

DISTRIBUTION AND CURRENT STATUS OF LONG-TAILED MACAQUES (*Macaca fascicularis aurea*) IN MYANMAR

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The evolutionary history of Myanmar long-tailed macaque (*Macaca fascicularis aurea*) has not been studied. We have collected data on the distribution and status of local groups and habitat conditions of long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis aurea*) throughout Myanmar using interviews, pet observation, and direct field surveys from July, 2004 to March, 2009. The long-tailed macaque was found to be distributed along Myanmar's coastal regions from its northwestern border (21°N) near Bangladesh to its southernmost border (9°58'N) near Thailand. The Rakhine and southern Tanintharyi biogeographical regions are major ranges, and the Ayeyarwady Delta, Bago Yoma, and the northern Tanintharyi regions appear to have suffered extensive population losses. The national population of Myanmar long-tailed macaques in 2009 was estimated to be between 11 000 and 108 000 individuals. Habitat loss from logging, agricultural and aquacultural farming, and hunting for food and trading are current threats to long-tailed macaque populations in Myanmar. As a result, the population of long-tailed macaques in Myanmar may be declining and becoming fragmented. Therefore, conservation, and management programs will be necessary to maintain a viable population of long-tailed macaques in Myanmar.

Key Words: *Macaca fascicularis aurea*, primate populations, conservation, Myanmar