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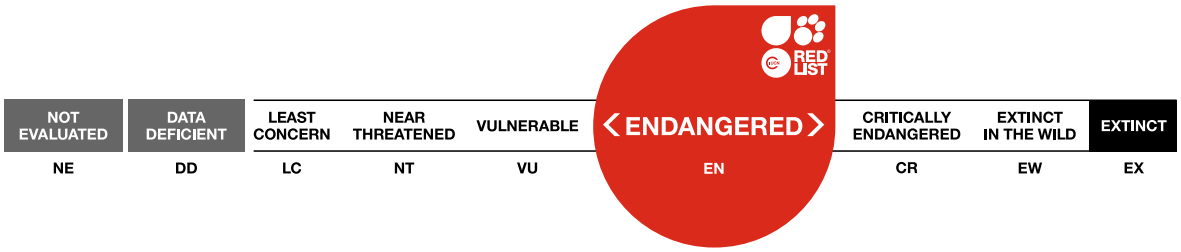
Piliocolobus lulindicus, Ulindi River Red Colobus

Assessment by: Hart, J.A., Maisels, F. & Ting, N.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Primates	Cercopithecidae

Scientific Name: *Piliocolobus lulindicus* Matschie, 1914

Synonym(s):

- *Piliocolobus rufomitratus* ssp. *lulindicus* Matschie, 1914
- *Procolobus badius* ssp. *lulindicus* Matschie, 1914
- *Procolobus rufomitratus* ssp. *lulindicus* Matschie, 1914

Common Name(s):

- English: Ulindi River Red Colobus, Kahuzi Red Colobus, Ulindi Red Colobus

Taxonomic Notes:

Modern taxonomic arrangements of the colobus monkeys either distinguish the red colobus monkeys and the Olive Colobus as separate genera, *Piliocolobus* and *Procolobus*, respectively (e.g., Groves 2001, 2005, 2007; Roos *et al*. 2011; Kingdon 2015), or consider them to belong to one genus *Procolobus*, with two subgenera (*Procolobus* for the Olive Colobus and *Piliocolobus* for the red colobus) (Oates *et al*. 1994, Grubb *et al*. 2003, 2013; Oates 2011). Ting (2008) placed all the red colobus as subspecies of *Procolobus* (*Piliocolobus*) *badius*. The 2008 IUCN Red List assessments followed the taxonomy of Grubb *et al*. (2003).

The arrangement of two genera in Groves (2001, 2005, 2007) is followed here: a monotypic *Procolobus* de Rochebrune, 1887 (Olive Colobus) and polytypic *Piliocolobus* de Rochebrune, 1887 (red colobus).

The form *lulindicus*, recognised by Colyn and Verhayen (1987), Colyn (1987, 1991), Grubb *et al*. (2003), and Struhsaker and Grubb (2013) (the last as a subspecies of *Procolobus rufomitratus*) was considered by Groves (2001, 2007) to be a junior synonym of *Piliocolobus foai*. Gautier-Hion *et al*. (1999) placed all the Central African red colobus as subspecies of *Procolobus pennanti* [sic], including *lulindicus*. Kingdon (1997, 2015) treated the Central African red colobus, including *lulindicus*, as subspecies of *oustaleti*. The consensus at a workshop held in Rome in 2016 to update the African primate Red List assessments was that it would be expedient (precautionary) to continue to recognise this species, considering the threatened status of all the red colobus monkeys.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Endangered A2cd ver 3.1

Year Published: 2020

Date Assessed: January 22, 2020

Justification:

Piliocolobus lulindicus is a forest-dependent species targeted for bushmeat because of its large size. Over the past 30 years, there has been an approximately 15% loss in forest cover across its range. In the

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forest that remains, the species has been highly reduced in abundance or extirpated from over 70% of forest blocks surveyed in the western half of the range, and is likely extirpated from parts of the eastern half of its range, including Kahuzi-Biega National Park, which was a stronghold for this taxon in the 1990s.

Total forest loss across the entire *P. lulindicus* range was about 8,920 km2 (9.3% of the area) over 17 years (2001–2018; GFW 2019), which is 1.7 generations for this monkey (generation time for this genus is estimated at 10 years; Pacifici *et al*. 2013). The rate of forest cover loss in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is increasing over time: since 2014, it has been ~1% per year. Prior to that, the annual rate of loss was 0.25–0.4% (GFW 2019). Eastern DRC has been badly hit, and unfortunately the range of this monkey features as a new "hotspot" of forest loss (Harris *et al*. 2017). Projecting backwards three generations (to 1990) goes beyond the last 17 years for which forest loss data are available; however, we know that forest loss was already occurring before 2001. If forest loss in the 1990s was consistent with 0.25-0.4% per year, then we would expect approximately 15% of the overall range to have been lost between 1990 and 2020. In addition, the once intact blocks of forest in the region are increasingly fragmented; in DRC, 4.2% of forests classified as intact were lost between 2000–2013 (Potapov *et al*. 2017). Given the recent increase in rate of forest loss, even more of its range is expected to be lost and/or fragmented in the future.

