

## Project Update: March 2009

We started our fieldwork for the survey in October 2008. Our team comprised of a research assistant and three native forest dwellers, who served as field assistants. The wet evergreen forests, which the macaque inhabits, were overlaid with grids of 5 km<sup>2</sup>. Within these grids existing network of trails and animal paths are walked by two people consisting of one biologist and a field assistant. A minimum of 2 km, and a maximum of 5 km are walked depending on the length of forest trail and the number of trails available within these grids. Each grid is surveyed for four consecutive days. However, in some remote areas only two days were spent surveying the grids. On sighting a group, location of the sighting is recorded using a handheld GPS and plotted on a map. Sightings of other arboreal mammals are also recorded in a similar fashion. Two to three teams survey adjacent grids so as to maximize chances of locating the lion-tailed macaque groups in an area. We have spent 140 days in the reserve, marked and sampled 21 grids, which involved searching for lion-tailed macaques in over 139 km long forest trails. We sighted in all 14 groups, with an average group size of about 17 individuals.



Left: Scanning the rainforest canopy for lion-tailed macaques groups. Right: Counting individuals of a lion-tailed macaques group