

CASE STUDY REPORT: CROP DAMAGE BY JAPANESE MONKEYS

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Over the past 5 years, Japanese monkeys have caused approximately 1.5 billion yen of agricultural damage each year, which is the third highest level of damage level due to wild mammal species in Japan. To alleviate conflicts, two different approaches have been adopted. One is the traditional top-down damage management approach conducted by local government including measures such as population control and construction of fences. This approach has dominated, but many problems have been experienced with this approach because it takes little account of local people's perception. The other is the community-based damage management approach, which entails involvement of and positive action by local people. This approach has been gradually spreading in Japan. A Community-based approach may have applicability to various human conditions since this approach has the capacity to change local people's incentives by manipulating human-related factors. To promote damage management by local people, local government must collaborate in management with local communities in a complementary manner. For example, practices such as guarding crops, fencing croplands, reduction of available foods for monkeys in the villages and chasing monkeys should be undertaken by the local people, while support for these activities of local communities should be provided by local government. Joint management projects including all of these practices are needed to alleviate damage effectively and efficiently.

Keywords: Japanese macaques, damage management, community-based, local people