

2019

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER COLOBUS CONSERVATION

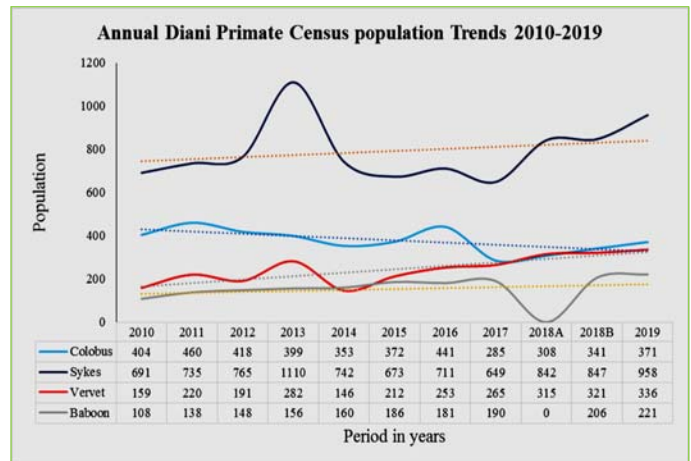


Annual Primate Census 2019 and Population Trends

Wildlife population experience significant or insignificant fluctuations over time and space as a result of both intraspecific and interspecific, environmental and anthropogenic factors. Thus, it is necessary for wildlife managers to conduct monitory surveys for decision making. Colobus Conservation has conducted annual primate census for the last two decade to assess the population trends of Sykes, baboons and vervets in Diani. This is critical for decision making of the management and conservation of monkeys in human-dominated set ups.

The general trends indicate that the population of Sykes, vervets and baboons has been on a steady increase while that of colobus monkeys is observed as declining (Figure 1). It is important to note that *Colobus angolensis palliatus* is threatened nationally due to habitat fragmentation and degradation. Thus, the declining population might be as a result of the impacts of the anthropogenic activities in and around the Diani Beach Forest. Over the last two decades property and home owners have cleared portions of the indigenous Diani Beach Forest to pave way for hotels and residential homes. This has lowered the forest canopy cover and foraging grounds available to the arboreal and folivorous species such as Black and White colobus monkeys.

In 2018, two census surveys were carried out that is in January (2018A) and October (2018B). The January survey was a repeat of 2017 census which was deemed invalid for Sykes, colobus and vervets due to dataset inconsistencies. This did not apply for the baboons, whose census is conducted separate from the other species. Other notable observations are the relative higher Sykes count of 2013. It is outlier in relation to the entire data set dataset taking into account that the general trend indicates a gradual not exponential increase. Finally, there was a slight increase in colobus population as from January (308) - in October (341), 2018 -- (371) October, 2019.



Chapman, C. A., Bortolamiol, S., Matsuda, I., Omeja, P. A., Paim, F. P., Reyna-Hurtado, R. & Valenta, K. (2018). Primate population dynamics: variation in abundance over space and time. *Biodiversity and conservation*, 27(5), 1221-1238.

Patterson, L., Kalle, R., & Downs, C. (2018). Factors affecting presence of vervet monkey troops in a suburban matrix in Kwa-Zulu-Natal, South Africa. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 169, 220-228.

McDonald, M. M., Johnson, S. M., Henry, E. R., & Cunneyworth, P. M. (2019). Differences between ecological niches in northern and southern populations of Angolan black and white colobus monkeys (*Colobus angolensis palliatus* and *Colobus angolensis sharpei*) throughout Kenya and Tanzania. *American journal of primatology*, e22975.

Dunham, N. T. (2017). *Feeding ecology of black and white colobus monkeys from south coastal Kenya: the influence of spatial availability, nutritional composition, and mechanical properties of food items* (Doctoral dissertation, The Ohio State University).

Conservation & Schools' Education:

Through education workshops Colobus Conservation promotes awareness of conservation and primate issues in the local community and to schools and students of all ages.

