

THERE'S SOME MONKEY BUSINESS GOING ON HERE

A Report on the Misuse of
Nepal's Rhesus Macaques
in Medical
Research



By
**Mangal Man Shakya
& Lucia de Vries**

a publication by the
Stop Monkey Business Campaign Coalition

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Stop Monkey Business Campaign Coalition
 Secretariat c/o Wildlife Watch Group (WWG)
 GPO Box 8975 EPC 696, Kathmandu Nepal
 Jwagal-10, Kupondole, Kathmandu, Nepal
 Phone ++ 977 (0) 1 5524188; 5011139
 Fax ++ 977 (0) 1 5524188
www.stopmonkeybusiness.org
stopmonkeybusiness@gmail.com

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Apart from the mentioned sources we have retrieved information from the following websites: www.citesnepal.org and www.ippl.org

Sincerely,

Mangal Man Shakya
Lucia de Vries
November 2007

Mangal Man Shakya is an environmental journalist associated with Asia Pacific Forum of Environmental journalists (since 1999) and International Federation of Environmental Journalists (since 1997). He is the founder chairman of Wildlife Watch Group (WWG), an NGO dedicated to conserve wildlife through advocacy and public awareness programs since 1992.

Lucia de Vries is a Dutch journalist who lives in Nepal since 1992. She is the founder of Animal Nepal, a non-profit company involved in animal welfare campaigning; community based stray animal protection and rehabilitation as well as pioneering animal food and health industry in Nepal.

Abbreviations used in this document...

DNPWC -Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
IPPL - International Primate Protection League
NHS - Natural History Society of Nepal
NBRC - National Biomedical Research Center
NEBORS - Nepal Biodiversity Research Society
WNPWC - Washington National Primate Research Center
WU - Washington University
WWG - Wildlife Watch Group

Abstract

Two Nepalese organizations, in collaboration with two US State funded research centers, have established rhesus macaque farming and breeding centers in Nepal for conducting bio-medical and possibly bio-terrorism research. The founder populations are being taken from the wild by the Nepalese government. Apart from the wildlife conservation issues involved, it is a violation of basic animal rights to conduct laboratory testing on such highly evolved and social animals. Also, the way in which these deals have been worked out was and is: non-transparent, undemocratic and illegal. The Nepal government has not paid any attention to the ethics and necessary procedures involved. In one case, a flagrant violation of national law took place when samples

"Nepal's monkeys are both sacred and beautiful creatures. They should not be exported to any country for research purposes, but should be allowed to live wild and free."

- Dr Jane Goodall

is

and DNA profiling of free-ranging Nepalese macaques were sent to the USA without due permits. This Report outlines why the breeding and export of Nepalese rhesus monkeys to US research institutes should be halted immediately.



Preface

We at the International Primate Protection League extend our good wishes to our colleagues in Nepal for the success of their campaign to protect the monkeys of Nepal. These amazing animals have been free to enjoy their mountain home for centuries. Now they face the threat of exploitation that might eventually lead to their extinction.

Once any monkeys leave their homelands, they face an uncertain future. Capture is a cruel process, tearing monkey families apart. The captured monkeys sometimes do not adjust to captive living and die before going anywhere. Recently hundreds of monkeys awaiting export died at a facility in Pontian, Malaysia. Many monkeys die when traveling. It is unpleasant enough for humans flying in the passenger cabin of a plane these days, but can you imagine being jammed into a shipping crate and loaded into the noisy hold of a jet aircraft with no attendants to provide refreshments? Many shipments reach their destinations with some of the monkeys dead. In August 1992 a shipment of 110 monkeys reached Miami, USA, from Indonesia, with every single monkey dead.

Arrival in the United States and most user countries is followed by a long quarantine during which the monkeys undergo an assortment of tests. Those that test positive for tuberculosis are killed. Most of the imported monkeys end up in research laboratories.

Many of them are used by pharmaceutical companies to test new drugs and most are killed at the end of the experiments, so that their bodies can be autopsied. Then new shipments are ordered. The demand for monkeys to test new drugs is insatiable. Thousands of monkeys are used by the eight U.S. primate centers in a variety of experiments.

The worst fate awaits those sent to US military laboratories which use monkeys to develop and test biological and chemical weapons agents. Among the agents used for tests are the Ebola virus, anthrax, and ricin. Much of the research is "classified" and conducted at super-secret laboratories, some of them in remote areas. It is very difficult to gather information about what's going on at these places.

It is utterly audacious of humans to use innocent monkeys to prepare for warfare activities, since warfare is an activity confined to the human race.

Most laboratory monkeys undergoing experiments are housed in single cages. Monkeys are gregarious sociable animals and in nature normally live in groups. A favorite monkey activity is grooming. Solitary confinement in U.S. prisons is considered inhumane and is reserved for only the most heinous criminals. Yet thousands of laboratory monkeys live in isolation for years with no companion to groom them. It is a living death for these poor animals.

We at the International Primate Protection League urge our friends in Nepal to fight the plans to capture and incarcerate monkeys. If the monkeys of Nepal had a choice of where they would live, not one would vote to be shipped overseas. Please, people of Nepal, do not let foreign money seduce you into abandoning your nation's monkeys. Let them live free as they have done for thousands of years.

Dr Shirley McGreal
Founder, International Primate Protection League

Rhesus Macaques

Cultural icons

Leaving the airport at Kathmandu it doesn't take long before one can see rhesus monkeys perched in a tree, or squatting next to a temple visitor or stray dog. Monkeys are such an integral part of Nepal's religious and social culture that they are worshipped and their images can be found on many postcards and religious images. Still, these are the animals that soon might be shipped off to US laboratories for biomedical and bio-terrorism experiments.



The rhesus monkey belongs to the family *Cercopithecidae* and is classified as *Macaca mulatta*. Rhesus macaques are found throughout India and Nepal, eastern Afghanistan, and northeastern China and Indochina. It is partly migratory, sometimes ascending the Himalayas to an altitude of about 8,200 feet in summer. Rhesus monkeys generally live in the wild but are also found to co-habitat with humans, for instance in urban forests and temples. An adult rhesus has a stoutly built body that may be up to 25 inches long, with a tail about 12 inches in length. The silky hair is yellowish brown, the naked skin is brown to yellowish-brown, and the face is bright red. The monkeys have been found living in troops of 8 to 180 individuals¹.

Although the temple monkeys of Kathmandu have been studied extensively, little research has been carried out on Nepal's wild rhesus macaque population. There are no reliable estimates of the number of rhesus monkeys.

Researcher Kazao Wada, who looked into the distribution of monkeys in the period 1976-1984 concludes that because of small distribution areas and small numbers of monkeys, urgent conservation policy must be pursued. For an overview of studies see *Annex 3. Overview Studies on Rhesus Macaque in Nepal* on page 30.

Apart from Rhesus Macaque Nepal features two other monkey species: Assamese Monkey (*Macaca Assamensis*) and Hanuman Langur (*Presbytis Entellus*). The population of Assamese monkeys is severely threatened and has been enlisted both in the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (1973) in CITES protected species list (Appendix II). The Hanuman Langur too is included in the CITES list (Appendix I). Both lists are included in this document; see *Annex 2. Working Policy on Wild Animal Farming, Breeding and Research, 2003* on page 26.

¹ http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761560421/Rhesus_Monkey.html

Rhesus monkeys in research

Rhesus macaques are the subject of choice for many biomedical and behavioral research laboratories because they are physiologically similar to humans and due to their willingness to breed in captivity. Rhesus monkeys have been used as research animals to such an extent that their population has greatly reduced. They have been used extensively in research on human blood chemistry, and the Rh factor in blood derives its name from them. Psychological studies carried out on the animals have aided in the understanding of infant-mother relationships in humans, and rhesus monkeys were launched in high-altitude tests of rockets following World War II.

India banned experimentation on rhesus monkeys in 1977 after images of gruesome radiation experiments on monkeys, who are sacred to many Indians, were published in the media. As a result US research institutes faced a shortage of rhesus monkeys.

Despite what researchers claim, biomedical research is a painful affair for rhesus monkeys. During the research monkeys are kept alone in a cage, and start suffering from self-injury such as self-biting, hair pulling and repetitive motions. Monkeys are highly intelligent animals and maintain intricate social structures. They have complex emotional lives, caring for one another and showing love to their babies. Monkeys are used to living as a 'joint family' in a large group and cannot deal with being in a small box alone. The tests carried out are painful and potentially lethal. For instance, if monkeys are used to develop a medicine for HIV/AIDS the monkey first is injected with the AIDS virus, after which different medicines are tested.² Bio-terrorism experiments are even more controversial, as they subject the monkeys to lethal substances and diseases such as Ebola virus, anthrax, and ricin. Much of the research is 'classified' and conducted at super-secret laboratories, some of them in remote areas. Animal welfare organizations have no access to these places.

Features of Nepal

Nepal may be a poor country; it is extremely rich in flora and fauna. Here one can find more than 5,000 species of flowers, some 850 species of birds, over 180 mammal species and more than 6,000 different kinds of moths. Nepal's wildlife is threatened by a loss of habitat due to a rapid increase of human population as well as widespread poaching.

