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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Drill

The **Drill**, *Mandrillus leucophaeus*, is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Found only in the few remaining forests of south-western Cameroon and eastern Nigeria, and with a distinct sub-species on the island of Bioko, Equatorial Guinea, the Drill is one of the rarest and most spectacular primate species in Africa.

Drills are prone to moving in groups that vary enormously in size and are confined to dense forest habitats. Habitat destruction and fragmentation is therefore a major threat to the survival of this species, although hunting to supply the commercial trade in bushmeat is probably the most immediate threat to their continued existence.

Despite being afforded a high level of legal protection, Drills are still suffering from declines across their range. Various conservation efforts are underway, including the creation and management of protected areas in Cameroon, where the majority of Drills are believed to exist (particularly in the Korup National Park and the proposed Ebo National Park). Increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement offers the best chance of saving this primate from extinction.

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