

Annual General Meeting of the Primate Society of Great Britain

Meeting to be held at the Zoological Society London and online

19th January 2024

Reports from Council

Report from the President (Prof. Stuart Semple)

president@psbg.org

This is my second report as President and, as last year, I want to start by thanking everyone on Council, the Society's subcommittees and the many other members of the Society who have given support, advice and for all their hard work over the last twelve months. I particularly want to thank all those leaving roles on Council/Subcommittees for their long and highly valued service.

My report focuses on the two goals of PSGB as stated in our Constitution – to advance research in all areas of primatology, and to help disseminate the findings of such research, primarily through our scientific meetings.

Advancing Research

The Society's strong financial position at the start of the year – and the generous ongoing donations from Born Free Foundation and Trentham Monkey Forest towards the work of the Research and Conservation subcommittees - allowed us to move to two grant rounds per year (deadlines in March and November) and to increase the maximum of each award to £1250. These changes have started to reduce the balance of funds we have in our accounts, and I am happy that this is the case. We looked to establish a grant-writing mentoring scheme, to make our funding schemes more equitable for applicants, but we were not able to recruit enough mentors to make this viable. This remains something we are keen to explore if we can in future.

Scientific Meetings

It was a great pleasure to meet in person again in 2023 at Anglia Ruskin's superb Spring Meeting. The Society is committed to two gatherings per year and we are continuing to explore how best to balance the in-person vs remote/hybrid options to best meet members' needs. Council have also had discussions around the possibility of joint meetings with e.g. BES, ASAB, BIAZA etc. Any thoughts on these topics that people want to share will be very gratefully received!

Other business

It became clear this year that it would be appropriate to look at subcommittee support and how we can ensure that the goals of the Society are best met by all of the subcommittees, not just the (currently) grant-awarding ones - Research, Conservation and Captive Care. A key part of this discussion will be how we best use the funds we have available and I am keen to start with a blank slate on this issue. A full revisit of what we have in place, what we

are trying to achieve, and how the two match up, would be good, and will be a priority for 2024. Again, we are keen to hear members' opinions on this.

[Report from the Treasurer for financial year 2022/2023 \(Dr Daphne Kerhoas, treasurer@psgb.org\)](#)

I am pleased to present the account report for this past financial year starting 1st of October 2022 and finishing 30th of September 2023. It has been a busy year!

First, I would like to thank all the persons I have worked with for their kindness as I have not always replied very quickly to request. Bank transfer (especial international ones) for grants and refund can take a fair bit of effort. Thank you for your patience!

Our finances continue to be healthy with a total income above £25,000.

Given our finance has been very healthy in the past years, the council has decided to increase our grants to twice a year. We have spent nearly double of last year with a total of £14,812 in grant to support on primate research, conservation activities, and captive care project. We have, therefore, this year a much higher expenditure of £35,000 compared to previous year. Conservation activities funded by PSGB grant included work done all around the world including Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia.

Our income from membership and meeting tickets nearly doubled from £12,275 in the last financial year to £22,634 this financial year. This is mainly due to a large number of participants to our spring and winter meetings and thanks to the hard work of our meeting officer.

In addition, this year, our marketing officer has organised great merchandising branded with the PSGB logo which bring an additional income to PSGB. Additionally, having received generous donations, we supported Mikajy Natiora, based in Madagascar, in December 2023 thanks to PSGB merchandising sales. This money was doubled (thanks to Conservation Allies) to a total of 1100GBP.

Thank you all for your support!