Hinduism and Buddhism exist side by side in Nepal and to some extent are intermingled. The importance of both in the national life is everywhere manifest; more than 2,700 temples and shrines have been



² Stop Monkey Business, Animal Nepal brochure, 2005

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counted in the Kathmandu Valley alone, while innumerable others are scattered along trails and roads extending to the most distant mountain passes. Bodhnath and Swoyambunath are famous Buddhist temples. A 2002 report indicates that about 81% of the population is nominally Hindu while 11% are Buddhist. Muslims constitute about 4% of the population. Minorities include Christians, Baha'is, Jains, and Kirants (followers of an indigenous animist religion).³

Monkeys are considered sacred both by Hindus and Buddhists. Hindus consider monkeys to be the incarnation of Lord Hanuman. When living in temple compounds monkeys are provided with food and, when falling sick, with medical care.

In Kathmandu rhesus monkeys can be found for instance in Pashupatinath and Swoyambunath temples, the latter better known as 'Monkey Temple'. Buddhists believe no animal can be killed or subjected to cruelties. This is why in areas where Buddhists live crop-raiding monkeys generally are not killed. Farmers will do anything to keep the monkeys away from their crops without inflicting injuries.

Nepal is one of the few Asian countries without proper animal welfare legislation. Although the Muluki Ain or constitution mentions that living beings should be treated with respect till today no specific animal welfare law has been introduced in the parliament.⁴ Livestock is protected under the Meat Act 1998. However much work is left to be done when it comes to its implementation. For example, although the Meat Act does not allow inhumane killing of livestock, virtually all animals in Nepal are killed in the open by butchers using knives and hammers.

Nepal's wildlife is protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (1973). The Act lists 39 wildlife species for legal protection. In 1975 Nepal signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). CITES lists 114 Nepalese wildlife species in its appendixes. IUCN has listed 60 threatened species. Although these policies guide the government in its efforts to protect the country's wildlife, sadly, many loopholes can be found by those serving commercial interests.

Macaque imports to USA

Staggering numbers

Animal rights activists say eight government supported US primate centers annually requires over 14,000 monkeys for research. Out of the six top primate exporting countries, five are in Asia.⁵

³ <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Asia-and-Oceania/Nepal-RELIGIONS.html>

⁴ An animal welfare law has been drafted by a special committee headed by the chair of the Nepal Veterinary Council, but is yet to be reviewed by different parties.

⁵ http://www.aesop-project.org/Primate_Trade/Primate_Imports.htm

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Number of Primates Exported to the U.S. between 1995 and 2004	
China	42,144
Mauritius	30,962
Indonesia	20,516
Viet Nam	16,895
Philippines	10,415
Hong Kong	2,887

In the last few years the imports of primates to the US doubled. According to animal welfare organizations and primate researchers⁶ in the US state funded research is shifting from biomedical experiments, such as finding an AIDS vaccine, to bio-terrorism research, enabling the government to test the use of biological agents for future warfare. Between 1981 and 2000 265,521 monkeys were used in the US for experiments. In 1995, 9,158 primates were imported; in 2002, 18,856, an increase of over 100%. In 2005, the number increased to a staggering 26,319. Crab-eating macaques from Asia are by far the most heavily traded monkeys, followed by rhesus macaques and squirrel monkeys.

Asia's monkey market

In the eighties and early nineties, the Philippines and Indonesia used to be two of the biggest exporters to the United States. But both countries have now made the export of wild caught monkeys illegal. One of the first countries to impose the ban was India in 1977. There was a time when India exported more than 100,000 monkeys a year during the 1950s. Indonesia introduced the partial ban nearly two years after 110 monkeys died en route from Inquatex, a Jakarta supplier, to Worldwide Primates. This was followed by the Philippines, Bangladesh and Malaysia.

Countries which banned primate export by year	
India	1977
Bangladesh	1979
Malaysia	1984
Indonesia	1990 (wild-caught monkeys)
Philippines	1994

The US government and even the World Health Organization are known to pressurize Asian countries to resume primate exports. In Bangladesh, the State Department threatened to cut off foreign aid unless the country renewed monkey exports immediately. The Bangladesh ambassador was summoned to the White House - but the ban held up.

In Nepal, after the media strongly spoke out against the government decision to allow the export of rhesus monkeys, the American embassy during discussions with animal welfare campaigners said it was 'put in a tight spot'.

At present China and Vietnam are the biggest suppliers of monkeys to the United States, followed by Indonesia and Mauritius. China has no native crab-eating macaques, but has

⁶ <http://www.vetscite.org/publish/items/001405/index.html>

imported thousands for breeding colonies. Now China supplies more of this species to world markets than any other nation.

Animal care violations in US research labs

Despite what many people assume, there is no law in the U.S. that prevents any animal experiment—no matter how unnecessary or painful. The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is weak and poorly enforced. Under the AWA, animals can be starved, electrically shocked, driven insane, or burned with a blowtorch—as long as it is done in a clean laboratory. Some eight investigations at even the most well known institutions show that researchers do not take good care of their animals. They treat animals like disposable tools and consider proper animal care to be too expensive.⁷

In February 1983, IPPL obtained a report on experiments with biological warfare agents on monkeys in a US lab, including rhesus monkeys.⁸

Two examples of autopsy reports:

Male Rhesus monkey assigned to Captain Robins, died 18 March 1980. This animal died with "a stream of blood flowing from the rectum." Major Slone found "the abdominal cavity filled with blood." This was blamed on a "tear in the posterior colon/rectum from stainless steel probe." The scrotum was badly swollen, a common result of "chairing" male primates.

Male Rhesus macaque, assigned to Captain Jaax, died during the weekend of 21/24 March 1980. The monkey died of dehydration, because "the water was found malfunctioning after the weekend." It appears that the Fort Detrick monkeys are not cared for over weekends, an apparent violation of the Animal Welfare Act, which requires daily care for laboratory monkeys.

According to the report, because of the hazardous nature of the agents, experimenters at the US Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Disease, (USAMRIID), Maryland, are anxious to develop a way to kill the monkeys without killing themselves in the process.

Among animal welfare organizations the Washington University, now with a breeding center in Nepal, is known for its sad records of suspicious monkey deaths.

The university in the past received heavy fines for animal care violations. In October 2006 US research watchdog organisation Stop Animal Exploitation Now (SAEN) asked for an "immediate investigation" of several University of Washington researchers - including one who apparently cut off the head of a primate and has hid it from campus veterinarians trying to determine the cause of death. According to SAEN executive director Michael E. Budkie, "[o]ne out of every four primates - or two every day on average - dies at the UW either of disease or in experimentation,". Budkie claims 736 primates died at the UW last year, 400 from disease and 336 during experiments. SAEN then together with IPPL issued a press release requesting the government of Nepal to end its relationship with the University of Washington 'to prevent harm to Nepali primates'. "We urgently request compassionate Nepalis to do all they can do to make sure this project (monkey laboratory) is stopped," the statement read.

⁷ <http://www.peta.org>

⁸ "Primates used to study biological warfare agents", IPPL, February 1983

According to SAEN the University of Washington has been misusing the fund of \$250 million provided annually by US National institute of Health. The Washington University has an arrangement with the US Department of Defense, which gave the university nearly 3 million US dollars last year, voicing concerns that the monkeys could be used as subjects of experiments involving chemical or biological weapons.

History

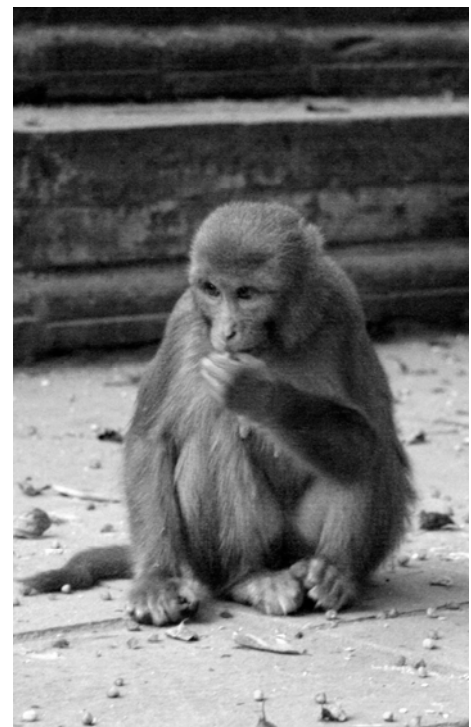
Preparing the ground, in disguise

When in 2003 the Nepalese government issued an ordinance allowing monkey breeding and export, few were aware of the fact that US researchers had been eying Nepal's monkeys for years. In fact, they had already signed an agreement with a local counterpart and illegally conducted tests on rhesus monkeys to see if they were suitable for biomedical research.

During a 3-month period in 2003 about 20 rhesus macaques (*Macaca mulatta*) die of an unidentified disease in the Swoyambhu hill of Kathmandu. The disease symptoms are black faeces and lethargy. Concerned by the deaths, the Swoyambhu Management and Conservation Committee (SMCC) requests Nepalese primatologist Dr. Mukesh Chalise to investigate the matter. Dr. Chalise at that time is affiliated with the Central Department of Zoology of Tribhuvan University and the Natural History Society of Nepal (NAHSON). The examination suggests that the monkeys have died of diarrhoea. The outbreak eventually stops without medical intervention.

