

## 787 President Remarks

### QUEST FOR COEXISTENCE WITH NONHUMAN PRIMATES

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As the IUCN Primate Specialist Group reported, nearly half of all primate species are now in danger of becoming extinct from destruction of tropical forest, illegal wildlife trade and commercial bush meat hunting. Disease transmission caused by increasing contacts with humans and livestock have also become a major threat to wild primate populations. In order to improve these situations, the IPS has formulated four policies; 1) protection of primate health in the wild, 2) improving primate conservation through community involvement, 3) opposition to use of nonhuman primates in the media, and 4) opposition to private ownership of nonhuman primates. Among these, I have been strongly concerned with community-based conservation of nonhuman primates in Japan and Africa. Based on my experience, I would like to emphasize the importance of "Conservation through Community Involvement" as proposed by Vern Reynolds and Tammie Bettinger in the 2008 IPS Congress at Edinburgh. Like other range countries, Japan has nonhuman primates (Japanese macaques) as the aboriginal residents prior to humans. We have a long history with them to share the territory. Satoyama (secondary forest created by human activities) has taken a role of buffer zone between Okuyama (wilderness areas) and farmlands. However, recent industrialization and urbanization have changed the way of Japanese life, and raiding crops by Japanese macaques has increased everywhere in Japan. In order to prevent their destructive activities, various measures have been implemented, but nothing has stopped such damages completely. Rehabilitation of Satoyama and increase in its use by the local community with multiple purposes should be the best measure for promoting coexistence between people and macaques. This measure may be applicable to other range countries where conflicts between nonhuman primates and local people have recently increased. Utilization of secondary forest and participation of local people in forest management will be the key elements of primate conservation. Primatologists should positively be involved in such activities.