



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:**

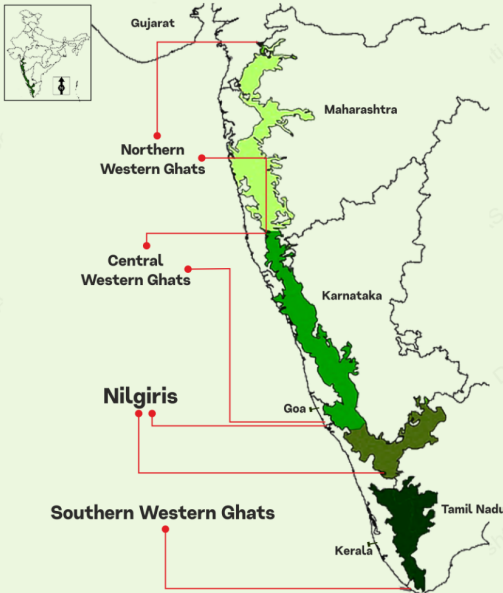
- They are **old world monkeys** endemic to the [Western Ghats](#) of India.
 - Their key habitats include the [Anamalai Hills](#), Nelliampathy, Nilambur Ghats, [Sholayar](#), Gavi, [Sabarimala](#), Vallimalai Hills and Agumbe of the Western Ghats.
- The lion-tailed macaque's **black fur** and **light 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, Netravati, 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

- ▀ Niligiri ranges, Shevaroyis and Tirumala range
- ▀ **Highest peak** - **Anamudi** (Kerala)



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

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