Three months later, in May 2003, a research team from Washington University (WU) arrives in Nepal at the personal invitation of Dr. Mukesh Chalise, apparently to investigate the disease epidemic among the temple monkeys. The team was headed by Dr. Randall Kyes, head of the Division of International Programs at WNPRC, who spend a month as a Fulbright Senior Specialist at Tribhuvan University, Nepal, in 2002. The other members are Dr. Lisa Jonen-Engel, Dr. Gregory Engel and veterinarian Johns Heidrich. Few people in Nepal are aware of an agreement signed in 2001 between Dr Chalise and Dr Kyes to farm, breed and research macaques.⁹

Initially the efforts of the US-Nepal team are applauded by the media. The Himalayan Times on May 20 reports that "US volunteers check ailing monkeys". The reporter notes:



⁹ Back in 1997, NAHSON and the Washington National Primate Research Center at the University of Washington (WanPRC) established a collaborative relationship through frequent discussions with and subsequent visits by Dr. Randall. This relationship developed into a formal collaborative program with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by both parties in July 2001.

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"A trap stood at some distance in the middle of the jungle at the premises of Swoyambhunath stupa, a world heritage site. A small recovery cage stood at about five hundred-meter-distance and nearby was a small table, littered with medication and medical accessories. Monkeys above on tree branches looked desperately down, where their friends were lying anaesthetized, on the table floor. Doctors and volunteers were seen busy collecting various biological samples from the monkeys. Some people were guarding the medical team, with stick in their hands, from possible attacks from angry monkeys above. This was the scenario on Monday, in the jungle at the foothills of the stupa where efforts were underway by a team of doctors from the United States to save the monkeys at the premises, from an unidentified disease."

The reporter interviews Chalise who notes that for or a more advanced study, Nepal does not have facility. A complete study need to be carried out in the USA."

Four days later The Kathmandu Post reports that the monkeys, according to a report by the 'medical team' are suffering from parasitic infection.

A week later the Himalayan Times carries a worrying editorial. The US vets did not come to merely treat Nepalese monkeys but are associated with the Washington National Primate Center, an institute involved in 'biomedical' research.

They darted and treated the monkeys for the same purpose and intend to set up a primate center in Kathmandu to export the second generation of captive monkeys.

The monkeys would go to Washington where potentially dangerous and/or lethal experiments will be carried out on them. The paper also reports that the American and Nepalese researchers for conducting the 'health camp' had obtained no government permission. The paper expresses concern about the use of stool, blood, swap and hair of 47 monkeys which have been collected by the team.

Other newspapers soon follow. The Nepali Times in its 6-12 June edition quotes an anonymous source at the Wildlife Fund for Nature Conservation arguing that the Swoyambunath research is 'a case of bio-piracy'. Chalise does not understand the fuss: "We are not talking about selling our monkeys, we just want to provide scientists with primates to conduct studies. It would contribute to the whole of humanity." The paper's email queries to WU Director Randall Kyes go unanswered.¹⁰

By now the public is well aware of the issue. A quick online signature campaign carried out by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Nepal (SPCAN) and the International Primate Protection League (IPPL) prompts hundreds of people to sign against the breeding and export of rhesus monkeys. As there are no legal grounds to export primates from Nepal (the country is a CITES signatory) the campaigners are hopeful that the joint program of the Washington University and NHS can still be halted.

However, on August 27, 2003, the government passes the Wildlife Farming, Breeding and Research Policy, opening the door for US laboratories and other commercial ventures preying Nepal's wildlife. The campaigners seem to have lost the battle before it even begun.

¹⁰ 'Monkey business', Nepali Times, 6-12 June 2003 and 'Year of the Monkey', Nepali Times, 30 January-6 February 2004

A controversial ordinance

After King Gyanendra sacked the prime minister and dissolved parliament in October, 2002, a puppet government was put in place. The new cabinet passed a number of controversial ordinances, including the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance, allowing organizations and institutions to manage Nepal's conservation areas. In August 27, 2003 yet another controversial ordinance was passed - the wildlife farming, breeding and research policy.

Nepal's Cabinet never passed the wildlife breeding policy; the Nepalese public found out about it through the annual budgetary speech.

Those aware of King Gyanendra's past activities when he was a Prince were not surprised to find his focus on conservation and wildlife issues. Before the public uprising in 1990 which ended the absolute rule of the King all issues related to conservation and wildlife were coordinated by the Wildlife Conservation Committee, a high level body chaired by Prince Gyanendra which often met at his private residence. Although officials from the Ministry were included, the chairman took all decisions. After a democratic government was established in 1990 the committee was dissolved but Prince Gyanendra continued to play a controversial role. In 1992 a trust operated by the royal family was providing pairs of endangered One-horn Rhinoceros to zoos across the world in exchange for US\$ 250,000 donations. Even the related government department was unaware of the existence of such a trust and its fat bank account. In total 26 rhinos were 'donated' by the royal family, the last one to the Vienna Zoo during a visit of Crown Prince Paras to Austria in 2006.¹¹

After issuing the Wildlife Farming Policy, before writing up the proper legislation, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) granted licenses for farming and research of rhesus monkeys, snakes and vultures.

The protected species that are permitted for farming under the new policy include the gharial crocodile, black buck, Impeyan pheasant, crimson horned pheasant and the cheer pheasant. Other species on the list include the barking deer, spotted deer, sambar, hog deer, wild boar, snakes, all bird species and rhesus monkeys.

According to the Policy, the DNPWC provides seed animals for farming and breeding to those who are granted a license. The permission fee ranges from 5,000 to 40,000 Nepali rupees (US\$69 to \$555) per animal depending on the species. The price of a rhesus monkey was set at NRs 25,000 (US\$ 385).

.....
"The proposal is faulty
(and) ambitiously
yields to the
international experts
and their funds which
it says will bring
sustainability. It is
wrong."

-
- King Mahendra
Trust for Nature
Conservation (2001)
.....

¹¹ Wildlife Times, August 2007, Year 1, No 7 & Davies, Ben, Black Market, Inside the Endangered Species Trade in Asia, 2005

The policy in its final shape has a certain degree of safeguards against abuse, with national interest being paramount (Section F), permissions required for any initiative or export, and breeders/researchers required to abide by the legal provisions of the international Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna CITES.

.....

“This is not a conservation effort that will benefit the local community or bio-diversity. This kind of breeding is purely for bio-medical research where our monkeys undergo enormous suffering as they are observed for physical and psychological responses to untested drugs.”

- Prahlad Yonzon
President of Resources Himalaya

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NEBORS/WNPRC were granted permission to farm and breed Monkeys in late 2003. Although the document is registered with DNPWC, the actual hard copy, despite numerous requests, till now has not been produced to journalists and campaigners.

Nepalese civil society leaders and wildlife specialists had mixed feelings about the new policy. They warned that “effective monitoring mechanism should be in place, otherwise this policy would promote illegal trade in wildlife.”

As expected Randall Kyes and Mukesh Chalise greeted the policy warmly. “The policy represents sustainable use of natural resources, as many countries are doing around the world,” said Dr. Randall Kyes. He added: “This is a good initiative for biomedical research and any genetic discoveries or findings can be claimed by Nepal. This will eventually benefit Nepali people.”

Both Chalise and government officials in the media said they were unimpressed by the Stop Monkey Business Campaign, which was gathering momentum. “This is just propaganda by certain vested interests. Our intention is not to send our monkeys to death but to use them for human benefits,” noted Dr. Chalise.¹²

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Open doors

As mentioned earlier, the research team collected biological samples from live macaques in the Swayambhu forest in May 2003. The team issued press statements stressing the need for the samples to be taken to the USA for further investigation citing lack of advanced laboratory facilities in Nepal for conclusive tests. Subsequently, a CITES permit from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (NPWC) was obtained and the team took biological samples from 47 live, wild macaques for disease investigation.¹³

Nothing was heard further on the issue until three years later, when the American journal of Primatology published a study titled “Genetic Characterization of Rhesus Macaques in Nepal”

¹² Nepal Authorizes Wildlife Farming for Conservation, Deepak Gajurel, Environment News Service, April 18, 2005, <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/may2004/2004-05-18-04.asp>

¹³ National News Service March 21 2003

in May 2006¹⁴. The Washington University released a press communiqué stating that, following the 1978 restrictions on exports of Indian rhesus macaques for medical testing, and due to their close genetic match, Nepalese macaques were the best alternative for HIV/AIDS research. The researchers, including Kyes and Chalise, conclude that “the Nepali rhesus may offer an additional resource option for researchers who wish to maintain research protocols with animals that possess key genetic features characteristic of Indian-origin rhesus macaques.”

