

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Habitat Alteration and the Conservation of African Primates: Case Study of Kibale National Park, Uganda

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Tropical forests and the animals they support are being threatened by accelerating rates of forest conversion and degradation. In a continually fluctuating sociopolitical world, it is often impossible to protect areas from such conversion until the political environment is suitable to pursue conservation goals, by which time, the forests have often been converted to other uses. This reality suggests a need for inquiry into which primate species can persist after different types of disturbances and how quickly primate communities can recover from disturbance. Here we examine the persistence of primate populations in disturbed habitats by providing a case study of patterns of primate abundance in areas of Kibale National Park (766 km²), Uganda, that have been modified by different types and intensities of human activities, primarily commercial logging and agricultural clearing. Distributional surveys at 24 sites and detailed line-transect censuses at six sites demonstrate that primate populations in Kibale are often high and suggest that patterns of population change associated with disturbance are complex. Analysis of the land use coverage of Kibale reveals that abandoned farms (10.3%) and degraded forest (8.7%) now cover 146 km². Unfortunately, we do not know what proportion of the farms were established on areas that were forest versus grassland. However, if the areas that are now abandoned farms were all once forested, this means that 79 km² of forest has been lost. Based on density estimates from nearby sites, this would represent a loss of 52,612 monkeys and 200 chimpanzees. Populations would also have been affected by the degradation of the 66 km² (8.7%) of forest. These estimates of the potential reductions in the primate populations that could have resulted from forest clearing and degradation illustrate the importance of protecting land. A review of the literature illustrates that the biomass of primates found within Kibale is very high in comparison to other locations and thus illustrates the importance of Kibale to regional conservation. *Am. J. Primatol.* 50:169–185, 2000. © 2000 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

Tropical forests and the animals they support are being threatened by accelerating rates of forest conversion and degradation [Lanly, 1982; Brown & Lugo, 1990; Struhsaker, 1997]. In a continually fluctuating sociopolitical world, it is often impossible to protect areas from such conversion until the political environment is suitable to pursue conservation goals, by which time, the forests have often been converted to other uses. Indeed, there are repeated examples of legally protected areas suffering serious degradation during periods of political or economic instability [Hart et al., 1996; Chapman et al., 1999]. For example, the northern part of Tai National Park (730 km²), which comprises 21% of the total park area, was temporarily de-gazetted and is now heavily impacted by human agricultural activity [IUCN, 1987]. Similarly, Bia National Park in Ghana was gazetted in 1974 to include 306 km², reduced in 1979 to 230 km², and further reduced to 78 km² in 1980. The area excised from the park has been classified as a Game Production Reserve [IUCN, 1987; now called a Resource Reserve) and has now been largely opened up to timber exploitation.

Throughout the tropical world, less than 5% of rain forests are legally protected from human exploitation [Redford, 1992; Oates, 1996]. Furthermore, many tropical species are locally endemic or are rare and patchily distributed [Struhsaker, 1975; Richards, 1996]. Such restricted distributions predispose many tropical forest species to increased risk of extinction, simply because their range may not fall within a protected area [Terborgh, 1992]. Consequently, national parks and reserves, even if effectively protected, will fail to conserve many species. As a result, the conservation of many tropical species will depend on the capacity of disturbed forests to support their populations [Struhsaker, 1997]. More than 90% of all primate species occur in the tropical forests of Asia, Africa, and South and Central America [Mittermeier & Cheney, 1987], and these forests are being heavily impacted. Thus, information on the effect of various types of forest degradation on primates and on the form and speed with which their populations recover from disturbance is vital to allow managers to construct informed conservation plans. However, little is known about the process of forest regeneration in different tropical areas of the world (particularly in Africa). Moreover, studies have primarily focused on understanding variation in recovery of plant communities, largely ignoring how animal populations recover [Uhl, 1987; Chapman & Chapman, 1999].

Kibale National Park, Uganda (766 km²), provides an excellent opportunity to investigate the impact of forest degradation and recovery on primate populations. This park has had a complicated history of human impacts, both in terms of commercial logging and agricultural clearing. With respect to commercial logging, Kibale forest received National Park status in 1993. Prior to this date, it was a Forest Reserve established between 1926 and 1932 with the goal of providing a sustained production of hardwood timber [Osmaston, 1959; Struhsaker, 1997]. A polycyclic felling cycle of 70 years was initiated, and it was recommended that the canopy be opened up by approximately 50% through the harvest of trees over 1.52 m in girth [Kingston, 1967]. This history of logging has led to varying degrees of disturbance among sites [Struhsaker, 1997].

