

HUMAN IMPACT ON LONG-TAILED MACAQUES IN THAILAND

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Long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) are the most frequently observed of the 13 species of primates in Thailand, and 100 local populations were recently reported. They have a wide adaptability to various ecological conditions and can live in a great variety of habitats, including disturbed forests and forest periphery. Fifty seven of the 100 locations surveyed were Buddhist temples close to human settlements. Living in the temple complexes, vegetation is often sparse for foraging and the monkeys are dependent on provisioning. Through provisioning, lack of predators and the constraints of limited viable natural habitat, population sizes and densities of Thai long-tailed macaques in and around temple areas are increasing. Thus, interactions between humans and long-tailed macaques have been increasingly happened in many locations in Thailand. Here we present an overview of information gathered to date regarding the distribution and status of long-tailed macaques in Thailand. We address issues associated with the close sympatry of humans and long-tailed macaques, commensal and conflict relationships, as well as the potential impacts of such relationships. The data presented was gathered using various methods including: questionnaire surveys, field surveys, capture-and-release techniques, literature and media reviews, and data from an intensive investigation of the human-long-tailed macaque interface at Lopburi City, a renowned monkey city in Thailand, collected from interviews and direct field observations.

Keywords: Long-tailed macaque, Buddhist temple, conflict, commensalism