

# What did we do?

# What can you do?



## Species and Habitat Conservation

By conducting **census at 8 localities** in Peru and Colombia we have determined the **impact of the illegal trade** in night monkeys and their ecosystems and assessed the species conservation status. **During 2007 – 2008, 4.000 monkeys were caught** and a **deforestation of 15.000 adult trees associated with local capture techniques** was recorded.

## Environmental Law Enforcement

In April 2011, we started a **popular interest law case** against the biomedical lab and the environmental authorities who have been neglecting the trade. A **complete portfolio of evidence was submitted to CITES Peru and Colombia** to enforce international wildlife trade regulations. The lab is currently **not allowed to receive (buy) nor release animals**.

## Conservation Awareness

Our campaign has brought the **attention of the media** and the **support of governmental institutions**. It led to the application of **hunting bans on night monkeys** in 3 Peruvian communities where extraction rates were the highest.

## Local Livelihoods

We are currently looking for commercialization channels to distribute **freeze-dried forest fruits**, cultivated by local communities, for them to have a **sustainable economic alternative**. We also train vulnerable groups (women and youth) to **enhance their participation at community-level**.

## The next steps

- Stop the illegal trade in night monkeys.
- Continue searching for alternatives to improve local livelihoods, while respecting indigenous' ways of living.
- Help local people in the search of potable water systems to improve their living standards and livelihoods.
- We expect to win the popular interest suit and hence a battle against environmental corruption. We hope that this will force Colombian and Peruvian governments to invest in this isolated and utterly forgotten of the Amazon basin.

### 1 – Donate

You can help us and contribute to our work. Please show your support by going to the Entropika donation page - [www.entropika.org/donations.html](http://www.entropika.org/donations.html).

### 2 – Spread the word

You can simply talk about this issue to people, direct them to our website, or even forward this leaflet by e-mail, using social networks or just the old-fashioned way! This leaflet and other posters and/or presentations can be found at - [www.entropika.org/projects.html](http://www.entropika.org/projects.html) - under "Aotus Project".



From all at Entropika, thank you!

Using the night monkeys to tackle  
the illegal trade of wildlife in the  
Colombian – Peruvian Amazon



Conservation in action  
[www.entropika.org](http://www.entropika.org)

# Who are we?

# What illegal trade?

Fundación Entropika was established by a group of dedicated conservationists in **Leticia, Capital of the Colombian Amazon**. Entropika aims to **contribute to the long-term conservation of tropical biodiversity** by facilitating local **community-led projects** by searching for sustainable economic alternatives, establishing education and research programmes whilst working closely with the local people, to **tackle conservation issues**.

**Corruption within environmental authorities** makes law enforcement in forest habitat countries lax or non-existent to influential infractors. The existence of an **illegal trade of night monkeys at the Amazonian border between Colombia and Peru** was first documented in 2008. This trade has been going on for **more than 30 years**, **decimating wild populations of night monkeys** and drastically affecting their ecosystems.

The animals are **trapped by indigenous people in their own territories** and then sold to a biomedical laboratory in Leticia, Colombia, to be used as guinea-pigs for research in malaria. The lab has **permits to collect 800 animals annually in Colombian territory**. The permits were granted by the environmental authority without any studies prior to issuing these. Even though these permits are only valid in Colombia, **the animals are mainly trapped in Peru**. It is important to note that 1) there are **no permits from Peru** authorising export of these primates to Colombia, 2) the **Aotus species of Peru and Colombia are substantially different and territorial animals**. Surviving laboratory monkeys are released back in Colombian indigenous land.

After more than 30 years of research, the lab has had **no concrete results** and is still testing on primates, while worldwide, **malaria vaccines are being tested on humans**.

***Our only neotropical nocturnal primates are important for the ecosystem, let's protect them!***



## What is an Aotus?

**Aotus** is the genus name of the night monkey, also known as the owl monkey. *Aotus* literally means "earless". Of course, the monkey has got ears, these are just not visible. It is a **nocturnal primate**, meaning that it is active mainly during the night, and has big round eyes that enables it to see in the darkness. The *Aotus* is widely distributed throughout Central and South America.



Pictures by A. Kemp , T. Lafon & L. Pelaez.

Info: [www.entropika.org](http://www.entropika.org)  
E-mail: [info@entropika.org](mailto:info@entropika.org)