

Wolf's Guenon

Cercopithecus wolfi

Mammal

Scientific Name

Cercopithecus wolfi

Other Names

Wolf's Mono Monkey

Range

Central Africa; Democratic Republic of Congo, northeast Angola and Uganda

Habitat

Lowland rainforests and swamp forests

Description

A small, dark grey monkey with a chestnut colored "saddle" patch on its back, black arms and red legs, and a yellowish underside. Males are significantly larger than females.

Average Size

Length: 50 in. with tail

Weight: 6 – 9 lbs.

Lifespan

In the wild: Unknown

In captivity: 20 – 26 years

Diet

In the wild: fruit, leaves, flowers, nectar and insects

In captivity: fruit, vegetables, browse and insects

Gestation

160 – 170 days

Sexual Maturity

5 years

Offspring

1 per birth

Predators

Leopards, birds of prey, and humans

Population Status

Vulnerable



Behavior

Wolf's Guenons are diurnal (active in the daytime), arboreal (tree dwelling) and territorial primates, protecting the resources and group members around them with loud calls and aggressive displays if necessary. Researchers have documented Wolf's Guenons using up to seven distinct verbal calls in their everyday communications. Stamping on the branches, tossing leaves, showing off teeth and yawning are all examples of visual threat displays. These monkeys are social. Their groups range from a handful of all bachelor males, to a larger group of up to 12 individuals consisting of one lead (alpha) male, several females (often related to one another) and their juvenile offspring. Their colors are used to recognize individuals, different species, and potential mates.

Wolf's Guenons are often seen co-existing with other primates. When forming these associations, it is necessary that the diet or feeding height between the species differs in order to reduce competition. When in a mixed group, Wolf's Guenons will move and forage at a mean height of 50 to 55 feet, with Red-tailed Monkeys foraging at 39 feet and Black Mangabeys searching the trees at heights of 70 feet in the canopy. Although the three species have similar dietary needs and must remain in their own layer to reduce confrontation, these mixed groups are better at detecting predators and danger than smaller groups. Wolf's Guenons also possess well developed cheek pouches, like other Old World monkeys, which are used to store excess food items. The evolution of these cheek pouches may be a response to the increased potential for interspecific (different species) competition in the mixed-species associations which these monkeys frequently form. Cheek pouches allow them to stash food in their mouths and then run away to eat in safety, hidden from others.

Reproduction and Breeding

The breeding season for Wolf's Guenons in the wild is from June through December due to increased rainfall and resource availability. In captivity, there is no set season as resources are available throughout the year. Although each alpha male has the main breeding access to the females in his group, bachelor groups or individual males can mate with females while the lead is distracted elsewhere. In the canopy, it is difficult to keep an eye on the entire group, so there is always the possibility of nearby males creating competition for the dominant male.

Although females provide the majority of parental care, the males assist by providing protection. This species is considered female philopatric, with males dispersing from the area at sexual maturity leaving the females behind in their natal group.

Sacramento Zoological Society
3930 West Land Park Dr., Sacramento, CA 95822
T: 916-808-5888 F: 916-264-7385 E: info@saczoology.org

www.saczoology.org



Conservation

Wolf's Guenons are listed as Appendix II under CITES, (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species) which offers protection against illegal trading or hunting of the species. However, due to the extremely poor economic status of the area where they live, Wolf's Guenon populations are declining at a rapid rate. In addition to the loss of their preferred habitat of old growth rain forest, this species is high on the list for illegal hunting (bushmeat). This is a serious issue in many parts of the world; there is little meat and other sustenance food available to the native people so they are forced to eat their local wildlife.

The Sacramento Zoo supports a variety of conservation organizations that work with people to find alternative ways of sustaining their families and provide education on how to live alongside nature. To learn more about the Bushmeat crisis, go to www.bushmeat.org. For more information on helping build sustainable food resources for people around the world, contact Heifer International at www.heifer.org.