Daphne Kerhoas

See spreadsheet with financial accounting on next page:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | Year to 30 September 2023 | | | <i>Year to 30 September 2022</i> | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| Description | Income | Expenditure | Surplus/Loss | Income | Expenditure | Surplus/Loss |
|---|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------|-------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Membership Fees & Meeting tickets | 22,634.68 | 0.00 | 22,634.68 | 9,575.33 | 85.00 | 9,490.33 |
| Spring conf 2023 | | 5,938.15 | (5,938.15) | 1,603.08 | 1,394.38 | 208.70 |
| Winter meeting Dec 2022 | | 7,974.74 | (7,974.74) | 1,097.00 | 108.00 | 989.00 |
| Pay Pal | 145.54 | 0.00 | 145.54 | | 1.33 | (1.33) |
| PSGB meeting - student bursary | | 2,046.57 | (2,046.57) | | | |
| Gift Aid from HMRC | 0.00 | | 0.00 | - | | 0.00 |
| General Donations | 31.05 | | 31.05 | 30.00 | | 30.00 |
| Conservation grants (Caroline Harcourt) | 1,500.00 | 7,555.00 | (6,055.00) | 4,083.00 | 4,115.00 | (32.00) |
| Captive Care grant (Sylvain Savolainen) | | 3,305.00 | (3,305.00) | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Research grants (Zanna Clay) | | 3,952.25 | (3,952.25) | 2,500.00 | 3,008.16 | (508.16) |
| Conservation Cause Mikajy Natiara 2022 | 0.00 | 519.11 | (519.11) | 1,588.50 | 0.00 | 1,588.50 |
| Conservation Cause 2023 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 957.76 | (957.76) |
| EFP European Primate Federation | | 463.48 | (463.48) | | 434.56 | (434.56) |
| Marketing/Merchandising product | 725.54 | 523.25 | 202.29 | 26.39 | 281.72 | (255.33) |
| Primate Eye printing | | 940.50 | (940.50) | | 793.82 | (793.82) |
| Council Expenses (meeting attendance) | | 702.46 | (702.46) | | | 0.00 |
| Speakers/prizes etc | | 0.00 | 0.00 | | 148.95 | (148.95) |
| Web Resources & Provider (1&1 Ionos) | | 34.73 | (34.73) | 6.00 | 26.84 | (20.84) |
| Whitefuse system | | 1,620.00 | (1,620.00) | | 1,263.60 | (1,263.60) |

[Report from the Secretary \(Dr Alexander Georgiev, \[secretary@psgb.org\]\(mailto:secretary@psgb.org\)\)](#)

PSGB Council met three times in 2023: in February, August and November. Several Council members stood down or are about to stand down at the end of January. We warmly thank them for their service to PSGB: Caroline Harcourt, Lisa Riley, Tracie McKinney, Brogan Mace and Jeff Nightingale.

The Osman Hill Medal had an off year so we will be soliciting nominations for the next one in 2024.

Following a call for nominations to stand for election to Council, the following members are standing for election:

General Secretary (and Trustee): Dr Pawel Fedurek (University of Stirling; <https://www.stir.ac.uk/people/1080868>) - standing unopposed.

Membership Secretary: Dr Patrick Tkaczynski (Liverpool John Moore University; <https://ptkaczynski.com/>) - standing unopposed.

Convenor of the Conservation Subcommittee: Dr Anna Feistier (Gabon Biodiversity Program; <https://profiles.si.edu/display/nFeistnerA9192017>) - standing unopposed.

Education officer/Editor of Primate Eye: Dr Lindsay Murray (University of Chester; <https://www1.chester.ac.uk/departments/psychology/staff/lindsay-murray>) - standing unopposed.

Impact Officer: Prof. Vincent Savolainen (Imperial College London; <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/v.savolainen>) - standing unopposed.

The AGM would need to vote to ratify these candidates as members of Council.

This is also the end of my three-year term as Secretary of the Society so I will be standing down at the end of January. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the Society in this role and I wish my successor all the best!

Dr Alex Georgiev

[Report from Conservation Subcommittee \(Dr Caroline Harcourt, Convenor; \[cwp@psgb.org\]\(mailto:cwp@psgb.org\)\)](#)

This year, there were two deadlines for applications for grants, March 1st and November 1st. Eleven people applied in March, but only five in November. A total of six studies were funded as below. More details of each can be found on our website.

