

Dr. Janice Chism Abstract

Research interests: Dr. Chism has carried out research on wild primate populations throughout the world including a four-year National Science Foundation Fellowship which supported a long-term study of the behavioral ecology of patas monkeys (*Erythrocebus patas*) in Kenya. While her research has taken her to Africa, the Caribbean, and South America, she also has studied mother-infant behavior in captive groups of primates and has combined field and laboratory techniques in several zoo-based studies. For the last 16 years she has worked in the Area de Conservación Regional Comunal de Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo (ACRCTT) in northeastern Peru. This is an area of high biodiversity which local residents have sought to preserve and manage. Chism and several of her Winthrop graduate and undergraduate students have worked on projects in this area to aid in efforts by local and international conservationists to protect the wildlife including the endangered red uakari monkeys. Since 2008 Chism and her students have concentrated on studying saki monkeys (genus *Pithecia*). Their work has uncovered a second species of saki monkey not previously known to be in the area (*P. aequatorialis*) and provided evidence that the two species of sakis in the area may be hybridizing, a rare phenomenon among primates. She is a scientific advisor for the Rainforest Conservation Fund, and she also carries out research locally on urban red fox populations. She was part of a national effort to identify all living species in the U.S. by helping direct the All-Taxa Biological Inventory being carried out in South Carolina State Parks. Unfortunately this effort was suspended during the 2008 recession and has not yet been refunded.