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Volume 2, Issue 1



Little fireface project

For the Love of the Loris—Don't Let Me Vanish



Little Fireface
Project

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Dates for you diary:

- 16 February—*International Pangolin Day*—spread awareness!
- 5-7th March: *Prosimian Taxon Advisory Group Meeting*—Bristol Zoo
- 18-19th March: *Twycross's First International Old World Primate and Prosimian Symposium*; Prof Nekar is keynote speaker!
- 2 April: Prof Nekar speaks to *Madison Regional Primate Centre*
- 5th April: Prof Nekar speaks at *Cleveland Zoo*
- 6th April: Prof Nekar speaks at *TEDx Memphis*
- 9th April: Prof Nekar speaks at *SLU, St Louis*

Already the Little Fireface Project has made an exciting start for our 2013 'Don't Let Me Vanish' campaign. We were so pleased to see the enthusiasm with which our Empowerment workshop in January was received (see pages 4-7). We truly believe that with so many passionate people working together, the slow lorises have a chance to make it through this whirlwind horror of wildlife trade.

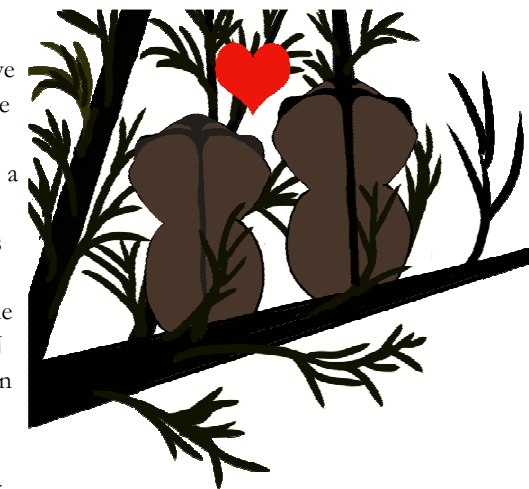
2013 will see up putting together a major action plan with several key Indonesian partners and stake holders. In particular several individuals from various groups have agreed to take up the reigns to work for action to help develop plans to work against loris trade, to improve rescue and rehabilitation, to improve captive care, and to help develop nationwide conservation education programmes in



Born, but not wild. This little baby's mother was rescued from the wildlife trade, but they are now both safely at Cikananaga Wildlife Centre (photo A Walmsley)

Indonesia. By 2014, we hope to use this programme as a model for other parts of Asia to propose the first IUCN Action Plan for lorises of South and South-east Asia, and will present this plan in Vietnam at the Congress of the International Primate Society.

This is so important, because our visits to Indonesia's many markets show, in fact, an increase in the number of lorises available. We even have seen now that lorises are also being used for traditional medicines on Bali. There is so much work to do!



The LFP team is still hard at work in Cipaganti. We welcome a new Field Station Coordinator and Education Manager, Julia Hill to our team, and she will be leading the way to new innovative ideas. In

April, Johanna will be joined by a new PhD student, Tatiana Iseborn, who will study new aspects of the Javan slow loris' ecology, including their adaptations to the cold temperatures of their high altitude environment. This should also further help us to understand the success of reintroductions.

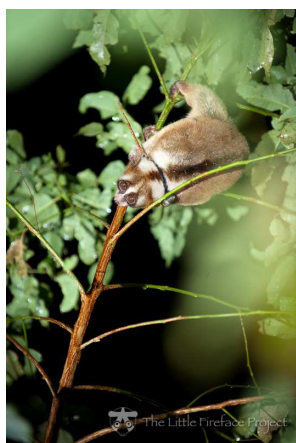
Please watch our progress on the web. Intended documents include an up-to-date set of identification materials translated into the key languages of loris range countries; a loris children's book showing the key role the loris plays in the ecosystem; guides on captive care, reintroduction, smuggling, and tips from the wild (e.g. enclosures, social groupings, and enrichment ideas).

As ever, thanks so much for supporting LFP. -A. Nekar

Loris in the (red!) spotlight: Meet ENA!



