

FOREWORD

After much delay and several hiccups, we welcome you to the first issue of *Asian Primates* – the Journal of the Asian Section of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group.

Unprecedented threat from destruction of tropical forests, and illegal hunting and trade of wildlife have are globally causing almost 30% of our closest living relatives to be in danger of extinction. The situation is even precarious in Asia where many non-human primate species and their habitats are severely threatened.

The situation in Asia is best summed by the fact that 11, or 44%, of the World's 25 Most Endangered Primates – a list compiled at the 21st Congress of the International Primatological Society in Entebbe – are Asian primates.

These 11 Asian primates comprise Western Hoolock gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*), Horton Plains slender loris (*Loris tardigradus nycticeboides*), Western purple-faced langur (*Semnopithecus vetulus nestor*), Pig-tailed langur (*Simias concolor*), Siau Island tarsier (*Tarsius* sp.), Delacour's langur (*Trachypithecus delacouri*), Golden-headed langur (*Trachypithecus poliocephalus poliocephalus*), Grey-shanked douc (*Pygathrix cinerea*), Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*), Hainan black-crested gibbon (*Nomascus hainanus*), and the Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*).

The *Asian Primates* is a new journal committed to disseminating information relating to the research and conservation of non-human primates in Asia, will therefore also serve to highlight and draw the attention to issues relating to threatened primate species and their habitats.

The *Asian Primates* will be an important source of information not only amongst the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group members in the region, but also to other professionals and those with a keen interest in primates and primate conservation. The journal further aims to provide a venue for developing the capacities of young Asian nationals by encouraging them to submit manuscripts in English.

As no one discipline can encapsulate the many aspects of primates, the *Asian Primates* thus encourage submissions that reflect inter- and multi-disciplinary perspectives to primates, thereby allowing the sharing of these perspectives, and the initiation of innovative and creative dialogues that help us learn more about our closest living relatives, and that help us to conserve them, their habitats, other denizens that share those habitats with them, and the ecosystem services these habitats provide us.

Editors