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Successful prosecution of slow loris traders in Indonesia

On 15 February 2018 a wildlife trader in Lubuk Basung, West Sumatra, Indonesia, was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison, with a fine of IDR 100 million (c. USD 7,250) and a 6-month subsidiary sentence, after his arrest last year for trading slow lorises (*Nycticebus* spp.). A trafficker was sentenced to 3 years in prison with the same fine and subsidiary sentence. The perpetrators were tracked by posts on their Facebook pages that advertised the animals for sale.

Indonesia is home to seven species of slow loris, and all of them are categorized as threatened (with two Critically Endangered) on the IUCN Red List, and all are included on Appendix 1 of CITES. Slow lorises were included on Indonesia's list of protected species in 1973, and buying, selling or keeping them as pets is illegal. According to Indonesia's Law No. 5 (1990) on the Conservation of Biological Resources and Ecosystems, perpetrators can receive a maximum of 5 years in prison and a maximum fine of IDR 100 million. Despite the extreme threat of illegal trade to the survival of slow lorises in Indonesia, open trade in markets or on social media still flourishes.

The convicted trader offered slow lorises and other wildlife, including the protected changeable hawk-eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus*, for sale on his Facebook page. The asking price for a Sumatran slow loris *Nycticebus hilleri* offered for sale on 30 August 2017 was USD 36. On 23 September 2017 the local authorities arrested the wildlife trader whilst he was in possession of six Sumatran slow lorises and two albino common palm civets *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, the latter for sale at USD 109 each, and on the same day a wildlife trafficker with three Sumatran slow lorises was arrested. The nine slow lorises comprised two babies, two juveniles and five adults (seven females, two males). They must have been obtained recently from the wild as they were still healthy and none had their teeth cut (slow lorises are the only venomous primate and traders often cut their teeth to make them more suitable as pets).

Two weeks later, eight of the nine Sumatran slow lorises were released in the Bung Hatta Forest Park, east of the city of Padang. Two slow loris species occur on the island of

Sumatra, yet their distribution has not been documented, nor has any study been made of their behavioural ecology. These are crucial prerequisites for release. No data are available regarding whether assessment of the quality and suitability of the habitat were made prior to release. Reintroductions of non-endemic species, as well as introducing animals into areas with no suitable habitat, are additional threats to slow lorises throughout Asia.

Prosecuting and sentencing law breakers punishes the offenders and acts as a deterrent for future law breakers. This case is one of few in which a wildlife trader and wildlife trafficker have been successfully prosecuted and sentenced for trading and trafficking slow lorises in Indonesia. We hope that these convictions represent a changing trend in wildlife enforcement in the country.

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Sightings of reintroduced northern bald ibis *Geronticus eremita* crossing between Spain and Morocco are probably hand-reared rather than wild-born

The report of six northern bald ibis *Geronticus eremita* arriving in Morocco from Spain in November 2016 (Muñoz & Ramirez, *Oryx*, 51, 204–205) was claimed to be the first confirmed sighting of the reintroduced Spanish population crossing from Europe to Africa. Significantly, there have been several additional sightings of birds leaving from Spain and crossing to Africa before and since this date (Migres Foundation, 2016 & 2017, Unpublished Reports). We present these data and cross-reference them to timings and information from the reintroduction project Proyecto Eremita (López & Quevedo, 2016, pp. 54–57, in Boehm & Bowden, eds, *Northern Bald Ibis Conservation & Reintroduction Workshop*) in Andalusia, Spain.

Post-breeding observations of soaring birds since 1999, by the Migres Foundation observation teams at Tarifa, Cazalla and Algarrobo in southern Spain during July–December, have recorded northern bald ibises on at least 15 occasions (Table 1). These have mainly been birds leaving Spain towards Morocco. The highest numbers were observed in 2016, and these include the six birds confirmed to arrive in Tangiers by Muñoz & Ramirez. Table 1 shows crossings both before and after, as well as a group in July 2016 that appears to have made the crossing and then returned, minus one individual, to Spain the following day.