Ena (above) does okay despite her missing ear! (Below) kitted out with a radio collar (photos—A. Walmsley)



“The bodies often cannot be seen because their sleeping place is very hidden and concealed. Then their eyes start popping up and down, a sign that the animals are grooming.”



Anna and Jo measuring Ena in a little hut during the terrible rain-storm, on the first night when they found her in the bamboo.

Every issue, we will be providing updates from the field so that our readers can get to know our lorises as well as we do. This update comes from Johanna Rode, a PhD student at Oxford Brookes University. In April 2012 Johanna pioneered a radio-tracking study of the Javan Slow Loris in West Java with Prof. Anna Nekaris. She settled on the agriculture gardens in the village of Cipaganti. Jo also implemented the infrastructure at the field site, employing and training trackers, and organising socialization events in the village.

Jo says: “Ena is the first female loris we caught for our radio-tracking study. Our capture expert Mr. Ade, a former loris hunter but now passionate loris conservationist, caught her from the bamboo. During that night, we had heavy rain, so after we captured Ena, we took her to a little hut in the middle of a carrot field to examine, measure and weigh her. When handling her, we quickly discovered that she was missing an ear! Then we realized that she must be the same slow loris that was filmed for the BBC Natural World documentary

Jungle Gremlins of Java. So she was actually an old acquaintance / familiar face!

The next day we captured a juvenile slow loris very near to Ena’s capture place and we are sure Yogi must be her son. Now, beginning of 2013, Yogi is already a sub-adult, and we discovered that Ena has a new, tiny baby. She must be an experienced mom, and her missing ear and a missing finger testify to her maturity.

Female slow lorises “park” their babies during the night. Although we find most of our lorises and their babies in the bamboo, Ena and her new baby sleep in the crowns of different small trees at the moment. This might be due to the fact, that one month ago a landslip destroyed a substation part of the bamboo in Ena’s home range.

When we observe Ena and it is just getting dark, we see her eyes and a little second pair of eyes in our red lights. The bodies often cannot be seen because their sleeping place is very hidden and concealed. Then their eyes start popping up and down, a sign that the animals are grooming. Finally, Ena leaves the sleeping place and starts foraging throughout her home range, while the baby stays in the tree. Baby Ena is already big enough to move around a few meters in her sleeping tree, but after a while it always hides again in the dense foliage.

Ena seems to be a wonderful mom, and we hope that she will raise a lot of little slow lorises during the coming years.”

-A Fiorentino, J. Rode



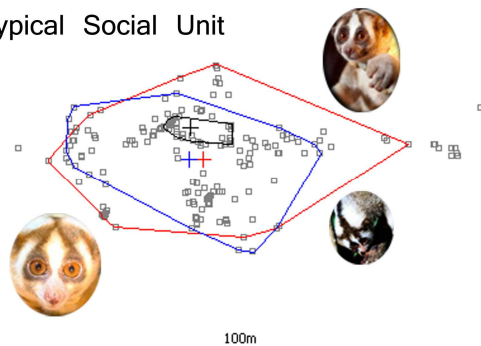
A little loris lovin'

Inspired by St Valentine's Day in February, we thought we'd nosy into the love life of the Javan loris.

So are they naughty little animals, hot-footing it from one partner to another? Are loris families torn apart by philandering fathers? No! Endearingly, early studies from the field show that the Javan loris presents a shining example of a healthy uni-male, uni-female family unit. And just in time for Valentine's Day too, one of their favourite things to do together is spend time in the caliandra flowers sipping nectar—sweet!

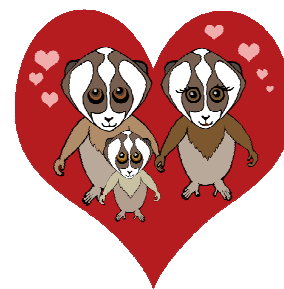
Take Tereh, her man Guntur and little baby Tahini. They spend a lot of time together within a 100 m radius, with mum and baby snuggled together in the first few weeks of life and dad reassuringly close by. After that, unusual for primates, it is the man who takes over, with Guntur visiting baby Tahini throughout the night! Of course, we cannot be