- Américo Nhangá Walanse Sanhá: Let's djumbai! Primate ecology and conservation education with children in Cantanhez National Park, Guinea-Bissau

- Mauricio Forlani: Monitoring the survivors: The brown howler monkey in Atlantic Forest fragments in São Paulo, Southeast Brazil
- Camille Weksa : Restoring Ontulili River Riparian Corridor for the Primates (funded by the Born Free Foundation, through PSGB)
- Sharmini Julita Paramasivam: Using monkey-proof rubbish bin latches to reduce drivers of human-monkey conflict in Malaysia (funded by Trentham Monkey Forest, through PSGB)
- Lorena Fernández Hidalgo and Sam Shanee: Evaluating the impact of fifteen years of Community Conservation on the Critically Endangered yellow-tailed woolly monkey (*Lagothrix flavicauda*), Peru (funded by Trentham Monkey Forest, through PSGB and the award was doubled with match-funding by Conservation Allies)
- Alex Duggan and Windi Liani Bukit: Canopy bridges for the community: Implementation and education about canopy bridges for the Critically Endangered Javan slow loris (*Nycticebus javanicus*) in Java, Indonesia

We raised £600 for our 2022 Conservation Cause, Mikajy Natiora, and this was match-funded by Conservation Allies. Thanks to our Marketing Officer, Olivier Beasly, for his work raising these funds. This year we are supporting KIARA, an Indonesian led non-profit organisation focusing on the conservation of Javan gibbons and the forest ecosystem. Details of this organisation, and all those funded in previous years, can be found on our website.

I would, as ever, like to thank the Born Free Foundation for its annual grant of £1500 to support one of our habitat country applicants. In addition, the funds from Trentham Monkey Forest (£2500 annually) are invaluable to the Society and much appreciated.

Once more, due to the rule that members may be on the group for only six years, I am sorry to say that four more people are being lost from the subcommittee. I would like to thank Amanda Korstjens, Bino Majolo and Susanne Shultz for all their input to the group. The fourth person going is me! That leaves only six members (Marco Campera, Tim Davenport, Anna Feistner, Daphne Kerhoas, Felicity Oram and Barbara Tiddi) on the subcommittee (many thanks to them too), so if you would like to join the group, please get in touch with the new convenor by email (cwp@psgb.org).

[Report from the Research Subcommittee \(Prof. Zanna Clay, convenor; \[rwp@psgb.org\]\(mailto:rwp@psgb.org\)\)](#)

The Research Sub-Committee 2023 is composed of 11 members. At least one member is due to be completing their valued service in 2024 on Research Sub-Committee so at least two new members will be sought in 2024. Please contact Convenor Zanna Clay if interested in applying (zannaclay@gmail.com)

This is the first year that Research Sub-Committee, along with other committees, started on the bi-annual grant cycle (spring and autumn) as well as increasing the award amount per grant application to £1250. Although this has involved some additional work for committee members, it so far this has not been an issue and things have been progressing smoothly.

We continue to be very grateful to ongoing support from Trentham Monkey Forest in support of the Trentham Monkey Prize as part of our research grant offerings

Spring Grants Cycle 2023:

We received 15 applications this round including 3 range-country nationals and 1 first generation scholar. Overall, applications were of an excellent quality. As per normal, each application was independently reviewed and scored by three reviewers. Scoring was based on a rubric relating to the quality of research aims, methodology, uniqueness/novelty, contributions to primatology, value to applicant/project, presence of ethics and referee statement, and overall score. Applications were ranked and averaged.

The Committee voted to support 4 grantees, who were all able to take up the funding:

- 1. Katinka Botha** £1194 (range country national, MSc student University of Witwatersrand, S Africa)

Habitat use and the energetic, thermal and predator landscape of wild chacma baboons (*Papio ursinus*)

- 2. Eliette Noromalala** £1250. (range country national, PhD student, University of Texas at Austin, USA)

Parasite communities of sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*), sportive lemurs (*Lepilemur ruficaudatus*), and red-fronted lemurs (*Eulemur rufifrons*) in Kirindy Mitea National Park, Western Madagascar.

