

The Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) Management at MacRitchie Reservoir Park in Singapore Nature Reserves

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Anthropogenic food consumption of the long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) is the main cause of human-macaques conflict. MacRitchie Reservoir Park represents some of the most serious problems of such conflict in Singapore. As a result, this study conducted a research on observing macaque's feeding behaviors and their management at MacRitchie Reservoir Park. Following the observation method in Altermann's study (1974), this study found out that more than a quarter of the macaques (33.8%) fed on anthropogenic food, which mainly came from macaque-proof bins. Others were observed to exploit from human or to be fed by human on purpose. These bins appeared to be ineffective because of the inappropriate use of the residents who stayed around MacRitchie Reservoir Park.

National Parks Board in Singapore (Nparks) is responsible of distributing macaque-proof bins as well as 'A walk with your neighbors: The macaques of MacRitchie' (guided walk) to park visitors. It also set up a fine system (for visitors who feed the macaques purposely). To explore the current conditions of management, I conducted questionnaire and interview to both visitors in MacRitchie Reservoir Park and participants of guided walk. The result from park visitors shows that 11% of them would like to feed the macaques if there were no fine system, which indicates an intention of feeding without understanding the reasons behind the fine. In addition, results from the participants of the guided walk proved effective in educating people on how to interact with the macaques properly. In conclusion, an environmental education program, such as a guided walk could also be provided to macaque-proof bin users especially residents who stayed around MacRitchie Reservoir Park to reduce anthropogenic food consumption of macaques.