



Project description

Abundance and community structure of Mentawai primates in the Peleonan Forest, North Siberut, Indonesia

The island of Siberut in the Mentawai Archipelago, west of Sumatra, Indonesia, supports four of the five primate species endemic to the Archipelago, all categorized as threatened on the IUCN Red List. As a baseline for future research on the ecology and conservation of Siberut's primates we used a line-transect approach to survey primates in the Peleonan forest site of the Siberut Conservation Project in northern Siberut. In 104 km of surveys we made a total of 391 observations of primates and estimated density and population sizes for the Project's 10.7 km² main study site. Overall primates biomass density was estimated to be 697 kg km² and abundances, in individuals km², were: Pig-tailed Snub-nosed Langur *Simias concolor*, 53.1; Siberut macaque *Macaca siberu*, 16.2; Kloss's gibbon *Hylobates klossii*, 8.9; Mentawai Langur *Presbytis potenziani*, 8.2. These results confirm those from earlier studies that in undisturbed and unhunted primary forests *S. concolor* is more successful than the sympatrically occurring *P. potenziani*. Results for all species suggest considerable population sizes on the island and underline its importance for the conservation of Mentawai primates.