Just as concerning as habitat loss, if not more so, are population declines due to hunting. Because red colobus taxa are large-bodied and bring a higher profit per cartridge than smaller species, they are preferentially selected by hunters and tend to be eliminated or at least greatly reduced in abundance before other, smaller monkeys. They live in relatively large groups (Struhsaker 2010, Struhsaker and Grubb 2013), and their behaviour faced with a hunter tends to be to observe rather than flee – which affords very easy, multiple targets for the hunter. Hunting pressure was common across all areas surveyed in the recent past, and is exacerbated with the expansion of artisanal mining and during periods of civil unrest.

Monkeys are eaten in villages and traded commercially for consumption in towns and cities, and the bushmeat trade is a serious threat to red colobus across Africa (Struhsaker 2010). In DRC, there were approximately three times more people in 2019 than in 1990 (mean human population growth 1990–2018 was approximately 3% annually). The ability to pay much higher prices for bushmeat by the ever-increasing proportion of urban dwellers has created a highly lucrative market for commercial hunters, which drives increasing extraction of bushmeat from the regions' forests. At present, 44% of the human population is DRC lives in towns and cities (World Bank 2019) compared to 27% in 1980, and this upward trend has been the case since 1960 (when it was 22%).

Thus, there is a combination of 15% total habitat loss (1990–2020), plus 4.2% loss of intact forest, plus increasing demand for bushmeat (three times more people in DRC), increased access for hunters, and an increased incentive for hunters to supply bushmeat to towns and cities. *Piliocolobus lulindicus* is, therefore, suspected to have undergone a population decline exceeding 50% during the past three generations, and is listed as Endangered under criterion A2cd.

Given the increase in the human population, in access to previously intact forest, uncontrolled hunting and the species' vulnerability to hunting, the decline will likely continue at a similar, if not faster, rate.

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Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Not Evaluated (NE)

2000 – Data Deficient (DD)

1996 – Data Deficient (DD)

Geographic Range

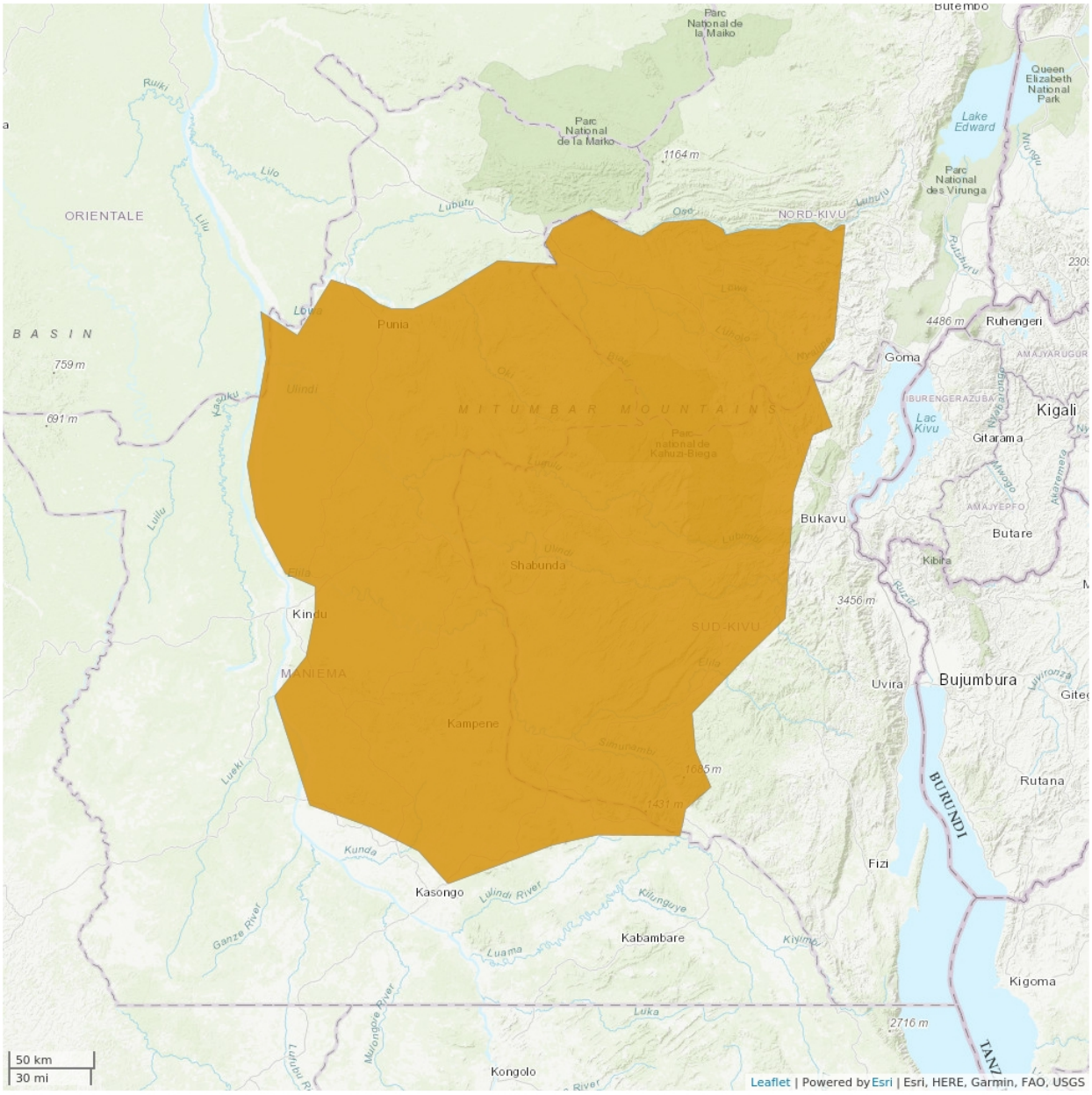
Range Description:

