

Lemurs in a Shrinking Habitat

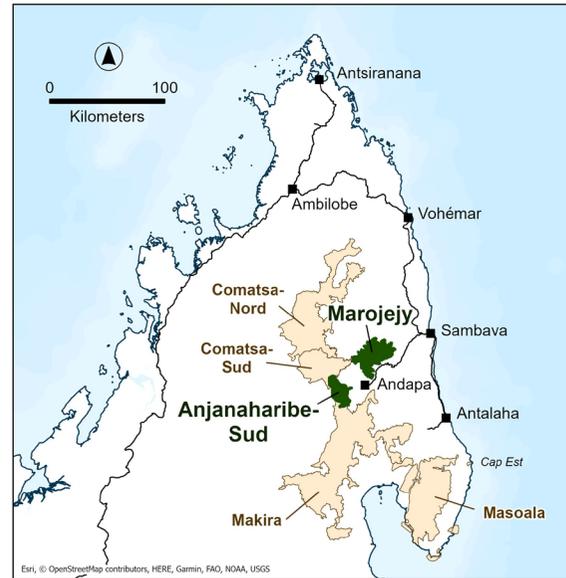
Northeastern Madagascar harbors some of the island's largest remaining tracts of intact rainforest. Within this region, surrounding the Andapa Basin, lie a series of high, rugged, and densely-forested mountains, two portions of which are officially protected areas: Marojejy National Park, encompassing 55,885 ha (138,095 acres) of forests on the Marojejy Massif, and Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve, protecting 27,051 ha (66,844 acres) of the Anjanaharibe-Sud Massif.

This mountainous and rainy region shows exceptionally high levels of biodiversity and local endemism. Fourteen 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 Fotsy*), a strikingly beautiful lemur in the indri family that has long, white, silky fur and is found only in the Marojejy–Anjanaharibe-Sud area. Only a few hundred Silka Sifakas are estimated to remain in the wild, and none at all exist in captivity.

Even in these designated protected areas, though, the survival of the Silka Sifaka and other lemur species is not assured. Fragmentation of the forests continues, mainly due to the practice of swidden agriculture, where the forest is cut and then burned, as well as wood harvesting for fuel and construction purposes. In addition, hunting pressures on lemurs remain high, and artisanal mining for quartz crystals in some areas has resulted in forest destruction and highly disturbed habitats.

In an effort to combat these threats, several organizations, including the [Lemur Conservation Foundation](#), [Wildlife Madagascar](#) and [Duke Lemur Center SAVA Conservation](#), are working with local communities to promote environmental awareness and resource conservation. Efforts are also being made to link parks and reserves through protection of continuous forest corridors, such as Comatsa-Sud between Marojejy and Anjanaharibe-Sud, and Makira, linking Anjanaharibe-Sud with Masoala National Park to the south. These corridors not only provide needed habitat for forest-dependent species such as the Silka 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.



Facilities: Several hotels offer accommodation in Andapa and Sambava. Three camps with rustic cabins are sited at scenic points along the trail in Marojejy, and two simple camps have recently been constructed in Anjanaharibe-Sud. Tent camping is also possible in both parks.

Seasons: Marojejy and Anjanaharibe-Sud are both open year-round, but the best time to visit is from October to mid-December, when it is less rainy and the wildlife is more active and easily viewed.

Surrounding Area: The SAVA region of northeastern Madagascar hosts a number of other beautiful and biologically-interesting areas, including Masoala National Park and many excellent private reserves.

Further Information: For more in-depth information and photos, please visit the marojejy.com website or email info@marojejy.com.

The Lemurs of Marojejy and Anjanaharibe-Sud



Silky Sifakas

photo: Éric Mathieu



Marojejy National Park
Anjanaharibe-Sud Special Reserve
Madagascar



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Lemur Species

Marojejy National Park and Anjanaharibe–Sud Special Reserve, Madagascar *



Scientific Name	Malagasy Name	English Name	French Name	Status	Elev.	Active	Marojejy	A-Sud
Family Cheirogaleidae								
<i>Allocebus trichotis</i>	Tsidiala	Hairy-eared Dwarf Lemur	Allocèbe	EN	2–3	N	■	■
<i>Cheirogaleus major</i>	Tsitsihy	Greater Dwarf Lemur	Grand cheirogale	VU	1–4	N	■	■
<i>Cheirogaleus crossleyi</i>	Tsitsihy	Crossley’s Dwarf Lemur	Cheirogale de Crossley	VU	1–4	N	■	■
<i>Cheirogaleus sibreei</i>	Tsitsihy	Sibree’s Dwarf Lemur	Cheirogale de Sibree	CR	3–4	N	■	
<i>Microcebus lehilahytsara</i>	Tsidy	Goodman's Mouse Lemur	Microcèbe de Goodman	EN	1–4	N	■	■
Family Lepilemuridae								
<i>Lepilemur seali</i>	Fitsidika	Seal's Sportive Lemur	Lépilémur de Seal	VU	2–3	N	■	■
Family Lemuridae								
<i>Eulemur albifrons</i>	Komba	White-fronted Brown Lemur	Lémur à front blanc	VU	1–3	C	■	■
<i>Eulemur rubriventer</i>	Tongona	Red-bellied Lemur	Lémur à ventre rouge	VU	2–4	C	■	■
<i>Hapalemur occidentalis</i>	Bokombolo	Northern Bamboo Lemur	Hapalémur occidental	VU	1–4	C	■	■
<i>Varecia rubra</i>	Varimena	Red Ruffed Lemur	Vari roux	CR	1–2	D		■
Family Indriidae								
<i>Avahi laniger</i>	Fotsife	Eastern Woolly Lemur	Avahi laineux oriental	VU	1–3	N	■	■
<i>Indri indri</i>	Babakoto	Indri	Indri	CR	2–3	D		■
<i>Propithecus candidus</i>	Simpona fotsy	Silky Sifaka	Propitèque soyeux	CR	2–4	D	■	■
Family Daubentoniidae								
<i>Daubentonia madagascariensis</i>	Hay-hay	Aye-aye	Aye-aye	EN	1–4	N	■	■

Conservation Status

CR: Critically endangered
 EN: Endangered
 VU: Vulnerable

Elevational Zone

1: 485 m (Camp Mantella)
 2: 765 m (Camp Marojejia)
 3: 1320 m (Camp Simpona)
 4: Above 1600 m

Active Time

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

* The classification and distribution of lemurs is changing rapidly as a result of discoveries from new scientific expeditions and genetic studies. In 1994, there were 50 described taxa (species and subspecies) of lemurs; by 2024 that number had more than doubled to 112 described taxa. This list is a compilation of the latest published research but is almost certainly not the last word.

References

- Goodman, S.M., Mathieu, E., Patel, E., Raherilalao, M.J., & Wohlhauser, S. 2026. *The protected areas of Marojejy and Anjanaharibe-Sud in northeastern Madagascar*. Association Vahatra, Antananarivo.
- Mittermeier, R.A., et al. 2023. *Lemurs of Madagascar*, 5th ed. Re:wild, Barcelona.