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Community Conservation Awarded National Geographic Society Grant

Community Conservation, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Gays Mills, has been awarded a grant from internationally recognized National Geographic Society to catalyze community-based conservation of the yellow tailed woolly monkey in the northern Cloud Forest of Peru.

Community Conservation director Dr. Robert Horwich will travel to Peru to join conservation partners Sam and Noga Shanee of Neotropical Primate Conservation, who have already begun to gather information on the critically endangered yellow tailed woolly monkey. Little information is currently available on the remaining numbers of yellow tailed woolly monkey, but it is estimated that perhaps fewer than 250 are left in their natural habitat. The funds provided by the National Geographic Society Conservation Trust will allow Dr. Horwich and his colleagues to provide workshops and training to communities living within the habitat range of the species. These activities will train local stakeholders as para-biologists to assist in data collection and population monitoring as well as catalyze the creation of community-managed forest areas that will protect the vital habitat of the yellow tailed woolly monkey in hopes of fostering an increase in its population numbers. The cloud forest habitat is currently facing the challenges of illegal logging, mining, and deforestation due to human encroachment.

In order to promote global biodiversity and sustainable land use, Community Conservation catalyzes, facilitates, and empowers local people to manage and conserve natural resources within the social, cultural, and economic context of their communities and facilitates widespread, global adoption of community-based conservation.