

**A REGION-WIDE REVIEW OF MESOAMERICAN PRIMATES AND PRIORITIZING FOR CONSERVATION**

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Though Mesoamerica can be defined in numerous ways, our approach will be mainly biogeographical, and will refer to the area that includes all ecosystems between central Mexico and the Panama Canal. This area represents approximately 2% of the earth's continental surface and harbors an extremely high percentage of the world's biodiversity. Nevertheless, Mesoamerican species and ecosystems are under constant threat due to rapid human population growth, extreme poverty and unsustainable agricultural practices. In the mid 90's, deforestation rates reached 2.1% annually, one of the highest rates worldwide. Currently, 8 primate species and 21 subspecies are found in Mesoamerica, 57% of which are threatened. In this work, we present a review of primate studies in fragments within this region, in order to identify which research areas are over studied and the information gaps that still remain for primate conservation planning. Furthermore, we intend to portray the complexity of the human context (political, cultural, economical and environmental) in which these primate populations are immersed.

Keywords: primate conservation, fragments, Mesoamerica