



IPPL

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INSIDE:

- ◆ *Wildlife Trade Conferences*
- ◆ *USDA Removes Records from Website*
- ◆ *News from IPPL Sanctuaries*



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Dorothy

Entropika is celebrating its 10th anniversary: Thanks IPPL - for your long-term support!!

Angela Maldonado

Fundación Entropika's fight to conserve the unique nocturnal night monkey population along the Peruvian-Colombian border of the Amazon rain forest continues. April 2017 marks ten years of hard work to preserve the biodiversity of the Amazonian ecosystem. For the past decade, IPPL has been a vital supporter of our mission to stop the illegal trafficking of night monkeys for biomedical research, the pet trade and to expose government corruption.

Fundación Entropika made headlines from 2012 to 2014 when Dr. Angela Maldonado, founder and legal representative, won a law suit against multiple organizations, including the Colombian Institute of Immunology Foundation (FIDIC), a biomedical facility that uses wild-caught night monkeys for malaria research. In addition to the revocation of FIDIC's permit to use primates as test subjects, the verdict also allowed Entropika to document evidence of the local extinction of an endemic primate species, deplorable conditions of the monkeys in the lab, deforestation caused by the trapping of wildlife, and corruption within the environmental authorities.

As we celebrate our 10 year anniversary, the next decade ushers in new challenges we face thankfully with the unwavering support of IPPL. As of February 2016, FIDIC has regained its trapping permit leading to the capture of 1,463 Amazonian night monkeys in just 566 days. Wild populations of the Spix's night monkey (*Aotus vociferans*) have been drastically reduced and are no longer present in some areas. A court mandated study conducted by the CITES (The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Scientific Authority reported sightings of the Spix's night monkeys in only one of the 20 sites used by FIDIC



Night monkey

to capture monkeys for research and subsequently release them once they had completed the research protocols.

Due to the difficulty in finding Spix's night monkey, FIDIC is putting pressure on Corpoamazonia, the regional environmental authority, to modify the permit to include the capture of the Nancy Ma's night monkey (*Aotus nancymaae*), a species recently discovered in Colombia and one highly vulnerable to extinction. The laboratory argues that the Nancy Ma's night monkey will provide a better model to conduct research on malaria because of its similarity to the human immune system.

The modified FIDIC permit has serious environmental implications. The methods used by indigenous trappers to capture monkeys are extremely damaging, causing deforestation of an average 30 meters radius around the trees the night monkeys sleep in. Furthermore, using a research permit to purchase wildlife is illegal in Colombia. However authorizing the capture of the Nancy Ma's night monkey allows FIDIC to buy monkeys in Colombia that were trapped in Peru. With a narrow distribution range and little known about its population status, even Corpoamazonia's own night monkey conservation project stated that the capture

of wild Nancy Ma's night monkeys should be prohibited.

To combat the FIDIC's reinstated trapping permit, Angela Maldonado filed a legal complaint with the authorities in September 2016, presenting evidence of deforestation as a consequence of capturing night monkeys for FIDIC and a penal case against FIDIC for environmental damages and the illegal extraction of natural resources.

The FIDIC responded by suing Angela Maldonado for "slander" during our fundraising campaign for SAVE MUSMUKI <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XrxKImtMUw>, a video game project that will educate players on the detrimental effects of trafficking primates for bush meat, medical research, and the pet trade.

Faced with evidence of corruption, we got in contact with the Colombian Fiscal Control agency and the National Prosecutors' Office and today there is an investigation of Corpoamazonia.

Entropika's tireless law enforcement activities and media coverage continue at international, national and regional levels <http://fusion.net/story/375445/wildlife-exploitation-amazon-rainforest>. With the cooperation of non-governmental organizations, in particular the Colombian Primatological Association, the Andes University, and others, we will present the first draft of the Management Strategy for the Conservation of Primates in Colombia, in April 2017, and solicit input from different stakeholders to provide legal protection to primates in our country.

We hope to use this information to raise the status of the Nancy Ma's night monkey on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red Data Book. It is critical to include this species in the Colombian list of threatened species and achieve its long-term protection.

All these efforts to protect primates in Colombia were possible thanks to the long-term support of IPPL's donors. Thank you for helping us make positive impacts in such a beautiful and important region of the world, which unfortunately has long history of abuse for human greed.