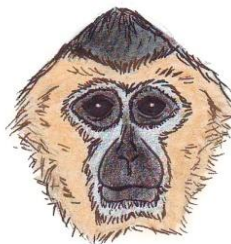
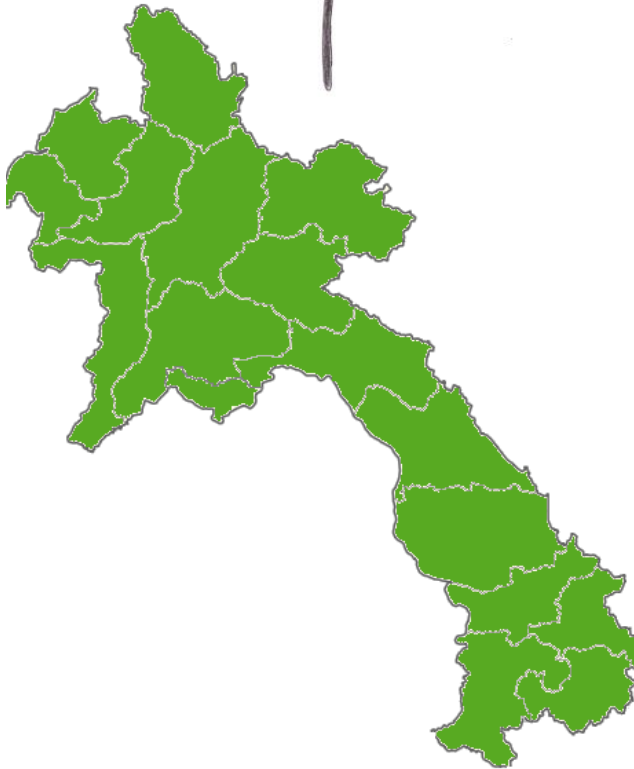
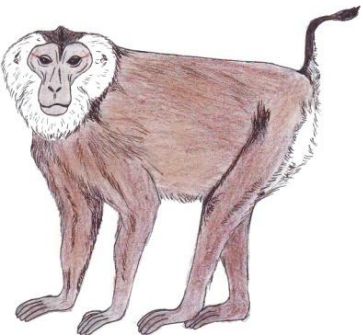


# Primate Field Guide

## Lao, PDR



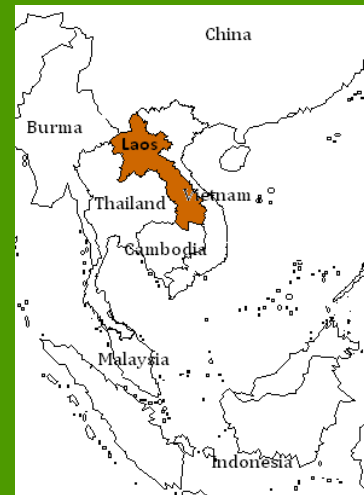
## Introduction to the primates in Laos

At least 16 primate species are confirmed in Lao, PDR (Lao's People Democratic Republic – also called Laos) from three different families: the Lorisidae, the Cercopithecidae (subfamilies Colobinae and Cercopithecinae) and the Hylobatidae. All species present in Laos are endemic to Southeast Asia and for certain to Indochina exclusively. Previous research on the primates in Laos is very sparse and is in great need of improvement. This is particularly true when 15 of the Laotian primates are classified as threatened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and all confirmed species are listed in the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). All primate species and their habitat are also highly threatened by anthropogenic activity including hunting for food, traditional medicine and pet trade as well as forest degradation for agriculture and legal or illegal logging for traditional use or international export. This situation worsens with human population growth. Taxonomy and distribution of non-human primates species is still uncertain for Laos and further research could lead to the description of new species and clarify their exact distribution. The Mekong River that crosses the country North to South is a determinant geographical barrier which explains the clear pattern of species distribution in Laos. Future research in the country should focus on the understanding of human needs and wildlife conservation.