The clearing of land for agriculture has occurred primarily in the south of the park in an area known as the southern corridor, particularly in the Kibale

Forest Corridor Game Reserve, which links Kibale with Queen Elizabeth National Park. This game reserve was managed by a separate government agency from the rest of the reserve and had an area of 340 km², of which 134 km² had dual status and lay within the Forest Reserve and Game Reserve [van Orsdol, 1986; MISR, 1989; Howard, 1991; Struhsaker, 1997].

As early as 1971, illegal destruction and encroachment occurred in the corridor. In 1976, some 30 eviction orders were issued but were never carried out. In 1983, the government again ordered settlers out of these encroached areas, and by 1984, it was estimated that 60% of the forest plots and 30% of the grassland plots had been abandoned. However, the situation soon reverted to the prior state and encroachment increased. On April 1, 1992, the government ordered settlers off the land, and with the aid of a United Nations Program resettled all encroachers [MISR, 1989]. Estimates of the number of people residing in the southern corridor vary dramatically. Based on aerial surveys counting houses, van Orsdol [1986] estimated that 8,800 people were living in the southern corridor. A national census carried out in 1980 indicated that as many as 17,000 people were residing in Kibale. Baranga [1991] estimated 40,000 people, MISR [1989] reported some 60,000 people, and after the resettlement, the National Environmental Management Authority [1997] estimated that 30,000 households, or approximately 170,000 people, were residing in Kibale. The extreme variance in these estimates (8,800 to 170,000) illustrates the need for careful research prior to the initiation of resettlement programs. Based on our surveys conducted just after the resettlement program was completed, it is our impression that most of these estimates are high and it seems likely that the larger estimates were politically and economically motivated. However, whichever estimate one chooses, it is evident that a large number of people were residing in the southern corridor.

The history of human impact in Kibale is a complicated one—not an uncommon story for many tropical forests. The fact that there are areas of this park that are now in a state of recovery from previous human impact allows for an examination into how primate populations are able to persist in the face of different types of disturbance. Our objective in this paper is to provide a case study that documents patterns of primate abundance in areas of Kibale that have been modified by different types and intensities of human activities: commercial logging and agricultural clearing. We address three issues: 1) What is the extent of degradation that has occurred in Kibale over the last two decades? 2) What is the current pattern of distribution and abundance of the six common diurnal primates. (3) Does this pattern provide insights into which primate species are able to persist in the face of these disturbances?

METHODS

Study Sites

Two types of surveys were conducted: 1) distributional surveys to determine the presence or absence of primate species in given areas and 2) intensive line transect surveys to quantify densities of primate groups at six specific sites. Although Kibale is home to 13 species of primates, both of these surveys only consider the six common diurnal primates: red colobus (*Procolobus badius*), black-and-white colobus (*Colobus guereza*), redtail monkeys (*Cercopithecus ascanius*), blue monkeys (*Cercopithecus mitis*), grey-cheeked mangabeys (*Lophocebus albigena*), and chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*). The sites for the distribu-

