

Biodiversity Record: Raffles' banded langurs at Rifle Range Nature Park

Guillaume Douay^{1*} & Andie Ang²

¹Mandai Wildlife Group, 80 Mandai Lake Road, Singapore 729826, Republic of Singapore; Email: guillaume.douay@mandai.com (*corresponding author)

²Mandai Nature, 80 Mandai Lake Road, Singapore 729826, Republic of Singapore; Email: andie.ang@mandai.org.sg

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Subjects: Raffles' banded langur, *Presbytis femoralis* (Mammalia: Primates: Cercopithecidae).

Subjects identified by: Guillaume Douay.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Rifle Range Nature Park; 24 December 2022; 1328–1337 hrs.

Habitat: Secondary forest.

Observers: Guillaume Douay and Wee Loon See.

Observation: Two individuals (one of them shown in Fig. 1) were observed together from a distance of 15–20 m moving in trees at 10–15 m above the ground, taking a rest at every 5 m. The langurs were observed for about 10 minutes before they went further into the forest.



Fig. 1. Frontal view of one of the two Raffles' banded langurs, sitting on a tree, at Rifle Range Nature Park on 24 December 2022. (Photograph by: Guillaume Douay).

Remarks: The Raffles' banded langur is considered a critically endangered species in Singapore presently with a small population of 73 individuals (Lim et al., 2008; Ang A., unpublished data). Although it occurs mainly in the Central Catchment Nature Reserve (CCNR), individuals have been sighted outside the area (Ang & Jabbar, 2022). In April 2021, one was observed in Dairy Farm Nature Park. It was suspected to have used the EcoLink or the Rifle Range Flyover to cross the Bukit Timah Expressway from CCNR (Khoo et al., 2021). In September 2017, one langur was found dead on the Bukit Timah Expressway below the Rifle Range Flyover, just 70 m south of the EcoLink (Ang & Jabbar, 2022).

The Rifle Range Nature Park was recently opened to the public after around three years of restoration and upgrading as part of the Forest Restoration Action Plan in 2019 (NParks, 2019; NParks, 2022a). It is part of a series of buffer parks protecting the CCNR and Bukit Timah Nature Reserve from the effects of anthropogenic changes at their edges, and was designed to enhance habitats for biodiversity and increase ecological connectivity between forested areas (NParks, 2022a, b).

Literature cited:

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