



## Pig-tailed Snub-nosed Monkey; Pig-tailed Langur

(*Nasalis concolor*)

The rare Pigtailed Snub-nosed Monkey, also known as Pig-tailed Langur (*Nasalis concolor*) can be found only in the primary forests of Mentawai Islands, off the west coast of central Sumatra. The USDI, IUCN and CITES consider it as one of the most endangered mammals in the world. More significantly, it is restricted to only a few islands and highly dependent on primary forests that are still being logged.

It is intensively hunted for food, and its conspicuous size makes it more vulnerable in this regard. The average body mass for an adult male Pig-tailed Langur is 8 kg while the female is about 7 kg, hence sexually dimorphic in terms of body size and canine size. This species is asexually dichromatic, meaning any sex can be of one of two colour types, i.e. dark grey or light buff colour. Its hindlimbs and forelimbs are equal in length. Its closest relative is the droopy-nosed Proboscis Monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*), which is restricted to the coastal and riverine forests of Borneo.

The species is an arboreal, old world, leaf monkey that feeds mostly on leaves, fruits and berries. The feeding peaks in the morning and in the late afternoon. The Pig-tailed Langur prefers to feed with the right hand. It moves through the forest and on land quadrupedally.

The Monkey can be easily recognized through its loud call. Its vocal communication consists of a series of 2 to 25 nasal barks that travel about 500 meters in the forest. The first barks are the loudest, followed



by audible gasps, with subsequent calls decreasing in volume until they become faint. The average length of this call is 12 seconds, which is oftentimes heard in the morning and afternoon. This vocal communication is used to bring the group together as well as maintain distance between groups. This call has also been heard as a response to thunder and falling trees.

These Monkeys have been observed to associate in small social groups, usually a maximum of 8 individuals. Social grooming or tactile communication is performed to reinforce bonding between individuals. Like humans, the Pig-tailed Langur gives birth to a single offspring but only between June to July.

**Status: Highly endangered**

– The Research Branch, ARCBC