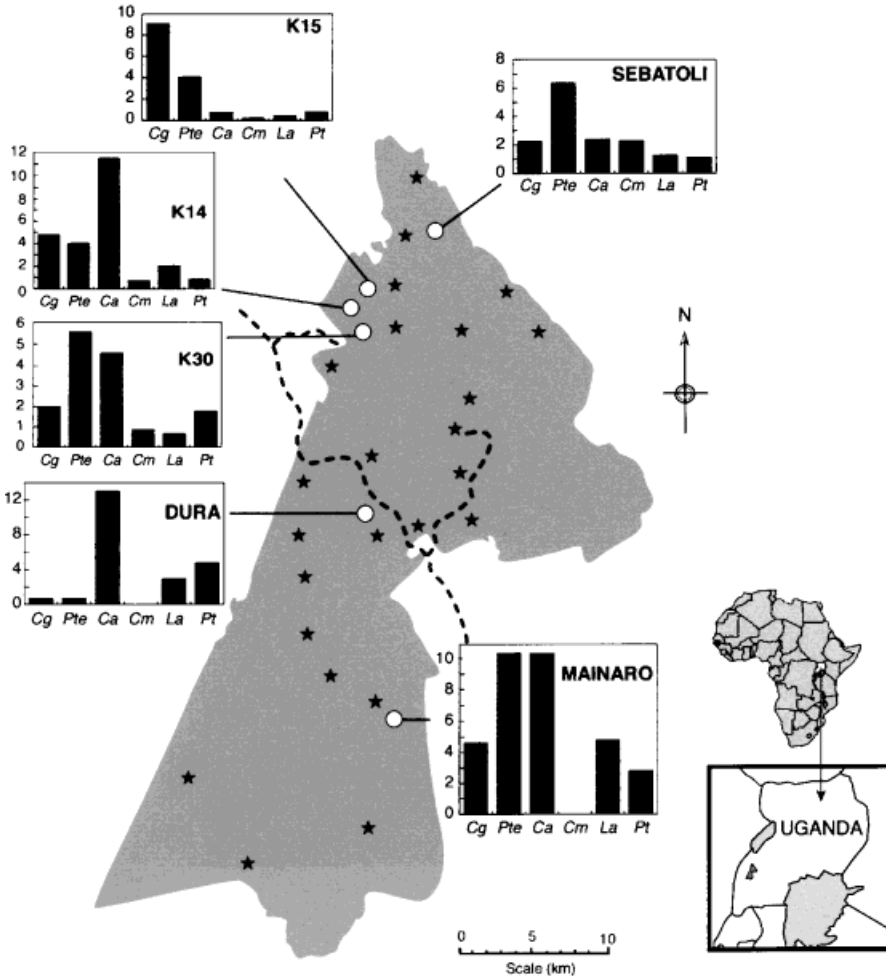


Fig. 1. A map of Kibale National Park, Uganda showing the location of the 6 sites where detailed transect surveys were conducted and the 24 sites where a distributional survey was conducted. Also, depicted is the group density for the monkeys (groups/km²), and nest density for chimpanzee derived from nest counts (number of nests/km²/day). Dotted lines are the major dirt roads that provide access to the park.

tional survey were spread throughout the park (Fig. 1). Some of these locations were visited many times (e.g., the site near the field station where detailed behavioral observations were being conducted), while other sites were in distant, inaccessible, parts of the park and were visited only once. More areas were visited in the north of the park than in the south because prior to 1993 it was unsafe to travel into the southern corridor because of the encroachment, and since 1996 there has been intermittent rebel activity in the south.

The six intensively studied sites were distributed along a north-south gradient, and each of the sites was selected to represent a particular region of the park and a particular management history (Fig. 1). The most northern site, Sebatoli (elevation 1,500 m) was commercially logged in the late 1960s. While we were unable to obtain information on the level of extraction, detailed quantification of stand structure suggests that the level of extraction was similar to or

slightly lower than the site just to the south (K-15 forestry compartment; Chapman & Chapman, unpublished data, see below).

Three sites were near the Kanyawara study site (elevation 1,500 m), the location of Makerere University Biological Field Station. The first, K-15 is a 347 ha section of forest that experienced heavy selective felling from September 1968 through April 1969. Total harvest averaged 21 m³/ha or approximately 7.4 stems/ha [Skorupa, 1988; Struhsaker, 1997], but incidental damage was much higher. It is estimated that approximately 50% of all trees in compartment K-15 were destroyed by logging and incidental damage [Kasenene, 1987; Skorupa, 1988; Chapman & Chapman, 1997]. The damage caused by this intensity of logging is very spatially heterogeneous. Today in the K-15 compartment areas exist that are as large as 100 m by 100 m where there are few or no large trees and the vegetation is dominated by herbaceous vegetation. However, such intensely disturbed areas can be adjacent to areas where few or no trees were extracted and the forest is relatively intact. A total of 18 tree species were harvested, with nine species contributing more than 95% of the harvest volume [Kasenene, 1987; Skorupa, 1988]. Many of the harvested tree species provided primates with food. For example, of the nine species that contributed more than 95% of the harvest volume, all were red colobus food trees [Skorupa, 1988; Struhsaker, 1997].

Forestry compartment K-14, a 405 ha forest block, was lightly and selectively harvested from May through December 1969 (averaging 14 m³/ha or 5.1 stems/ha). Twenty-three tree species were harvested, with nine species accounting for 94% harvest volume. Approximately 25% of all trees in compartment K-14 were destroyed by logging and incidental damage [Skorupa, 1988; Struhsaker, 1997].

K-30 is a 282 ha area that has not been commercially harvested. However, prior to 1970, a few large stems (0.03 to 0.04 trees/ha) were removed by pitsawyers. This extremely low level of extraction seems to have had very little impact on the structure and composition of the forest [Skorupa & Kasenene, 1984; Skorupa, 1988; Struhsaker, 1997].

