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Volume 3, Issue 1



#### Inside this issue:

Loris Liaisons

Other Firefaces

Meet the Team

Loris Bridge Building

Research Round-up

Bunga's Corner

#### Dates for you diary:

- 7-8 April 2014—LFP team members present at Oxford Brookes University's hosting of the Primate Society of Great Britain conference
- 11-13 April - Prof Nekaris presents at the IPPL conference in North Carolina, USA
- 10 May—the LFP team premieres our puppets at the Pegasus Theatre in Oxford during the Outburst Festival
- 29 May—Prof Nekaris presents work on the illegal pet trade at Born Free Foundation's Primates as Pets conference



# The Night Watch

## Newsletter of the Little Fireface Project

2014

A new year for  
little fireface  
conservation!

A very belated happy 2014! Things have been so busy at LFP that we are one newsletter behind! The good news is that all this activity will ensure that

Michael was also selected as Mongabay's February photographer of the month!

Children's games were also held and included the fun activity of diving into



Cipaganti's  
Got Talent!

flour with hands tied to retrieve coins! The final day

featured a talent competition with prizes and trophies. Senior winner was village

love will continue to save the loris this year.

December saw our second **Slow Loris Pride Days** hit Cipaganti with some special twists. It's A Wildlife photographer extraordinaire and LFP volunteer Michael Williams hit the paths and fields of the village to photograph villagers in their daily life. Some villagers were so touched to be offered a photo that they shed a tear! Everyone was surprised to see the photos appear as an exhibition in the village chief's office, where young and old crowded to view them.

singing teacher **Ibu Iis** and junior winners were dance troop **The Cute**.

The Pride Days gave us the chance to show off our new mascot Baby Bunga. Now during our increasingly successful

*Slow Loris: Forest Protector* book sessions Tereh and Bunga mascots can act out the whole story, which results in adorable screams of delight from the attentive pupils.

New Mascot  
Bunga joins  
the team



More  
Forest for  
the Lorises



Visiting schools in the region allows us to add another element to our studies. Denise Spaan has trained our team to conduct occupancy surveys in the many other forest frag-

ments of Garut

District. Such surveys allow us to use rapid methods to quantify loris presence in patches and to model what factors predict their presence. We hope the associated education in this broad geographic area will increase the protection of Garut's lorises.

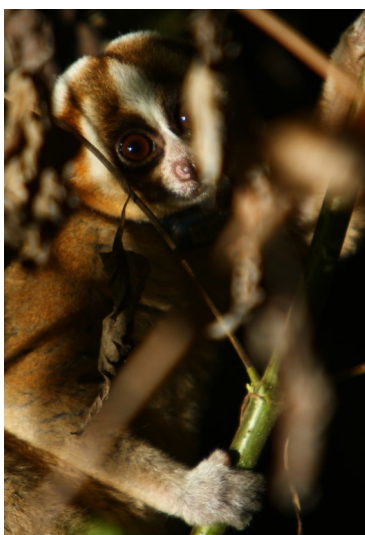
Possibly the best news is that during our monthly market surveys the number of lorises openly for sale has dropped significantly.

Many sellers now acknowledge it is illegal, although many also report they still can get hold of lorises. Every good news has a dark side and as lorises decrease in markets, the number of civets rise to unprecedented numbers. That is why in 2014 LFP is increasing our focus on protecting other lesser known nocturnal animals. Please keep in touch with regular news at [www.nocturama.org](http://www.nocturama.org)

- Prof Anna Nekaris,  
Project Director



Above and below—Laid back Lucu peeking out! A true fireface! (photos—W. Tarniwan)



## LORIS LIAISONS

### Lucu and Pak 'B'—a Slow Loris Love Story

For all animals, the time must come when they leave home and settle in a new range. We mentioned in our last issue just how hazardous this can be. But some animals make it, and we are so excited to have witnessed our first successful 'settled' slow loris— Lucu!