## About this guide

- This guide is the first one on non-human primate species for Laos. It is an invaluable tool for researchers. It will aid species identification during surveys in the wild as well as for traded animals.
- Information was compiled using several references.
- Primates that are not confirmed or accepted by all authors as distinctive species (but rather as subspecies or morph) are indicated with brackets [.....].
- Distribution maps provide a general overview of the areas where each species is reported and/or confirmed. These are subject to change with further data. The likely distribution of each species is represented by the orange colour on the Laos map.
- Physical characteristics (body weight and head-body length) provided are approximate and are here to give an idea of the relative size of each species.
- I represented only the head of the animals that can be identified principally from key features on their head.
- The most distinct key features of each species are notified with \*\*\* for quick reference.



## About the author

*Camille, N. Z. Coudrat* obtained a M.Sc. in Primate Conservation and is now a Ph.D. candidate at Oxford Brookes University. Her interests lie into wildlife conservation, primates ecology & behaviour and ethnoprimateology. She will be conducting a conservation project on the red-shanked douc langur (*P. nemaeus*) in Laos.



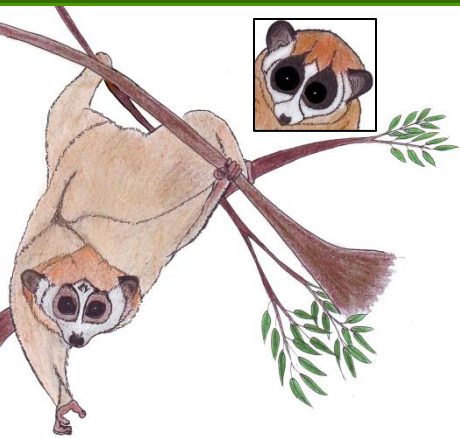
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## LORISES (family Lorisidae)

Lorises are small animals, they are nocturnal and arboreal but occasionally come to the ground. They have a very short tail. Their coat colour vary widely even among the same species which make their identification difficult. They feed principally on gum, nectar, insects and fruits. They leave characteristics tree gouges when feeding on exudates. They sometimes associate with other individuals for some activities. They can be found in evergreen, dipterocarp and bamboo forests. **Main threats in Laos:** local and international trade for pets and traditional medicine.



### Pygmy loris *Nycticebus pymaeus*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight

♂420 g, ♀420 g; Head-body length: < 230 mm

**Key features:**

- Fur brown/orange with silver frosting; seasonal variation
- Presence or absence of a short dorsal stripe not reaching to the tail\*\*\*
- Ears relatively large and hair less\*\*\*
- Presence or absence of brown rings around the eyes\*\*\*



### Bengal slow loris *Nycticebus bengalensis*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix I

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂1200 g, ♀1400 g;

Head-body length: > 230 mm

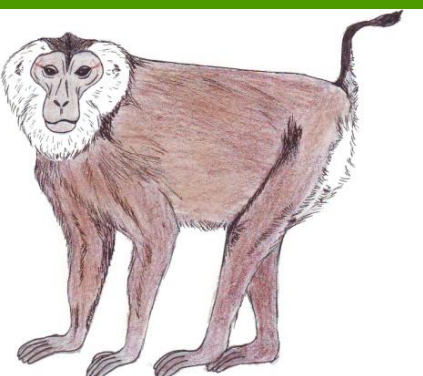
**Key features:**

- Fur grey/brown
- Head and forearms are white\*\*\*
- Orange dorsal stripe from the top of the head to the base of the tail\*\*\*
- Ears concealed by and covered in fur\*\*\*
- Dark rings around the eyes\*\*\*



## MACAQUES (family Cercopithecidae – subfamily Cercopithecinae)

Macaques are large, they are arboreal and terrestrial. They form large multimale-multifemale groups. They feed of fruits, leaves, other plant parts and insects. Their coat colour varies from dark brown to grey to light brown/yellowish. They can have short or long tails and have cheek pouches that they use to store food temporarily. **Main threats in Laos:** hunted for food and traditional medicine.



