

Report for an Award received from the James Rennie Bequest

Submitted to Michele Bain

By

Avanti Mallapur

Animal Welfare

Institute of Ecology and Resource Management

SAC Building, University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh EH9 3JG United Kingdom

December 15, 2002



Conference Title

XIXth Congress of the International Primatological Society (IPS)



Conference Dates

August 4th to 9th 2002

Location

Beijing, China

Group Members

Avanti Mallapur

AIMS

By attending the International Primate Conference is conference, I would be able develop, maintain and enhance professional contacts in the field of captive animal management as well as primate conservation.

OUTCOME

The James Rennie Bequest was used to attend the XIXth Congress of the International Primatological Society (IPS) which was held in Beijing, 4th to 9th of August 2002. The main theme of the event was caring for primates, progress in, and prospects for, primatology and the conservation of non-human primates in the 21st Century. I presented a paper on the 'Conservation Breeding of an Endangered Macaque: The Need for Modernising Macaque Husbandry In India To Initiate Captive Breeding Programmes' in the symposium on 'Asian Primates in crisis and the need to improve ethical and welfare standards to sustain theme in captivity'.

Attending the Primate conference was a learning experience and a wonderful opportunity for self-enrichment. This was the first time I got to share and interchange ideas in animal welfare, illegal trade, behaviour and ecology and this helped me keep pace with scientific and technological developments and I have now incorporated so me of the points expressed by other scientists in my PhD research. Attending the XIXth Congress of the International Primatological Society has also given me a chance to network with peers and helped me build relationships with experts into whose resources I can tap when required. My earlier perception that by attending a conference I could boost my personal learning plan as well develop my career prospects was absolutely true; I think I could safely say, that by attending this gathering of experienced scientists and managers, I have been able to absorb

new ideas and understand current issues in primate conservation. This will help me devise a better personal action plan on how I intend conserve wildlife in India in the future.

At the conference, I presented my study on macaques in Indian zoos. This study will continue for next two years. By discussing the need of captive primate welfare and ex-situ conservation at the conference, I represented the Indian zoo management and thereby initiated an awareness that conservation is the most significant goal of zoos, sanctuaries and national parks in India. Apart from discussing issues on captive primate welfare, my talk also stressed on the need to provide the zoo staff with insights into the field of research and its importance. The experience and information that I gathered from attending this conference will be conveyed to the zoostaff and hopefully this will help them take better care and management of the zoo animals. At the conference, I also discussed conservation education at zoos and methods to help students and zoo staff initiate research programmes exsitu and the public by initiating education programmes. Recommendations from the conference on these topics have been incorporated in my study and will also be conveyed to the zoostaff at my study sites and then to other zoos within the country.