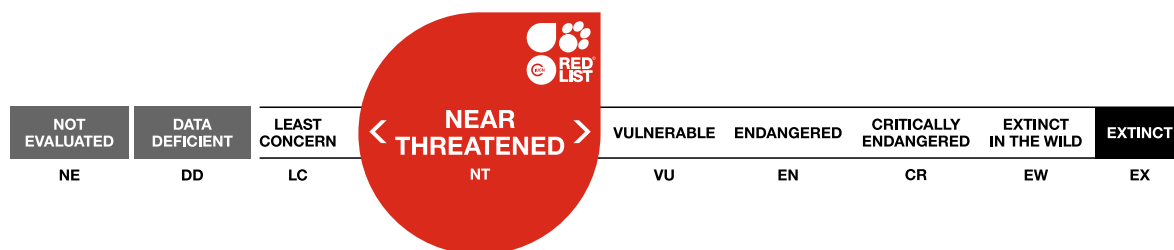


Semnopithecus priam, Tufted Gray Langur

Assessment by: Singh, M., Kumara, H.N., Dittus, W., Kumar, A. & Nag, C.



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Taxonomy

| Kingdom | Phylum | Class | Order | Family |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Animalia | Chordata | Mammalia | Primates | Cercopithecidae |

Scientific Name: *Semnopithecus priam* Blyth, 1844

Synonym(s):

- *Semnopithecus pallipes* Blyth, 1844
- *Semnopithecus priamus* Blyth, 1847

Infra-specific Taxa Assessed:

- [Semnopithecus priam ssp. priam](#)
- [Semnopithecus priam ssp. thersites](#)

Common Name(s):

- English: Tufted Gray Langur, Coromandel Sacred Langur, Madras Grey Langur

Taxonomic Source(s):

Ashalakshmi, N.C., Chetan Nag, K.S. and Karanth, P. 2014. Molecules support morphology: species status of South Indian populations of the widely distributed Hanuman langur. *Conservation Genetics* 10.1007/s10592-014-0638-4.

Taxonomic Notes:

Semnopithecus priam is here provisionally treated as a polytypic species including two recognized subspecies: *S. p. priam* and *S. p. thersites* (Brandon-Jones 2004, Groves 2005). However, limited evidence suggests that there are consistent differences between the two taxa, which may necessitate recognition of the two forms as distinct species (C. Groves pers. comm.). Recent publication by Name *et al.* (2011, 2014) and Ashalakshmi *et al.* (2014) delineates *S. prima* into two subspecies in southern India, viz., *S. p. anchises*, *S. p. priam*, and the Sri Lankan population as *S. p. thersites*.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Near Threatened A2cd+3cd [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2020

Date Assessed: November 22, 2015

Justification:

Listed as Near Threatened as, although the species is safe in a few habitats in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, it is in significant decline in Andhra Pradesh and Sri Lanka. This is due to widespread habitat loss, hunting, and persecution through much of its range, but the rates of decline for this species are not yet high enough to qualify for Vulnerable.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species is widely distributed in southern India (eastern side of the Deccan plateau, Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats east of Moyar River, eastern slopes of the southern Western Ghats and the plains of Tamil Nadu) (Nag *et al.* 2011, 2014) and Sri Lanka.

S. p. anchises occurs in a small patch of the Deccan plateau south of Krishna (Kurnool in the north to the plains of Cuddappah in the east, in Andhra Pradesh, and south to Tumakuru in Karnataka).

