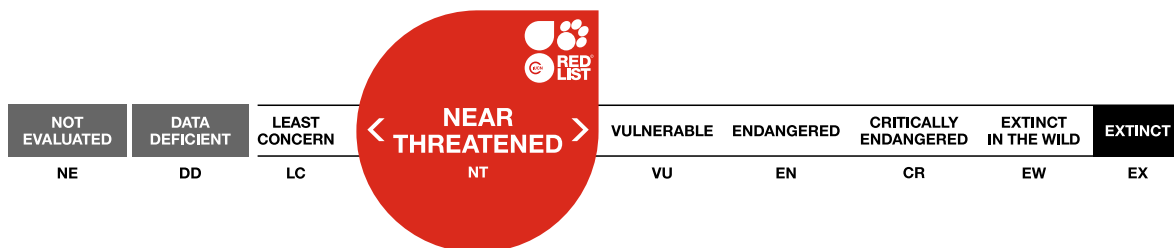


Cercopithecus mona, Mona Monkey

Assessment by: Matsuda Goodwin, R., Segniagbeto, G., Nobimè, G. & Imong, I.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Primates	Cercopithecidae

Scientific Name: *Cercopithecus mona* (Schreber, 1775)

Synonym(s):

- *Simoa mona* Schreber, 1775

Common Name(s):

- English: Mona Monkey, Mona Guenon
- French: Cercopithèque mone
- Spanish; Castilian: Cercopiteco Mona
- German: Mona-Meerkatze, Monameerkatze

Taxonomic Source(s):

Mittermeier, R.A., Rylands, A.B. and Wilson D.E. 2013. *Handbook of the Mammals of the World: Volume 3 Primates*. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Taxonomic Notes:

Monotypic species. It belongs to the *Cercopithecus mona* superspecies.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Near Threatened A4cd [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2020

Date Assessed: June 20, 2019

Justification:

Cercopithecus mona is considered Near Threatened (nearly meets criterion A4cd). Although the species is widespread and can adapt to a variety of degraded habitats, it is still vulnerable to hunting and tropical forest coverage throughout its range and has declined significantly in recent decades. Throughout West Africa, hunters have shifted their focus to smaller-bodied primates as larger-bodied species have declined or disappeared. Encounter rates for Mona Monkeys in the Lama Forest of Benin decreased by nearly 30% from 1995 to 2015 and are expected to continue to decrease, suggesting the potential for an overall population decline of similar magnitude. This, coupled with evidence of subpopulations that have been extirpated, even in protected areas, as well as published declines in tropical forest coverage of similar magnitude in all range countries inhabited by this species, require that it be considered Near Threatened under criterion A4cd.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC)

<https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T4222A10677731.en>

2000 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/LC)

1996 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/LC)

1988 – Not Threatened (NT)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Cercopithecus mona ranges from the Volta-Afram River in southeastern Ghana to Cameroon, just south of the Sanaga River. In Ghana, there is a zone of overlap between *C. mona* and *C. lowei* along the western bank of Volta River and along the Afram River. In Benin, this species is found as far north as 9°14 N. It has been introduced to São Tomé and Príncipe and from there to the Caribbean islands of Grenada.

Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): Benin; Cameroon; Ghana; Nigeria; Togo

Extant & Introduced (resident): Grenada; Sao Tome and Principe

Distribution Map

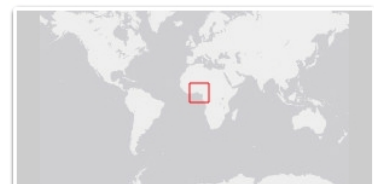


Legend

- EXTANT (RESIDENT)
- EXTANT & INTRODUCED (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) 2018



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



Population

Cercopithecus mona is a widespread species, common in many areas. However, even in some protected areas and forest reserves where hunting has been heavy, subpopulations of this species have declined or have been extirpated. When other, larger-bodied primate species decline significantly in number or are extirpated due to heavy hunting (the latter resulting in decreased primate species diversity), the population density of *C. mona* often increases as the result of competitive release (Linder and Oates 2011).

In Cameroon, this species is found in Korup National Park and several forest reserves (e.g., Douala-Edéa) (Gartlan and Struhsaker 1972). In Nigeria, it is found in a number of national parks (e.g., Gashaka-Gumti, Okomu, Old Oyo, Cross River) and forest reserves (e.g., Stubbs Creek, Edumanom, Upper Orashi in Niger Delta) (Baker and Olubode 2008, Adanu *et al.* 2010). In Togo, it is common in Fazao-Malfakassa National Park and Togodo National Park, and many other forests in the Togo highlands and along the Mono River (Segniagbeto *et al.* 2016). In Benin, this species occurs in the Lama Forest (Masuda Goodwin 2007, Nobimè *et al.* 2011); however, local extirpation of this species appears to have occurred in several forest reserves. The Mona Monkey also inhabits Digya National Park and Kalakpa National Park in Ghana.