Typical Social Unit



100% sure that Guntur is Tahini's father. Loris paternity tests are a long way down the pipe-line and are surpassed by more pressing concerns such as the components of loris venom! This isn't Jeremy Kyle you know. That said, ladies have been known to let another man into their lives on occasion (just don't tell Guntur). Generally, loris mum, dad and kids live in stable social units or spatial groups. They spend their

time allogrooming, following, expressing alternate click-calls and whistles and sleeping in close contact, with parents sharing the shopping responsibly by transferring information on food resources. They are generally on good terms with the neighbours and interactions between members of overlapping spatial ranges are a genial affair with occasional grooming and whistling. But when there is a spat, look out—you could lose an ear! Other than those rows, we humans could take a gum-leaf from the loris book of manners! *-A Fiorentino*



World Pangolin Day—16 Feb

Please take a few moments to learn about the plight of the pangolin on the 16th of February. Just like the slow loris, the pangolin, a small, nocturnal, poorly known and misunderstood mammal, is being decimated by the wildlife trade. The text below is from an excellent article on Mongabay.com by Jeremy Hance..

It's perhaps not a surprise that pangolins are little known by the public, since scientists are also in the dark. Nocturnal and notoriously shy, pangolins are rarely seen let alone studied. Scientists readily admit that the private lives of pangolins remain largely that:

private. Still there's another reason why this animal is little-known: government and big NGO ambivalence.

"Conservation actions are primarily focused on large mammals (generally the charismatic species) and ignore the pressing issues of small mammals and lower profile species," says Ambika Khatiwada, who is studying the Chinese pangolin in Nepal. "The government and other organizations working in the field [...] do not have adequate plans for the conservation of small mammals which has resulted in limited information regard-

ing ecology, threats and other conservation issues related to pangolins."

Still, as they begin to vanish—in a massive slaughter across East Asia—attention is turning a few degrees toward pangolins.

Please consider posting banners etc via your social networking site available at pangolins.org to advocate World Pangolin Day. More needs to be done to spread the word about the plight of these innocent victims of trade.

Read more at <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0211-hance-pity-panglin.html>
#VBDdiCX2IAuzXvHm.99

-A. Nekaris

"the medicinal efficacy of pangolin scales is unproven." In fact, it may be that consuming pangolin scales is little more beneficial than eating one's own fingernails, since both are made of keratin."



facebook.com/WorldPangolinDay
#worldpangolinday
worldpangolinday.org

Slow Loris Empowerment Workshop Report



On the 15th and 16th of January, the Little Fireface Project held a workshop in association with the Cikananga Wildlife Centre (PPSC) and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia entitled Workshop Proyek Muka Geni: Perlindungan, Perdagangan, dan Pemberdayaan (Little Fireface Project Workshop—

Protection, Trade and Empowerment). More than 60 participants from the government, forestry department, national parks, NGOs, rescue centres and students attended the workshop. Here we present the schedule of the workshop as well as the action plan developed during the workshop. We

will spend the next months producing some materials as requested in the Action Plan, working with the working groups developed in the Action Plan, and meeting again in June 2013 to take forward the next steps to help stop illegal trade in Indonesia.

Main Speakers at the Workshop

"A follow-up workshop will take place near Cipaganti, Java in June 2013."

Session One: History and Taxonomy

Ibu Wirdateti – the history of nocturnal primate studies in Indonesia

Prof Anna Nekaris – Taxonomy and conservation of slow lorises

Prof Gono Semiadi: Taxonomy and conservation of civets

Session Two: Rescue and Rehabilitation

Made Wedana – the role of rescue and rehabilitation in protecting Indonesia's wildlife

Dr Richard Moore – can reintroduction work?

