
The Distribution Survey of Non-Human Diurnal Primates in Southern Province

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Southern province consists of three districts and three main climatic zones. It is one of the richest provinces in terms of high bio diversity including both fauna and flora. Further, Sri Lanka has five primate species which shows a wide distribution in different geographical and climatic zones. However there is no clear understanding of the current distribution of these primates in the different habitats prevailing in this province. Therefore this study mainly focused on to identifying the distribution of each species and their preferred climatic and geographical zones. This study was conducted from the years 2010 to 2017. This survey mainly focused on the habitats of primates such as natural forest, home gardens, forest buffer zones, rubber lands and other cultivations. The main objective of this research is to determine the distribution of each primate species and identify their preferred climatic and geographical zones. Information was collected on their distribution, habitats and threats, to help ensure its long-term survival. 113 sites from Galle, 23 sites Matara and 37 sites from Hambantota were visited within the historical range of these three species and number of the interviews were conducted as well. When consider the result of this study that distribution pattern of Galle district; purple faced leaf langur (*Trachypithecus vetulus*) was recorded from all 113 sites, toque macaque (*Macaca sinica*) was recorded from 42 sites and there are 71 sites where both purple- faced leaf langur and toque macaque lived sympatrically. Of the 23 sites observed from Matara district, purple faced leaf langur was recorded from all 17 sites, toque macaque was recorded from 22 sites and there are 16 sites where they live sympatrically. 37 sites were observed from Hambantota district and Gray langur was recorded from all 33 sites, toque macaque was recorded from 37sites and there were 33 sites where Gray langur and toque macaque lived sympatrically. Conclusion of this study are that toque macaque is well adapted to both climatic zones and as well as to man-made and natural environments. It is important to determine the historical distribution of each species to take measures for human animal conflict and conservation of primates.

Keywords; conservation; distribution pattern; diurnal; endangered; primates,