- 3. Lauren Wiseman-Jones** £1247. (PhD, Washington University in St. Louis, USA)

The physiological and behavioural responses of Virunga mountain gorillas (*Gorilla beringei beringei*) to social and anthropogenic stressors

- 4. Miranda Ventrella** £1155. (PhD, Durham University, UK)

Non-invasive psycho-physiological techniques to measure affective states in wild Chacma baboons

The Research Grants amount was funded by this year's allocation plus funds kindly provided by Trentham Monkey Forest.

The Research Sub-Committee met to discuss how to promote greater inclusivity and diversity in awarding the research grants. Multiple ideas were proposed which were taken forward to PSGB Council for consultation. Among these, Council agreed to enhance the 'Value' scoring criteria of grants to promote greater inclusivity, whereby the value to the applicant/project may be given greater consideration in grants decision-making to ensure grants awarded are of maximal value to applicants- this can support strong applicants, including from range-countries, where accessing grant funding may be otherwise more challenging or that their project's success is strongly reliant on PSGB funding.

Autumn Grants Cycle 2023

In total, we received 9 applications for Autumn grants cycle with some very interesting projects. Applicants included 3 range-country nationals and one first generation scholar.

We have already identified three projects that we recommend for funding. The outcome of this round is still under consideration and will be released in due course

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The Napier Medal was not awarded in 2023, being an off-year. Applications are encouraged for submission **31 March 2024**

Also to note that the Research SC Convenor, Prof Zanna Clay, will be going on maternity leave in 2024. Updates as to an interim replacement will be announced in due course

We once again thank PSGB, its members and Trentham Monkey Forest for supporting PSGB research!

Prof Zanna Clay, Convenor of the Research Sub-Committee

[Report of the Captive Care Sub Committee \(Dr Matt Hartley – Chair\)](#)

The Captive Care SubCommittee received 3 grant applications in the March Application round but disappointingly no applications in the November Application round.

A Grant was awarded to:

Jenny Botting representing Pan African Sanctuaries Alliance (PASA)

The grant funded Caroline Griffis, an animal care professional to visit Fernan-Vaz Gorilla Project (FVGP) located in Gabon that cares for 15 gorillas to provide bespoke training for the staff to conduct behavioural assessments, welfare assessments, and make tailored recommendations for improving gorilla welfare.

The sub-committee actively contributed extensively to the policy development and consultations regarding the licensing of primates as pets promoting PSGB as a source of expertise for government and the public.

Several long-standing members of the sub- committee must resign having participated for more than 6 -years. Thanks goes to Prof. Hannah Buchanan- Smith, Dr Sonya Hill and Rachel Hevesi.

New members were recruited, and the current sub-committee consists of: Dr Matt Hartley; Dr Susan Cheyne; Dr Jerome Micheletta; Dr Jamie Whitehouse; Dr Lauren Lansdowne; Sophie Collier

In the coming year the sub-committee is going to focus on establishing why the captive care focused membership of the society is so low and encourage membership by:

- Encouraging focused sessions in the meetings on captive care
- Encouraging submissions to Primate Eye
- Promoting the grant scheme and investigating how the poor timing of grants can be changed so that MSc studies can be funded

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Current membership

As of 10 January 2024, our number of valid memberships is 368 (up from 296 at last year's AGM). These are distributed as:

| | |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 145 | full members |
| 143 | student members |
| 14 | associate members |
| 15 | overseas full members |
| 29 | overseas student members |
| 0 | overseas associate members |
| 17 | life members |
| 5 | free* |

*These free memberships are 1-year subscriptions for either winners of the new student recognition awards, or for range-country nationals who have received grant funding through PSGB.