Session Three—Wildlife Trade

Dr Chris Shepherd – the importance of enforcement in regulating wildlife trade

Dr Vincent Nijman – Indonesia's role in international wildlife trade

Session Four—Conservation and Ecology

Miss Johanna Rode: Implications of a fieldwork for loris conservation

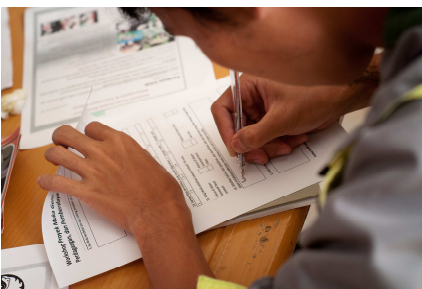
Miss Indah Winarti: Conserving the loris via environmental education

Mr Nabajit Das: Bengal slow loris conservation in India



Images overleaf clockwise: attendees; Budi and Resit Sozer of Cikananga Wildlife Centre; Q & A Session One; Budi takes participants to see the centre; Nabajit Das speaks; Ibu Wirdateti speaks; Johanna Rode speaks; flashcard exercise; assessing the workshop; Made Wedana speaks; thoughtful participant Dendi Rustendi (centre)

Slow Loris Empowerment Workshop in Images



Document—Proceeds of the Discussion Groups—Little Fireface Project Empowerment Workshop



Pramadnya Harzani from Jakarta Animal Aid Network spoke out on behalf of the Trade Working Group (by A Walmsley)

“There is a gap in the knowledge between NGO-related and government research.”



Sumatran slow loris openly for sale in Jakarta the day after the workshop (by V Nijman).

Hope for the future

The overall consensus of the participants of the workshop was to see an end in the trade of lorises by ensuring law enforcement officers had more support and resources needed to stop traders. Further collaboration between NGOs and government agencies on the research of wild loris populations was needed to ensure easier access to data. The participants stated that more funding and resources needed to be made available for future research.

Group 1 - Illegal Wildlife Trade

Constraints and issues:

- Volume of lorises traded remains the same or greater
- Arrests have not had much impact on the trade of lorises
- The internet has now provided an additional forum for trafficking
- Lack of support from law enforcement (funds and security).

The illegal trade in lorises perhaps not seen as an important issue and lack of enforcement of laws is still a problem.

- Identification of other loris species is difficult for law enforcement.

Practical suggestions:

- Proposed partnerships between the National Police Headquarters, Forestry (BKSDA), prosecutors, KPI (Broadcasting Commission) and the government.
- NGOs should be able to enforce laws. Simply rescuing lorises is not sufficient as traders will continue to purchase and sell animals. Enforcing laws and prosecuting traders is needed.
- More support for law enforcement officers to arrest and prosecute offenders.
- Online profiling of trade (2008-2013). Setting up online trading forums to monitor illegal wildlife trade.

- Market operations (2013 at least 4x per 3 months). Monitoring the trade of animals through regular visits to markets.

- More information should be available for consumers in the market areas.

- Advertising / media campaign (utilizing media directly, eg: Aladdin). Creating TV commercials highlighting the plight of lorises, raising awareness and targeting an audience who have the power to change things.

Group 2 - Reintroduction and Research

Constraints and issues:

- Basic data on loris populations are lacking and difficult to access since it is distributed within different institutions.
- There is a gap in the knowledge between NGO-related and government research.
- Many lorises lack physical condition/health for reintroduction

- Limited capacity in rescue centers PPS. Is culling an option for an Endangered species? Is it the law enforcement agency's decision to euthanize, a vet's or the government's? Under what conditions can the animals be euthanized?

Practical suggestions:

- More workshops on reintroduction and research
- Involvement of NGOs and other organizations to tackle illegal wildlife trade but also inclusion of local communities.
- Wider dissemination of results of research
- Reintroductions assessed on an individual basis ie: animals confiscated before traded in markets, body condition of animals.

Group 3 - Captive Care

Constraints and issues:

- Rescue centers are full due to the large number of lorises that cannot be released.
- Rescue and rehabilitation centres (PPS and PRS) lack sufficient funds and space for rescued animals but there is also a lack of knowledge regarding the care of lorises in captivity.

- Lack of funding to provide additional space
- Law enforcement officers need additional support in understanding the behavior of lorises.

Practical suggestions:

- Animals need food that they would eat in the wild (such as gum, nectar and insects)
- Improve animal welfare in the centers (housing animals together/separate)
- Initiate a campaign to stop the trade in lorises
- Captive breeding program?
- Enrichment for captive animals that mimic natural habitat

Group 4 - Education

Constraints and issues:

- Lack of education within local communities
- Lack of funding and support
- Standardization of teaching resources is required

Practical suggestions:

- Education without the use of animals but using media and other resources.
- Ensuring that the delivery of education is targeted to

the right audience.

