



NDF WORKSHOP  
**WG 5 – Mammals**  
**CASE STUDY 6 SUMMARY**  
*Macaca mulatta*  
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## **CITES NON-DETRIMENTAL FINDING FOR EXPORTING RHESUS MONKEY (*MACACA MULATTA*) FROM CHINA**

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*Macaca mulatta* is native to southeast Asia but its distribution center in the ever-green broadleaf forest area in southern China. *Macaca mulatta* has the largest range compare to any non- human primate species, thus it is an "ecologically diverse" species with adapte to a range of habitas. Although no estimation of its global population size of *Macaca mulatta* has been reported, considering the census form local and national surveys, *Macaca mulatta* still is abundant in its original habitat. Current global population trend is increasing. At the end of 20<sup>th</sup> century, China had about 200,000 wild *Macaca mulatta*. *Macaca mulatta* lives well in zoos, crowded parks and other recreational places. According to our recent investigation in Chinese zoos during 2007-2008, 52 zoos kept more than 7900 rhesus monkeys. *Macaca mulatta* has been under national protection in China since 1989. Wild *Macaca mulatta* and their habitats are protected nationwide. Global conservation status of *Macaca mulatta*, according to IUCN Red List, is Near Threatened. Main threats before 1980s, *Macaca mulatta* populations decreased due to the habitats loss and hunting, since 1989, rhesus monkey has been protected in its natural habitats. Habitat loss and illegal harvest have been alleviated. Captive breeding of rhesus monkey as experimental animals was started in early 1980s in China. Founders of breeding populations of primates in the country were mostly taken from the wild. In August 2008, there are 40 primate breeding companies in the country, which keep about 40,000 *Macaca mulatta* mainly for the export as experiment animals. Now, few live rhesus monkeys are taken from wild for recruitment of new blood in the primate breeding centres in China. Most of live rhesus monkeys exported from the country are come from captive breeding operations. All international trade of endangered species must have CITES permits. Chinese national CITES authorities set up an import and export quota system for *Macaca mulatta*, which regulates the population size of rhesus monkeys in the

primate breeding centres in China. Annual export quota is discussed and evaluated by a wildlife expert commission. National and provincial CITES authorities and wildlife management authorities also conduct annual or periodic inspections on these primate breeding centers. According to outputs from the CITES Trade Database maintained by UNEP and WCMC, from 1980 to 2006, 45,494 *Macaca mulatta* were exported from China. Predominately, the exported rhesus monkeys from China were used for scientific and medical research purposes. Illegal transportation and trades of rhesus monkeys were prosecuted by wildlife law enforcement authority in China. Criteria/parameters to be considered for NDFs of *Macaca mulatta*: (a) The *Macaca mulatta* is abundant in wild and artificially bred in large scale in the country; (b) *Macaca mulatta* breeding companies do not require catching any wild individuals for breeding.;(c) The exporting volume of captive breed *Macaca mulatta* is within the annual natural recruitment of *Macaca mulatta* in breeding centers.