Lucu means 'cute' or 'funny' in Indonesian. And Lucu lives up to her name. Lucu is a huge and healthy slow loris. Funnily enough, when she was with her mother Charlie, some of the team were convinced she was just too bulky to be an elegant lady. But despite her adorable plushy bum bottom, Lucu is agile and adventurous!

Lucu's house hunting happened so quickly, we were all really surprised. One day she was cuddling with mama Charlie and just two days later, there she was at the fringe of the village hanging out near the football pitch!

We were obviously worried that she was so near to the village after losing our beloved Tahini, but Lucu already had a strategy. It took no time at all for this beautiful girl to meet a handsome young man and settle down to home and garden.

We see many non-collared lorises around Cipaganti, but we had our eye on the young man who had taken up camp with Lucu, and were lucky enough to spot him in a lone avocado team where our 'catching' team could gently pick him out of

the tree, just like a ripe avocado!

Although fierce and strong, as any wild animal should be, Pak Bulan (Mr Moon—kindly named by Brevard Zoo) seemed to know we would not hurt him. We could quickly measure this huge boy, weighing near to a kilo! When we weigh lorises with a 1kg spring scale, they are also in a bag (the red one you see below) that keeps them really calm. We know we have a huge loris when the loris AND bag are too heavy for our scale and we have to bring out the big guns— being our 2.5 kg scale!

Lucu and Pak Bulan settled back in that night...clearly Lucu could see that her man had been with some other ladies, who had actually given him jewellery! (the radio collar)...she was having none of that and nibbled it to bits! Our brand new radio collar was broken and we were afraid to lose Pak Bulan!

But just in a few nights, we were able to catch him again, and now both he and Lucu are kitted out cyber lorises, looking fancy with

their long chili-encrusted antennae.

This pair makes observing lorises so special. Always grooming and playing, it is a treasure to see them form a new social bond.

Javan slow lorises form one-male one-female social pairs. As our study enters three years, we know they stay together at least that long...but for how long after that will be interesting to see!

We also know that males seem to leave home just a bit earlier than females, at about 18 months. Despite their small size, these lorises still take six months to have their first offspring. That means females are more than two years old when we can expect them to have their first baby.

Hopefully soon we can see a new arrival for Lucu and Pak Bulan. As our studies continue, we will learn more about how lorises spread themselves about the human habitats where they live.

—A. Nekaris

"Lucu is our first animal to disperse and 'marry' another loris—the lucky Pak Bulan!"



Above: Pak Bulan is a fierce and feisty male—let's hope he protects laid back Lucu! (M. Williams)

### Pak Bulan— what a huge strong male!



DENISE SPAAN • DR. ANNA NEKARIS

Photographed by IT'S A WILDLIFE



## OTHER FIREFACES

### Camera Traps in Action

The LFP camera traps are now out in force in the gardens of Cipaganti. Perhaps it is nearly three years presence of our research team in the area which has reduced hunting, but the number of small carnivores we have seen is unprecedented.

As shown in the photos, the most common species we see are the adorable leopard cat and the common palm civet. It is such a relief to see these animals in the wild after finding so many on the market. The photos show them at a special rock where they like to leave 'wee mail' messages for their friends!

The camera traps have picked up some more unusual animals too. For the first time ever, we can confirm that not only is the Malay civet found in Java (a grey area before) but it is also the most common civet at our site, seen



Left—Common Palm Civet scent marking this large rock; Right—Leopard cats are clearly interested in this large outcrop to leave scent messages for other cats

weekly.

The elusive Javan ferret badger has not only been spotted on camera trap, but also on foot. The stunning yellow throated marten has also made several appearances.

Camera trapping is a funny business and going through hundreds of weird and wonderful shots is part of the process. Below you see Tracker Adin Nanur caught out smiling pretty for the camera trap as well as a local pig hunting dog, who appeared in a series of shots.

It is not always easy working in the tropics. Put out for 24 hours, volunteer Michael Williams found his newly positioned camera trap under attack—by ants! A bit of sun solved the problem, but our elusive carnivores could remain so for another day.

