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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Lion-tailed Macaque

The **Lion-tailed Macaque**, *Macaca silenus*, is listed as Endangered on The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is found only in the rainforests of the Western Ghats in southwestern India, in the states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Its range is small and severely fragmented, made up of 47 isolated subpopulations in seven different overall regions.

The total wild population is estimated to be less than 4,000 individuals. It is mainly an arboreal primate, preferring the upper canopy of primary tropical evergreen rainforest, and also monsoon forest in hilly country, ranging from near sea-level up to 1,800 m in the mountains. It also occurs in disturbed forest, making use of human-planted fruit trees such as jack fruit, guava and passion fruit. Habitat degradation, due to use of forest products and the expansion of agriculture, seems to be the biggest threat to the conservation of Lion-tailed Macaques through most of their range. In some places they are also illegally hunted.

The Lion-tailed Macaque occurs in a number of protected areas in the Western Ghats. About one-quarter of the population occurs in forest on private land where populations can persist in coffee and cardamom plantations.

Knowledge ^{EQ}
Experts ^{EQ}
Get Involved ^{EQ}



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