Endemic to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), *Piliocolobus lulindicus* ranges from the Congo (Lualaba) River in the west, east to the lowland-montane transition (1,200–1,500 m asl) at approximately 28.5° E, where it intergrades with *P. foai* (Rahm 1965, Colyn 1991). The southern limit of the range is mapped as the Lukuga River at approximately 4.7° S (Colyn 1991), where the species apparently occurs in several large forest islands south of the contiguous forest zone. The northern limit is given as the Lowa River based on the location of an examined specimen (Colyn 1991).

Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): Congo, The Democratic Republic of the

Distribution Map



Legend

EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

Red Colobus (Piliocolobus) Conservation Action Plan, 2020–2025 2020

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

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Population

The population has declined due to uncontrolled hunting, and habitat loss and degradation. Conflict was a major correlate of *P. lulindicus* decline in the lowland sector of Kahuzi-Biega National Park (KBNP). Kahuzi-Biega National Park is the only protected area where the species has been reported (Hall *et al*. 2002). In 1994–1995, red colobus were reported as widespread, and common in three of five zones surveyed (Hall *et al*. 2002). In the subsequent eight years, the region was a theatre of intense conflict, during which the park was targeted by hunters and artisanal miners; some areas were burned (Hart *et al*. 1998). Surveys resumed in 2004 and were conducted periodically through 2017 (Hart *et al*. 2007, Spira *et al*. 2018). Red colobus have been not recorded during any post-conflict surveys, including the areas where they were classified as abundant in the 1990s.

Hunting was also a primary factor linked to declines in western populations of this taxon. A rapid assessment survey in 2018 (Hart unpubl. data 2018) found that red colobus were confirmed or highly likely to have been extirpated in 76% of 102 habitat blocks in a zone covering about 45% of the western part of the species' range, from the Lualaba River to approximately 27° E. The majority of disappearances were reported to have occurred during the period 1998–2006, coinciding with civil unrest and political instability. Uncontrolled hunting was cited in most cases where causality was identified, although habitat loss through the expansion of shifting agriculture affected about 20% of blocks assessed. Habitat loss was very high around important mining centres, such as Kalima, Pangi, Punia and Lubutu, where human population growth was also high.

Populations in the east of the range face higher pressure from the expansion of artisanal mining than populations in the west. Large mining centres are associated with the largest declines of red colobus (Hart unpubl. data 2018). At present, the remaining populations of *P. lulindicus* occur in isolated subpopulations, separated by areas of degraded or converted habitat, or by areas of suitable forest where the species has been extirpated.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology **(see Appendix for additional information)**

Little is known of this species, but all observations have been in forest habitats – terra firma, lowland moist forests, and along rivers. The animals live in groups. It is assumed, that like other red colobus, they are primarily folivores.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade **(see Appendix for additional information)**

This species is illegally hunted for local consumption and sale to bushmeat markets. Level of offtake is probably declining as remaining populations are reduced and those remaining are mostly remote and depleted (and hence more costly to hunt). Colyn (1991) reports collecting numerous specimens in Kalima, Punia, Pangi bushmeat markets in the 1980s. A 2018 search of these markets found no red colobus for sale (Hart unpubl. data 2018).