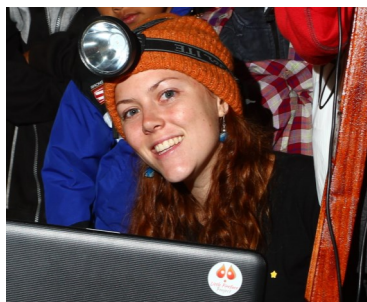
Our most recent camera trapping venture is to place three traps near our three new bridges (see later this issue). We cannot wait to catch on camera the first time our slow lorises use their new runways!

—A Nekaris



From left to right: This camera trap certainly made a nice nest for some visiting ants! A pig hunting dog might have been attracted by the camera trap's hum or the smell of many small carnivores that had left their scent on the rock. Adin Nunur glams up using our camera trap after a hard day in the field!

## Meet the Team: Denise Spaan



Above: Denise heads up one of LFP's monthly Film Nights, showing locally made films. Below: Denise at a Loris Protector book session making masks with children.



My name is Denise Spaan and I am the Field Station Coordinator and Education Manager for the Little Fireface Project (LFP) in Java. I started my primatology career as a research assistant investigating chimpanzee regurgitation and reingestion at a rescue centre in The Netherlands to improve the welfare of ex-lab chimps. After completing a bachelors in Zoology at the University of Leeds in the UK, I went on to do a MSc in Primate Conservation at Oxford Brookes University.

For my master's thesis I went to Ecuador to study the Critically Endangered brown-headed spider monkey (*Ateles fusciceps fusciceps*), modelling factors that affect its distribution. Performing field research was an eye-opening experience. You are not only seeing these beautiful primates up close and in their natural habitat, but you are also faced with the realities of conservation. In Ecuador that meant seeing logging concessions buy up habitat of the last viable population of a primate on the brink of extinction.

At Oxford Brookes I first heard of the slow loris and their conservation issues, and when this job was advertised I did not second guess applying for it. I love my job as it is very varied. On a day to day basis I manage the administration and finances of the field station. I am in charge of the volunteers and staff, and help them with any queries. Working with local Manager Dendi Rustandi, I also manage all of LFP's education activities in Java. On top of that, I perform behavioural research on the slow loris and market surveys in some of Java's largest cities. It is wonderful to be involved in all aspects of the work that LFP does in Java!

The most rewarding moment until now has been seeing the looks on children's faces during our education sessions in the schools near our field station. Every Saturday we go to schools to give classes in environmental education. We use the slow loris as an example, and model species to teach about environmental issues such as littering. Classes have

involved drawing lorises, writing stories and even a creative session making dioramas. Conservation education is a vital part of our conservation efforts in Java and it is a great to see how each week the children remember more about lorises and other nocturnal animals! The diorama session in particular was a lot of fun for both the children and the team.

My favourite loris moment till now was seeing two of our collared lorises Mo and Utari grooming each other. At first I was not sure what they were up to! When I zoomed in on them using the video camera I saw that one of the two was hanging upside down whilst the other was grooming it. It was a magical moment!

I cannot wait to continue my time in Java working for LFP as I am sure that it will be filled with many more magical moments. Working for a conservation organization and being able to see how the work we do is helping the slow loris is extremely rewarding! -Denise Spaan

Taufik's desire is to document animals in Indonesia as a means of introducing them to the outside world.



Left: Grace examines one of the rescued lorises. Below: An orphaned baby, whose mother fell victim to the terrible conditions of trade.



