

**Title:**

Assessing the impact of hunting on harvest-sensitive primates within protected areas and indigenous land in the Southern Colombian Amazon

**Maldonado, A.M<sup>1,2</sup>, Bearder, S.K.<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, OX3 0BP, Oxford, The UK

<sup>2</sup>Fundacion Entropika, Apartado Aéreo No. 20, Leticia, Amazonas, Colombia

**Abstract:**

Subsistence hunting has been identified as a global conservation issue not only for the stability of tropical ecosystems, but also for securing the long-term livelihood of local people. In the Colombian Amazon, long-term studies have revealed significantly low densities of large vertebrates in un hunted areas, but little is known about the impact of subsistence hunting within protected areas and on indigenous land. During 2005-2007 primate densities were determined using transect sampling methods, with 733 km of census effort. Censuses were carried out into overlapping areas between two Tikuna indigenous communities and Amacayacu National Park, southern Colombian Amazon. Simultaneously harvest of large mammals was quantified amongst the two indigenous communities. Preliminary results suggest that large-bodied primates such as woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix lagothricha*) and howler monkeys (*Alouatta seniculus*) are present in significantly lower densities in comparison with other Amazonian sites exposed to similar levels of hunting and edaphic conditions. In contrast, small-bodied species such as black-mantled tamarins were present in densities comparable to un hunted sites. Encounters with large primates were more frequent in the study sites located in the indigenous territory where a hunting ban for woolly monkeys was implemented as a local initiative. The implications of subsistence hunting for harvest-sensitive primate species are discussed considering their life history traits and ecological constraints. Recommendations for the design of conservation strategies for overlapping areas are examined.

Acknowledgements: We would like to thank WWF, Rainforest Concern, Royal Geographical Society, Rufford Small Grants, OWW, The Monkey Sanctuary Trust, IPPL-Kilverstone Trust and Fundacion Tropenbos for funding this research.

Key words: large-bodied primates; subsistence hunting; overlapping areas; Colombian Amazon