The observation of 11 birds that crossed on 23 September 2016 is of interest because 11 hand-reared juveniles, released as part of a larger group of 25 in July, disappeared from

TABLE 1 Summary of all sightings of northern bald ibis *Geronticus eremita* by the Migres Foundation.

Date	Time	Number	Direction	Crossing	Observer	Observation point
29 Sep. 2010	11.08	15	N–N			Cazalla
28 July 2014	12.36	1	N–S	Yes	Alejandro Onrubia	Cazalla
30 July 2016	10.09	7	N–S		Andrés de la Cruz	Cazalla
31 July 2016	13.54	6	S–N		Andrés de la Cruz	Cazalla
20 Aug. 2016	13.48	21	W–E		Carlos Torralvo	Cazalla
9 Sep. 2016	10.15	19	NW–SE	Yes	Alberto Lobo	Cazalla
9 Sep. 2016	11.06	22	W–E		Erin Arnold	Algarrobo
23 Sep. 2016	11.29	11	NW–S	Yes	Carlos Torralvo	Cazalla
24 Sep. 2016	09.18	8	S–NW		Alejandro Onrubia	Cazalla
10 Oct. 2016	12.27	1	W–E		Carlos Torralvo	Cazalla
2 Nov. 2016*	10.10	6	NE–SW	Yes	Alejandro Onrubia	Tarifa
8 Aug. 2017	09.42	1	NW–SE		Alejandro Onrubia	Cazalla
8 Aug. 2017	10.12	1	E–W		Alejandro Onrubia	Cazalla
10 Nov. 2017	10.00	5	N–S	Yes	Alejandro Onrubia	Tarifa
11 Nov. 2017	08.10	3	N–S	Yes	Alejandro Onrubia	Tarifa

*The same birds were seen arriving in Tangiers by Muñoz & Ramirez (2017).

Proyecto Eremita on that day. None of these subsequently returned to the project. All Proyecto Eremita birds are fitted with unique coded darvic rings. Only the observation in 2014 was confirmed to be an adult. Most birds making the crossing seem likely to be hand-reared juveniles. The birds that crossed towards Morocco in early November 2017 did not, however, coincide with a disappearance from Proyecto Eremita.

In 2016 a total of 101 northern bald ibises were observed crossing or part-crossing the Gibraltar Straits in nine separate observations. Many of these sightings undoubtedly involved the same birds passing, but 36 birds (observations on three separate dates) were observed crossing to the south. It is possible that at least some of the birds returned to Spain undetected during this period. A minimum of 19 birds were seen crossing to Morocco on 9 September 2016, and it is possible that the six observed on 2 November were surviving birds from that larger group, attempting the crossing back to Spain (having already set off north from Morocco).

The Proyecto Eremita reintroduced population has now successfully bred 90 free-flying ibises, and 25 pairs bred in the wild in 2017 with no significant intervention. These birds remain largely sedentary (regularly moving up to 45 km but rarely more than this). Austrian work to establish free-flying ibises reported multiple long-distance movements (several hundred km) of mainly juveniles, and only by enclosing the birds each autumn did they remain in the area (Fritz et al., 2017, *International Book Yearbook*, 51, 107–123), and enclosure in autumn is also used at Proyecto Eremita. Whether this population will develop a regular dispersion or migration pattern to the south remains unclear, and the continued monitoring and marking of the free-flying Proyecto Eremita juveniles is important, to

differentiate between these and the possibility of sightings involving the slowly increasing, fully wild Moroccan birds dispersing to the north.

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A global effort to improve species monitoring for conservation

We know biodiversity is in decline but our ability to monitor the status of species, and threats, and to assess the outcomes and impacts of conservation projects, is limited by a lack of adequate data. Obstacles to data collection, access and use are numerous and include weak indicators and monitoring plans, inadequate resources and capacity, lack of appropriate tools and limited sharing of data (Stephenson et al., 2017, *Biological Conservation*, 213, 335–340). As a result, there are large biases and gaps in our knowledge (e.g. there are more data on vertebrates than invertebrates, and more data on European species than African species). Although satellite-