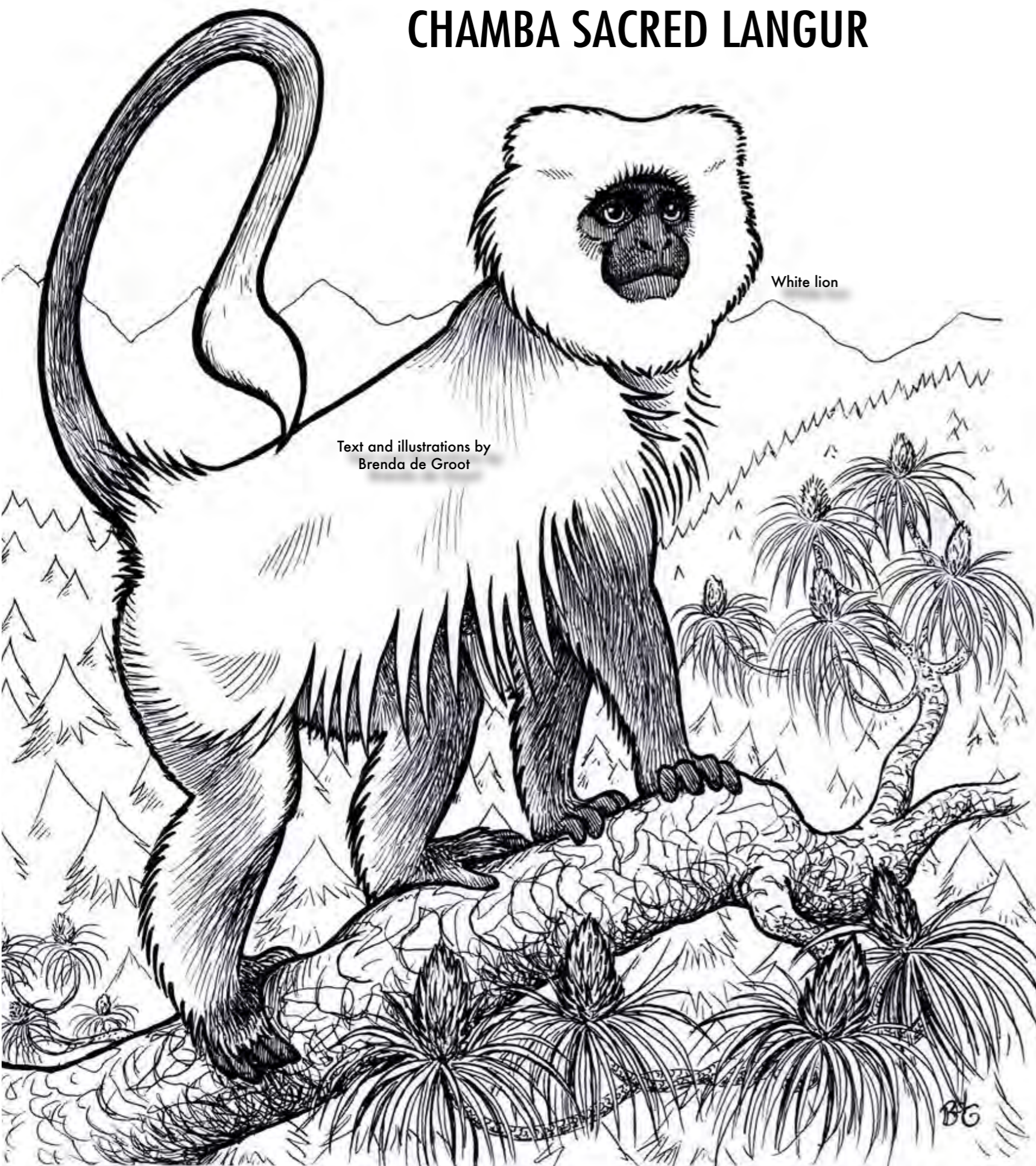


# CONSERVING LIVELIHOODS AND THE CHAMBA SACRED LANGUR



Text and illustrations by  
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Did you know that the Chamba Sacred Langur is among the largest of the Hanuman langurs that exist? With an average of 17.7kg, these big guys are an impressive sight! The dominant male is the biggest of the group, and has a long flowing mane that makes it look somewhat like a white lion!

