



PRESS RELEASE

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Campaigners celebrate as Malaysia halts monkey exports

Groups now urge humane resolution to region's human/monkey conflict

The **European Coalition to End Animal Experiments (ECEAE)**, which represents groups in 17 countries, welcomes the recent announcement made by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment that the government intends to reinstate the ban on the export of macaques from Malaysia.

This is a major victory for Malaysian primates and follows an international campaign by animal and environmental groups within Malaysia and across the world. The ECEAE led the European efforts, resulting in letters of protest sent to Malaysian Embassies throughout Europe as well as to the Malaysian Government and Members of Parliament.

At a time when there is growing international concern over the plight of primates in areas such as research, it is heartening to learn that Malaysia intends to maintain the important ban that it implemented in 1984. Such a move will prevent the infliction of immense suffering, misery and death to many thousands of primates who would otherwise have been exported for the food and research industries. An investigation by UK ECEAE member **BUAV** uncovered a run-down facility in Malaysia where hundreds of wild caught monkeys were being kept in poor, overcrowded conditions.

The **ECEAE** now urges the government of Malaysia to address the underlying problem of human-monkey conflict in urban areas without resorting to the killing of monkeys. Conflict between human beings and wildlife over habitat is a growing issue facing many governments. There are ways to control monkey populations which are not only humane, but are also more effective.

The **BUAV** has already submitted a paper to the Malaysia Natural Resources and Environment Minister Dato' Seri Hj Azmi Khalid. This offered suggestions on effective means of controlling the conflicts humanely, including reproduction control, relocation and educating the public to adopt behaviour that does not encourage monkeys to rely on humans for food.

BUAV Chief Executive Michelle Thew said: "We are delighted to learn that the government of Malaysia intends to reinstate its ban on the export of monkeys. Many thousands of monkeys' lives will be saved. We urge the government to now protect its indigenous population of monkeys and look for humane ways to solve the human-monkey conflict issue."

Ends

NOTES TO EDITOR

Photos from the BUAV's investigation at the Malaysian facility and the briefing paper on humane methods of dealing with monkey conflicts are available on request.

The European Coalition to End Animal Experiments is an alliance of 18 organisations across Europe working to end animal experimentation. More information can be found here www.eceae.org

The BUAV has been campaigning for over 100 years to achieve a world where nobody wants or believes we need to experiment on animals. We are committed to achieving our aims through reliable and reasoned evidence-based debate. We are proudly non-violent and respect the quality of life for all – animals and people.

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