- Topics could include all wildlife (good for areas that have no lorises)
- Distribution of books is equal amongst schools



Not only slow lorises are for sale, but many other species, protected and non-protected (photo V Nijman).

A main goal of the workshop was to initiate a campaign to stop the trade in lorises.



Sumatran slow lorises openly for sale at a second market in Jakarta the day after the workshop (photo A Walmsley).

The grand premiere of *Don't let me Vanish!*



Anna tries her hand at filming a time lapse (photo—J. Rode).

Just after New Year, the Little Fireface Team and camera-team Andrew Walmsley, Wawan Tarniwan and Muhammad Taufik worked in the Javan jungle to film five powerful clips detailing the plight of the loris and the work of the LFP.

Filmed against the beautiful backdrop of Cipaganti, Garut, testimonials from local people paint a picture of a charismatic animal shrouded in fable – an enigma both feared and revered but always very present. Some see it as a spirit host, some see it as a form of pest control, some fear it and want to kill it and some reveal some very interesting myths around bloodshed – if a drop of loris blood is spilled on a hill, the entire hill will collapse. Some believe if the loris is kept as a pet, the entire house will burn down – if only that's one we could propagate!

The films show how Anna (who also directed the videos) and Johanna Rode have been empowering the local people and children to dispel these myths and to show that the



loris is simply an animal making its way in the world. The adorable Tahini, offspring of Tereh (and possibly Guntur) provides plenty of gorgeous loris shots, free, wild, vital and happy. The loveable Toyib, Guntur and baby of Shirley also make appearances. It jars horribly with footage from the Javan markets, where all the bounty of the forest is present – lonely, miserable and caged. Baby monkeys in bizarre costumes, lizards, chicks dyed gaudy colours and sad-eyed lorises in a ragged condition.

In the final video, Pak Tehguh, the head of the

Garut BKSDA (forest conservancy department) warns that the loris could pass into the realms of myth forever – a great loss for future generation both locally and globally, and also the local eco-system. But locals are prepared to fight for their tiny primate neighbour and the video shows them rallying to the call.

With both English and Indonesian subtitles, the videos are accessible to all. It's hoped that they will surpass the torrent 'cute' loris videos on YouTube and spread the word. - *A. Fiorentino*

Watch Don't Let Me Vanish here:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XS7TKn_AI0M&list=PL67EahMRE6mj5Uek5GB2WP6k9L1QKhN18

It's hoped that "Don't Let Me Vanish" will surpass the torrent 'cute' loris videos on YouTube and spread the word.



Wood Carving Shop

At all our Little Fireface Project events, you can purchase items hand-made in Cipaganti by our local carver Amank, whose handiwork you can also see in 'Don't Let me Vanish.'

A carver by profession, Amank typically makes cabinets, floors, and even carves

beautiful knife handles for the villagers' machetes, but he is now producing small loris art. Working with his family, who help him paint and package the lorises, Amank has designed key rings, loris 'dangles', bracelets, magnets, necklaces, and even a loris sacred kris!

Every item is lovingly hand-made and unique. The smaller items are carved with surprising speed then painted over a period of two days, whereas the necklaces, bracelets and knives take several days.

Via supporting Amank's work, it is just one way LFP supports the villagers of Cipaganti. - *A. Nekaris*

You ready for your close-up Tahini?

The hugely photogenic Tahini contributed much of the wild loris footage in the Don't Let Me Vanish videos. It's hoped that she will counter all the cute loris videos on YouTube. Here at the Little Fireface project, we've compiled the Top 5 **Cute WILD loris moments** to get the ball rolling! -A. Fiorentino & A. Nekaris

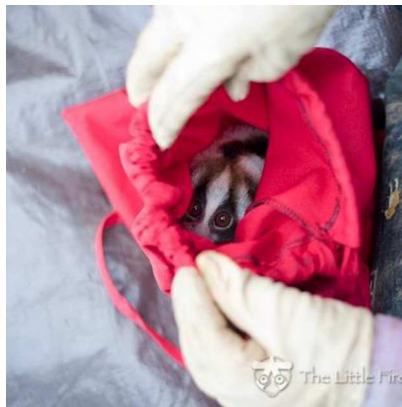
2. Bonny baby award goes to... Shirley's baby – how does Shirley bear to park her?