Oddly, there was no report on the disease investigation that was the original purported reason given for the export of the samples. Even more strangely, Narayan Poudel and Shyam Bajimay, officers at the Department of NPWC,¹⁵ are cited as researchers.¹⁵

There was no permission for DNA analysis of these 39 exported samples. In fact, the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 2029 (1972 AD) section 15 explicitly states that “no one without the license or permit; can take the sample of wildlife from its habitat,



national park or reserve. And, DNA analysis of any wildlife in Nepal can be carried out only after obtaining necessary permits. Section 26 of the DNPWC Act, 1973, empowers the state to levy a fine of Rs 10,000 or to jail for two years anyone causing harm to wildlife.”

Ironically, the illegal research on Nepal's monkeys was funded by no less than the US government's Institute of Health¹⁶

¹⁴ <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/abstract/112492099/ABSTRACT?CRETRY=1&SRETRY=0>

¹⁵ Shyam Bajimaya later refuted the news stating he was completely ignore of the mentioning of his name on the report and that he was never contributed to any report related to monkey research

¹⁶ DAPAR; Grant Number: N66001-02-C-8072, NIH; Grant Number: RR05090, RR-00166

The Players - Macaque farming, breeding and research projects in Nepal

Washington University (USA) & Nepal Biodiversity Research Society (Nepal)

Washington National Primate Research Center (WNPRC) is one of eight National Primate Research Centers in the United States supported by the National Institute of Health, having received its first operating grant award in 1961. The overall objective of its Primate Centers' Program is 'to provide specialized resources for nonhuman primate research applicable to the solution of human health problems'. The center supports two long-standing international programs in Indonesia and Russia and a third program in Nepal. New programs are being developed in China, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Singapore. In Indonesia the center maintains a breeding colony housing over 1,000 monkeys.

Monkey research can be profitable and Washington University knows how to do its business. Special programs at WNPRC are The Primate Supply Information Clearinghouse (PSIC) and the Infant Primate Research Laboratory. PSIC, according to information from US non-governmental organization Primate Freedom, PSIC essentially is a swap meet for primate vivisectioners. Primate experimentation tools and animals are offered for sale, trade, and sometimes free to anyone willing to pay postage. In one past issue of the newsletter an established breeding colony of 110 African green monkeys was offered for sale and 44 bush babies including older wild-captured animals were offered for \$500 each.



The Infant Primate Research Laboratory is devoted to rearing and supplying infant monkeys to researchers. One point of concern regarding this facility is the fact that it is under the direction of Gene P. Sackett who based his career and life on the study of the effects of taking babies from their mothers.

According to the International Primate Protection League, Washington University has been active in primate exploitation overseas for the past 30 years. It states that the primate center conducts innocuous surveys overseas. However it appears that the Center's main underlying goal, besides performing experiments, is ensuring a steady supply of monkeys for experiments.

Natural History Society of Nepal

The initial US-Nepal agreement was with the Natural History Society of Nepal (NHS), founded by Dr Mukesh K. Chalise. Dr Chalise, a primatologist and zoologist, is General Secretary of NHS and president of the Nepal Biodiversity Research Society (NBRS). According to its own information, NHS is “a scientific and professional organization registered under the rules of the Nepalese government and working for the conservation and management of biodiversity of Nepal. It also consists of a primate study group and claims to work for the conservation and management of wild populations of non-human primates in Nepal.”

Dr. Chalise was the first primatologist to conduct a systematic study on primates in Kathmandu Valley and Makalu-Barun area. In 1998 IPPL supported his campaign to stop a massive monkey kill planned by the people of Mankha Village. At that time Chalise worked in a granted conservation project in the Makalu-Barun National Park and Conservation Area aiming at people's participation in protective measures to conserve valuable genetic resources, with a special focus on the protection of monkeys. Chalise in a presentation expresses concern about the killings of crop raiding monkeys by villagers: “Even though rhesus monkeys are very common but protected by laws of [the government], they think the slaughter was of the common rhesus monkeys and do not take it seriously. In this way, monkeys are facing double pressure due to habitat loss and such yearly killings. Now their number is declining than before. Such killing should be controlled; otherwise, Assamese monkeys can be extinct from this area.”¹⁷

“Where... a few years ago you might have paid \$2,000 for a rhesus monkey, now the price can be anywhere from \$5,000 to \$12,000.”

- John P. Hearn
- Primate
Researcher and
Vice Chancellor of
the Australian
National University

A change of heart

Since 1998 Chalise gained international recognition for his work on the conservation of Nepal's primates and a number of other endangered animals. Therefore animal welfare and conservation professionals were surprised to find he had teamed up with Washington University to breed and export monkeys for biomedical research. They first became aware of his career change during a US Government sponsored lab animal conference in April 2002. Here Dr Chalise promoted Nepal as a suitable venue for establishing a breeding colony of rhesus monkeys. The primatologist stated that he favored both the local use of monkeys in Nepal and the export of live primates. He noted that Nepal had no rules governing farming and breeding of monkeys and presented to the audience plans to establish a primate facility in the Kathmandu Valley.

Dr Chalise suddenly no longer seemed concerned about the killing of monkeys by farmers because of possible extinction. He now emphasized local peoples' resentment of crop-raiding monkeys, calling them ‘pest species’.

¹⁷ From “Conservation of Primates through Environmental Education among Rai Community in East Nepal”, a paper presented in pre-Congress Workshop, August 1-3, 2002, 19th Congress, International Primatological Society, Beijing, China

The NHS representative told the audience that villagers from Sindhupalchowk in April 1998 had killed some five hundred monkeys by forming an monkey killing squad armed with local knives, clubs and shot guns.

This proved, argued Chalise, that "Nepalese are not like Indians, and that they do not feel the same concern for monkeys"¹⁸. (India banned to export of primates in 1977, after photos of gruesome radiation experiments on Indian monkeys in US labs were circulated.) Using Nepal's monkeys for medical research would 'not only help to reduce the problems faced by the mountain people but also allow us to use this "common' species, in an environmentally sounds manner, to improve the welfare of human beings through biomedical research."

What happened to Chalise between 1998 and 2002 that made him change his tone?

Back in 1997, NHS and the Washington National Primate Research Center at the University of Washington (WNPRC) established a collaborative relationship through frequent discussions with and subsequent visits by WU's Dr. Randall. This relationship developed into a formal collaborative program with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by both parties in July 2001. The project was supported generously by the US Institute of Health.¹⁹

According to NHS, the project would "support the breeding of SRV-free rhesus macaques (*M. mulatta*), facilitate collaborative research and educational/training opportunities for Nepali students and researchers, and assist with primate conservation efforts in Nepal including a population survey of Nepal's endangered Assamese macaque (*M. assamensis*)."

In 2001, NHS approached the King Mahendra National Trust for Nature Conservation (KMNTNC) to start a primate research center and a clinical research laboratory in microbiology in Nepal. The proposal received a strongly worded response from the trustees:

"The objectives of the center can be called a combined wish list of zoo keepers, epidemiologists, veterinarians, microbiologists, primatologists and biomedical researchers using non-human primates. The proposal is faulty (and) ambitiously yields to the international experts and their funds which it says will bring sustainability. It is wrong."

Nepal's most influential conservation organization did not mince words when rejecting the proposal. For two years Washington University's researchers must have wondered if they would ever be able to lay their hands on Nepal's rhesus monkeys. They did not have to worry for long: two years later the Nepalese government introduced Wild Animal Farming, Breeding and Research Policy.

Nepal Biodiversity Research Society

In September 2003, a month after the wildlife farming policy was enacted, Dr Mukesh Chalise established the Nepal Biodiversity Research Society (NEBORS). The primatologist must have encountered some criticism from within NHS, which is a member-based organization. A new

¹⁸ From: "Initiative for Primate Resources, Biomedical Research, and Conservation in Nepal", Proceedings of the Workshop "International Perspectives - Future of Nonhuman Primate Resources", Washington DC, April 17-19, 2002. Also www.ippl.org.

¹⁹ Grant RR-00166

agreement formally signed between NEBORS and WNPRC. Land was bought in Lamatar, Lalitpur District, which was registered in the name of Dr Chalise's wife.

The facility is presently being constructed. NBRF has requested for the capture of a total number of 250 to 300 wild macaques as the founder population. The organization paid NRs 15,000 (US\$ 230) for its license as well as NRs 12,500.00 for fifty young monkeys (US\$ 19,230) to be captured by DNPWC in the period 2006/07.²⁰

In a 2006 Washington University press statement, Dr Randall Kyes is quoted as saying that "The objective of this international program is to research on prime diseases of Nepal such as HIV AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis and Malaria in Nepal. Another significant objective of the center is to play a vital role in conservation of the primates in Nepal".²¹ Needless to say the Nepalese public is yet to see any positive outcomes of this controversial project.



Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, USA & National Biomedical Research Center (NBRC), Nepal

The Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (BFBR), based in Texas, according to its own information, is "one of the world's leading non-profit independent biomedical research institutions." The foundation was founded in 1941 by Thomas B. Slick Jr, a regular visitor of

- • • • •
- "Our monkeys should
- not be allowed to be
- used as guinea pigs."
-
- - Gopal Guragain
- a journalist specializing in
- wildlife and conservation
- issues
- • • • •
- Nepal and India during his search for the mysterious yeti.
- Under the management of John L. VandeBerg SFBR's National
- Primate Centre developed into one of the biggest in the USA.
- It houses no less than 3800 baboons and an unknown number
- of other primate colonies, including Indian origin rhesus
- macaque. Animal model development was the second most
- highly funded area of SFBR's departmental research during
- 2004, with a total of \$2.9 million in funding awarded. The
- centre emphasises its research into cardiovascular disease,
- obesity, diabetes, epilepsy, Chagas disease, age-related
- disease and other chronic diseases, as well as AIDS.
-
- Another less publicised but equally important area of research
- at BFBR is that into bio-warfare agents including hepatitis,
- anthrax, and Lassa fever.

In 2004 the centre received a grant from the National Centre for Research Resources of the US National Institute of Health for a 5-year project²² to develop a rhesus monkey colony in Nepal

²⁰ Although four sea containers containing cages and research materials have arrived in Lamatar this place is not being used to farm monkeys. The organization possibly uses an undisclosed location for this.

²¹ Rhesus monkeys in Nepal may provide new alternative for HIV/AIDS research, May 31, 2006, <http://uwnews.washington.edu/ni/article.asp?articleID=24692>

²² The work will be conducted from 29 September 2004 to 31 August 2009

in order 'to address the critical shortage of these animals for research, particularly in the area of AIDS-vaccine development [...], on development of vaccines against infectious agents that could be used as biological weapons, and on a wide variety of other topics in biomedical research.'²³

According to Director Vandenberg, 'despite the recent expansion breeding colonies in the United States, the shortage of these important research animals is actually increasing in severity, accentuating the need for new sources of Indian-type rhesus.' According to the director '[t]here are no restrictions against export of these animals from Nepal'. He aims to develop a self-sustaining colony capable of supplying 75 animals per year to his centre.

For the fiscal year 2004, Southwest received \$684,040 for establishing a breeding cum research center in Nepal; in 2005 it received \$704,010; while in 2006 \$673,756 was released. The figures are staggering, especially in Nepal, one of the ten poorest countries in the world. With the money paid by the US government towards the establishment of monkey breeding centers in Nepal, ten thousands of Nepalese children could have received primary education, over 20,000 young heart patients undergone life saving heart surgery and 80.000 injured stray animals rescued and rehabilitated.

National Biomedical Research Center (NBRC), Nepal

Soon after SFBR received its grant interviews with Nepalese veterinarians were set up in a five star Kathmandu hotel. Mr Prabesh Man Shrestha, a government employed veterinarian, was selected. In 2005 he registered a company called National Biomedical Research Center (NBRC). In the same year it started constructing a macaque farming and breeding facility at Lele, Lalitpur District. The Department of NPWC sold 50 macaques as a founder population to the center. According to media write ups 28 wild macaques were captured from Dhading District while others were taken from Nepalgunj, Banke District. At present the center has 99 monkeys and 46 have been bred in captivity. The first generation monkeys are being prepared to undergo various tests.

Nepal Biomedical Research Center requested permission from the government to carry out DNA research on monkeys and to send blood samples from rhesus macaques to the US. Chief Executive Officer Prabesh Man Shrestha, Director of the research center states that since Nepal does not have latest scientific tools, the blood samples are being prepared to be send to the US.

"It's a type of bio-piracy to collect blood samples from wild animals without the permission of DNPWC."

- Dr Ravi Sharma Aryal, PhD
on the implementation aspects of CITES in India and Nepal"

²³ Project Title: Rhesus Breeding Colony in Nepal and Importation to USA, Grant Number: 5P40RR018825-02

There's Some Monkey Business Going On Here

Despite the fact that its donor will use the monkeys for biomedical and/or bio-terrorism, NBRC states its mission is 'to find cures for AIDS, diabetes, Alzheimer's, identifying the causes of alcoholism and drug addiction, finding a cure for sickle cell anemia and restoring function to paralyzed victims of spinal cord injuries, etc.' As one campaigner pointed out this is a very ambitious mission statement, 'considering none of these diseases or illnesses have come even close to having cures found for them in the west, where one would expect the facilities to be second to none and the victims of these illnesses to be more readily available for possible examinations.' In his analysis, what they hope to achieve by going to such a remote nation of Nepal is not clear.

However, the lack of any animal welfare laws in Nepal might give an insight as to the true motivation of the vivisection industry looking at countries such as Nepal. Another reason is the fact that Nepal would be able to supply an infinite amount of wild caught primates at very

little expense, unlike the situation in Europe where purchasing primates for research is a lot more expensive.

"Right now the monkeys live a beautiful tribal life deep in the high mountain forest, much the same as my relatives who inhabit the Langtang region. They don't bother anyone, they are not in the way...they are not numerous. They are an integral part of the land's eco-system and surely are important to the balance of life in that area, which contains people living in harmony with nature. Why tempt the people with large amounts of money to give away their heritage, the beautiful natural environment that supports them in so many ways....but not through the extinction of it's monkey families."

- Willow Lama, singer and educator

"In their book *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*, Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan tell of actual laboratory experiments in which monkeys were forced to choose between electro-shocking other monkeys and doing without food themselves. Almost all of the monkeys went hungry for up to two weeks rather than shock others. Sagan and Druyan: "These macaques -- who have never gone to Sunday school, never heard of the Ten Commandments, never squirmed through a single junior high school civics lesson... seem courageous in their moral grounding and their resistance to evil... If the situation were reversed, and captive humans were offered the same deal by macaque scientists, would we do as well?"

Stop Monkey Business - the campaign

When on January 30, 2007, the Wildlife Watch Group placed a banner at Maithighar, a busy intersection in Kathmandu, people were surprised. "Stop the Monkey Business!", they read, and: "Don't Export Nepali Monkeys to American Labs." In between the slogans a cartoon of an unhappy monkey was found, in shackles and wired to a machine. "Please don't send us to US labs", the cartoon monkey said. A month later the banner was damaged in such a way that the cartoon had disappeared and the slogans could no more be read.



The Stop Monkey Business Campaign started in June 2003, when a group of animal welfare campaigners at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Nepal (SPCAN) became aware of plans to export Nepalese monkeys to US research centers. They started writing letters and press releases with background information to the media, who quickly responded. Soon, virtually every paper and broadcast media researched the issue, mostly emphasizing the

negative aspects of monkey export. In just over a month, with the support of IPPL and other animal welfare organizations, over 600 signatures were collected through an online petition.

On February 13, 2004, a meeting was arranged with Dr Mohan Prasad Wagle, Chief Planning officer, Ministry of Forestry and Soil Conservation. After a two-hour wait, the team received permission to enter the Ministry in the presence of a TV camera and an actor holding a puppet monkey.

After yet another two hour wait the team realized no government official was willing to receive the signatures. The campaigner cut their losses and left the signatures behind with a peon.

By now the campaign was coordinated by Animal Nepal, a non-profit company involved in animal welfare campaigning. A brochure was developed, both in Nepali and English, and distributed among students and residents of Langtang National Park (where some of the seed monkeys would be captured). A stall with background information was placed at different festivals, including a vaccination camp for pets during Kukur Tihar and a number of music concerts. Animal Nepal published an album called Rock and Bark, which included the lead song with music video *Aau mili gau*, a moving tribute to the suffering of animals in Nepal, including monkeys. No less than fifteen well-known signers volunteered while recording the song.

The campaign inspired many people to write letters to the concerned Ministry. Madhav Parajuli, a staff at DNPWC, said that each month his Department received thirty to forty letters from different wildlife related organizations or individuals.

In 2006, Wildlife Watch Group (WWG), a critical watchdog focusing on conservation and wildlife issues, joined the team. Soon a coalition was formed, including IPPL, PETA India, SPCAN, Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT), Roots and Shoots and Wildlife Action Group.

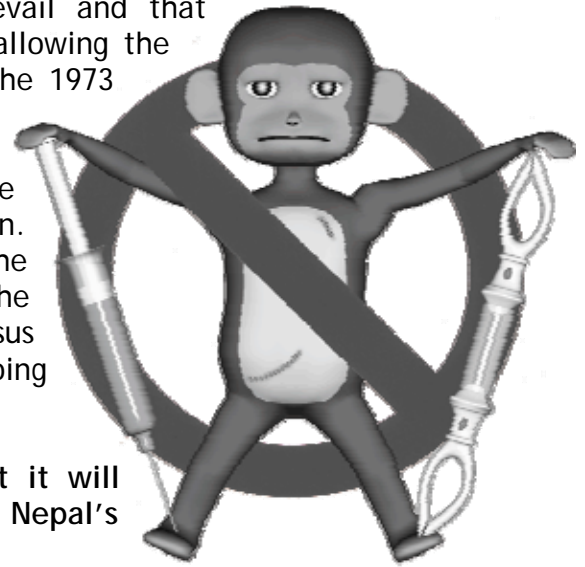
In February 2007, the committed students from Roots and Shoots Nepal, a 'branch' of the Jane Goodall Institute, provided a new boost to the campaign. The students organized a demonstration on February 10, calling for an end to the breeding of primates for research purposes.

Over a hundred students and animal welfare campaigners attended the demonstration. By now no less than 4,000 signatures have been received by the coalition, arguing to stop the breeding and export of Nepalese monkeys - see page 31 for selected comments from this group and a list of signatures from around the world.