### Northern pig-tailed macaque - *Macaca leonina*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix II

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ 7-9 kg, ♀ 4-6 kg;

Head-body length: ~600 mm

**Key features:**

- Stout and heavily built body, especially males
- Fur olive/golden brown with light/whitish face and hindquarters
- Short slender and curved tail\*\*\*
- Dark flat patch on top of the head\*\*\*
- Distinctive upward diagonal red lines at the corner of the eyes\*\*\*







## Long-tailed macaque *Macaca fascicularis*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Least Concern; CITES – Appendix II

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ 6 kg, ♀ 4 kg;

Head-body length: ~600 mm

**Key features:**

- Long tail (440-540 mm)
- Fur grey to light orange, light under parts; infants are born black
- Generally, small pointed crest on the top of the head\*\*\*
- long moustache, whiskers and/or beard on the face\*\*\*



## Assamese macaque *Macaca assamensis*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Near Threatened; CITES – Appendix II

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ 11 kg, ♀ 7 kg;

Head-body length: ~800 mm

**Key features:**

- Fur yellowish to dark brown
- Relatively short tail (150-300 mm) covered in hair
- Greyish hindquarters
- Face hairless and pinkish



## Rhesus macaque *Macaca mulatta*

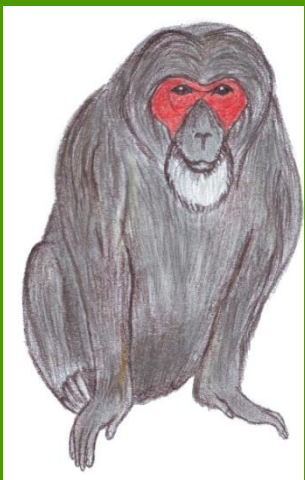
**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Near Threatened; CITES – Appendix II

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ 11 kg, ♀ 9 kg;

Head-body length: ~600 mm

**Key features:**

- Fur grey to brown, lighter underparts
- Relatively short tail (200-280 mm) covered in hair
- Brown to pink hindquarters\*\*\*
- Face hairless and pink to bright red\*\*\*



## Stump-tailed macaque *Macaca arctoides*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix II

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ 12 kg, ♀ 8 kg;

Head-body length: ~600 mm

**Key features:**

- Stout and heavily built body, especially males
- Fur dark brown; infants are born white
- Reduced tail (40-80 mm) almost invisible
- Prominent eyebrows
- Characteristic hairless face with black and red skin\*\*\*



# COLOBINES (family Cercopithecidae – subfamily Colobinae)

Colobines also called “leaf monkeys” have a large and relatively thin body with very long tails. Their coat colour varies widely from one species to the other with many species very colourful. They are mainly arboreal. They mostly feed on young leaves, unripe fruits and seeds. They possess a characteristic stomach they allows them to digest and cope with the toxicity of some plant parts. Their taxonomy and distribution is still uncertain and this is especially the case in Laos. **Main threats in Laos:** habitat destruction and illegal hunting for food, pet trade and traditional medicine.



## Indochinese silvered langur *Trachypithecus margarita*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – unlisted; CITES – unlisted

**Physical characteristics:** Head-body length: 500-600 mm

**Key features:**

- Fur medium to dark grey with silver frosting; infants are born bright orange
- Feet and arms are darker
- Face hairless and dark, paler rings around the eyes
- Long grey/whitish whiskers around the face\*\*\*
- Long grey crest on the top of the head\*\*\*



## Phayre's langur *Trachypithecus phayrei*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix II

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ 8 kg, ♀ 7 kg;

Head-body length: 500-600 mm

**Key features:**

- Fur dark grey to black; infants are born yellowish
- Pale whitish underparts
- Face hairless and dark
- Black forehead; crest on the top of the head\*\*\*
- White rings around the eyes and around the mouth\*\*\*



## Hatinh langur *Trachypithecus hatinhensis*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix II

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ 8 kg, ♀ 7 kg;

Head-body length: 500-660 mm

**Key features:**

- Fur glossy black
- Face hairless and dark
- Black crest on the top of the head\*\*\*
- Narrow white moustache and cheek stripes extending to behind ears onto the nape\*\*\*





## [Black langur *Trachypithecus eburnus*]

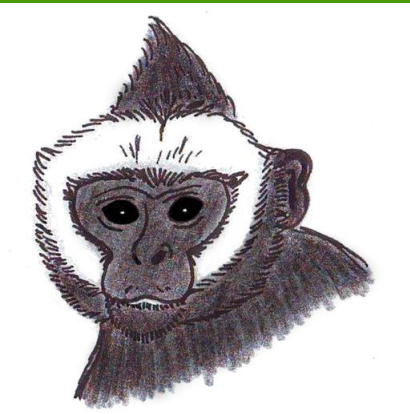
*Note: T. eburnus taxonomic status is uncertain. It is likely a melanistic morph of T. hatinhensis rather than a distinct species or subspecies. It is however presented separately here due to its phenotypic variation.*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – unlisted; CITES – Appendix II