1. Charlie's baby flopping on a banana leaf! MEGA Embarrassing!



3. The moment we discovered Tahini's boyfriend Yogi: cuteness factor? Hyper cute!



4. What a silly baby! What is One-Eye's baby doing sticking her tongue out? And can you stretch your legs like this?



5. Tahini when she was weeny! Only a few weeks old—cuttiee!

Can you write us a story about any of these babies for our next newsletter? Send it to littlefireface@gmail.com

Slow Loris Baby Facts—Especially for Valentine's!

10 loris baby facts

- lorises usually only have one baby at a time
- pygmy lorises regularly have twins
- a baby pygmy slow loris weighs only 16 g at birth the same as 16 paperclips!
- loris babies are able to hang on to mum's fur soon after birth
- during the day mums and babies sleep together in thick vegetation such as bamboo
- baby lorises will start exploring their forest when they are 3-4 months old
- babies learn what is good to eat in the forest by watching their mums, dads and siblings
- babies will sometimes be 'parked' on a branch while mum forages nearby
- loris babies are fully grown and leave home when they are two years old
- mums and babies chat to each other using a variety of calls

-N. Campbell



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*Little Fireface
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We're on the web! www.nocturama.org

Follow us on Twitter! @queenfireface

@littlefireface

Saving the slow lorises through ecology,
education and empowerment

Slow lorises are an evolutionary distinct group of primates found from NE India to the Philippines. Their vice-like grip, slow metabolism, snake-like movements, shy nature, and most remarkably, their venomous bite, make them unique amongst the primates. They also are to many people undeniably adorable, and to others nature's answer to over 100 diseases. Thus the slow movements that make scientists want to study these primates also make them easy prey to expert hunters who literally denude the forests of these shy primates – amongst the most common mammals seen in Asia's pet and medicinal markets, but amongst the rarest spotted even in Asia's best protected forests. The Little Fireface Project, named so after the Javanese word for loris, aims to save these primates from extinction through learning more about their **ecology** and using this information to **educate** local people and law enforcement officers, leading ultimately to **empowerment** and **empathy** whereby people in countries where lorises exist will want to save them for themselves. This is done through education, media, workshops and connecting classrooms programmes. Our education does not stop in range countries, but also reaches out to potential western purchasers of loris pets.

**TEXT TO
DONATE**
TEXT 'SLOW12' AND
YOUR DONATION
(E.G. SLOW12 £5)
70070

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

[http://www.brookes.ac.uk/
about/news/slowloris/donate](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/about/news/slowloris/donate)

We continue to thank the many supporters of the Little Fireface Project and our affiliate organisations in Java. In January and February we were happy to receive support from the Cleveland Zoo Asian Seed Grant and a Phoenix Zoo Conservation and Science Grant. We would also like to thank those of you who have supported the Slow Loris Fund through continued donations, direct debits, and fund raising events.



Twycross Zoo

1st International
Old World
Primate &
Prosimian
Symposium

18th & 19th March 2013

Full 2 days - £50
ABWAK earlybird deal £45
(professional membership only, ends 31st January 2013)

TED^x Nashville

x = independently organized TED event

4/6/13

Register your email
above for access to
presale tickets.

Possibility to study slow lorises at Oxford Brookes University! 4th March Deadline

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Department of Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University is looking for strong candidates to apply for one, three year, full-time PhD studentship. For the successful candidate the home/EU fee will be paid by the Faculty and the student will receive an annual stipend of £7,000 for three years beginning in 2013/14. The competition is open to both home/EU and International students.

The studentship is intended for a candidate who will pursue a PhD project that falls within one of the Department's key research areas.

www.social-ences.brookes.ac.uk/research/degrees/step2/