In September 2007 the Stop Monkey Business Campaign coalition moved into an office at the new premises of Wildlife Watch Group in Kupondole, Lalitpur District. At present the coalition focuses on developing further campaign materials including a website, radio jingle and documentary, as well as conducting a survey of rhesus monkeys in Nepal. Legal action will be taken to challenge the government's role in the issue.

There's Some Monkey Business Going On Here

We are confident that truth and compassion will prevail and that ultimately the campaign will be successful. The policy allowing the breeding and exporting of rhesus monkeys contradicts the 1973 National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act and was announced without any consultation with local communities or conservationists, or even within the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. The Nepalese public at large is against the misuse of the country's monkeys for medical or military research in the US. Although there are no reliable figures on Nepal's rhesus monkey population, due to loss of habitat and ongoing exploitation their numbers are decreasing steadily.



One day soon, Nepal's government must realize that it will lose its moral ground and credibility by sacrificing Nepal's monkeys at US laboratories.

Our position

While biomedical research using macaques may contribute to some extent in finding cures to human disease, it is important to seriously look at alternatives to using primates or such higher animals for lab testing. Macaques are intelligent, sentient and social creatures and to subject our closest living relative to laboratory experiments is highly inhuman. Several organizations have documented the unspeakable harm done to these animals in the name of medical testing. We hope that Nepal will not go down the exploitation route only to regret it later. India had the good sense to ban the export of rhesus macaques for research as far back as 1977, after which many Asian countries followed.

How such facilities will help in the conservation of wildlife in Nepal is even less clear. Such statements are at best a meaningless justification for farming wildlife, and at worst, completely absurd. In fact, the blanket permission by the DPNCW for the capture of wild macaques from anywhere in the country is fraught with danger for the wild population. When

there is not even a country-wide estimate of the population at present, such a *carte blanche* would surely work towards the detriment of macaque population dynamics.

**STOP THIS
MONKEY
BUSINESS**

We object vehemently to the devious way in which wild biological samples were taken out of the country by an American university team, in connivance with a Nepalese institute. The appearance of a second obscure collaboration between yet another Nepalese and American institute does not bode well. The involvement of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, and its silence on such a serious matter, is highly questionable.

We ask that the government look into the matter immediately as an issue not just of animal rights, but one of national interest and security. It is not unknown for biomedical research institutes to test on unsuspecting humans as well, especially in the poorer countries of the world. Nepal needs to be doubly cautious that its laxity in this matter is not taken as license for unregulated and unsupervised biomedical research to proliferate, whether it is by Nepalese or foreign organizations.

We ask the US government to rethink its policy regarding funding the imports of rhesus macaque or any other wildlife species for the sake of biomedical and bio-terrorism research. The huge investments made in this field could be used in a much more useful and ethical manner.

Questions to the Government of Nepal

As Nepalese citizens, and members of the concerned public, we request the Government of Nepal to clarify for us the following points:

1. Why was the report on the disease pathology of the biological samples not submitted to the government by Dr Mukesh Chalise and the Washington University research team? Natural History Society (NHS) collected blood samples while the published report of macaque DNA analysis suggests the involvement of the Nepal Bio-diversity Research Society (NBRS). It is important to ascertain who is liable for the analysis of DNA, *on foreign soil*, without government permission.
2. Why were the Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation and Swoyambhu Management and Conservation Committee, who granted such permission for the detection of disease, unconcerned about the involved institutions for three years?
3. In the journal, the report mentions that Narayan Poudel and Shyam Bajimaya of Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPCW) as the authors and researchers. Please clarify whether these officers were involved as part of the government department or in their personal capacity.
4. Please clarify the validity of precedence of National Interest as prescribed by the Wildlife Policy 2003, over the provisions for farming, breeding and research on wildlife in the country. This will have important repercussions for the use or misuse of our wild resources.
5. Why is it that after *Jana Andolan II*²⁴, in May 2006, the 39 controversial ordinances promulgated by the King after he dissolved the Parliament in May 2002 were annulled or reviewed while the Wildlife Policy 2003 remained in place?

²⁴ Public uprising which ended absolute monarchy and re-established democracy in April 2006

Annexes

Annex 1. Stop Monkey Business Campaign Coalition contacts

Stop Monkey Business Campaign Coalition
Secretariat c/o Wildlife Watch Group (WWG)
GPO Box 8975 EPC 696, Kathmandu Nepal
Jwagal-10, Kuponhole, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone ++ 977 (0) 1 5524188; 5011139
Fax ++ 977 (0) 1 5524188
www.stopmonkeybusiness.org
stopmonkeybusiness@gmail.com

Shirley McGreal
IPPL
PO Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA
Phone (843) 871-2280, Fax (843) 871-7988
info@ippl.org , www.ippl.org

Jiggy Gatton & Lucia de Vries
Animal Nepal
Bagdol, Lalitpur
Phone 9841-334537
animalnepal@gmail.com , www.animalnepal.org

Mangal Man Shakya
Wildlife Watch Group
c/o Wise-use House, Jwagal,
Kopundol -10, Lalitpur
Phone: 977-1-5524188, 5011010
wwg@citesnepal.org , www.citesnepal.org

Malika Nepal
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Nepal
Gaurighat, Kathmandu
www.spcanepal.org.np

info@spcan.org.np
Ravi Sharma Aryal
Wildlife Action Group
20 Icchumati Road, Rudramati Marg
Kalopool, Kathmandu
Phone: 977-1-4421272,
Fax: 977-1-4421272
wildlifeactiongroup@yahoo.com ,
www.wildlifenepal.org.np

Jan Salter
Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre
Chapali Gaon, Budhanilkanta
P O Box 13684, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone: 4373169
katcentre@wlink.com.np,
www.katcentre.org.np

Manoj Gautam
Roots and Shoots Nepal
Phone: 9841-496822
scilab25@hotmail.com
www.rootsandshoots.org

Anuradha Sawhney
PETA India
P.O. Box 28260
Juhu, Mumbai 400 049, India
Phone: [+91] 22-2628-1880
Fax: [+91] 22-2628-1883
info@petaindia.org
www.petaindia.com



Annex 2. Working Policy on Wild Animal Farming, Breeding and Research, 2003

Approval on 28 August 2003 (2060.5.11 B.S.)
Unofficial Translation from Nepali Language

Background

Our conservation efforts are focused on bringing improvement in the livelihood of people in general through conservation, enhancement, sustainable, and wise use of biodiversity of Nepal. Significant success has been achieved in conservation of those species that were once on the verge of extinction through the establishment of National Parks and Wildlife Reserves. The National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 has given added impetus to these conservation initiatives.

It has been globally accepted that national initiatives and investments for the conservation of wild flora and fauna should be focused on human welfare and betterment. Realizing and valuing it, Nepal has continued its effort for the involvement of other sectors in the government initiatives as an essential element for the conservation of wildlife.

Although Nepal is very rich in biodiversity due to its geographical variation, some endangered wildlife and plant species are confined to limited forest areas and are almost at the verge of extinction. Since the existing forest area is shrinking due to rapidly growing population and conversion of forest area into other land use through infrastructure developments it is necessary to develop policies to ensure the protection of our invaluable resources for the benefit of both present and future generations. There is a need to create conducive environment for conservation so that the people and the nation can draw benefit from it. In this context, the need for developing concrete procedure has been strongly felt to involve individuals, organizations and institutions in wildlife farming, breeding and research outside the forest areas. Realizing the shortcomings in this area, and adopting collaborative forest management as a key strategy, the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) has recognized the need for encouraging the involvement of private sector in farming of valuable non-timber forest products (NTFPs), wild animals and birds through the formulation of necessary laws.

As adopted in the Tenth Plan, special attention has to be given on how forest and wildlife conservation can contribute to human welfare and sustainable development of the country as a whole through public participation. There is also a need to frame and implement a transparent policy for the maximum utilization of open and liberal financial policy, competitive environment, and available natural resources and potentialities. Since the last few years, there has been a lot of demands from individuals and organizations for farming, breeding and research of valuable NTFPs and wildlife as well as to support biodiversity conservation and generate income from such endeavors. In line with this, Government has decided to adopt the following policy on 28 August 2003:

Objective

As the policy and working policy of the Tenth Plan states to adopt process and programme in order to improve the living condition of the women, poor and disadvantaged section of the society from biodiversity conservation by encouraging individuals, groups, and institutions in farming and research of high value wild flora and fauna such as spotted deer, musk deer, sambar deer, wild boar etc., and also to increase opportunities for employment and income through conservation, enhancement and sustainable utilization of wildlife, the main purpose of this working policy is to streamline the following working procedures in order to meet the goal of the said Plan.

