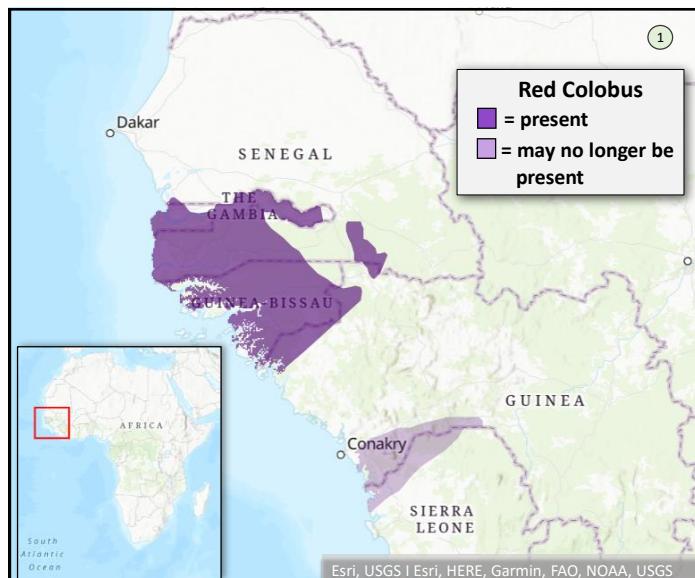


Temminck's Red Colobus: Conservation for Caring Communities

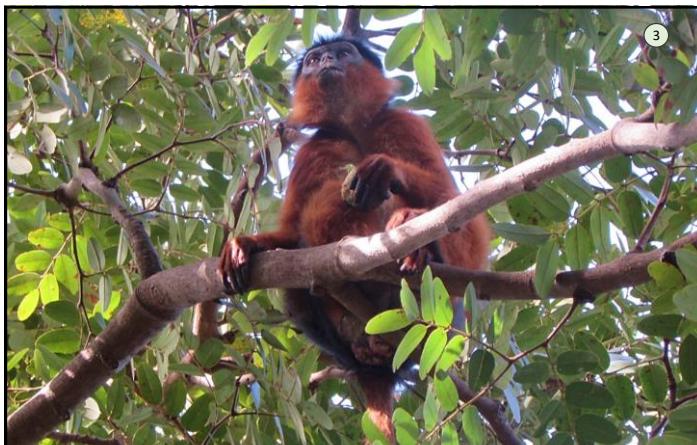


Christy Wolovich & Megan Boemio



The Temminck's red colobus monkeys (*Piliocolobus badius temminckii*) are found in The Gambia, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea.

Red colobus monkeys are **diurnal** primates that live in the trees.



They are **specialists** and prefer to eat young leaves, but will also feed on mature leaves, seeds and fruit.

They have a **4-chambered stomach** that allows them to **digest** the leaves.

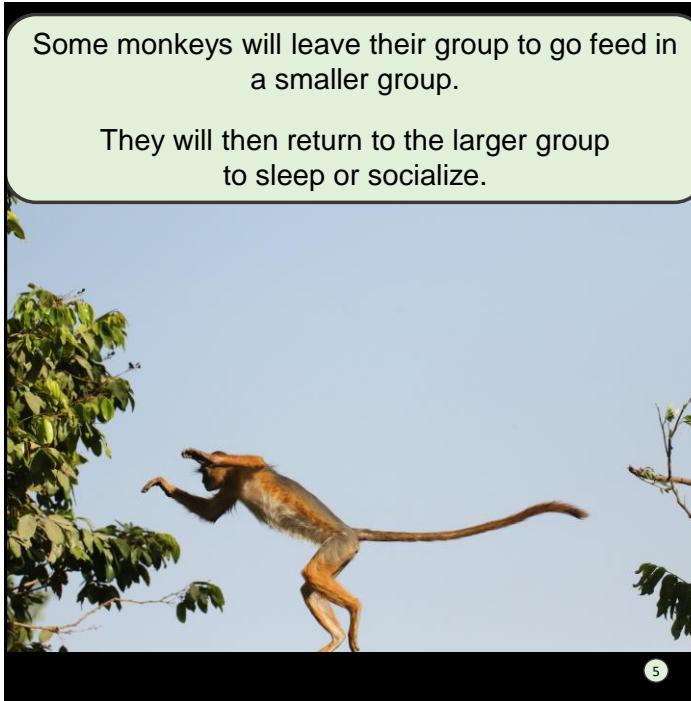


Red colobus live in large groups of more than 20 monkeys.

Each group will have only one or a few adult males, but there may be many females.

Some monkeys will leave their group to go feed in a smaller group.

They will then return to the larger group to sleep or socialize.





Red colobus monkeys spend a lot of their time grooming one another and resting together.

They rest a lot so that they can better digest their food.



