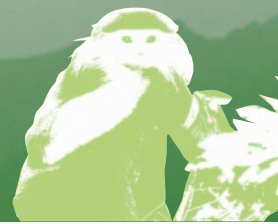
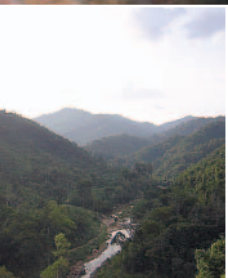


Introducing the douc (*Pygathrix nemaeus*, *Pygathrix nigripes*, *Pygathrix cinereus*)



Conservation status: Globally Threatened: Endangered
Endemism: Endemic to the Annamites of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam

Douc langurs are one of the most beautiful primates in the world. There are three species of “Doucs”: red-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*), black-shanked douc langur (*P. nigripes*) and grey-shanked douc langur (*P. cinerea*). The three species of douc are endemic to Indochina (Vietnam, Lao PDR and Cambodia), which means that they are found nowhere else on earth. Population sizes are not yet known, but it is believed there are just a few thousand left in the wild. Douc’s are a significant contribution to the outstanding biodiversity value of the Greater Annamites and are a globally significant species.



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Fast facts

Height - 60cm, not including tail. Its white tail is longer than its body; weight - 8-13 kg.

Social or solitary?

Historically doucs lived in large social groups of up to 50 animals. The effects of hunting is severe, and it is now difficult to find groups larger than 30; many groups number just 4 to 6 animals. Little is known about their social behaviour, but it appears that they live in small single-male - multi-female groups that come together into larger associations of animals.



Diet

By far the main part of a douc's diet consists of leaves but they do eat seeds and fruits. They are very selective about the species and age of their food. Eating the wrong thing upsets the douc's complex digestive system and they can become very ill and even die, making them very difficult to keep in captivity and highly habitat dependent.

The douc's home

The red- and grey-shanked doucs are restricted to evergreen closed forest of the Greater Annamites, with the black-shanked also found in semi-evergreen forest. Scattered populations are known to exist throughout the Greater Annamites. The Nam Theun catchment and adjacent Hin Namno National Biodiversity Conservation Area in Lao PDR may support the largest remaining population of the red-shanked douc in the world. Song Thanh Nature Reserve in Quang Nam, Vietnam probably holds the largest population of grey-shanked doucs; and Cat Tien National Park in the southern Annamites has a sizeable population of black-shanked douc's as does part of the Eastern Plains of the Lower Mekong Dry Forest Ecoregion.



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Threats

Under pressure from hunting and wildlife, the number of doucs is dwindling fast. Without immediate and decisive conservation action, these species are likely to become extinct very soon.



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What we are doing

WWF is training rangers in primate survey techniques and conservation in Quang Nam and Thua-Thien Hue provinces, and in Cat Tien National Park, and establishing specific conservation and protected area activities for grey- and red-shanked doucs. WWF is also working with Canon, the Cuc Phuong Endangered Primate Rescue Centre and Vietnam Television to produce a series of films on the douc to raise the public awareness about the species and seek more support for conservation of the species; the films will be completed by the end of 2004.

In Lao PDR, WWF has been working to support improved dialogue on transboundary conservation and control the illegal wildlife trade in particular in the Nam Theun catchment and the adjacent Hin Namno National Biodiversity Conservation Area, which together support the largest population of red-shanked douc langur remaining in the world.



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Find out more about the tiger and the Greater Annamites and Lower Mekong Dry Forest ecoregions at: <http://www.wfindochina.org> and http://www.wfindochina.org/dry_forest and www.panda.org/asiapacific/annamites