Working Policy

To accomplish the above objectives, the following working policies have been adopted:

- a. Involvement of private sector in farming, breeding and carrying out scientific research and studies of endangered and high-value wild animal species will be encouraged.
- b. Rare and endangered, and species that are at the verge of extinction will be conserved in natural habitat (*In-situ* conservation) and *ex-situ* conservation will also be promoted.
- c. A policy will be adopted for gradually reducing the rural poverty by linking farming, breeding and scientific research and studies with income and employment opportunities to the local people.
- d. The role of government will be developed as a Regulator, Promoter and Facilitator rather than a Controller in wild animal farming, breeding and scientific research and studies.
- e. Appropriate legal and institutional framework will be developed to promote private sector participation in farming, breeding and scientific research and study of endangered and other wild animal species while remaining committed to regulate international trade on wildlife and plant species as well as to biodiversity conservation as per the prevailing international laws.
- f. Utmost attentions shall be given to the national interest and welfare in wild animal farming, breeding, scientific research and study.

Working Procedures

A. Permit Required for study, research, breeding and farming

1. Parties involved in farming, export and import of wildlife shall abide by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) provisions and similar other international laws.
2. Individuals, organizations and institutions willing for private commercial farming of the wild animal with the objective of supporting wild animal conservation shall obtain permission from the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation for the wild animals listed under the protected wild animals in the attached appendix 1 while the permission shall be obtained from DNPWC in case of other wild animals mentioned in the same appendix. The applicant should pay royalty as stipulated in appendix 2 to get such permit.
3. The applicants (Individuals, Organizations, and Institutions) who apply at DNPWC should submit a detailed work plan of the species intended for farming, breeding and research as mentioned in clause Two.

B. Seed Animal can be provided

1. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation may provide seed animal to the permitted Individuals, Organizations and Institutions for wild animal farming, breeding and research. The Department will charge a fee for seed animal as mentioned in appendix 3.
2. The permitted Individuals, Organizations and Institutions for wild animal farming, breeding and research shall keep an updated record (data, description and other information) of seed animals obtained from the Department or imported seed animals and siblings produced from the seed animals, trophies or other products, and shall submit report of updated information to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation every six months.
3. Animals collected from the natural habitat or provided as seed animals will not be permitted to be exported out of Nepal for any purpose.

C. Formation of Committee:

1. A Committee comprising of following members has been constituted in the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation for effective implementation of the wild animal farming, breeding and research program:
 - a. Deputy Director General, DNPWC -Coordinator
 - b. Ecologist, DNPWC -Member
 - c. Management Officer, DNPWC -Member

There's Some Monkey Business Going On Here

2. The function, duty and right of the above Committee are as follows:
 - a. To fix up source and number of seed animals to be provided to the individuals, organizations and institutions, and keep updated records of the seed animals provided, siblings produced, trophies and other relevant information;
 - b. To recommend to the Department for the import of wildlife as seed animals; and
 - c. To conduct regular monitoring of the activities of the permitted individuals, organizations and institutions with regard to wildlife farming, breeding and research.

D. Inspection, Monitoring, and Other Conditions

1. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation shall monitor the work of the permitted individuals, organizations and institutions for wildlife farming, breeding and research and will collect and maintain annual status report. It will be the duty of the concerned parties to show and furnish all kinds of relevant information and data or let the monitoring officials assigned by the Department to examine all relevant information and data if they wish to do so.
2. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation may impose minimum infrastructure requirements or terms and conditions to the permitted individuals, organizations, and institutions for the purpose of farming and breeding.
3. Siblings obtained from ex-situ conservation through captive breeding after F1 generation can be permitted for export only for scientific research and study. The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation shall issue export permits for protected species while the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation will issue permits for other species as listed in Appendix 1. Before issuing such permission, it is essential to submit import permit obtained from the competent authority of importing country as per the international law. The ministry may impose terms and conditions if deemed necessary.
4. Use of genetic resources and genetic materials of the farmed or exported animal is prohibited unless permission obtained from the authorized official according to the prevailing laws.
5. Except seed animals, import permission on wildlife species for commercial purpose, and export permission of wildlife to third country through Nepal shall not be granted.
6. In case of breeding centres established in Nepal for Biomedical research, experimental samples such as blood, fur can be allowed with prior permission for DNA analysis abroad, only if such facilities are not available in Nepal.
7. Research finding obtained from joint farming and captive breeding of wild animals from the involvement of Nepalese parties should be published by ensuring property right of such Nepali party as well.

Appendix- 1

List of wild animals species that are permitted for commercial farming

Protected Wild Animal Species Other Wild Animal Species

- a. Gharial Crocodile
- b. Black Buck
- c. Danphe (Impeyan pheasant)
- d. Monal (Satyr tragopan)
- e. Cheer pheasant
- a. Barking deer
- b. Spotted deer
- c. Samber deer
- d. Monkey (Rhesus monkey)
- e. Hog deer
- f. Wild boar
- g. Snakes
- h. All kinds of birds

Appendix- 2

Revenue to be paid for getting Wild Animal Farming Permit

Protected Wild Animal Species Other Wild Animal Species

- a. Gharial Crocodile NRS. 40,000/- a. Barking deer NRS. 15,000/-
- b. Black Buck NRS. 25,000/- b. Spotted deer NRS. 15,000/-
- c. Danphe (Impeyan pheasant) NRS. 10,000/- c. Samber deer NRS. 20,000/-
- d. Monal (Satyr tragopan) NRS. 5,000/- d. Monkey (Rhesus monkey) NRS. 15,000/-
- e. Cheer pheasant NRS. 5,000/- e. Hog deer NRS. 15,000/-
- f. Wild boar NRS. 10,000/-
- g. Snakes NRS. 10,000/-
- h. All kinds of birds NRS. 5,000/-

Appendix- 3

Fees for obtaining Seed Animals

Protected Wild Animal Species (per head) Other Wild Animal Species (per head)

- a. Gharial Crocodile NRS. 40,000/- a. Barking deer NRS. 15,000/-
- b. Black Buck NRS. 25,000/- b. Spotted deer NRS. 15,000/-
- c. Danphe (Impeyan pheasant) NRS. 5,000/- c. Sambar deer NRS. 20,000/-
- d. Monal (Satyr tragopan) NRS. 5,000/- d. Monkey (Rhesus monkey) NRS. 25,000/-
- e. Cheer pheasant NRS. 5,000/- e. Hog deer NRS. 15,000/-
- f. Wild boar NRS. 10,000/-
- g. Snakes NRS. 5,000/-
- h. All kinds of birds NRS. 5,000/-

For further information, please contact:

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation

Post Box No. 860, Babarmahal, Kathmandu

Telephone: 01-4220912, 4220850,

Fax: 01-4227675

E-mail: dnpwc@bdcin.wlink.com.np



Annex 3. Overview Studies on Rhesus Macaque in Nepal

S.N.	Title of thesis/reports/article	Author's name	year	Institution
1.	Urban Human Monkey Conflict in the Vicinity of the Institute of Forestry, Hetauda, Nepal - Report	Patty McCourt (Guest Instructor)	July, 2005	Institute of Forestry, Hetauda
2.	General Behaviour and habitat use of Assamese Monkey (<i>Macaca assamensis</i>) in Syafrubensi Area of Langtang National Park, Nepal - Thesis	Babu Ram Bhattarai	February, 2002	Institute of Forestry, Pokhara Campus
3.	Comparative study of feeding ecology and behaviour of male and female Langurs (<i>Presbytis entellus</i>) - Dissertation	Mukesh Kumar Chalise	1995	Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University
4.	Behavioral ecology of Rhesus Monkeys (<i>Macaca mulata</i>) in Kathmandu, Nepal. - Thesis	Jane Teas	1978	School of Hygiene and Public Health,, The Johns Hopkins University
5.	Study of Population and Feeding Ecology of Rhesus Monkey (<i>Macaca mulata</i>) in Shivapuri National Park, Kathmandu, Nepal - Thesis	Reshmi Raj Bashyal	September, 2005	Central Department of Zoology,, Institute of Science and Technology, Tribhuvan University
6.	Study of feeding behaviour of Rhesus Monkey in Pashupati Area Kathmandu - Thesis	Mars Sakha	1999	Central Department of Zoology, Kathmandu
7.	Study of Agonistic Behaviour of Rhesus Monkey in Pashupati Area - Thesis	Ms. Barsha Shrestha	1999	Central Department of Zoology
8.	Environment of Charkose Jhadi with Reference to habitat use and conservation of mammals Particularly leaf monkey <i>Presbytis entellus</i> (Dufresne) - Thesis	Shaligram Adhikaree	1998	Central Department of Zoology, Kirtipur
9.	Study of feeding ecology of Rhesus Monkeys (<i>Macaca mulatta</i>) in Swayambhu Area - Thesis	Laxmi Prasad Panthi	1997	Central Department of Zoology, Kirtipur
10.	Biodiversity Assessment in the Nilbarahi Community forest with Respect to Monkey ecology - Thesis	Dipesh Raj Pant	December, 2004	Central Department of Environmental Science
11.	Investigation of Ecology and behaviour of langur monkey (<i>Presbytis entellus</i>) at Baurao Khola Area, Thaprek VDC of Tanahun district, Nepal	Tek Raj Pandit	1999	Central Department of Zoology, Kirtipur

Wada, Kazao, The Distribution Pattern of Rhesus and Assamese Monkeys in Nepal, in: Primates, Vol 46, Number 2, April 2005

Abstract Surveys of the distribution and some ecological characteristics of rhesus monkeys (*Macaca mulatta*) and Assamese monkeys (*M. assamensis*) in Nepal were conducted during 234 days in 1976, 1978, and 1984. Rhesus monkeys dominated in the tropical, subtropical, and temperate forests below 3,000 m a.s.l. all over Nepal. Assamese monkeys were patchily distributed along rivers in the tropical and subtropical areas. Both species principally utilized forests parapatrically. The mean troop size of rhesus monkeys (29.5) was significantly larger than that of Assamese monkeys (19.1). Discontinuous distribution of Assamese monkeys probably appeared as a result of the expansion of rhesus monkey distribution in the mid- and late-Pleistocene. Because of small distribution areas and small numbers of monkeys, urgent conservation policy must be pursued.

