

COASTAL FORESTS OF TANZANIA



Mertensophryne micranotis
One of the five amphibian species found only in Coastal Forests.



Sheppardia gunningi
The East Coast Akalat is endemic to the coastal forests of Tanzania

What are Coastal Forests?

Coastal forests are a mosaic of vegetation types including evergreen forest, brachystegia woodland, scrub forest and dry forest along the coastal belt of E. Africa.



They are distinct from the forests of the Eastern Arc Mountains and do not include mangroves.



The gold banded forrester (*Euphaedra neophron*) is common in coastal forests.

Why are Coastal Forests important?

Coastal Forests are important because of their many and varied uses. Coastal Forests are used by people to collect medicinal plants, fuelwood, building materials, food, and they help to maintain a regular water supply for towns and villages.



Rhampholeon brevicaudatus
Bearded Pigmy Chameleon
One of the 24 endemic reptile species.

Coastal Forests are globally important forests because of the plant and animal species they contain.

Many of the plant and animal species found in the Coastal Forests are found nowhere else in the world i.e. They are endemic.

There are 554 plant, 5 bird, 3 mammal, 24 reptile, 5 amphibian, 86 mollusc and 75 butterfly species endemic to the Coastal Forests.

Where are the Coastal Forests?

The East African Coastal Forests extend from Somalia to Mozambique and west to the Malawi Hills. They are predominantly located on the coastal plain and are commonly found on hills and plateaus. In Tanzania Coastal Forests extend east to the islands of Pemba, Unguja and Mafia and west to the base of the Eastern Arc Mountains. Coastal forests are found from sea level to a maximum of 1100 m altitude depending on ecological conditions.



Galagoides randoensis
Rondo Galago
Weighing 50g this small bush baby would fit into the palm of your hand and is only found in Coastal Forests.

Threats to Coastal Forests

Despite their importance, Coastal Forests are rapidly being destroyed. Some of the direct threats include charcoal production, logging, grazing and the expansion of agricultural land. Poverty is a root cause behind many of these pressures.



Illegal charcoal production in Kazimzumbwe Forest Reserve near Dar es Salaam



The black and rufus elephant shrew (*Rhynchocyon petersi*) is only found in the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests of Tanzania and Kenya.



Chamaeleo dilepis dilepis
Flap-necked Chameleon
Eight species of chameleon are found in Tanzanian Coastal Forests.



Promoting the conservation of the high biodiversity forests in Tanzania.

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