



Human Interaction Threat to Lion-Tailed Macaques

[Source: TH](#)

The endangered [lion-tailed macaque](#) (LTM) faces threats from **increasing human interactions**, driven by **habitat encroachment** and **food provisioning**.

- Human-provided food causes [malnutrition](#), **disease**, **dependency**, and increases risks of **road accidents** and human aggression.
 - LTM is highly **adaptable to human-altered environments** and frequently interacts with humans.



- **About Lion-tailed Macaque:**

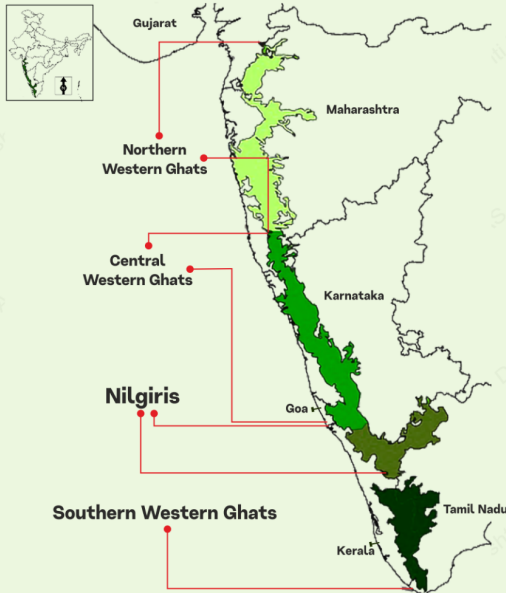
- They are **old world monkeys** endemic to the [Western Ghats](#) of India.
 - Their key habitats include the [Anamalai Hills](#), Nelliampathy, Nilambur Ghats, **Sholayar**, Gavi, [Sabarimala](#), Vallimalai Hills and Agumbe of the Western Ghats.
- The lion-tailed macaque's **black fur** and **light mane** around its head and chin give it the nickname "**beard ape**."
- **Dominant males** of the group emit loud, **human-like 'whoops'** to alert outsiders entering their territory.

◦ **Conservation Status:**

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

Western Ghats

One of the four biodiversity hotspots of India; recognised as a UNESCO WHS (2012)



Rivers (originating)

- **West-flowing:** Periyar, Bharathappuzha, Netravathi, Sharavathi, Mandovi
- **East-flowing:** Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Tunga, Bhadra, Bhima, Malaprabha, Ghataprabha, Hemavathi, Kabini

Endemic Species

- **Nilgiri tahr** (IUCN Status - EN)
- **Lion-tailed macaque** (IUCN Status - EN)

Imp Protected Areas

- **Biosphere Reserves** - Agasthyamala and Nilgiri
- **NP** - Silent Valley, Bandipur, Eravikulam, Wayanad-Mudumalai, Nagarhole
- **TR** - Kalakad-Mundanthurai, Periyar

Imp Passes

- Thal Ghat Pass (Kasara Ghat)
- Bhor Ghat Pass
- Palakkad Gap (Pal Ghat)
- Amba Ghat Pass
- Naneghat Pass
- Amboli Ghat Pass

Significance

- **Hydroelectricity** production
- Influences **Indian monsoon weather patterns**
- **Carbon sequestration** (neutralise ~4 MT of carbon every year)
- One of the 8 global **hottest hotspots** of biodiversity (due to richness in species and endemism)
- Rich in **iron, manganese and bauxite ores, timber, pepper, cardamom, oil palm and rubber**
- Sizeable indigenous population (including PVTGs)
- Important tourism/pilgrimage centres

Major Threats

- Mining, Industrialisation
- Massive extraction of forest produce
- Human-wildlife conflict, encroachment, illegal hunting
- Livestock grazing, deforestation
- Large hydropower projects
- Climate change

Imp Committees

- **Gadgil Committee (2011)** (Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel)
 - » **Recommendation:** All of WG be declared as Ecological Sensitive Area (ESA) with only limited development allowed in graded zones.
- **Kasturirangan Committee (2013)**
 - » **Recommendation:** Instead of whole, only 37% of the total area of WG be brought under ESA + complete ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining be imposed in ESA.

Names

- **Sahyadri** - northern Maharashtra; **Sahya Parvatham** - Kerala

Diverted views about Mt. type

- **View 1:** Block Mt. formed due to down warping of a part of land into Arabian Sea
- **View 2:** Not true mt. rather the faulted edge of **Deccan Plateau**

Major Rocks

- **Basalt, granite gneiss, khondalites, metamorphic gneisses, crystalline limestone, iron ore**

Geographical Extent

- **Satpura** (in north) to the **end of TN at Kanyakumari** (in south)

Mt. Ranges

- Nilgiri ranges, Shevaroy and Tirumala range
- **Highest peak** - **Anamudi** (Kerala)



Read More: [Lion-Tailed Macaques](#)

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