



Welcome to
Kianjavato
Home of the Greater Bamboo lemur

Madagascar is home to unique biodiversity found nowhere else on earth, making it one of the world's greatest biodiversity hot spots despite losing over 90% of its original forests. Lemur species such as the Greater Bamboo lemur (*Prolemur simus*) are particularly susceptible to extinction risks caused by the habitat loss that continues to endanger this rare species. The Greater Bamboo lemur once thrived in

forests throughout the island, but due to forest fragmentation, the species territorial range is now limited to a few isolated areas of southeastern Madagascar. The largest populations of *P. simus* live in the forests surrounding Kianjavato village. Labeled maps of this area can be found on page 4.

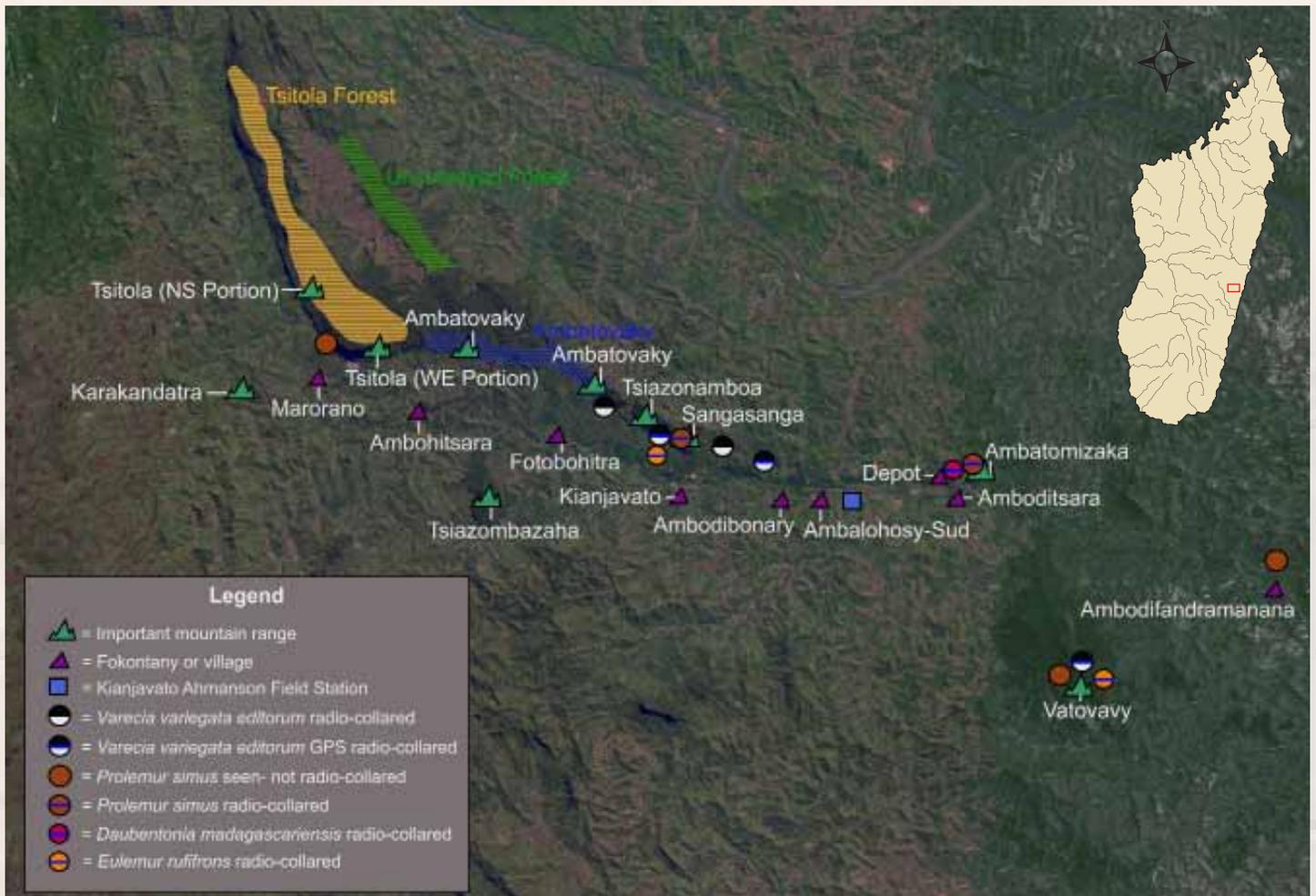
Human activity such as agricultural slash and burn (tavy), mining and hunting have led to the Greater Bamboo lemurs' status as one of the world's most critically endangered primates, with around 300 known individuals remaining. Furthering the threat of this species, its specialized diet that consists mainly of Giant Bamboo restricts the lemur's overall range across Madagascar. The animal's dependence on this food source also increases the need for a large territorial range to meet its dietary requirements.

Swift conservation measures must be taken in order for the *Prolemur simus* to have a chance at survival. The Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership, MBP, is contributing significantly to the conservation of the Greater Bamboo lemur, establishing a variety of projects in Kianjavato village and its surrounding forests.





Photos: (Opposite page, top) The sunset in Kianjavato. (Opposite page, bottom) A Greater Bamboo lemur tracked near Kianjavato Classified Forest, a 5,000 hectare forest surrounding the village of Kianjavato. (Above) Aerial view of Kianjavato village (to the south) and its surrounding forests. The orange, white and blue dots indicate radio-collared Greater bamboo lemurs in the Kianjavato region. (Below) Aerial view of the villages, forests, mountain ranges and lemur populations that have been tracked by the MBP. Maps courtesy of Google Earth.



Madagascar is an economically impoverished state, which means that the Malagasy population often turns to the forest's resources to meet their basic needs. The MBP believes that educating the community about the Greater Bamboo lemur could help them to make smart choices that help protect animal habitats. Strong ties to the community are essential for both the survival of the Greater Bamboo lemur and improving the quality of life for the Kianjavato community.

In 2007, the MBP initiated a community-based monitoring project, providing immediate protection for *P. simus* and employment for local guides. By involving local guides, the MBP is able to establish a valuable connection to the community as well as gain employees that are already familiar with the land. Data compiled from this monitoring project will provide information such as population genetics, group dynamics, territory size, seasonal movement and individual relationships to contrast with Greater Bamboo lemurs found in other areas of Madagascar. Application of this information will help to evaluate the status of Kianjavato to advocate the recognition of this site as a locally protected area. With this project in progress, the MBP is monitoring the largest known population of *P. simus* in Kianjavato.



Photos: (Opposite page, top): A Kianjavato sunset.
(Opposite page, bottom) A Greater Bamboo lemur takes a break from munching on bamboo. (Right) A *Prolemur simus* holds on to a bamboo culm. (Below) A Greater Bamboo lemur is released back into the wild after being immobilized. (Bottom) Two lemurs search for food.