Proposed PSGB Fellow category

Council considered a proposal some time ago to add a "Fellow" category for long-term PSGB members. We were not sure how to confirm the expected membership activity of >7 years, however. The White Fuse system does have a "year joined" field, but we weren't sure how that was generated or if it would be a valid way to check past membership. I've been in touch with the White Fuse team, and discovered that the "year joined" field was imported with other contact information when we rolled over to this system in 2022. So far I cannot find any entries dating earlier than 1999 (maybe when we started with the most recent online system?), but since that is well over the 7 year timeframe we need it should work for confirming membership for candidate PSGB fellows.

Thank you

I am coming to the end of my tenure as membership officer. Thank you so much to the members of council and the wider PSGB community for being such a lovely group to work with.

[Primate Eye Editors' Report to AGM January 2024](#)

Report from the Editor of Primate Eye, Dr Lindsay Murray - editor@psgb.org

My main item to report this year is my utmost appreciation for all the hard work given to producing Primate Eye and PEN by my wonderful Deputy, Dr Lisa Riley. Lisa has had to stand down due to personal circumstances and she will be greatly missed by Council and by me.

Going forward, we have decided that the Primate Eye Newsletter, which is published as an online Sway document, will be 'taken over' each time by one of the subcommittees. This summer's edition will be showcasing Captive Care, so please do send your suggestions for contributions to Chair, Matt Hartley.

[Education and Impact Subcommittee Report to AGM January 2024](#)

Report from the Education and Impact Subcommittee, Dr Lindsay Murray, Co- Convenor & Education Officer, education@psgb.org

The Education side of this new subcommittee has moved forward with the creation of new Primatology Recognition Awards for both undergraduates and postgraduate students. I am fortunate to be joined now by Prof Vincent Savolainen as Impact Officer. We have already discussed several ideas to take to Council and we would welcome any new members to join this subcommittee.

[Report from the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\) Subcommittee \(Dr Alecia Carter, Chair\) \[edi@psgb.org\]\(mailto:edi@psgb.org\)](#)

This year, the EDI subcommittee has been in full swing brainstorming and now organising a fully-funded field skills workshop that aims to target students from underrepresented groups: the PSGB EDI Primatology Field Skills Workshop, to be hosted at and co-produced by ZSL London Zoo. The Workshop will run 7-9 August 2024. We aim to give 10-15 students from underrepresented backgrounds, who would not normally have the ability to volunteer on field projects, skills needed in field primatology, combining 'traditional' teaching with practical observation sessions, and networking opportunities throughout the event. After reviewing a proposal put together by the subcommittee, PSGB Council has kindly offered to cover additional / remaining costs, to complement the ongoing fundraising efforts by the subcommittee. Moving forward, we will be focusing on further fundraising, student recruitment, content development, teaching recruitment, and logistics.

Current members: Alecia Carter (Chair), Elisa Fernández Fueyo, Eve Holden, Simon Kenworthy, Anne-Marie Mascaró, Praneetha Monipi, Andrew Smith

[Report from the Student Officer \(Rachel Blood\) \[student@psgb.org\]\(mailto:student@psgb.org\)](#)

Throughout 2023, the Student Subcommittee has grown, with current members being Bidisha Chakraborty, Emma Doherty, Frankie de Chenu, Lesley McIlroy, Zoe Melvin, and Caitlin Green. I thank them for their active participation and engagement within the subcommittee. This past year, we have added structure to our subcommittee with the idea of being more engaging with the student and early-career members, which should hopefully

flourish this upcoming year. Additionally, we have grown our social media presence by creating an Instagram profile. We plan to use this Instagram page to showcase students and early-career members on their academic or professional journeys. We continue to strive to active social media that promotes helpful tools and information for early career primatologists and students by research or promoting opportunities, both academic or professional, as they come up. We also continue to have an inclusive platform that benefits all student and early-career members of the society. Some of the committee members are still partnered with members from the EDI subcommittee to create a 'Diversity in Primatology' series on social media to highlight people from underrepresented backgrounds. Our subcommittee is always looking for ways to improve and be a resource for the members of our society. If there is anything you would like to see the subcommittee do, please feel free to reach out via our social media or via the email listed above.