**Physical characteristics:** Head-body length: 600-760 mm

**Key features:**

- Glossy black coat all over\*\*\*
- Black crest on to of the head\*\*\*



## [Lao langur *Trachypithecus laotum*]

*Note: Taxonomic position unclear. T. laotum could be considered as a subspecies of T. hatinhensis.*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Vulnerable; CITES – Appendix II

**Physical characteristics:** Head-body length: 460-530 mm

**Key features:**

- Glossy black fur
- Face hairless and dark
- black crest on the top of the head\*\*\*
- White cheek and forehead around the face\*\*\*



## Red-shanked douc monkey *Pygathrix nemaeus*

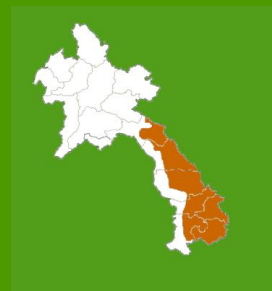
**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ 9 kg, ♀ 7 kg;

Head-body length: 600-760 mm

**Key features:**

- Very colourful coat
- Grey belly, upper arms, and back
- Black top of the head, hands and shoulders
- Long white tail
- Red lower legs and lower neck\*\*\*
- Orange/brown face skin\*\*\*
- White forearms\*\*\*



# GIBBONS (family Hylobatidae)

Gibbons are lesser apes. They have no tails. They are large with long and slender arms and legs. They are arboreal and swing by their arms from tree to tree. They live in male-female pairs with their offspring. They feed mainly on ripe fruits, leaves and insects. In most species, male and females differ in colour coat and infants' coloration changes when they grow older. Gibbons are characterized by their specific loud calls generally heard during mornings and/or evenings. **Main threats in Laos:** habitat degradation and hunting for food, pet trade and traditional medicine.

## Pileated gibbon - *Hylobates pileatus*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂8-10 kg, ♀6-9 kg  
Head-body length: 470-600 mm

**Key features:**

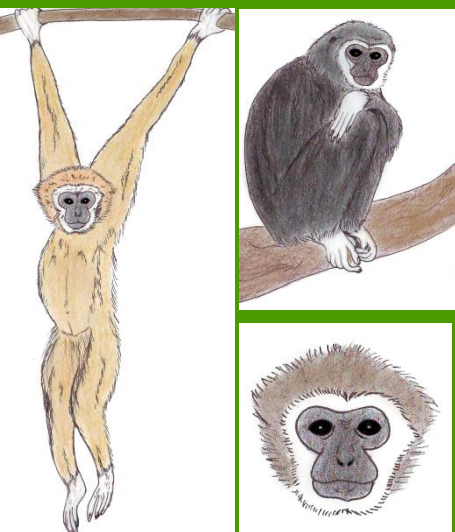
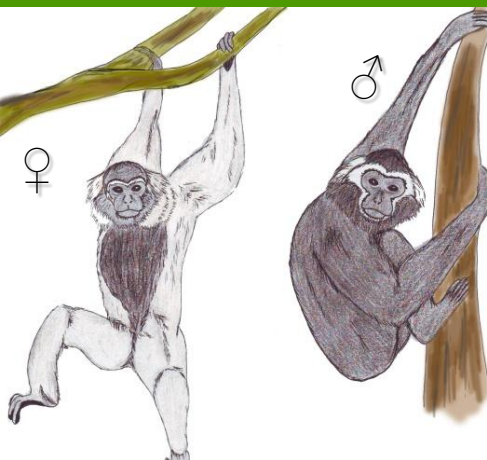
♀ **females:**

- Whitish/grey fur\*\*\*
- Black belly, cheeks and top of the head\*\*\*

♂ **males:**

- Black fur
- White fingers and toes
- Thick white brows and hair encircling the face\*\*\*

♀ ♂ Infants and subadults are with whitish/grey and change their color at ~10-12 months\*\*\*



