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PROGRAM





define habitat types and to record bonobos indices (tracks, food remains and nesting sites) in 200km² of forests in Southwestern Lake Tumba Region. Our results show that bonobos clearly prefer specific habitats for nesting, and, within these nest-forest types, an understory of Marantaceae *Haumania* sp. is preferentially chosen. To evaluate edge effect on nesting behavior, we counted nesting sites in 100m distance classes from the forest edge. Our results indicate a uniform distribution of nesting sites, but with a negative edge effect in the first 100m. When we analyzed tracks and food remains distribution, we didn't find any habitat type preferences or any edge effect. These results indicate that, although bonobos are known to favor dense forests, they can also adapt to fragmented forests environment. Habitat types appear to be more relevant to understand their distribution and range.

ABSTRACT # 124

FLEXIBILITY IN COPING WITH THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANES EMILY AND WILMA

L. Rebecchini^{1,6}, F. Aureli^{2,5}, G. Ramos-Fernandez³, L. G. Vick⁴ and C. Schaffner^{2,6}

¹Avenida Trsatlantico, L12, Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo, 77580, Mexico, ²Instituto de Neuroetologia, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico, ³CIDIR Unidad Oaxaca, Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Oaxaca, Mexico, ⁴Department of Anthropology, William Peace University, Raleigh, NC, USA, ⁵Research Centre in Evolutionary Anthropology and Palaeoecology, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, United Kingdom, ⁶Department of Psychology, University of Chester, United Kingdom

The response of animals experiencing dramatic environmental change may vary according to their behavioral flexibility. In 2005 two hurricanes, Emily and Wilma, passed through the natural protected area of Otoch Ma'ax Yetel Kooch in Yucatan, Mexico, where wild spider monkeys have been part of a long-term study. The hurricanes caused damage to 72% of trees surveyed. To investigate the spider monkeys' capacity to cope with the damaged forest we compared their behavioral patterns between the dry seasons before and after the hurricanes. We used data on diet and activity budget collected with instantaneous scan sampling during focal observations and changes in subgroup size collected with all occurrence sampling. In the aftermath of the hurricanes spider monkeys replaced fruits with leaves as their primary food source and moved less. Furthermore, spider monkeys' subgroup size decreased in the dry season following the hurricanes. The reliance on a low quality and more evenly distributed food source may explain the reduction in time spent moving as an energy saving mechanism. The decreased subgroup

size after the hurricanes appears to be a means of reducing intra-group feeding competition. In conclusion, the high degree of fission-fusion dynamics, which is a key characteristic of spider monkeys' social organization, may facilitate flexible responses that allow them to cope with the negative effects of hurricanes.

ABSTRACT # 125

IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE, YOU'RE NOT DOING CONSERVATION!

T. R. Gillespie

Environmental Studies / Environmental Health, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 30322, USA

My revelation sitting in a steamy bar in the French Quarter of New Orleans more than a decade ago. It was the eve of a dynamic and productive process that continues to this day. John Oates was several weeks away from the public release of a sure to be unpopular tome highlighting the increasingly common failures of conservation organizations in West Africa with an eye to a central flawed assumption dictating conservation policy throughout the tropics- that biodiversity conservation is a natural byproduct of human economic development. I was lucky enough to have been adopted by a band of NYCEP students and John one evening during the annual ASP meeting and joined a passionate discussion of the topic. Since that evening, "Myth and Reality" along with John Terborgh's "Requiem for Nature" have forced the conservation and development communities to address a number of difficult realities to collaborate more effectively where possible and to recognize when their goals will require different paths. Throughout his career, John forwent the comfort of familiarity in support of conservation. In the process, he demonstrated the value of multi-site primatology. He also left his comfort zone in promoting the use of the best tools for conservation- advising students integrating population genetics and advanced spatial analyses. I strive to follow John's example in my own work.

ABSTRACT # 126

DOES OVERLAPPING CHANGE BETWEEN INDRIS SONGS EMITTED IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS?

V. Torti¹, M. Gamba¹, G. Farris¹, Z. H. Rabemananjara² and C. Giacomini¹

¹Dept. of Life Sciences and Systems Biology, Via Acc. Albertina 13, Torino, TO, 10123, USA, ²GRENE, Université de Toamasina, Madagascar