

## Lemurs in a Shrinking Habitat

The northeastern part of Madagascar holds some of the island's largest remaining tracts of intact rainforest. Within this region, surrounding the Andapa Basin, lie a series of high, rugged, and densely-forested mountains, two portions of which are officially protected areas: Marojejy National Park, which encompasses 60,050 ha (148,387 acres) of forests on the Marojejy Massif, and Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve, which protects 17,194 ha (42,488 acres) of the Anjanaharibe-Sud Massif.

This very mountainous and rainy region shows exceptionally high levels of biodiversity and local endemism. Twelve species of lemurs have thus far been documented in Marojejy and Anjanaharibe-Sud; several of these are endangered. One of the most critically endangered is the Silky Sifaka (or Simpona), a strikingly beautiful lemur in the indri family that has long, white, silky fur and is found only in the Marojejy–Anjanaharibe-Sud area. Less than a thousand Silky Sifakas are estimated to remain in the wild, and none at all exist in captivity.

But even in these designated protected areas, the survival of the Silky Sifaka and other lemur species is not assured. Hunting pressures on lemurs remain high, with gunshots heard and traps found regularly. Fragmentation of the forests continues, mainly due to the practice of slash-and-burn agriculture (*tavy*), as well as wood cutting for fuel and construction purposes.

In an effort to combat these threats, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and other organizations are working with local communities to promote environmental awareness and resource conservation. Efforts are also underway to expand Anjanaharibe-Sud and to link existing parks and reserves through protection of continuous forest “corridors,” such as Betaolana between Marojejy and Anjanaharibe-Sud, and Makira linking Anjanaharibe-Sud with Masoala National Park to the south. These corridors will not only provide needed habitat for forest-dependent species such as the Silky Sifaka, but also the means for plants and animals to disperse, thus increasing genetic exchange between populations.

**Access:** Access into Marojejy National Park is via trail starting from the village of Manantenina, 60 km from Sambava along the road to Andapa. Anjanaharibe-Sud is accessed via rural roads and poorly-maintained trails from Andapa. A permit and guide are required for entry to both parks; these are available at the Visitor Center in Manantenina or at the ANGAP office in Andapa.



**Facilities:** Several small hotels offer accommodation in Andapa. Three rustic lodges/camps are sited at different scenic points along the trail in Marojejy, but no facilities are available in Anjanaharibe-Sud. Tent camping is possible in both parks.

**Seasons:** Both parks are open year-round, but the best times to visit are from April to May and September to December, when it is less rainy.

**Surrounding Area:** Northeastern Madagascar contains a number of other beautiful and biologically-interesting areas, including Masoala National Park, Nosy Mangabe Special Reserve, and the Antalaha–Cap Est coastline.

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## The Lemurs of Marojejy and Anjanaharibe-Sud



Silky Sifaka

photo: Erik R. Patel

### Marojejy National Park Madagascar



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## Lemur Species Marojejy National Park and Anjanaharibe–Sud Special Reserve, Madagascar



N°	Scientific Name	Malagasy Name	English Name	French Name	Status	Elev.	Active	Marojejy	A-Sud
1	<i>Microcebus rufus</i>	Tsidy	Brown Mouse Lemur	Microcèbe roux	■	1–4	N	X	X
2	<i>Allocebus trichotis</i>	Tsidy	Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur	Allocèbe	■■■	2–3	N	X	X
3	<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>	Tsitsihy	Greater Dwarf Lemur	Grand cheirogale	■	1–4	N	X	X
4	<i>Phaner furcifer</i>	—	Fork-marked Lemur	Phaner à fourche	■	1–2	N	X	
5	<i>Lepilemur mustelinus</i>	Fitsidika	Weasel Sportive Lemur	Lépilémur	■	1–4	N	X	X
6	<i>Haplemur griseus griseus</i>	Bokombolo	Eastern Lesser Bamboo Lemur	Petit hapalémur	■	1–4	D	X	X
7	<i>Eulemur fulvus albifrons</i>	Komba	White-fronted Brown Lemur	Lémur à front blanc	■	1–4	C	X	X
8	<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	Tongona	Red-bellied Lemur	Lémur à ventre rouge	■■	2–4	C	X	X
9	<i>Avahi laniger</i>	Fotsife	Eastern Woolly Lemur	Avahi laineux oriental	■	1–3	N	X	X
10	<i>Propithecus candidus</i>	Simpona	Silky Sifaka	Propithèque soyeux	■■■■	2–4	D	X	X
11	<i>Indri indri</i>	Babakoto	Indri	Indri	■■■	2–3	D		X
12	<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>	Hay-hay	Aye-aye	Aye-aye	■■	1–4	N	X	X

### Conservation Status

- Critically endangered
- Endangered
- Vulnerable
- Lower concern

### Elevational Zone

- 1: 450 m (Camp Mantella)
- 2: 775 m (Camp Marojejia)
- 3: 1250 m (Camp Simpona)
- 4: Above 1600 m

### Active Time

- D: Diurnal (day)
- N: Nocturnal (night)
- C: Cathemeral (day and night)

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