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MPC News

3 / 2011

The Moroccan Primate Conservation foundation works on the conservation of the endangered Barbary macaque in Morocco since 2004.

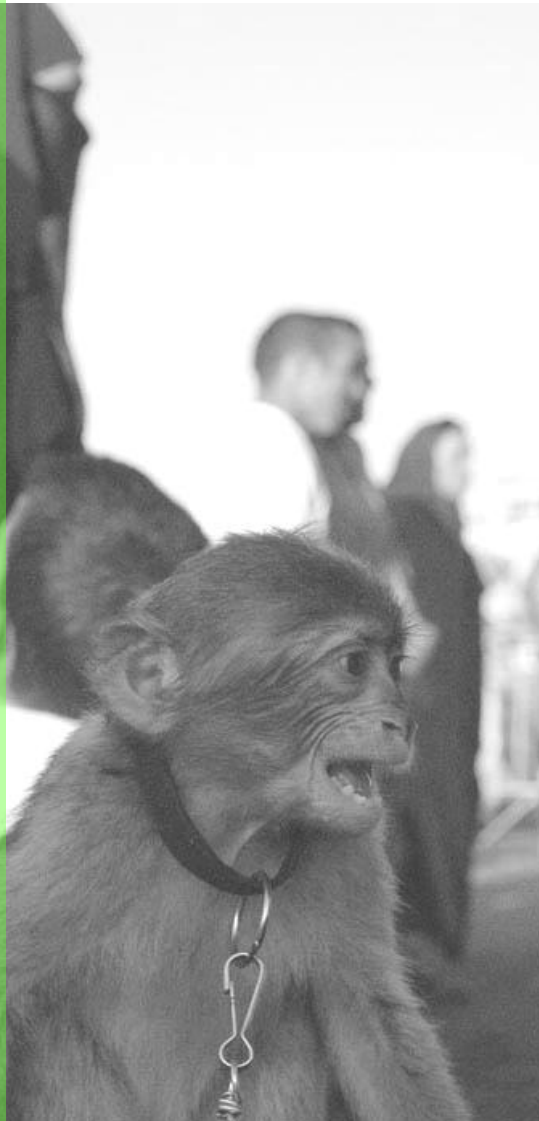
DEAR READERS, FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS OF MPC AND COLLEAGUES,

It has been a month now that I am back from a 5 week trip to Morocco; a trip that turned out to be a great success for MPC and also the Barbary macaques. In this newsletter you will read all about what we did, but I can truly say that I think we finally reached a point that is needed to stop this unique species from disappearing further in some of the regions in Morocco. I have personally been fighting for this for 7 years, and I am so pleased that now MPC is the official partner of the Moroccan authorities for the conservation of the Barbary macaque and that we created a solid basis to work from in the (near) future.

Thank you for your interest in our work and for supporting us. Keep visiting our website:

www.mpcfoundation.nl or Facebook page for updates.

Els van Lavieren
Director MPC



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CREATION OF A NATIONAL CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN

On the 12th and 13th of October 2011 MPC and the Haut Comissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et á la Lutte Contre le Désertification (Ministry of Water and Forests – HCEFLCD) organised one of the most important meetings that has taken place for the conservation of the Barbary macaque in recent years. The meeting took place in Azrou, at the headquarters of Ifrane National Park – the region where the largest wild population of this species can still be found but at the same time the sub population in Morocco that is under most human pressure. Around 35 participants (national and international) attended the meeting. The participants were all experts on the species or were in some way involved in working with the Barbary macaques in Morocco/Europe. The purpose of this meeting was to create a national conservation action plan for the Barbary macaque (PASM) in Morocco, based on the current status and threats that the species is facing. ➡

NATIONAL CONSERVATION ACTION PLAN – CONTINUED.....

Nelly Ménard, Sian Waters and Els van Lavieren (with added scientific information from Fabrice Cuzin) did presentations to give an update on the status of the 3 sub populations of Barbary macaques in Morocco (Rif mountains, Middle and High Atlas populations). We then made an analysis of the threats that the 3 sub populations are facing and identified the causes for these threats, the stakeholders and finally discussed solutions for the threats. The solutions were categorized into short term, middle - term and long-term actions. MPC has the honour to write the draft PASM and a selected working group will finalise the document hopefully by the end of 2011. 2012 will be an important year, as MPC and the HCEFLCD will be seeking partners to commit to the different solutions/ actions to stop the decline of this species. We hope to publish the PASM on our website as soon as it is ready. We thank HCEFLCD for their partnership and the co-organization of this meeting. We thank all the participants for coming to Azrou and for being part of the creation of this important document. We thank Parc National d'Ifrane for their support and of course a big thank you to the sponsors of this meeting: Montagne des Singes/ Trentham Monkey Forest/ Rocamadour/ Affenberg Salem.

For more pictures check our blog.

PETITION

MPC has started a petition online with the title: "Stop the Illegal Trade in the Endangered Barbary macaque". We are collecting signatures to gather support from around the world to urge the authorities in Europe and Morocco to give the battle against this trade more priority. Please sign this petition:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/barbarymacaques/>



FIELDWORK

During 5 weeks in September and October MPC conducted fieldwork in Ifrane National Park . With a small team of volunteers we did density counts by walking 160 km of transects, also collecting data on the damage to the forest, the regeneration/ death of oak and cedar trees and livestock presence in the park. It was really great to be in the field every day, it's such a beautiful area. But the damage level, sheep and goat presence and the logging situation is still too disturbing. MPC wants to thank volunteers Tomos, Berta, Kris and Manon for their assistance in the field. It was great! MPC aims to conduct research annually to monitor the illegal trade or the status of the wild population of Barbary macaques. The data of this survey will be available after publication. This survey was funded by the Dutch Zoo Conservation Fund.



A FEMALE MACAQUE RESCUED

During the meeting to create the PASM in October MPC received a phone call from field assistants from the University of Lincoln that they had just stopped a Moroccan man from wanting to throw his 4 year old pet female into the wild tourist group in the national park. The reason for wanting to set her free was that she was developing her first sexual swelling. Luckily Barbara and Neil took the female from the man because she would have most likely been attacked by the wild group. The female had originally been wild caught in the national park as an infant. SPANA and MPC immediately took action and she was transported to the closest SPANA shelter. It was the start of the hopefully near-future cooperation between SPANA and MPC!



REPORT ON SURVEY ILLEGAL TRADE IN THE RIF

In September 2010 MPC conducted research on the illegal wildlife trade in the North of Morocco. The report is now available on our website:
<http://www.mpcfoundation.nl/downloads/>

For **only 3 Euro's a month** you can become a **member of MPC** and **support** our important work.

Please visit : www.mpcfoundation.nl and fill in the online form or send an email to: mpcfoundation@gmail.com, and we will contact you.
THANK YOU!

Algemeen Nut
Beogende Instelling

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