Encounter rates for this species in the Lama Forest of Benin decreased from 0.61 groups/km in 1995–1997 to 0.43 groups/km in 2014–2015 (Matsuda Goodwin, unpublished data), suggesting a population decline of close to 30% over a 20-year period (representing almost 2 generations) and is expected to continue at that rate. In other areas, increases in this species' population density may have occurred due to ecological release arising from the extirpation of larger-bodied primates. For example, in Korup National Park in Cameroon, while the yearly off-take of this species as bushmeat increased five-fold between 1998 and 2004–2005, the sighting frequency showed a slight increase from 0.03 groups/km to 0.04 groups/km between 1990 and 2004–2005 (Linder and Oates 2011).

Throughout the Mona Monkey's range, habitats are undergoing loss, degradation and fragmentation. Between 1975 and 2013, its range countries have experienced an extensive loss of tropical forest estimated at 25–58% (CILSS 2016). In Ghana and Nigeria, protected areas have experienced a specific decline (4.0% per annum and 4.2% per annum, respectively) of tropical forest between 2000 and 2012.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This is a lowland forest species that inhabits all but the most severely degraded habitat and extends into the savanna zone in gallery forest, and also into mangroves (Oates 2011). It is more associated with riverbanks than the closely-related *Cercopithecus lowei* on the left bank of Afram River in Ghana, where the two species are sympatric. Similarly, in Togodo National Park in Togo mixed-species associations between *C. mona* and *C. erythrogaster erythrogaster* are frequently seen (Segniagbeto *et al.* 2017). In the Lama Forest of Benin, 41.7% of the diet was fruit followed by 22.0% seeds, 13.6% leaves, 11.7% flowers and 9.9% insects (Matsuda Goodwin 2007). However, in Rhoko Forest, in Nigeria, the Mona Monkey was more insectivorous (Z. Tooze pers. comm. 2014). Perhaps this dietary flexibility, which allows them to inhabit different habitats, is one reason why this species is considered an ecological generalist.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

This species is hunted for bushmeat.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

This species has been impacted by large-scale habitat loss and hunting for bushmeat. However, it can adapt well to secondary habitat and human-modified forests, and remains common in parts of its range. As long as hunting pressure is not intense, this monkey can persist in degraded habitats. However, even this species, which has a high tolerance to human disturbance, has been extirpated in some localities throughout its range countries (Chapman *et al.* 2004, Matsuda Goodwin pers. obs. 2015, Nobimé pers. obs. 2015).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is listed on Appendix II of CITES and on Class B of the African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. It is known to occur in a number of protected areas, such as Korup and Takamanda national parks in Cameroon, Gashaka-Gumti (Adanu *et al.* 2010), Okomu and Cross River national parks, and in Niger Delta in Nigeria (Akinsorotan *et al.* 2011), Lama Forest in Benin (Matsuda Goodwin 2007, Nobimé *et al.* 2011), and Fazao-Malfakassa and Togodo national parks in Togo (Segniagbeto *et al.* 2017), and Digya and Kalakpa national parks in Ghana. This species also occurs in a number of forest reserves (e.g., Dja in Cameroon [Poulsen *et al.* 2011], Oluwa, Shasha, Omo in Nigeria [Oates *et al.* 2008]), but increasingly this small-bodied primate is being hunted as the larger-bodied primate populations are being depleted, even in protected areas. Some *C. mona* groups are protected in community forests (some of which are sacred forests) and urban parks in its range countries (Baker *et al.* 2009).

Credits

Assessor(s): Matsuda Goodwin, R., Segniagbeto, G., Nobimé, G. & Imong, I.

Reviewer(s): Konstant, W.R.

Contributor(s): Oates, J.F., Gippoliti, S. & Groves, C.P.

Authority/Authorities: IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group

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External Resources

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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
1. Forest -> 1.7. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Mangrove Vegetation Above High Tide Level	Resident	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	Resident	Suitable	No
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.6. Artificial/Terrestrial - Subtropical/Tropical Heavily Degraded Former Forest	Resident	Suitable	Yes

Use and Trade

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

End Use	Local	National	International
Food - human	No	No	Yes

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance 2. Species Stresses -> 2.3. Indirect species effects		
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 -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance 2. Species Stresses -> 2.3. Indirect species effects		
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 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance 2. Species Stresses -> 2.3. Indirect species effects		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.2. Wood & pulp plantations -> 2.2.2. Agro-industry plantations	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Rapid declines	Medium impact: 6

	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
3. Energy production & mining -> 3.2. Mining & quarrying	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Very rapid declines	Medium impact: 7
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Action in Place
In-place land/water protection
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over part of range
Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes
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 -> 5.1. Legislation -> 5.1.2. National level
5. Law & policy -> 5.3. Private sector standards & codes

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends
3. Monitoring -> 3.3. Trade trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 1,200
Population
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Yes
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 11
Movement patterns: Not a Migrant

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