

# Madagascar for Real



Female Crowned Lemur (*Lemur coronatus*) in the Ankarana Reserve (David Parks photo).

With no competition from other social primates, lemurs have developed social patterns that parallel those of monkeys and apes in other areas. Crowned Lemurs are relatively small (4-5 pounds) with a restricted range from the Ankarana Plateau to the north end of the island. The females, in particular, are curious and friendly. This one sat a few feet above our camp, and seemed quite interested in our activities.

Even though Crowned Lemurs adapt well to disturbed or degraded forest, they are threatened by habitat loss due to complete forest clearance.

Of approximately 40 lemur species living in Madagascar when humans arrived, about 1/3-including all of the largest species-are extinct.