

CURRENT STATUS OF THE GOLDEN LANGUR, *TRACHYPITHECUS GEEI*, IN CHAKRASHILA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM, INDIA

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The golden langur, *Trachypithecus geei*, is an endangered species and is endemic to India and Bhutan, and hence it is necessary that systematic reports on status and demography of the species from all habitats in its distribution range be assessed for effective conservation. Its distribution is limited to a small forest belt in western Assam in Northeast India and Bhutan between the rivers Manas in the East, Sankosh in the West and the Brahmaputra in the South. Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary, between Kokrajhar and Dhubri Districts of Assam, is the only protected habitat for Golden langur in India. We conducted a field survey for the first time in the sanctuary from December 2006 and January, 2007 to investigate the status and demography of the golden langur. Demographic data were collected using line transect methods. In addition, threats to the species were also investigated. During the survey period we counted a total of 419 individuals in 57 troops. The average troop size was 7.35. The sex ratio was 1.48 adult females for each adult male. The age structure of the population was 50.11% adults, 34.12% juveniles and 15.75% infants. Domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) and illegal felling are the major threats for golden langurs in this protected habitat. This study aims to guide the future course of conservation of the golden langur in general and the Chakrashila population in particular. This study was supported by Primate Conservation Inc. and my attendance at the conference is being supported by the Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

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