

Brief Communication:

Partners for Red Colobus: Protecting Preuss's Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus preussi*) in Cameroon

Alexandra N. Hofner¹, Carolyn A. Jost Robinson²,
Joshua M. Linder³, and Orume Diotoh Robinson⁴

¹University of Georgia; ²University of North Carolina Wilmington;
³James Madison University; ⁴Korup Rainforest Conservation Society

Red colobus monkeys (*Piliocolobus* spp.) are one of Africa's most threatened taxonomic groups. There are at least 18 forms across West, Central, and East Africa, and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species considers more than two-thirds of these to be Critically Endangered or Endangered. In 2018 at the International Primatological Society congress in Kenya, the Red Colobus Action Plan (ReCAP) was presented. This is the first Action Plan to target an entire group of African monkeys. Drawing on the suggested conservation actions for red colobus outlined in ReCAP, Partners for Red Colobus contributes to the development and implementation of education and outreach as a tool for red colobus conservation. We are currently working on a conservation education campaign tailored to *Piliocolobus preussi* in Cameroon, a Critically Endangered primate endemic to southeastern Nigeria and southwestern Cameroon. To date most of the detailed information about this monkey has come from forest and bushmeat surveys in and around Korup National Park (1259 km²), the only protected area in Cameroon in which the species is found. Forest surveys and ethnographic research in Korup suggest that hunting for subsistence and to supply the commercial trade in bushmeat has led to extirpation across much of its range (Linder & Oates 2011; Hofner 2016).

Partners for Red Colobus strives to provide a framework for a conservation outreach planning across the range of *P. preussi* by producing and distributing a variety of conservation education materials, and by supporting outreach activities in collaboration with local conservation organizations. Our current work represents a collaborative effort between Limbe Wildlife Center (<http://limbewildlife.org>) and the Korup Rainforest Conservation Society (KRCS) (<https://www.korup-conservation.org>), providing an interactive exhibit in the exhibition hall of Limbe Wildlife Center and mobile materials for KRCS to disseminate in rural villages in and around Korup National Park.

Our educational materials are the result of long-term ethnographic work in Cameroon, ensuring



Top: Preuss's red colobus, Korup National Park, Southwest region Cameroon, 2016. **Bottom:** Children attending a Partners for Red Colobus event. Photographs by A.N. Hofner.

cultural sensitivity and relevancy. Focusing on science communication and outreach, our social media accounts track our current work in Cameroon, as well as communicate current science in red colobus ecology and conservation in a format accessible to general audiences. With future programming, we hope to empower the local communities of Cameroon to act as stewards of this highly threatened species while also providing a framework and inspiration to red colobus researchers and conservationists throughout Africa to include education and local outreach within conservation programs.

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