The Lemurs of Marojejy and Anjanaharibe-Sud

Silky Sifaka photo: Erik R. Patel

Marojejy National Park
Madagascar

Ecotourism 2007

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 gunshot 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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email: info@marojejy.com, web: www.marojejy.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Malagasy Name</th>
<th>English Name</th>
<th>French Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Elev.</th>
<th>Active</th>
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**Conservation Status**

- ■■■■ Critically endangered
- ■■ Endangered
- ■ Vulnerable
- ■ Lower concern

**Elevational Zone**

1. 450 m (Camp Mantella)
2. 775 m (Camp Marojejy)
3. 1250 m (Camp Simpona)
4. Above 1600 m

**Active Time**

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

References:


rev. October 2004 (PKA)