



Photo © Russell A. Mittermeier



NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range



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Amazing Species: Verreaux's Sifaka

Widely recognised for its bipedal leaping dance, Verreaux's Sifaka (*Propithecus verreauxi*) is a diurnal lemur that inhabits tropical dry lowland and montane forest in the southern and western regions of Madagascar.

Despite its wide distribution, the main habitats this species depends upon are under threat from deforestation for slash-and-burn agriculture and the production of charcoal and fuelwood. The forests are further affected by accidental fires and selective logging for canoe and schooner construction. The species' spiny forest habitat in south-western Madagascar has become increasingly fragmented, decreasing in area by 28% from 1950 to 2000 and undergoing the highest annual rate of deforestation during the 1990s of any forest type or region in Madagascar. Verreaux's Sifaka is also impacted by habitat changes in southern Madagascar following the introduction of Prickly Pear (*Opuntia*) in the 1700s.

Hunting further threatens Verreaux's Sifaka, despite being illegal and regarded as taboo or 'fady' in many parts of its range. This species is known as "sifaka of the cooking pot" in the Isalo region; it is unclear whether this refers to its culinary popularity or the sooty black appearance of individuals from this area. Verreaux's Sifaka is also kept as an illegal pet.

Verreaux's Sifaka populations are estimated to have declined by more than 80% over the past 30 years. A future decline of over 90% is expected, if these threats continue unabated.