

Golden Langur

Origin

The exact origin of golden langurs (*Trachypithecus geei*) is not known, but they are believed to have evolved in the region of Southeast Asia. It is thought that they reached India by crossing a land bridge that once existed between Southeast Asia and the northeastern region of India during the late Miocene or early Pliocene period. Fossil evidence suggests that langurs have inhabited the Indian subcontinent for at least 1.8 million years. Over time, the golden langurs adapted to their new environment and evolved into a distinct species found only in the northeastern region of India.

Distribution and Population in India



The Golden Langur is a primate species found primarily in the Indian state of Assam, as well as in some parts of Bhutan and Bangladesh. Their distribution is restricted to a small region, primarily in the foothills of the Himalayas. The population of Golden Langurs is estimated to be around 2,500 to 3,000 individuals, and they are classified as endangered due to habitat loss, fragmentation, and hunting. Several conservation efforts are underway to protect this species,

including the creation of protected areas, community-based conservation initiatives, and education and awareness programs.

Features

Appearance

The coat of the adult golden langur ranges from cream to golden, on its flanks and chest the hairs are darker and often rust coloured while the coats of the juveniles and females are lighter, silvery white to light buff. The coat changes color seasonally, from white or cream coloured in the summer to dark golden or chestnut in the winter. Their long whiskers protect their eyes from rain during monsoon. The golden langur has a black face and large whorl of hair on its crown.

The Golden Langur is a medium-sized primate that ranges in weight from 7 to 14 kg and has a height of around 55 to 60 cm. They have a distinctive golden-yellow coat color that covers most of their body, with darker colors on their face, hands, and feet. Males and females are similar in appearance, with the only difference being that males have a more pronounced ruff of hair around their neck.

Lifestyle

Golden Langurs are arboreal and spend most of their time in the trees. They are diurnal and social animals that live in groups of up to 20 individuals. They are primarily herbivores and feed on a variety of leaves, fruits, and flowers. They prefer to live in dense forests and have a preference for areas with high rainfall and humidity.

Female Golden Langurs give birth to a single offspring every two to three years. Offspring are weaned after six months and become sexually mature at around four years of age.

Food Habits

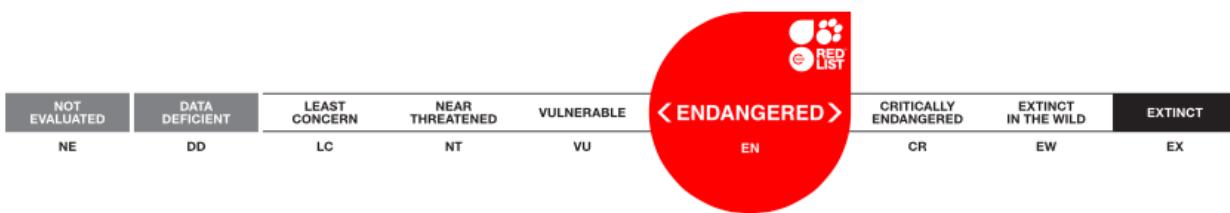
Golden Langurs are primarily herbivores and their diet consists mainly of leaves, fruits, flowers, and seeds. They have a preference for a variety of plant species, and their diet can change depending on the availability of food in their environment. They have been observed feeding on a variety of tree species, including figs, mangoes, and bamboo leaves.

Habitats

Their habitat is typically in tropical and subtropical forests, where they live in small to large groups. They prefer to live in tall trees and are arboreal, meaning they spend most of their time in the trees. Their natural range includes the northeastern Indian states of Assam and Bhutan.

Golden Langurs prefer to live in areas with high rainfall and humidity. They are found in areas that receive an average annual rainfall of 2500-4000 mm. The forests where they live are often characterised by tall, dense trees and a variety of plant species.

Vulnerable species



The Golden Langur is currently listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It was first listed as Vulnerable in 1986.

The Golden Langur is vulnerable primarily due to habitat loss and fragmentation caused by deforestation, logging, and

agriculture. The conversion of forests to agricultural land and the construction of roads and other infrastructure has resulted in the loss and fragmentation of their habitat, making it difficult for Golden Langurs to move between forest fragments and find enough food and shelter. Additionally, hunting and poaching for their meat and body parts is also a significant threat to their survival.

Golden Langurs have a limited distribution, being found only in a few forest fragments in northeastern India, Bhutan. They also have a low reproductive rate, with females giving birth to only one offspring every two to three years. These factors make the Golden Langur particularly vulnerable to extinction.

Protected Areas

In India, the Manas National Park and the adjacent Manas Wildlife Sanctuary are two protected areas that are home to significant populations of Golden Langurs. These protected areas are located in the state of Assam and cover an area of over 950 square kilometers. They are also recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Another protected area in India that is home to Golden Langurs is the Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, which is located in the state of Assam and covers an area of 45 square kilometers.

In Bhutan, the Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park and the Royal Manas National Park are two protected areas that are home to Golden Langurs. These protected areas cover a total area of over 8,000 square kilometers and are located in the southern part of the country.

These protected areas play an important role in the conservation of Golden Langurs and their habitat.

These protected areas play an important role in the conservation of Golden Langurs and their habitat. They provide

a safe haven for the species and help to reduce human disturbance in their range. However, more efforts are needed to ensure the long-term survival of the Golden Langur, including the establishment of additional protected areas, the enforcement of laws and regulations to prevent hunting and poaching, and the promotion of sustainable land use practices.

Conservation of the Species



Protecting the habitats of these species is critical to their survival. This can be achieved by establishing protected areas, promoting sustainable land use practices, and reducing human disturbance in their habitats.

Hunting and poaching are significant threats to these species. Implementing anti-poaching measures such as increasing patrols, imposing stricter penalties for poaching, and increasing public awareness about the importance of conservation can help reduce poaching.

Involving local communities in conservation efforts is essential. This can be achieved through awareness-raising

campaigns, education programs, and supporting alternative livelihoods that do not harm these species or their habitats.

Regular monitoring of these species can help in understanding their population status, behaviour, and distribution. This information can be used to inform conservation strategies and ensure that they are effective. International cooperation is crucial in conserving these species, especially those that cross national borders.

Collaborating with other countries can help establish transboundary protected areas, monitor migration patterns, and share knowledge and best practices. Promoting sustainable tourism that supports conservation efforts can provide economic benefits to local communities while also raising awareness about the importance of conservation.

By implementing these solutions, we can help protect these iconic and unique species and ensure that they continue to thrive in their natural habitats.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Kiang is an iconic species that are facing significant threats to their survival. Protecting their habitats, implementing anti-poaching measures, involving local communities, conducting research and monitoring, international cooperation, and promoting sustainable tourism are all important solutions that can help conserve these species. It is essential that we take action to protect these species and their habitats to ensure that they continue to play their crucial role in their respective ecosystems and maintain their unique place in our planet's biodiversity.