

Project Update: October 2020

Fieldwork has become a challenge in the last 6 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you may know, during certain periods of the lockdown, protected areas and reserve forests were closed for entry. Nevertheless, we have been continuing to collect data in the human-dominated landscape, taking all precautions laid out by the IUCN ethics committee regarding animal research during the pandemic. We have also published our first paper based on data collected for the lion-tailed macaque project. Our current proposed project is based on this study, which has received a fair amount of national media coverage. We also conducted an in-depth workshop with the state forest department to set in place a long-term monitoring programme for the lion-tailed macaques of the Anamalai hills (an important conservation output of our proposed study). Below, I have pasted links to the media pages as well as a link to the research paper. I will also send over the official report submitted to the forest department shortly.

Media Coverage:

<https://researchmatters.in/news/too-close-comfort-proximity-humans-significantly-affecting-behaviours-lion-tailed-macaques>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/habitat-loss-puts-lion-tailed-macaque-in-iucn-endangered-list-for-the-sixth-time/article32698840.ece>

Long-term lion-tailed macaque monitoring programme:

<https://www.deccanherald.com/science-and-environment/dh-exclusive-reclusive-lion-tailed-macaques-in-western-ghats-becoming-dependent-on-human-food-892214.html>