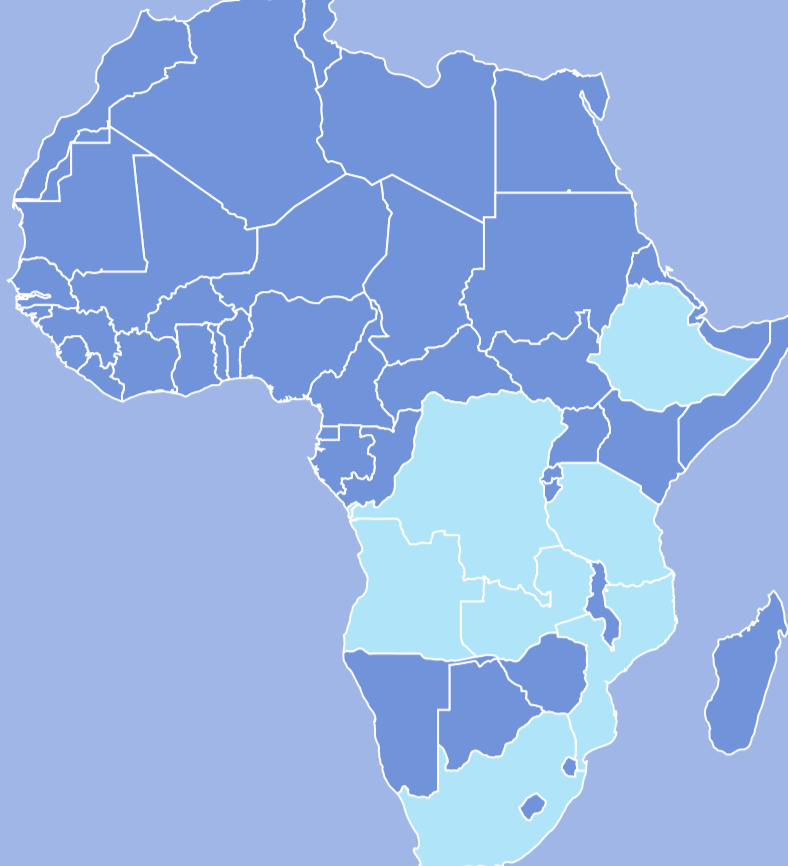
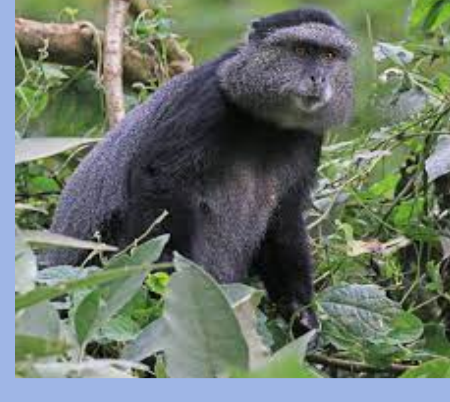


# 5 Things You Wish Knew About Blue Monkeys



**Blue monkeys are NOT actually BLUE**

Blue monkeys, *Ceropitichus mitis stuhlmanni* use their cheek pouches in two ways;

## 1 To avoid predation

A cheek pouch reduces the vulnerability of the individuals from predators as it allows them to collect the food items in their cheek pouch and retreat to a safe, less exposed space to finish the food consumption process. When compared how many items were swallowed immediately and what position the individuals were in, the findings found that despite the age, and sex of the species, the individuals moved to a safer position from predators after filling their cheek pouch and this is the known function of cheek pouch (Smith et al. 2008).



## 2 To avoid intraspecific competition



VS

The function of the cheek pouch to be used to reduce intraspecific competition has little evidence for it. One of the pieces of evidence to argue against it is that cheek pouch use does not vary in frequency of use when the diet is fruit or leaves or other food sources (Smith et. al 2008). This is significant because previous inquiries have asked if cheek pouch reduces intraspecific competition as individuals can gather high-quality food items in their cheek pouch and hide the food item from other species who can benefit from the food source as well. Since this hypothesis has been less proven, the main function of the cheek pouch is to avoid predation at a vulnerable state.

## 3 Favourite Foods

A high percentage of food consumed by blue monkeys are fruit but have the ability to consume food sources such as leaves, insects and flowers. Blue monkeys spend more than 80% of their feeding time feeding on fruits, especially ripe ones (Twehyeo & Obua 2001). It is known that blue monkeys are generalists when it comes to their diet because they eat variability of foods but when blue monkeys have narrow nutrient intake and use certain foods to regulate and converge these intakes (Takahashi et. al. 2019)



## 4 Interesting Female Relationships



The differences in feeding strategies may have an impact on the female social relationships within their natal groups. The hypothesis investigated that there would be rank-based differences emerge during times of high competition or resource scarcity. When observing interactions such as grooming (affiliation) and submitting, avoiding and aggression between the focal subjects, it was found that during times of low resource availability, females of all rankings increased consumption levels and females spaced themselves apart while feeding (Pazol & Cords 2005).

## 5 Conseversion Efforts

Human impact and disturbance on these species are very critical to examine. The effects of logging and timber extraction have an effect on the wildlife but if done at appropriate and controlled levels, it may have conservation value. This was studied by comparing groups of species in a logged forest compared to an unlogged forest. It was found that there were no apparent differences in the total number of species/items were fed on so there was no significant effect on dietary quality but further research and studies with ecological primates are needed to fully understand the effects of logging on wildlife and to reduce the negative impact humans have on wildlife (Fairgrieve & Muhumuza 2003)