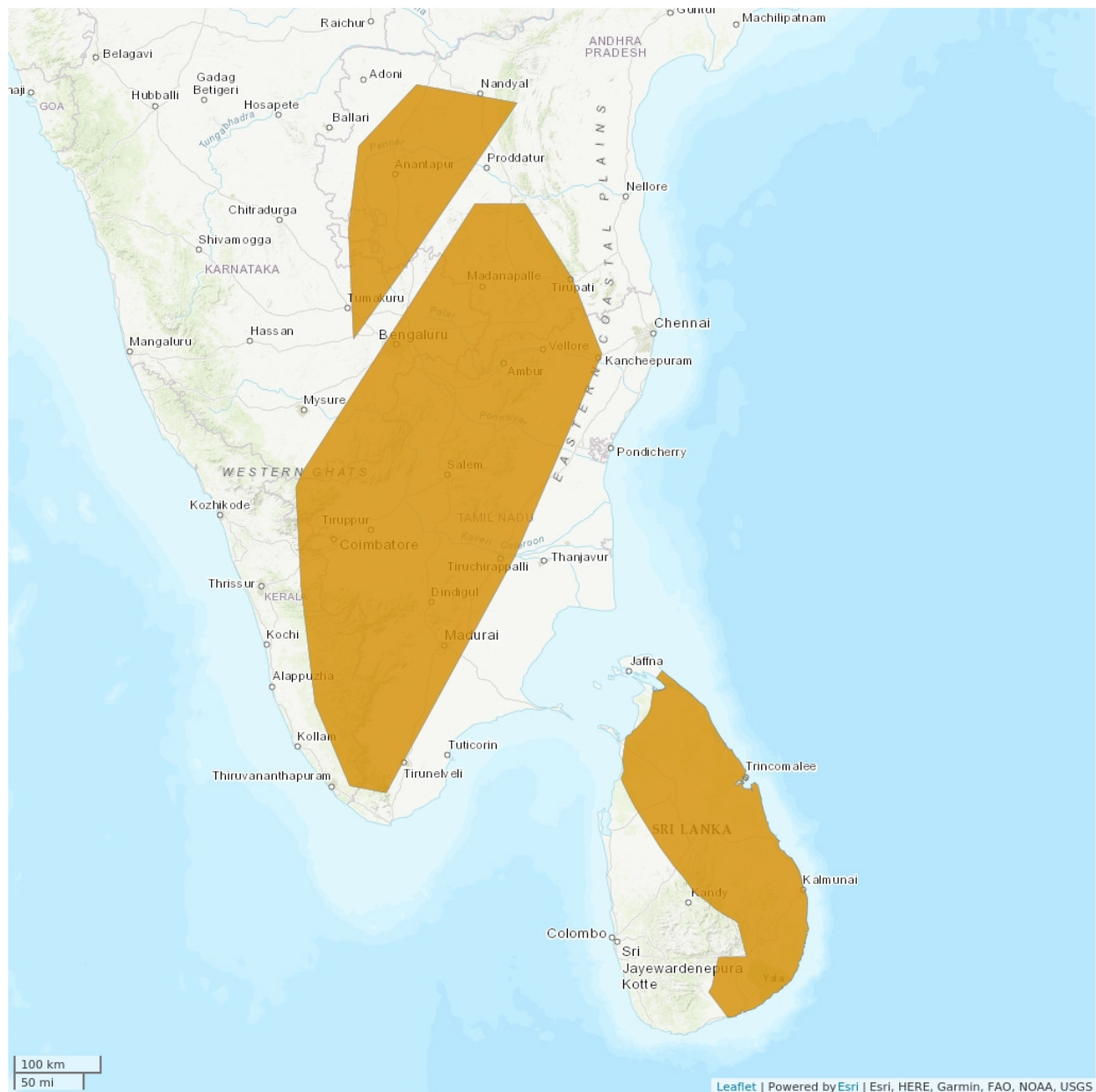
S. p. priam occurs south of Cuddappah in Andhra Pradesh to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu including the southern parts of the Eastern Ghats, eastern parts of northern Western Ghats, eastern slopes of the southern Western Ghats, and the plains of Tamil Nadu south up to Kanyakumari; rarely found on the east coast of southern India. The forests of the Eastern Ghats are not contiguous, have highly degraded dry deciduous forests, and are for the most part scrubby. The ratio of extent of occurrence to area of occupancy is very high (A. Kumar, M. Singh and S. Molur pers. comm.).

S. p. thersites is restricted to Sri Lanka in the northern dry zone.

Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu); Sri Lanka

Distribution Map

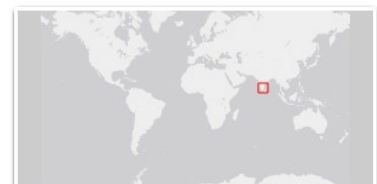


Legend

■ EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) 2020



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

Population

The global population size is unknown. There is a continuing decline in habitat in Andhra Pradesh that suggests a decline in population, but the rates are unknown (A. Kumar, M. Singh and S. Molur pers. comm.). In Sri Lanka, there has been a drastic decline in habitat (>50% in the last 30 years), and there has been more than a 50% decline in the population over the last 3 generations (Molur *et al.* 2003; A. Nekaris pers. comm.).

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is found in tropical dry evergreen forest, riparian, dry deciduous forest, coastal forest, gardens, around temples in Sri Lanka and cultivated areas (Molur *et al.* 2003). It is found in India up to 1,200 m and in Sri Lanka up to 500 m (Molur *et al.* 2003; A. Nekaris pers. comm.). It is arboreal, semi-terrestrial, folivorous and frugivorous, and diurnal. In southern India, these langurs are not very commensal with humans (M. Singh pers. comm.) except in areas like Doddabetta-Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur, Horsley Hills, Tirupathi, Kurnool, and Chinnar. Interestingly, troop size in these areas are high exhibiting multi male societies (Chetan Nag, in litt., 17 December 2019). The Sri Lankan population is restricted to the dry zone in the north.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

