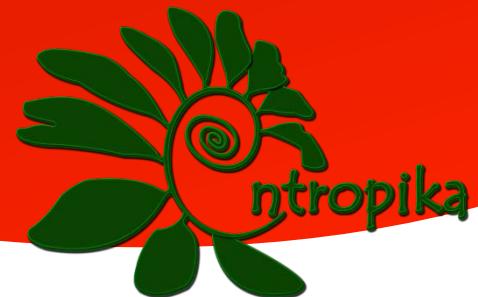


What did we do? What can you do?



Species and Habitat Conservation

By conducting **census** at 8 localities in Peru and Colombia we have determined the **impact of the illegal trade** in night monkeys and their ecosystems and assessed the species conservation status. **During 2007 – 2008, 4.000 monkeys were caught** and a **deforestation of 15.000 adult trees associated with local capture techniques was recorded**.

Environmental Law Enforcement

In April 2011, we started a **popular interest law case** against the biomedical lab and the environmental authorities who have been neglecting the trade. A **complete portfolio of evidence was submitted to CITES Peru and Colombia** to enforce international wildlife trade regulations. The lab is currently **not allowed to receive (buy) nor release animals**.

Conservation Awareness

Our campaign has brought the **attention of the media** and the **support of governmental institutions**. It led to the application of **hunting bans on night monkeys** in 3 Peruvian communities where extraction rates were the highest.

Local Livelihoods

We are currently looking for commercialization channels to distribute **freeze-dried forest fruits**, cultivated by local communities, for them to have a **sustainable economic alternative**. We also train vulnerable groups (women and youth) to enhance their participation at community-level.



The next steps

- Stop the illegal trade in night monkeys.
- Continue searching for alternatives to improve local livelihoods, while respecting indigenous' ways of living.
- Help local people in the search of potable water systems to improve their living standards and livelihoods.
- We expect to win the popular interest suit and hence a battle against environmental corruption. We hope that this will force Colombian and Peruvian governments to invest in this isolated and utterly forgotten of the Amazon basin.

1 – Donate

You can help us and contribute to our work. Please show your support by going to the Entropika donation page - www.entropika.org/donations.html.

2 – Spread the word

You can simply talk about this issue to people, direct them to our website, or even forward this leaflet by e-mail, using social networks or just the old-fashioned way! This leaflet and other posters and/or presentations can be found at - www.entropika.org/projects.html - under "Aotus Project".

From all at Entropika, thank you!



Using the night monkeys to tackle the illegal trade of wildlife in the Colombian – Peruvian Amazon

Conservation in action
www.entropika.org

Who are we?

What illegal trade?

Fundación Entropika was established by a group of dedicated conservationists in **Leticia, Capital of the Colombian Amazon**. Entropika aims to **contribute to the long-term conservation of tropical biodiversity** by facilitating local community-led projects by searching for sustainable economic alternatives, establishing education and research programmes whilst working closely with the local people, to **tackle conservation issues**.

What is an Aotus?

Aotus is the genus name of the night monkey, also known as the owl monkey. *Aotus* literally means “earless”. Of course, the monkey has got ears, these are just not visible. It is a **nocturnal primate**, meaning that it is active mainly during the night, and has big round eyes that enables it to see in the darkness. The *Aotus* is widely distributed throughout Central and South America.



Corruption within environmental authorities makes law enforcement in forest habitat countries lax or non-existent to influential infractors. The existence of an **illegal trade of night monkeys at the Amazonian border between Colombia and Peru** was first documented in 2008. This trade has been going on for more than 30 years, decimating wild populations of night monkeys and drastically affecting their ecosystems.

The animals are trapped by indigenous people in their own territories and then sold to a biomedical laboratory in Leticia, Colombia, to be used as guinea-pigs for research in malaria. The lab has permits to collect 800 animals annually in Colombian territory. The permits were granted by the environmental authority without any studies prior to issuing these. Even though these permits are only valid in Colombia, the animals are mainly trapped in Peru. It is important to note that 1) there are no permits from Peru authorising export of these primates to Colombia, 2) the *Aotus* species of Peru and Colombia are substantially different and territorial animals. Surviving laboratory monkeys are released back in Colombian indigenous land.

After more than 30 years of research, the lab has had no concrete results and is still testing on primates, while worldwide, malaria vaccines are being tested on humans.



Our only neotropical nocturnal primates are important for the ecosystem, let's protect them!



Pictures by A. Kemp , T. Lafon & L. Pelaez.

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