

**IS THERE ANY FUTURE FOR PROBOSCIS MONKEYS? THE CASE OF FAILING CONSERVATION OF BALIKPAPAN BAY.**

S. Lhota<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic,* <sup>2</sup>*Usti nad Labem Zoo, Czech Republic*

*Presenter's Email: stnlhota@yahoo.com*

Proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*), endemic to Borneo, became endangered species largely due to the fact that its habitat preferences closely match with those of human inhabitants. These monkeys specialize to exploit coastal and riverside forests, the most rapidly disappearing habitats of Borneo. I will present data on population status of proboscis monkeys inhabiting Balikpapan Bay, East Kalimantan, Indonesia. Although this population had been known for long, its size and importance remained largely underestimated. There are at least 1400 proboscis monkeys living around Balikpapan Bay, according to our surveys. All of them range at least partly in mangrove forest, from primary mangroves to urban habitat. But even the remote section of the population is now under threat from projected development of Balikpapan and Penajam towns. I will discuss various threats, stressing that protecting mangroves alone would not assure survival of the species because most of troops regularly search for key foods in forests outside mangroves. I will also outline ultimate causes of the continued population loss – economical interests of corporations, corruption in various levels of government, lack of committed public interest, and greenwashing practices of policy makers. I appreciate support of the fieldwork by Primate Conservation Inc., Primate Society of Great Britain, and Expedicni fond.

Keywords: *Nasalis larvatus*, Indonesia, conservation, population