



Project description

Mating system and reproductive parameters of the Mentawai langur (*Presbytis potenziani*)

The social organization of primates and the development of distinct mating systems is considered to be directly linked to both ecological settings and phylogeny. The relative importance of these factors in shaping the actual mating system however, remains poorly understood. In the present study (currently still in the planning stage) we will examine the mating system and the factors that have led to its development in Mentawai langur *Presbytis potenziani*. This species is of particular interest since it is the only old world primate reported to live in monogamous groups whilst at the same time, having evolved during a long period of geographic isolation under unusual ecological conditions.

Ecological data on food abundance and food preferences will be collected and combined with behavioural data, especially in the context of food resource and mate defence during intergroup encounters. Genetic data on the phylogeny of these primates and the relatedness of individuals amongst and between three study groups of *P. potenziani* will complement the field data.