## White handed gibbon - *Hylobates lar*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂5-8 kg, ♀4-7 kg;  
Head-body length: 450-600 mm

**Key features:**

♀ ♂ **males and females from all age:**

- Fur can vary from cream, grey, black, brown or blonde\*\*\*
- Feet and hands are white\*\*\*
- White hair encircling the face\*\*\*



## Black-cheeked crested gibbon - *Nomascus concolor lu*

**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Critically Endangered; CITES – Appendix I

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂9 kg, ♀4 kg;  
Head-body length: ~500 mm

**Key features:**

♀ **females:**

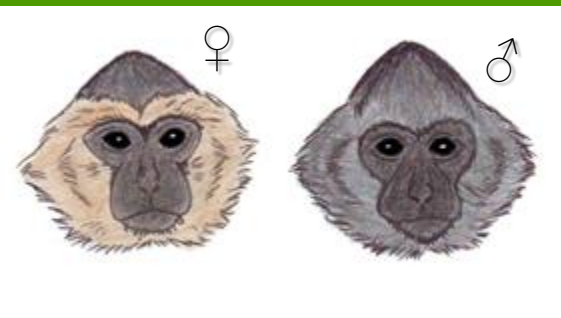
- Blonde/yellowish fur\*\*\*
- Black underside
- Black top of the head\*\*\*

♂ **males:**

- Black fur over all the body\*\*\*

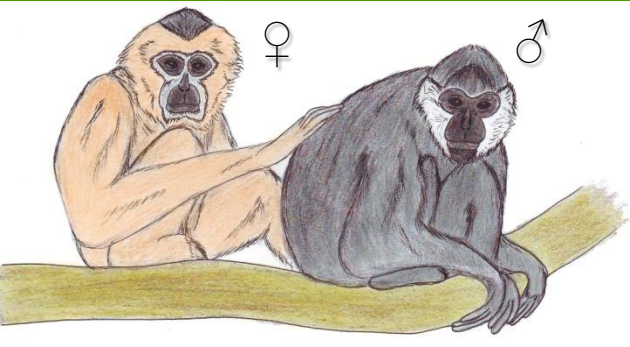
♀ ♂ Infants are born yellow/cream\*\*\*

♀ ♂ subadults are black \*\*\*





# Northern white cheeked gibbon - *Nomascus leucogenys*



**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Critically Endangered;

CITES – Appendix I

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ 5-8 kg, ♀ 4-7 kg;  
Head-body length: 450-600 mm

**Key features:**

♀ **females:**

- Golden/yellowish fur
- Black top of the head\*\*\*
- White hair encircling the face\*\*\*

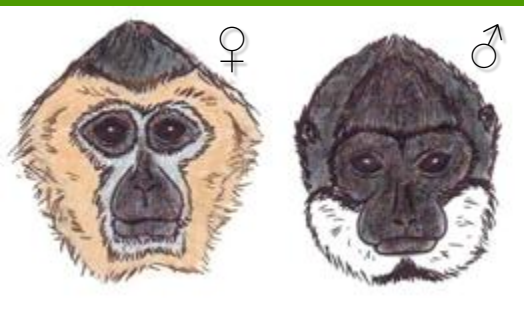
♂ **males:**

- Black fur
- White cheeks extending to top of the ears\*\*\*

♀ ♂ Infants are born whitish\*\*\*



## Southern white cheeked gibbon - *Nomascus siki*



**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ ♀ 6-10 kg;  
Head-body length: ~500 mm

**Key features:**

♀ **females:**

- Golden/yellowish fur\*\*\*
- Black top of the head\*\*\*

♂ **males:**

- Black fur
- White cheeks extending only to the lower edges of the eyes\*\*\*



## Yellow-cheeked crested gibbon - *Nomascus gabriellae*



**Global conservation status:** IUCN – Endangered; CITES – Appendix I

**Physical characteristics:** adult body weight ♂ ♀ 6-10 kg;  
Head-body length: ~500 mm

**Key features:**

♀ **females:**

- Golden/yellowish fur\*\*\*
- Black top of the head\*\*\*

♂ **males:**

- Black fur
- Yellow cheeks extending to the lower edges of the eyes\*\*\*

♀ ♂ Infants are born whitish/cream\*\*\*





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