers, four Assistant Professors, two doctoral students, one Master's student, 11 undergraduate students, and two caretakers. The staff has a multidisciplinary background and includes psychologists, physicians, veterinarians, biologists, and dentists.

The CPUnB is maintained by the University of Brasília. The refurbishing of the old and the construction of the new facilities have been supported by FAL and the Centro de Eventos Especiais (CESPE-UnB). The Center is willing to collaborate with researchers and other academic institutions. Further information can obtained from Prof. Maria Clotilde Tavares, Director of the Primate Center.

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Social and Sexual Relations of the Muriquis at the Caratinga Biological Station, Minas Gerais

Promiscuity in primates appears to be a female strategy to increase the possibility of conception. Female muriquis, *Brachyteles arachnoides*, often copulate with more than one male, and there are a number of indications that muriquis have particular preferences for certain sexual partners (Strier, 1986, 1992, in press). From 1 August 1995 to 30 July 1996, a study was carried out at the Caratinga Biological Station, Minas Gerais, Brazil, to clarify the dynamics of female mate choice, observing whether males or females initiate sexual interactions, and determining what the sexes do to attract each other. Methods used included focal animal, scan sampling and opportunistic behavior sampling. Nineteen adult females from the Matão group were observed. The focal animal method was used to record each adult female's activities and her nearest neighbors, scan sampling recorded the degree of group dispersion. All rare events observed were recorded opportunistically.

The study was supervised by Dr Karen B. Strier, Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. It was supported by grants to her from the U. S. National Science Foundation (Grant BNS 8958298), the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, the Chicago Zoological Society, and the Lincoln Park Zoo Scott Neotropic Fund, Chicago.

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