It is hunted for food in some parts of its range, and caught live for the pet trade.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Hunting and habitat loss are the major threats to this species (Molur *et al.* 2003). Hunting is rampant in the Eastern Ghats and the forests of the eastern coast, and common in some areas near national parks, for example, Ruhuna National Park (Molur *et al.* 2003). The habitats are highly vulnerable to human activities, and very few places are protected. Human-animal interactions in Andhra Pradesh and Sri Lanka are a big concern, and other threats include capture for pets. Persecution is one of the biggest threats to the species in India and Sri Lanka.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is listed on CITES Appendix I, and is on Schedules II, Part I, Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 amended up to 2002 (Molur *et al.* 2003). In Sri Lanka, it is included under the Fauna and Flora Protection Act number 2 (Molur *et al.* 2003). It occurs in several protected areas throughout its range in India (Sri Venkateshwara National Park, Nellapattu Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Biligiri Rangswamy Temple Sanctaury, Mudumalai Sanctaury, Chinnar Sanctuary, Neyyar Sanctuary, Peppara Sanctuary, Parambikulam Sanctuary, Shendurney Sanctuary, Grizzled Giant Squirrel Sanctuary, Indira Gandhi Sanctuary, Kalakad Sanctuary, and Mundanthurai Sanctuary), and in Sri Lanka (Knuckle Range Forest Reserve, Ampara Sanctuary, Buddaragala Sanctuary, Kanthale Naval Sanctuary, Wilpattu National Park, Ritigala Strict Nature Reserve, Angamedilla National Park, Flood Plains National Park, Giritale National Park, Moragaswawe National Park, Somawathie National Park, Wasagamuwa National Park, Uduwalawe National Park, Bundala National Park, Lunugamvehera National Park, Madura Oya National

Park and Ruhuna National Park).

Molur *et al.* (2003) suggests research on taxonomy, man-animal interaction, more surveys, as well as habitat management, wild population management, public education, and monitoring.

Credits

Assessor(s): Singh, M., Kumara, H.N., Dittus, W., Kumar, A. & Nag, C.

Reviewer(s): Molur, S. & Mittermeier, R.A.

Contributor(s): Karanth, P.

Authority/Authorities: IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group

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Nag, K.S.C., Pramod, P. and Karanth, K.P. 2011. Taxonomic Implications of a Field Study of Morphotypes of Hanuman Langurs (*Semnopithecus entellus*) in Peninsular India. *International Journal of Primatology* 32: 830–848.

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External Resources

For [Supplementary Material](#), and for [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

| Habitat | Season | Suitability | Major Importance? |
|--|--------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Forest -> 1.5. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry | - | Suitable | Yes |
| 1. Forest -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland | - | Suitable | Yes |
| 1. Forest -> 1.9. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane | - | Suitable | No |
| 3. Shrubland -> 3.6. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Moist | - | Suitable | No |
| 14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations | - | Marginal | - |
| 14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens | - | Marginal | - |
| 14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.5. Artificial/Terrestrial - Urban Areas | - | Marginal | - |

Use and Trade

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

| End Use | Local | National | International |
|------------------------------------|-------|----------|---------------|
| Pets/display animals, horticulture | No | Yes | Yes |
| Food - human | No | Yes | Yes |

Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

| Threat | Timing | Scope | Severity | Impact Score |
|---|-----------|---|----------|---------------|
| 1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas | Ongoing | - | - | Low impact: 3 |
| | Stresses: | 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation | | |
| 2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.1. Shifting agriculture | Ongoing | - | - | Low impact: 3 |
| | Stresses: | 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation | | |
| 2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.2. Small-holder farming | Ongoing | - | - | Low impact: 3 |
| | Stresses: | 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation | | |

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|---|---------------|
| 5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target) | Ongoing | - | - | Low impact: 3 |
| | Stresses: | 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality | | |
| 5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.3. Persecution/control | Ongoing | - | - | Low impact: 3 |

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

| |
|---|
| Conservation Action in Place |
| In-place research and monitoring |
| Action Recovery Plan: No |
| Systematic monitoring scheme: No |
| In-place land/water protection |
| Conservation sites identified: No |
| Area based regional management plan: No |
| Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes |
| Invasive species control or prevention: Not Applicable |
| In-place species management |
| Harvest management plan: No |
| Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: No |
| Subject to ex-situ conservation: No |
| In-place education |
| Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: No |
| Included in international legislation: Yes |
| Subject to any international management / trade controls: Yes |

Conservation Actions Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

| |
|---|
| Conservation Action Needed |
| 1. Land/water protection -> 1.1. Site/area protection |
| 1. Land/water protection -> 1.2. Resource & habitat protection |
| 2. Land/water management -> 2.1. Site/area management |
| 3. Species management -> 3.1. Species management -> 3.1.1. Harvest management |

| |
|---|
| Conservation Action Needed |
| 4. Education & awareness -> 4.1. Formal education |
| 5. Law & policy -> 5.4. Compliance and enforcement -> 5.4.2. National level |

Research Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

| |
|--|
| Research Needed |
| 1. Research -> 1.1. Taxonomy |
| 1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends |
| 1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology |
| 1. Research -> 1.4. Harvest, use & livelihoods |
| 1. Research -> 1.5. Threats |
| 1. Research -> 1.6. Actions |
| 3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends |

Additional Data Fields

| |
|---|
| Distribution |
| Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km ²): 2000 |
| Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 20000 |
| Lower elevation limit (m): 50 |
| Upper elevation limit (m): 1,200 |
| Population |
| Continuing decline of mature individuals: Yes |
| Extreme fluctuations: Unknown |
| Population severely fragmented: Yes |
| Habitats and Ecology |
| Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes |
| Generation Length (years): 12 |

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