## Cikananga Loris Confiscation Update

Recently I witnessed a baby boom at Cikananga Wildlife Center (Pusat Penyelamatan Satwa Cikananga: PPSC), with five new infants born in one week! I have been at Cikananga, in West Java, Indonesia, since January studying a group of Sumatran slow lorises that were confiscated (as a group of 78) from the illegal wildlife trade in October 2013. Although the Centre has not been trying to breed the lorises- quite the opposite- there have been over a dozen births since the group arrived. The slow loris has a gestation length of six months, so it appears that many of the females must have been pregnant when they were captured from the wild to be sold illegally as pets. Tragically, this has resulted in several infant lorises becoming orphans after their mothers succumbed to injuries received due to their cruel and callous treatment by wildlife traders. However, the orphans have been adopted by other

adult females or reared with other immature animals, and all are doing well. This large group of infants also creates an opportunity to conduct detailed study of infant development in the Sumatran slow loris, and I am currently collecting data on eleven mother-infant dyads. The babies spend their first couple of days clinging to their mother's bellies, and as they grow older the mothers leave them "parked" on a perch for most of the night. Mothers spend the first part of the night foraging and exploring their cages while the babies rest, but in the latter part of the night the pairs reunite for grooming and cuddling before settling down to sleep for the day. It is an amazing privilege to watch these little balls of fluff develop and start to explore their world. Yet, I feel saddened knowing that they should have been born in the forest, not a rescue centre, and wondering what the future holds for these new firefaces. - Grace Fuller



## Research in Action—Bridging the gap

After the sad death of our beloved loris Tahini, we decided we had to do something to make sure the same would not happen to any other lorises. As the Javan slow loris is Critically Endangered we really can't afford to lose any! And so the idea came to build loris bridges.

Thanks to the kind donations of IPPL, everyone over the Christmas period and the sale of the adoption packs, February saw the first bridge go up. It is one thing having an idea, but seeing it become a reality is something else. I was so proud of the hard work of the LFP team and the result was astounding.



Above: Children help with the bridge building. Below: Manager Dendi hoists the bridge. Thanks to It's A Wildlife Nature Photography for imagery.

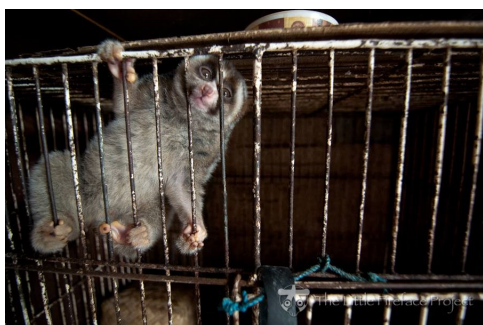


The first strong bridge connected two trees in Api's area. Api lives on a football field and the connectivity between her cosy bamboo sleep site and the other trees in the area is minimal. To make sure she doesn't have to go to the ground to cross, we connected the two trees. Now all the remains is to see whether she is going to use it!

Last week the team were busy building again and managed to construct another two bridges. One of the them is 30 m and connects a vital part of Ena's area! We will keep you posted.

-Denise Spaan

## The dark side of loris conservation: wildlife trade update



In the past five months, the LFP team in Java has visited a total of 20 markets to perform undercover surveys. The aim of such surveys is to see how many lorises and other nocturnal animals are ending up in Java's cruelest markets. By understanding the trade, we can direct our education efforts to try and stop such practices.

Performing a market survey is no easy task. It requires you to stay calm and collected at all times. You have to see it as acting, smiling at all the cute little animals as if seeing such horror is an everyday occurrence. In Java, it is. Animal markets are common in the big cities of Jakarta and Bandung. Some focus on birds leading you to wonder how there are any birds left flying on the island. Cage upon cage is stacked on top of each other. Some cages

house 70-80 birds, others only one. It is easy to miss things as cages are in front of one another and in the bird markets the ceilings are often lined with cages as well. You can smell the bird markets from streets away—excrement mixed with heat.

Other markets have a range of animals from fish to leopard cats. Sellers shake puffer fish as you walk past so that they expand, hold out squealing sugar gliders for you to pet and pointing at dehydrated civets as if they were a prize from the lottery. It is a heart breaking thing to have to witness, but without monitoring it, we also cannot change it.

Interviews with sellers have shown that animals are usually taken from the wild. One seller had an infant albino macaque and when asked if the adult macaque in a neighbouring cage was its mother answered no, "its mother was shot," acting out the shooting.