Female Temminck's red colobus give birth about once every 2 years.



Sadly, Temminck's red colobus are **endangered** with the risk of **extinction**.



Because red colobus are large and slow moving, they are sometimes hunted for **bushmeat**.

Hunting the monkeys not only puts them at risk, but it can lead to the spread of **diseases** between animals and people.

People cut down trees for firewood and clear the land for villages and farms.

The monkeys no longer have enough places to live or leaves to eat.



As a result of **deforestation**, the monkeys sometimes come down to the ground to find food.

They are not as safe on the ground as they are in the trees.



There are other species of primates in The Gambia. Some of these are also threatened by habitat loss or **bushmeat** hunting.



Guinea baboons (*Papio papio*) live in the **savannah** and open woodlands.

12



The only chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in The Gambia are found on the islands of River Gambia National Park. These chimpanzees were **reintroduced** to the islands.

Patas monkeys (*Erythrocebus patas*) live in the savannah and feed mainly on insects.

They are sometimes hunted or kept as pets.



13



Bushbabies (*Galago senegalensis*) are small, **nocturnal** primates that sleep in tree holes during the day.



Green monkeys (*Chlorocebus sabaeus*) are **generalists**.

Unlike the red colobus, they live in many **habitats** and can eat a variety of food, such as nuts, fruits, flowers and even small animals.

When red colobus come down from the **canopy**, they may interact with green monkeys.





Red colobus monkeys should be protected because they help other wildlife.

They **disperse** seeds of trees, which is important for maintaining healthy forests.

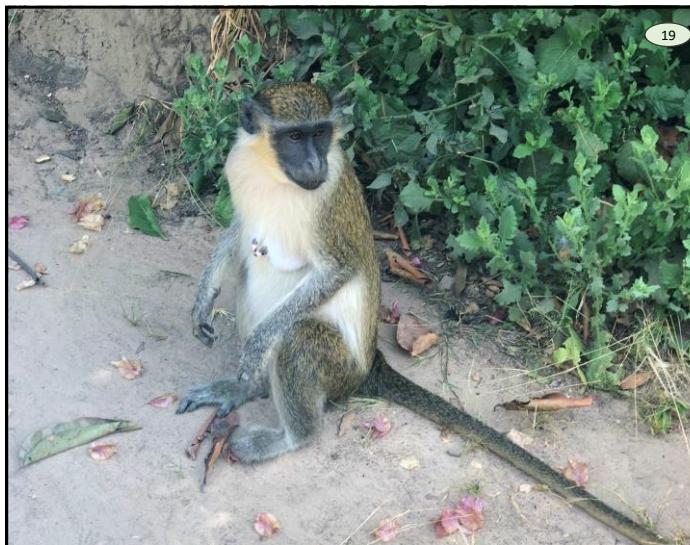
Conservation biologists from around the world and local Gambians are fighting to protect the red colobus monkeys.



Temminck's red colobus is a **flagship species**. They help raise support for conserving wildlife and **biodiversity**.

17

It is important that scientists, wildlife officials, and local communities work together to protect the red colobus monkeys.



You should never feed a monkey, even if it is on the ground.

If you feed a wild monkey, it may become sick.



Do not keep monkeys as pets.

If you see a pet monkey, tell your parents, a teacher or a wildlife officer.



Families can reduce the amount of firewood they need for cooking if they use a clay or cement oven.



Beekeeping is a great way to earn money and save forests.

Bees make honey that can be eaten or sold. They also pollinate the flowers of many trees.

Planting trees can help protect forests and wildlife while supporting your family.

People can manage a **tree nursery** business.



After the young trees grow, they are replanted to help rebuild forests.

23



24
People from around the world will travel and pay money to see healthy forests and monkeys.

A village can become an **ecotourism** site and local people can teach visitors about the wildlife.

You can even make crafts or artwork to sell to tourists that feature the red colobus monkey.

Practice drawing a red colobus on page 30.



25



26
Tell your friends and family that you want to help protect the red colobus monkeys.

Glossary of Terms

4-Chambered Stomach: A stomach with multiple compartments that break tough plant fibers into smaller pieces.

Biodiversity: Variety of life in the world.

Bushmeat: The meat of wild animals that is eaten or sold.

Canopy: The upper level of trees in a forest

Conservation: The act of protecting plants, animals, and natural resources.

Deforestation: Cutting down a large area of trees.

Digest: To break down food inside your body.

Disease: Illness or sickness caused by a virus, bacteria or other parasite that may spread to other people.

Disperse: To spread out, or scatter, over a wide area.

Diurnal: Active during the daytime

Ecotourism: Tourism to natural environments to observe wildlife and promote conservation efforts

27

28

Glossary of Terms

Endangered: At risk for extinction

Extinction: No more individuals of a species are alive anywhere in the world.

