

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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news release

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CHIMPANZEE AMONG 27 PRIMATES THOUGHT TO BE ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES

About 35 percent of the world's monkey species are in deep trouble, according to a recent survey of the 150 living primate species by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The study resulted in a proposal published in the April 19, 1976, Federal Register to list an additional 27 primate species as either endangered or threatened--an action that will raise to 55 the total number of primates listed officially by the United States.

Twelve of the species were proposed for listing as endangered--a category which means they are in imminent danger of extinction in the wild. Fifteen of the species were proposed for listing as threatened--a category which means they are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future if no action is taken to reverse the trends.

Endangered species receive complete Federal protection. None can be killed, placed into commerce, or possessed without a special permit. Permits are given only for scientific purposes or to enhance the propagation or survival of the animal. Threatened species regulations can be as stringent as endangered species controls, or more relaxed. They are written on a case-by-case basis depending on the needs of the animal.

Ten of the species proposed for listing occur in Asia. Africa hosts eleven, and Latin America six.

TEN ASIAN PRIMATES: Military activities and other habitat disruptions have contributed to the decline of four Indochinese species. The destruction of forests for coconut, tea, teak, and rubber plantations was the major factor affecting six other species in India, Ceylon, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan. Collection for biomedical research, use of some species as food by man, and the pet trade also influenced these six species. The Asian species in the recent proposal include:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>PROPOSED STATUS</u>
Francois' leaf monkey	Indochina	Endangered
Lesser slow loris	Indochina	Threatened
Tonkin snub-nosed monkey	Indochina	Threatened
Stumptail macaque	Indochina/Malay Peninsula/ to India	Threatened
Philippine tarsier	Philippines	Threatened
Formosan rock macaque	Taiwan	Threatened
Japanses macaque	Japan	Threatened
Toque macaque	Ceylon	Threatened
Purple-faced langur	Ceylon	Threatened
Long-tailed langur	Indonesia	Threatened

(over)

ELEVEN AFRICAN PRIMATES: Extensive logging in a number of countries stretching along the Western African coast from Senegal to Gabon in equatorial Africa is the principal cause of the plight of many primates. Being hunted for human food is a second factor. Further, a third influence is the collection of some of the more colorful species for zoological display in the West. In northeast Africa, intensive agriculture and settlement is forcing one species that occurs only in a small area of northern Ethiopia onto poorer quality land. Some species are also being illegally collected and exported for scientific research. The 11 African primates proposed for listing are:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>PROPOSED STATUS</u>
Diana monkey	West Africa	Endangered
Red-eared nose-spotted monkey	Nigeria	Endangered
Red-bellied monkey	Nigeria	Endangered
L'hoest's monkey	Cameroon & Nigeria	Endangered
White-collared mangabey	Senegal to Ghana/Nigeria to Gabon	Endangered
Black colobus	Cameroon, Guinea, Gabon, Congo	Endangered
Mandrill	West Africa	Endangered
Drill	Cameroon & Nigeria	Endangered
Gelada baboon	Ethiopia	Threatened
Chimpanzee	Western & Central Africa	Threatened
Pigmy Chimpanzee	Zaire	Threatened

SIX LATIN AMERICAN PRIMATES: The loss of forest to farming and logging shares first place with the collection of monkeys for the U.S. pet and zoo trade as the principal reasons for the decline of all of these species in the nine Central and South American countries where they occur. These countries are Mexico, Panama, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Guyana, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia. Two species--the cotton top marmoset and the squirrel monkey--are being seriously depleted in the wild because of the net trade. Young are captured by shooting the mother in the jungle. About 27,000 young of these two species are exported annually to the United States. The six Latin American species in the proposal include:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>	<u>PROPOSED STATUS</u>
Cotton top marmoset	Panama & Costa Rica	Endangered
Pied tamarin	Brazil	Endangered
Yellow-tailed woolly monkey	Peru	Endangered
White-footed tamarin	Colombia	Threatened
Lazy howler monkey	Mexico & Guatemala	Threatened
Squirrel monkey	Latin America	Threatened

Public comments are invited on this proposal. All comments received through June 18, 1976, will be considered before a final rulemaking is published. Comments should be addressed to Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 19183, Washington, D.C. 20036.