

**Surveys of the endangered primates of the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania, outside
the Udzungwa Mountains National Park**

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Summary

Two intensive surveys were undertaken in 2004 in Ndundulu forest Reserve, Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania, to document the hitherto unknown distribution of endangered and locally endemic primates. On the first survey, in July 2004, high densities of Udzungwa red colobus *Procolobus gordonorum* (Vulnerable), Tanzanian black-and-white colobus *Colobus angolensis palliatus* and Sykes' monkeys *Cercopithecus mitis* subsp. were recorded, and the presence of Usambara galago *Galagoides orinus* was also confirmed. In addition, a new species of monkey, subsequently named the highland mangabey *Lophocebus kipunji*, was discovered. However, the Sanje mangabey *Cercocebus sanjei*, another highly endangered primate endemic to the Udzungwa Mountains and one of the main reasons for conducting the surveys, was found to be absent from Ndundulu. This species is therefore now known to have a global distribution of only two forests.

The second survey in November 2004 focused on gathering information on the newly discovered primate species. Extremely shy and difficult to detect, *L. kipunji* were found to be in low density, and restricted to a small area of the Forest Reserve. Three groups were observed, within an area of 3km² of the forest, between 1300 and 1750m asl. Preliminary notes were taken on morphology, ecology and behaviour. Highland mangabeys are arboreal, and associate with all of the other diurnal monkeys present. Once ongoing surveys are completed in 2006, they are expected to be red-listed as Critically Endangered.

Picture caption

The 'Ndundulu team' of researchers and local assistants in camp, close to where they first found the highland mangabey in Ndundulu Forest, July 2004. From left to right: Amos Lumagi, Isaya Chahe, Richard Laizzer, Martin Mlewa, Trevor Jones.