Flagship species: A species that acts as a symbol to help get attention for conservation projects.

Generalists: Species that can live in a wide variety of habitats, and/or eat multiple types of food

Habitat: A place where an animal lives. A habitat includes all of the other living and nonliving things in that area.

Nocturnal: Active during the nighttime

Reintroduced: When a species is returned to their natural habitat

Savannah: A tropical grassland with few trees

Specialists: Species that live in only a specific type of place and/or eats only a particular type of food.

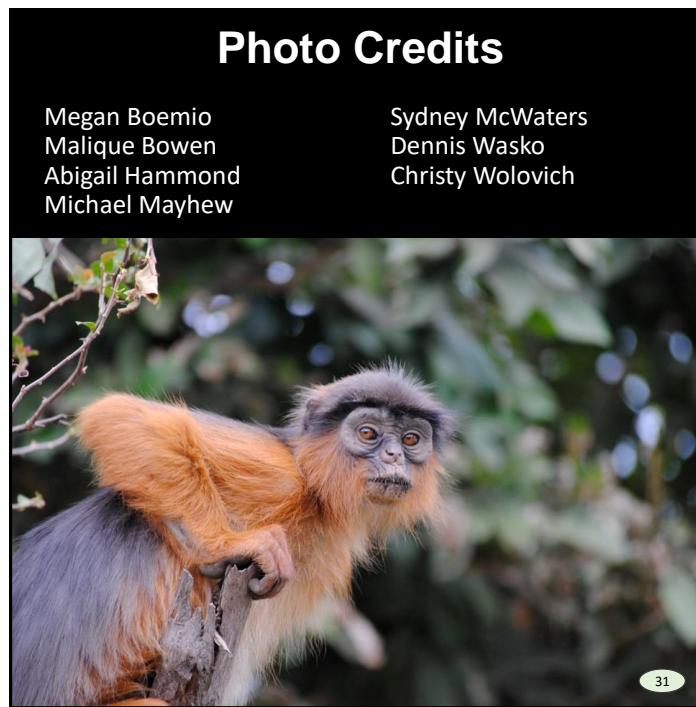
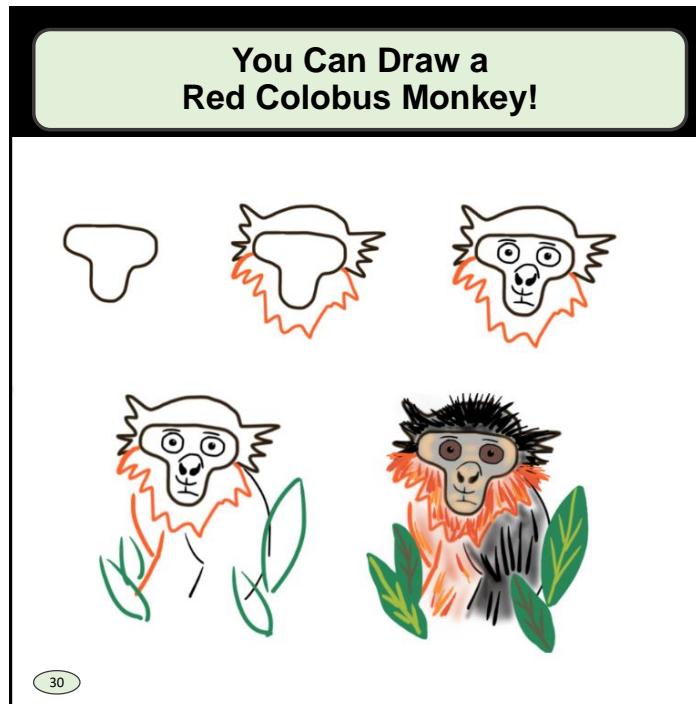
Tree nursery: A place where young trees are grown before they are replanted elsewhere.

Questions for Discussion

- Why does deforestation threaten the red colobus monkey more than the green monkey?
- Why is it important to have many different kinds of plants and animals in the environment?
- What other ways can you and your friends help the red colobus monkeys?



29



About the Contributors



Christy Wolovich is a behavioral ecologist and currently teaches biology at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, FL, USA. She spent a semester teaching Animal Behavior and Ecology of West Africa at the University of the Gambia. While in the Gambia, she mentored several student research projects on red colobus and green monkeys. Christy is married to a Gambian and they return regularly with students to promote conservation through education.

Megan Boemio moved to the Gambia after graduating college to assist with red colobus research. For her Master's degree in Environmental Biology, she studied mixed-species associations between red colobus monkeys and green monkeys in Bijilo Forest Park. Megan loves working with children and teaches middle school science in Washington, D.C., USA.

Mic Mayhew

Data for range map from:

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) 2020. *Piliocolobus badius* spp. *temminckii*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2020. <https://www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 25 May 2020.