Annex 4. International Petition Results (Selected Comments and Signatures)

Sig#	Name	Country	Write-in Comment
3	Cate Anna	Australia	Selling your country's monkeys for experimentation would be a betrayal of these primates and a backward step for Nepal. The use of primates in research is very much in the news now and people are following this issue with great interest and concern.
13	Claudine Erlandson	USA	To let your precious Nepalese Monkeys be used for research is a crime against Mother Nature.
59	Yuki Honami	Tokyo, Japan	We don't have a right to torture other creature who's gift from God. Especially people who believe Hinduism or Buddhism, you must question what you do to other creature.
214	pamela corrigan	England	these sentient and sensitive creatures must not be used as just a product.
228	Carole Zdesar	U K	Where money is concerned, barbarity raises its ugly head. By exporting innocent monkeys for torture in foreign laboratories, Nepal is showing that it will stoop to any grubby depths to get a share of the blood money.
338	Karen O'Toole	USA	Research done on primates has proved ineffective to prove safe drug use on humans. What WAS proved was that pharmaceutical companies do them anyway to protect THEMSELVES from future lawsuits. This way they can SAY they did all the required tests for govt approval. Hence they are protecting themselves -- not the public.
552	mark bowden	Australia	what has happened to compassion..is it still in the dictionary?
590	Dennis Olsen	Canada	These sentient beings must be saved from this cruelty.
654	J^rg-Peter Bremer	Germany	Twice a year I visit Nepal. I like Nepal and the people of Nepal. Please stop the export of Nepal's monkeys immediately.
675	Sasha M. Torres	USA	We have got to put an end to animal cruelty. The fight has waged on for far too long now. Lets start NOW- I petition to PLEASE STOP THE EXPORT OF NEPAL'S MONKEYS!!!!!!
880	Tracy Brown	Great Britain	Why should innocent animals have to suffer...STOP now!
957	mary stewart	Canada	We have reached a stage of medical research maturity where human stem cell research is available and should become the standard in research around the globe
1,067	Lucy Robinson	United Kingdom	think about what you're doing and think how those innocent monkeys must feel. help put the message across that animal testing and animal cruelty are over and animal rights are in.
1,097	Sharon Hopkins	UK	These monkeys have their own right to exist. It is time to end experiments on ALL animals. If man can land on the moon then why are animals still being experimented on - it is not only cruel but primitive!
1,097	Sharon Hopkins	UK	These monkeys have their own right to exist. It is time to end experiments on ALL animals. If man can land on the moon then why are animals still being experimented on - it is not only cruel but primitive!
1,114	Sylvie Lavoie	Lebanon	This is criminal! Who gives human the right to use other sentient beings for experiments! It is never too late to do the right thing!
1,136	Cindy Ritter	USA	These are living, breathing, feeling beings ... please respect them as you respect any living creature ...
1,155	Barbara Lebrecht	Austria	As long as humans think that animals do not feel, animals will feel that humans don't think.
1,229	Susan Grima	United Kingdom	Think about what we are doing its not natural and messing big time with Mother Nature. Think about the fact that these little monkeys cant speak to make that decision imagine a child being took by apes. Stop now
1,712	Kerry Duggan	South Africa	This is a no-brainer; you are killing monkeys and people. It is disgusting that profit is driving you to allow so much death.
1,743	Diane B Hocker	United States	You will be remembered for generations for taking this high moral action.
1,773	Mariola Heinrich	Germany	Your Barbarians!!! SHAME ON YOU!!!!
1,808	Ashley Smith	Scotland	This is a disgusting thing to do to animals who have as much right to a free life as humans. Next it will be children that are bread to test on.
2,128	Kassie	USA	Please stop using these animals for research. It is not our right to go to a foreign country, separate these innocent animals from their family units, torture them with painful experiments and know they are truly suffering. This is pure selfishness on our part and unnecessary. Just because they are animals, does not mean we have the right to do such inhumane actions. Their suffering reflects back on us as human beings.

There's Some Monkey Business Going On Here

Petition to Stop the Export of Nepal's Monkeys and Associated Research

[illegible]

Annex 5. Letters to the Government of Nepal

2nd August 2006

Mr. Narayan Paudel
Director General
Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation
Babarmahal, Kathmandu

Sub: Request to provide a copy of CITES permission issued regarding rhesus monkey.

Dear Mr. Paudel,

As you know that Wildlife Watch Group (WWG) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit organization dedicated in wildlife conservation in Nepal through minimizing killing and the illegal trade in wildlife by alerting and educating the people, and urging and reminding the concerned authorities of their responsibilities toward the protection and conservation of wildlife, by implementing the CITES regulations.

We have come to notice that rhesus monkey of Nepal is to be exported to United States, Washington Primate Center (WNPC) for use in bio-medical research with help of Nepal Biodiversity Research Society (NEBORS). It is known to all that in June 2003 a research team consisting Dr. Dr. Randall C. Kyes, Dr. Lisa Jones-Engel, Dr. Gregory Engel from the University of Washington and vet Johns Heidrich from the University of New Mexico had conducted a health camp to provide treatment to the ill monkeys at Swoyambhu hill. In the name of providing treatment they had collected sample of blood, stool, urine and hair of the ill monkeys.

At present we are preparing a Report on "Rhesus monkey protection in Nepal" as an effort towards preventing any misuse of Nepal's bio-resource in the name of breeding or export for the purpose of bio-medical research. With this letter I would like to request you to provide us a copy of CITES permits issued to WNPC or NEBORS regarding above issues if any. We have planned to present our report in a national workshop to be held in near future.

Your cooperation in this matter will be highly appreciated.

Thanking you,

Sincerely Yours,

Mangal Man Shakya
Chairman
Wildlife Watch Group (WWG)
Wise-use House, Jwagal-10, Kopundol

There's Some Monkey Business Going On Here

8th August 2006

Mr. Narayan Paudel
Director General
DNPWC
Babarmahal, Kathmandu

Sub: Copy of permission issued regarding rhesus monkey.

Dear Mr. Paudel,

Referring to our letter of 2nd August 2006 in which we had requested you to provide copy of permission issued to Washington Primate Center (WNPC) and Nepal Biodiversity Research Society (NEBORS) or Nepal Nature History Society for conducting health camp for rhesus monkey in Swoyambhu hills area in June 2003, I would like to disclose you some documents regarding the same.

1. A feature story published in a web newsletter under heading **Rhesus monkeys in Nepal may provide new alternative for HIV/AIDS research** describes that blood samples from 21 Nepali rhesus macaques living at a temple site in Kathmandu were obtained as part of a comprehensive health screening conducted at the temple. The camp was conducted spearheaded by Dr. Dr. Randall C. Kyes, a primatologist and head of the United States, Washington Primate Center (WNPC). It has also stated that the Co-authors of the paper are Mr. Shyam Bajimaya of the Nepal Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation along with others.
2. A research paper has been published in website www.cdc.gov/eid as **Vol.12**, No.6, June 2006 with heading **Temple Monkeys and Health Implications of Commensalism, Kathmandu, Nepal**. On Acknowledgements section DNPWC is acknowledged as "the Department of National Parks and wildlife Conservation in Nepal for their assistance with permit acquisition".

Copies of above documents have been enclosed with this letter.

Based on the above documents may I request you to find the copy of permission issued to above parties and provide a copy to us? I again would like to reveal you that at present we are preparing a Report on "Rhesus monkey protection in Nepal" as an effort towards preventing any misuse of Nepal's bio-resource in the name of breeding or export for the purpose of bio-medical research. We have planned to present our report in a national workshop to be held in near future.

Your cooperation in this matter will be highly appreciated.

Thanking you,

Sincerely Yours,

Mangal Man Shakya
Chairman
Wildlife Watch Group (WWG)
Wise-use House, Jwagal-10, Kopundol

Stop Monkey Business Campaign Coalition



STOP THIS MONKEY BUSINESS

www.stopmonkeybusiness.org

Stop Monkey Business Campaign Coalition
Secretariat c/o Wildlife Watch Group (WWG)
GPO Box 8975 EPC 696, Kathmandu Nepal
Jwagal-10, Kupondole, Kathmandu, Nepal
Phone ++ 977 (0) 1 5524188; 5011139
Fax ++ 977 (0) 1 5524188
www.stopmonkeybusiness.org
stopmonkeybusiness@gmail.com
info@citesnepal.org

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