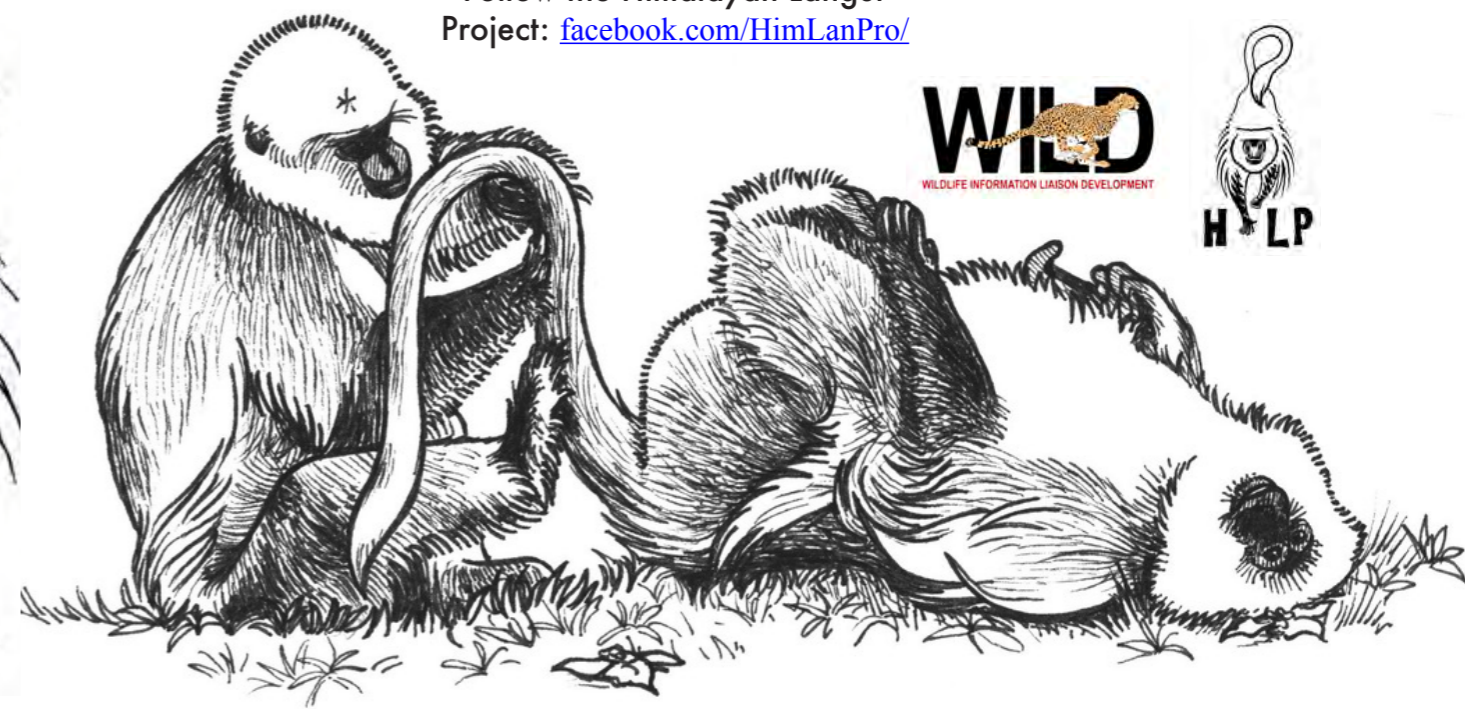
The gray langurs of India spend about 6–10 % of their time grooming each other. This percentage is generally a bit lower than primates that rely on fruit for the majority of their diet. An explanation for this probably lies in their leafy diet.

Leaf-eating monkeys, like the gray langurs, spend quite some time feeding to meet their daily calorie intake: plants do not contain as many calories as fruit. On top of that, they need to rest to let the heavy plant matter digest. As there are only 24 hours in a day, there is little time remaining for the langurs to socialize—at least not as much as for frugivorous monkeys.

However, this does not mean they are unsocial primates—far from that actually! Gray langurs are quite tolerant to group members, and not as strictly hierarchical as, for example, Rhesus Macaques. They love to sit next to each other and cuddle.

Embracing is one of the many social behaviours of the Chamba Sacred Langur. Hugging strengthens the bond between individuals, relieves stress and also helps keeping warm in cold Himalayan winters.

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