

# **Non-detriment finding for Guianan squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)**

VKM, Tilde K. S. Hjermann, Matthew Grainger, Jo S. Hermansen, Eli K. Rueness, Hugo de Boer

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Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (VKM)  
Postboks 222 Skøyen  
0213 Oslo  
Norway

Phone: +47 21 62 28 00  
Email: [vkm@vkm.no](mailto:vkm@vkm.no)

[vkm.no](http://vkm.no)

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# Non-detriment finding for Guianan squirrel monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)

**Authors:** VKM Secretariat member Tilde K. S. Hjermann. Reviewed and approved by VKM Panel on CITES members Hugo de Boer (University of Oslo), Matthew Grainger (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research), Eli Knispel Rueness (University of Oslo), and VKM Secretariat member Jo S. Hermansen.

**Competing interests:** The authors declare no competing interests in relation to this non-detriment finding (NDF).

**Date:** 23.10.2024

**Scientific name:** *Saimiri sciureus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Common names:** Guianan squirrel monkey, common squirrel monkey, South American squirrel monkey

**Norwegian name:** Ekornape

**Type of permit:** CITES Appendix II; Norwegian CITES Regulation Annex 1, list B.

Country of Export: Norway (NO)

Country of Import: Israel (IE)

**Purpose and source:** The proposal concerns the transfer of two live male Guianan squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) from Norway to Israel as part of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Ex situ Programme (EEP) for this species (purpose-of-transaction code Z). The youngest individual (born in 2021) was bred in captivity at Kristiansand Dyrepark (Norway) and the proposal concerns the export of this individual. The older individual (born in 2012) was bred in captivity at Colchester Zoo (United Kingdom) and later transferred to Kristiansand Dyrepark in 2018, and the proposal concerns the re-export of this individual. The proposed importer for both monkeys is Hai Park Kiryat Motzkin (Israel). The source code used in the export application for both individuals is D. However, since this code pertains to Appendix I listed species, VKM considers C to be the correct source code.

For Appendix II species (Norwegian Cites Regulation Annex 1, list B) it is required to establish that export will not be detrimental to the survival of that species, in compliance with CITES Article IV.

VKM has adopted the definition of detriment, cf. Conf. 16.7 (Rev. CoP17) suggested by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Scientific Authority:

1. Harvest that is not sustainable.
2. Harvest that harms the status of the species in the wild.
3. Removal from the wild that results in habitat loss or destruction, or that interferes with recovery efforts for a species.

**Conclusion**

**VKM concludes that the (re-)export from Norway to Israel of two live Guianan squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) that were bred in captivity will not be detrimental to the survival of the species.**

The conclusion is based on the following factors:

- The two individuals were bred in captivity at Kristiansand Dyrepark AS, Norway, and Colchester Zoo, United Kingdom, and the export and re-export does not involve harvest or removal from the wild.
- The transfer is between EAZA zoos and part of the EAZA Ex situ Programme (EEP) for the species.

## 1. Biological information

### Taxonomic note

The genus *Saimiri* has a complex taxonomic history with discussions regarding the number of valid taxa. Following taxonomic changes adopted at CoP17, *Saimiri sciureus* was split into two species, *Saimiri sciureus* and *Saimiri collinsi*, in 2017 (UNEP, 2024). For this NDF, we consider the species *Saimiri sciureus*, Guianan squirrel monkey, as specified in the SPECIES 360 specimen reports for the individuals under consideration. This corresponds to the classification of *Saimiri sciureus* as monotypic species in the IUCN Red List 2021 (Silva Júnior et al., 2021) following the results from phylogenetic studies by Lynch Alfaro et al. (2015) and Mercês et al. (2015).

### Distribution

*Saimiri sciureus* is a small neotropical primate found in French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Brazil north of the Amazon River (Mato Grosso, Maranhão, Pará, Amapá, Amazonas, Tocantins, and Roraima, Mercês et al., 2015; Silva Júnior et al., 2021). The species occurs in mature forest and early and late successional stages of secondary lowland rainforest habitat, as well as seasonally inundated forests, river edge and gallery forests, and mangrove and swamp forests (Rylands & Mittermeier 2013). *Saimiri sciureus* is arboreal and mainly uses the mid level of the canopy, with occasional use of higher canopy levels and the ground (Boinski, 1989; Stone, 2007).

### Life history

*Saimiri sciureus* lives in large social groups with 25-75 individuals (Boinski, 1999), consisting of multiple males and females. Breeding for *Saimiri sciureus* is very synchronized within groups, where the births typically all occur within less than one week. The gestation period lasts around five months, and the females give birth to one offspring each in January-February. Parental care is provided by the mother and occasionally by other adult females in the group. Males have no parental care. Males become sexually mature at 4-5 years of age. Females are sexually mature at 2.5 years old and typically give birth to their first offspring the year after. They typically have 1-2 years interbirth intervals (Rylands & Mittermeier, 2013) and can live more than 20 years.

### Role in the ecosystem

*Saimiri sciureus* are omnivorous. They eat primarily insects and fruits and can also eat other small animals like spiders and lizards, bird eggs, as well as other plant parts such as flowers, nectar, gums, and small seeds. The relative contribution of the different food types to the diet varies throughout the year, and between the wet and dry season (Rylands & Mittermeier, 2013).

## 2. Population trend

Rylands & Mittermeier (2013) considered the species to be widespread and common within its range. However, the last IUCN-assessment of *Saimiri sciureus* was done in 2020 and concluded that the population is decreasing (Silva Júnior et al., 2021).

## 3. Conservation status

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Silva Júnior et al., 2021): Least Concern (LC).

#### 4. Threats

There are few large threats to the species. *Saimiri sciureus* shows some adaptability to disturbed forests and is not subject to heavy population fragmentation (Silva Júnior et al., 2021). Due to their small size, they are generally not hunted (Silva Júnior et al., 2021), but have been subject to past exploitation for laboratory experiments and pet trade (Rylands & Mittermeier, 2013).

#### 5. Conservation and management measures:

##### International legislation

*Saimiri sciureus* has been listed in CITES Appendix II since 1977 and in the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations Annex B since 1997 (UNEP, 2024).

##### Conservation measures

Conservation measures for *Saimiri sciureus* are few. A rehabilitation and reintroduction of both wild- and captive-born individuals was attempted in French Guiana 1998-1999 (Vogel et al., 2002). Wild-born individuals were successful in adapting back to the wild, whereas the rehabilitation was unsuccessful for the captive-born individuals, showing low adaptability to the wild and eventually being returned to captivity. Throughout its range, *Saimiri sciureus* is found in many large, protected areas (Rylands & Mittermeier, 2013).

#### 6. Trade/use

##### Legal

The majority of exports of *Saimiri sciureus* are of live individuals, with 5,937 individuals having been exported the past decade (2014-2023) for various purposes such as for zoos, breeding, trade, and scientific research (CITES Trade Database, 2024). Export of specimens such as bones, skulls, etc. occur in smaller quantities (1,222 exported in total between 2014-2023), mainly for scientific purposes (CITES Trade Database, 2024). There are no current suspensions for the species (UNEP, 2024).

There is currently a quota on 2,200 individuals from Guyana in 2024 (UNEP, 2024). This quota has been the same each year since 1997. Additionally, Suriname has had occasional quotas on 1,000 individuals, most recently in 2022 (UNEP, 2024).

##### Illegal

Little information is available regarding illegal trade or poaching of the Guianan squirrel monkey.

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