Not all animals sold are from Java. Many come from other Indonesian islands and many are coming from Australia.

It seems that some animals are 'trendy' changing in popularity. One of the current trends seems to be bleaching animals. We have seen a range of animals bleached in-

cluding bunnies, sugar gliders, macaques, shrews and in the past also lorises. The animals all have a yellow colouration to their fur and often die quickly. Many cages house dead animals amongst the live ones. Animals die due to dehydration, malnourishment, overcrowding and disease. They often serve as a meal for a carnivore. There seems to be little or no understanding of the diet of any animal, as most are fed bananas, a cheap and sugar heavy meal.

We will continue to carry out monthly surveys of Java's largest markets to aid conservation of both Javan and international wildlife. - Denise Spaan

**Loris adoptions!**

**Help LFP stamp out wildlife trade**

Adoptions include

- Certificate
- Photo of your animal
- Wood carving
- information pack

www.nocturama.org

**AKIRA**  
deforestation, venom, rehabilitation

**HONEY**  
wildlife trade, rehabilitation

**LUKU**  
behaviour, development, rehabilitation

For £20 per year, you can "adopt" an LFP slow loris

**Little Fireface Project**

## Loris top trumps!

Make your own top trumps card for your pet and send it in to be featured on Boris' Board at [www.nocturama.org](http://www.nocturama.org)



Special features:

Status:

Home:

Favourite Foods:

Cuteness rating:

Tereh



Special features: Nicknamed Madam Motorbike for her speed

Status: Critically Endangered

Home: Forest gardens, tea plantations and gum trees

Favourite Foods: Jengjeng Gum,

Fairy Duster Nectar,

Locusts

Cuteness rating: 5/5



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Slow lorises have VERY long tongues that can reach deep into flowers to drink nectar!
- Slow lorises can move the hind limbs 180 degrees either direction to stretch, climb and cling on to trees!
- Slow lorises are tree dwellers, but they CAN move on the ground to cross long open spaces—but they look VERY funny doing so
- Loris babies cling to the backs or bellies of their mums and dads; they never get carried in the mouth like kittens (or galagos!)



Colour by numbers! Here the slow loris meets one of the world's tiniest deer...the Javan mouse deer. Do not forget to send the result to be featured on Boris' Board at [www.nocturama.org](http://www.nocturama.org)



- 1 = brown
- 2 = black
- 3 = green
- 4 = red
- 5 = blue
- 6 = yellow
- 7 = pink
- 8 = dark green
- 9 = purple

## LITTLE LORISES

Our 'Little Lorises' nature club (Klub Alam) has been busy! On the right, you see Klub Alam students colouring the civet from the last newsletter, and students in our Loris Protector Book Sessions making masks! On the left, our Little Lorises have connected with Florida, USA's Brevard Zoo! Children from two very different countries uniting over their love of the lorises.



## Saving the slow loris via ecology, education, and empowerment

Little Fireface Project

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RT 03/03

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*Little Fireface  
Project*

We're on the web! [www.nocturama.org](http://www.nocturama.org)

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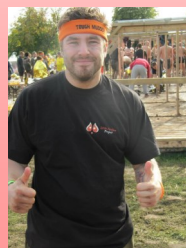
Follow us on Twitter! @queenfireface; @littlefireface

Saving the slow loris through ecology, education and empowerment

## FIREFACE HELPERS!

*Three unique ways LFP followers have helped to fundraise for slow lorises!*

1. Vicky Luker held two table top sales and sold goods on Ebay, helping us to buy our new measuring equipment!
2. Mark Wylie of Chester Zoo ran a marathon, raising funds towards our slow loris camera traps!
3. Laurie Gutteridge and his bride asked for donations to LFP instead of wedding gifts, helping to support our Nature Club activities!



**TEXT TO DONATE**  
TEXT 'SLOWIZ' AND  
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**70070**

Your donations will help our fight to save the loris—visit us at:

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/about/news/slowloris/donate>

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