

Abstract

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Based on an extensive survey conducted in 2005 by Sha *et al.* (2008), it was established that there is a minimum of close to 6,000 individuals of proboscis monkey throughout Sabah. Although the population estimate is larger than previously thought, the distribution of the proboscis monkeys appeared to be highly fragmented, with only five major centres of continuous population and numerous small isolated populations. Seven years have passed and it is high time to re-survey the proboscis monkey populations to determine their distribution and abundance, and to ascertain their current conservation status, amidst the rapidly changing natural habitats of this monkey. This study will involve boat surveys going through all major rivers and their tributaries in Sabah in areas where major proboscis monkey populations are found and, particularly, in areas where surveys have never been conducted before, such as the northern part of Sabah and on islands off the coast around Sabah. Information recorded will include the local population size, group size, and demographic structure, as well as information on the forest types where the proboscis monkeys live and the threats faced by this monkey at the different sites. The field survey is expected to be completed in 12 months. The findings of this study will provide some basis to manage the populations of the proboscis monkey in Sabah.