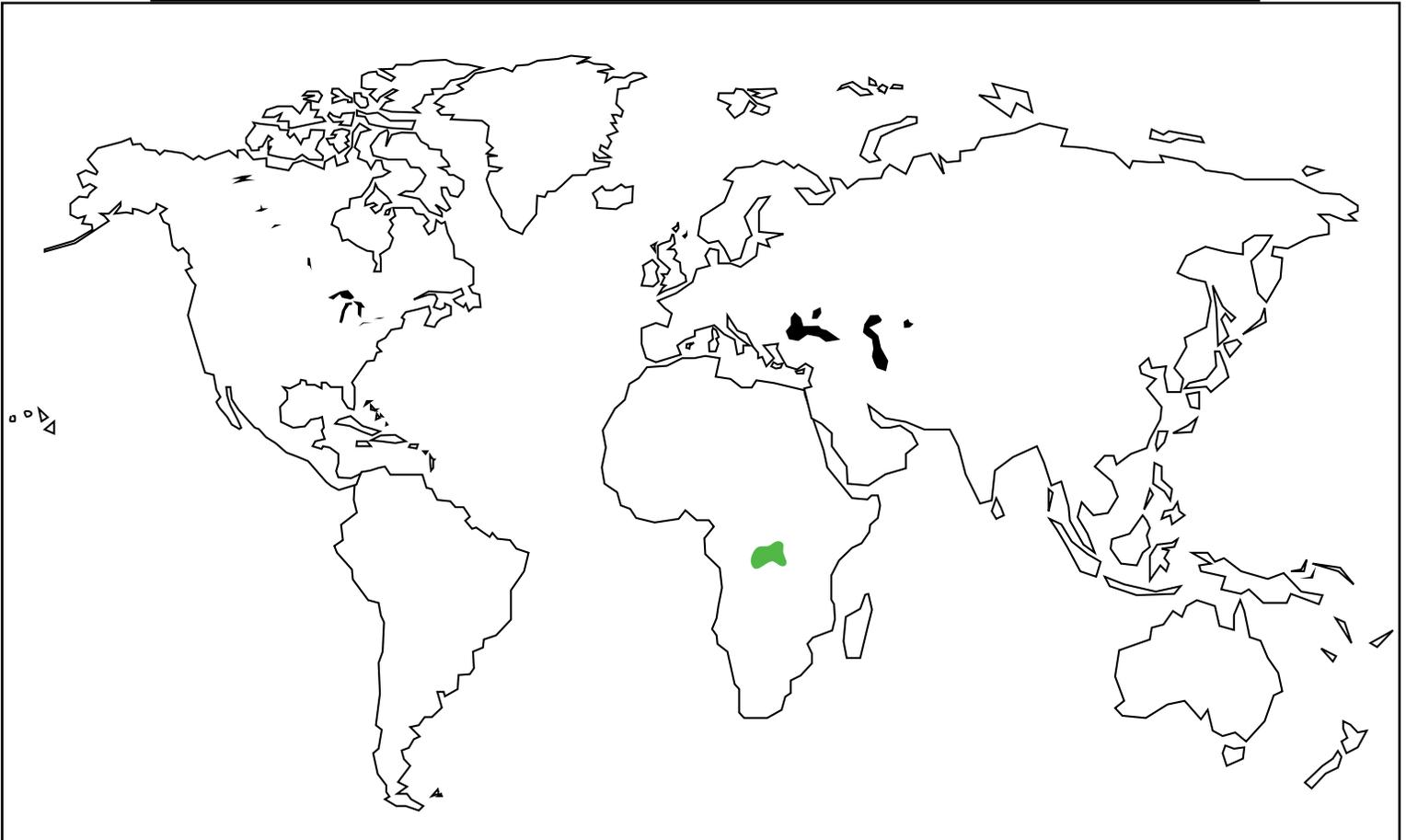
Amazing Facts

Wolf's Guenons are named for their discoverer; their name has nothing to do with wolves or canine teeth.

Guenons are the largest group of African primates.

Females play an important role in territory defense; their call prompts the male to call as well.

Wolf's Guenon



Sacramento Zoological Society
3930 West Land Park Dr., Sacramento, CA 95822
T: 916-808-5888 F: 916-264-5887 E: info@saczoo.org

www.saczoo.org