

Red Colobus

May 2, 2024 • vajiramandravi.com



About Red Colobus

- These are a rare group of **imperilled monkeys** spread **across Africa**, are primary indicators of biodiversity.
- Red colobus monkeys are one of **two major simian groups** globally.
 - **Colobines** are primarily leaf-eaters, as compared to the **cercopithecines**, which are **omnivores** and thus include animals in their diet as well.
 - Colobines also include the **langurs of south and southeast Asia** besides Africa's colobus (olive and black-and-white besides red) monkeys.
- **Distribution:** Ranging from forests in **Senegal to the Zanzibar Archipelago**.
- Most red colobus are facing extinction, making them the most threatened group of non-ape primates in mainland Africa.

- More than half of the 18 distinct forms of red colobus monkeys (scientists are unclear about how many species there are) are classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- **Threats**
 - Hunting for trade and local subsistence
 - Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation due to logging, mining, charcoal production, infrastructure development and conversion of forest to farms and agriculture plantations.

Initiative to conserve Red Colobus

- The **Red Colobus Conservation Action Plan**, initiated by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** Species Survival Commission Primate Specialist Group and the African Primatological Society.
 - The action plan aims to make red colobus a priority conservation target, which will help to secure Africa's tropical forests and reduce unsustainable hunting for wild meat.
 - A **Red Colobus Working Group (RCWG)** has been formed to guide implementation of the action plan and a **Red Colobus Conservation Network (RCCN)** has been created to promote **communication, capacity-building and monitoring** of red colobus conservation efforts.
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Q1: What is the International Union for Conservation of Nature?

It is a global organization composed of governments, NGOs, scientists, and experts dedicated to conserving nature and promoting sustainability.

Source: Red Colobus: Conserving these Old World primates could help save Africa's tropical forests, says study

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/red-colobus/>

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