

Importance of pigtailed macaques (*Macaca nemestrina leonina*) in seed dispersal: impact on the ecological balance of the tropical rainforest at Khao Yai National Park, Thailand

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Today, many countries of **South-East Asia** know about the alarming state of the forests existing on their territory and all agree that it is essential to save the remaining primary forest but also to enable the regeneration of degraded areas, through natural or artificial reforestation. The **conservation of tropical rainforests** thus passes by the necessity to better understand the plant-animal interactions, and in particular, the **seed dispersal** process. While following a troop of **pigtailed macaques** (*Macaca nemestrina leonina*) accustomed to Man in Khao Yai National park (2 168 km ²), Thailand, we will bring important data relating to these seed dispersers potentially necessary but unfortunately vulnerable. Indeed, this vulnerable but little known species, seems to be essential to maintain forest diversity by dispersing many plant species, particularly those inaccessible to smaller frugivores. First results already show that they **disperse many seed species, of all kind of size, in all forest types, from primary forest to secondary forest, thanks to various handling techniques**. They also seem to show an **adaptation in their daily travels** according to resources availability. The next fieldworks will enable us to bring more precision in these results and their temporal variations and thus to conclude on the potential role of *Macaca nemestrina* in the tropical rainforest regeneration.