Every year we work with 36 schools in the Kwale County of South Eastern Coastal Kenya, bringing each school to our facilities every week. Annually, more than 1,000 children attend these workshops with about 30 children attending each session. Our trained staff lead activities after which children fill in a workbook that they take with them at the end of the day. The children are further engaged in recreational activities besides watching conservation series. The workshop encourages the children to appreciate the natural environment and to take an interest in wildlife and its conservation. We provide the program free of charge for all schools within our mandate and have specific itineraries for kindergarten, lower primary, upper primary and secondary students.

Power line Insulation sponsorship:

Over the last 22 years more 300 monkeys are known to have been electrocuted in Diani - this is approximately one electrocuted monkey per month. It is reported that more half of those were colobus monkeys. Electrocutions occur as monkeys use the cables to move between trees. This is an important mode of travel for monkeys in the Diani environment as increasingly trees are cleared for development interfering with migratory routes of monkeys to foraging and socialization areas.

Injuries from the power cables are most often very extreme and difficult to treat clinically. Of the Diani cases, ¾ of the cases end in the death of the individual.



Impact:

We have also been involved in setting up wildlife clubs of Kenya and Junior Ambassadors of Restoration Clubs in the schools, assisting with building classrooms, providing books, and providing specific teacher-training on wildlife issues;

- ◆ Over the last four years we have reached out to more than 3000 school going children from 100 schools.
- ◆ We have also integrated a Kaya-School programme where school going children visit kayas to learn about history, culture and heritage of the Mijikenda tribes.
- ◆ In 2019 alone, we took 200 school children and over 10 teachers to experience the unique Digo and Duruma culture and heritage.



Due to the development of Diani as both a tourist and residential area, the power grid has steadily expanded resulting in more electrocutions year by year.

Solution: Insulation of low voltage power cables using longitudinally sliced, 25mm light gauge conduit pipes. The conduit can easily be clipped over the cable and therefore is a medium-term solution.

Donate \$2 to support to insulate of 1 metre of a power line along the identified as electrocution hotspots. The entire goal is to insulate 12km of power line in Diani Beach.

PASA Meetings

Colobus Conservation this year has had the opportunity to be represented internationally. As part of the primatological world, we have been able to attend the 2019, PASA veterinary workshop in Yaoundé Cameroon. This provided an opportunity to learn more on clinical procedures to efficiently care for the primates received in the centers.

The African Primatological Society also provided an opportunity for the organization to present its work and get to learn the work of other primatological organizations in Africa. This is essential in gaining knowledge on the emerging trends and issues in other parts of the world. The conference was attended by over 500 participants representing 48 countries in Africa.



Releases

Colobus Conservation undertook the release of 5 Sykes on 10th and 11 Vervets on 24th of November 2019. The release was done on Colobus Conservation grounds and one adult female was fitted with a GPS collar to facilitate tracking. This is after an immense rehabilitation process that involved training the monkeys on

- ◆ Human aversion
- ◆ Feeding on natural food
- ◆ Predator and threat avoidance

The monkeys were then given time to form a stable troop before being released in to the wild.



ADOPTIONS

Monkey adoptions are a great help to the monkeys in rehabilitation. Currently we have five monkeys available for adoptions. The monkeys have been rescued as abandoned babies, victims of illegal pet trade and orphaned monkeys. All these monkeys come from different backgrounds but have been able to form a bond and become one troop.



Nairobi Santa Run 2019



Volunteer Program



Colobus Conservation was fortunate to be registered as one of the partner charities that was involved in Nairobi Santa Run 2019.

The 10km and 5km fundraising run took place on the 8th of December at Two Rivers Mall, Nairobi. All proceeds of the charity run were going to the registered partner charities.

We had our own team representing us on the charity run and despite the rains it was a great first run with members of the public braving the weather to join in on the run.

We are extremely grateful to Joe Wang'endo CEO of Nairobi Santa Run & Our Board Director for giving us the opportunity and we look forward to taking part again next year.

Helping for a Good cause

During the year 2019 we have worked together with 69 volunteers including research interns from various parts of the world. We really appreciate and value their help which contributes towards achieving our conservation goal of conservation & protecting of the Diani's primates and their habitat

For more information about our volunteer program and how to apply, please visit our website at www.colobusconservation.org or you can directly write to us at volunteers@colobusconservation.org

CONTACT OR VISIT US

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