



AYE-AYE

Scientific Name: *Daubentonia madagascariensis*

Aye-eyes are medium-sized and nocturnal lemurs. This means they are only active during the night. In fact, 80% of an Aye-aye's night is spent travelling and foraging for food.

DIET

Aye-eyes eat seeds, beetle and moth larvae, nectar, and a variety of crops including coconuts, lychees and mangoes. This diet makes them key pollinators for their environment. Using a long, specialized middle finger, Aye-eyes tap the surface of branches and tree trunks to locate hollow areas where insect larvae live. Then, they use their continuously growing front teeth to gnaw away the outer bark and their middle finger to extract food.



GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

It is thought that Aye-eyes live in more habitats across Madagascar than any other lemur. Aye-eyes are found in primary rainforests, deciduous forests, secondary growth, dry scrub forests, and mangrove swamps. Because they are nocturnal and often hide during the day, people don't see Aye-eyes very often. However, we can assume they are present in a forest when we see their characteristic tree hole marks.

CONSERVATION STATUS

Listed as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List, Aye-aye numbers are decreasing and their populations are severely fragmented. Compared to other lemur species, not as much is known about Aye-eyes. But we suspect that they have the lowest genetic diversity of all lemurs. This puts them at even greater risk. Not having enough genetic diversity means Aye-eyes are less able to adapt to changes in their environment, and less likely to survive them.

THREATS

The two main threats that Aye-eyes face are habitat loss and poaching. Aye-eyes are often poached because of cultural traditions (fady or taboos that vary from region to region), being seen as a crop-pest, and to be used for food by local families.

LCN MEMBERS WORKING TO SAVE AYE-AYES

Members that work with Aye-eyes include: Madagascar Fauna & Flora Group (MF&FG), GERP, Association Mitsinjo, Sadabe, Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership

WHERE TO SEE THESE LEMURS IN MADAGASCAR

Andohahela National Park, Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park, Kianjavato, Nosy Mangabe, Ranomafana National Park.