Threats **(see Appendix for additional information)**

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Piliocolobus lulindicus is directly threatened by habitat loss and hunting, and indirectly by the creation of easy access routes into huge areas of previously remote forests and increasing human populations.

The species is subject to habitat modification, as intact forest is converted to farmland and "farm bush," which can be seen clearly in Tyukavina *et al*. (2016) and Harris *et al*. (2017). In DRC, over 90% of forest loss is due to shifting agriculture (Tyukavina *et al*. 2018). The ongoing trend is gradually increasing annual forest loss since 2001, especially since 2013-2014 (GFW 2020).

Hunting for bushmeat is increasing throughout the range of this taxon. The meat is eaten by rural populations, traded to miners (Spira *et al*. 2017), or traded markets in urban locations. Road access into once-remote forests – even close to protected areas – has hugely increased during the two decades (Kleinschroth *et al*. 2019), facilitating increased hunting and transport of bushmeat for commercial trade in both local markets and distant urban centres (Abernethy *et al*. 2013, 2016; Ziegler *et al*. 2016).

Human populations in the range of this species are growing at roughly 2.7% annually, and this rate will not slow down in the near future (United Nations 2019, World Bank 2019).

Conservation Actions **(see Appendix for additional information)**

This genus is listed on Appendix II of CITES and on Class B of the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. In DRC, the species (as *Procolobus badius*) is on the totally protected list (hunting is prohibited) (Enerunga 2006).

It is no longer found in any protected areas. It was reported formerly from Kahuzi-Biega National Park (KBNP) but the species is not known to occur there at present. Red colobus were reported in the three of four survey zones of KBNP lowland sector in 1994–1995, and common to abundant in two of them (Hall *et al*. 2002). Red colobus were not recorded on surveys in these same zones 20 years later (Hart et al. 2007) or in 2015-2017 (Spira *et al*. 2015, 2017). Two additional protected areas occur in the range of *P. lulindicus*: the South Masisi and Luwama-Kivu reserves, but it is not reported occurring in either.

Efforts to control the killing of red colobus and trade in bushmeat would have a positive impact on remaining populations, especially in areas where mining and settlement do not occur.

The first conservation action plan for red colobus monkeys will be published in 2020. The plan identifies priority areas for conservation and recommends range-wide and taxon-based actions to prevent red colobus extinctions. Range-wide conservation priorities include actions that aim to improve government investment in wildlife conservation, expand and improve protected areas, determine taxon-specific distribution and abundance, engage with local human populations and integrate them into conservation activities, remove barriers that prevent local access to human healthcare and family planning, and raise awareness of the plight of red colobus.

Credits

Assessor(s): Hart, J.A., Maisels, F. & Ting, N.

Reviewer(s): Williamson, E.A.

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Authority/Authorities: IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group

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External Resources

For Supplementary Material, and for Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website.

Appendix

Habitats

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Threats

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.1. Shifting agriculture	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.2. Small-holder farming	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
3. Energy production & mining -> 3.2. Mining & quarrying	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
4. Transportation & service corridors -> 4.1. Roads & railroads	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Majority (50-90%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
6. Human intrusions & disturbance -> 6.2. War, civil unrest & military exercises	Past, likely to return	Majority (50-90%)	Slow, significant declines	Past impact
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		

Conservation Actions in Place

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Action in Place
In-place research and monitoring

Conservation Action in Place
Action Recovery Plan: Yes
In-place land/water protection
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range
Percentage of population protected by PAs: 0
Occurs in at least one protected area: No
In-place education
Included in international legislation: Yes
Subject to any international management / trade controls: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Action Needed
1. Land/water protection -> 1.1. Site/area protection
1. Land/water protection -> 1.2. Resource & habitat protection
5. Law & policy -> 5.4. Compliance and enforcement -> 5.4.2. National level
5. Law & policy -> 5.4. Compliance and enforcement -> 5.4.3. Sub-national level

Research Needed

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): Yes
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km^2): 104800
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): Yes
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): No

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Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 450
Upper elevation limit (m): 1,800
Population
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Yes
Extreme fluctuations: No
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes
Generation Length (years): 10
Movement patterns: Not a Migrant

The IUCN Red List Partnership

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the IUCN Global Species Programme, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and The IUCN Red List Partnership.

The IUCN Red List Partners are: Arizona State University; BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International; NatureServe; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Texas A&M University; and Zoological Society of London.