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PRIMATES IN ZOOS, MUSEUMS, LABORATORIES AND THE WILD: COMPARATIVE AND COMPLEMENTARY RESEARCH

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Primate studies in the wild, captivity and in museums can complement each other, and are all very important in establishing the full scenario of a species' taxonomy, general biology, conservation and management needs. Whereas some research questions can only be addressed by studying primates in their natural habitat (e.g. dispersal patterns, home range size and use), others need additional captive data to be satisfactorily answered (e.g. nutrient and energy digestibility, cognition and neuroethology). Furthermore, museum collections of primates are invaluable resources of data (e.g. muscular, skeletal and skin materials). Together, these studies have been revealing crucial information on complex roots of behaviours, cognition, diet, molecular ecology and taxonomy of primates. Also, they provided considerable improvements in primate welfare and conservation strategies. The symposium will explore some key topics in primatology and will show how they have benefited from the combination of captive and field studies.

Keywords: complementary research, wild, captivity, museum