SIBERUT
CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Project description

Group structure and physical characteristics of Simakobu monkeys (*Simias concolor*)

As part of our field research and conservation programme in Northern Siberut, which relies heavily on the support of and close interaction with local inhabitants, the opportunity arose for one of our team to passively attend a rare ceremonial hunt of *S. concolor*. In the course of this hunt, which took place in an area that is not protected by SCP, three groups were hunted down and the majority of individuals were killed. We collected data on size and composition of these groups as well as physical characteristics of most of the individuals killed by the local hunters. Hence, we are able to present new data on group composition and individual physical characteristics from free ranging Pig-tailed langurs (*Simias concolor*) locally known as Simakobu, living in a relatively undisturbed habitat in North Siberut.

Mean group size was 8.7 ± 1.1 (n = 3) individuals with an adult male-female sex ratio of 1:3. In all groups encountered, only one adult male was present. 17 of 18 individuals from two groups were killed, sexed and allocated into three age categories: infants, juveniles & subadults and adults on the basis of their physical development and parity. Measures of the head-body length (tape measure) and body weight (digital balance) were taken. Within age categories (sexes combined) head-body lengths ranged from 19.6-25cm, 34-44cm and 42-53cm. Corresponding body weights ranged from 0.5-0.9kg, 2.35-4.4kg and 5.2-7.85kg, respectively; adult males were 13% larger and 23% heavier than adult females.

Results indicate i) group sizes larger than reported in earlier field studies, confirming a more recent proposal that group sizes in Simakobu monkeys are related to the degree of habitat disturbance ii) a polygynous mating system of *S. concolor,* and iii) a lack of reproductive seasonality in this colobine monkey. Collectively these data represent an important contribution to the small database available for this endangered primate species.