At the Dura River (elevation 1250 m) and Mainaro (elevation 1200 m) sites, a few timber trees have been extracted by pitsawyers (approximately 0.1 trees/ha), but this has had little impact on the forest. The Mainaro site is located in the southern corridor, where the majority of the agricultural encroachment occurred. At this site and further to the south, there is a strip of forest that ranges from 1 to 7 km wide through which the Dura River flows. Much of this forest is bordered by abandoned agricultural lands, or grasslands that have existed at least since the turn of the century [Howard, 1991].

Within Kibale, there is an elevational gradient from north to south, which corresponds to a north to south increase in temperature and decrease in rainfall [Howard, 1991; Struhsaker, 1997]. Corresponding to these changes, the vegetation at these different sites varies [Chapman et al., 1997]. Foresters have classified the forest at Sebatoli and Kanyawara as *Parinari* forest, distinguished on photo aspect maps by large spreading crowns of *Parinari excelsa* [Kingston, 1967; Skorupa, 1988]. The species associated with *P. excelsa* change between these two sites. At Sebatoli, the major sub-dominant is *Carapa grandiflora*. Near Kanyawara co-dominants included *Aningeria altissima*, *Olea welwitschii*, *Newtonia buchananii*, and *Chrysophyllum gorungosanum*. These assemblages are thought to represent climax forests between 1,370 m and 1,525 m [Osmaston, 1959]. At Dura River these species are less common; *Pterygota mildbraedii*, *Cola gigantea*, *Pipadeniastrum africanum*, and *Chrysophyllum albidum* are the dominant tree species. Further south at Mainaro, the forest is dominated by *Cynometra alexandri*

and its affiliated species. Detailed enumeration of the tree community of these areas is provided by Chapman et al. [1997] and Chapman and Chapman [1999].

Quantification of the Land Cover

To determine the extent of deforestation and the amount of suitable forest habitat for primates in Kibale, we digitized land use cover maps produced by the Forest Department and the Norwegian Forestry Society for the National Biomass Study. These 1:50,000 maps were derived from manual interpretation of SPOT satellite imagery taken between February 1989 and December 1992 combined with some Landsat and aerial photographs from early 1995. These maps were verified through extensive, systematic field surveys. On these maps, the following land use categories were depicted: forest, grassland, farmland, degraded forest, woodland, lake, wetland, broadleaf plantation, conifer plantation, seasonal grassland, seasonal woodland, and seasonal bushland. In this classification, commercially logged forest was included in the broader category of "forest." Degraded forests were areas from which much of the canopy cover had been removed, and the areas were dominated by secondary growth.

None of the common forest dwelling primates included in the census were seen to use woodland or grassland, unless it was immediately adjacent to forest. Thus, for these species we only considered forest and degraded forest as suitable habitat. For chimpanzees this may underestimate available area, since some communities make foraging excursions into woodland and grassland. Baboons (*Papio anubis*) and vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus aethiops*) were frequently seen in woodland and grassland habitats, but we did not estimate their densities.

The six areas in which detailed transect surveys were conducted represented larger zones that included adjacent forest. Thus, the number of primates in Kibale was estimated as the sum of the density of each primate species in a particular zone multiplied by the amount of suitable habitat in that zone. In this analysis, Sebatoli represented habitat north of 70000 N, K-15 and K-14 values were averaged and used to represent habitat between 70000 N and 60000 N, K-30 represented habitat between 60000 N and 55000 N, the Dura River represented between 55000, and 50000 N, and Mainaro represented habitat south of 50000 N.

Survey and Density Estimation

For the distributional survey, we recorded the presence or absence of each of the common diurnal primate species in different regions by traveling to an area and searching throughout the day for primates. As indicated previously, some of these locations were visited many times, while other, more distant sites were visited only once (Fig. 1). These surveys were conducted at various intervals between March 1990 and August 1998. In the south of the park, searches were typically made both in the degraded areas and adjoining less disturbed forested areas.

Primate group densities at the six focal sites were assessed using line-transect methods [Struhsaker, 1975, 1997; National Research Council, 1981; Defler & Pintor, 1985; Skorupa, 1987; Chapman et al., 1988; Whitesides et al., 1988]. All species examined are large-bodied and diurnal; the subset of primates for which the line-transect method is thought to be appropriate for estimating densities [National Research Council, 1981]. Primate censuses along transects approximately 4 km long were initiated in June 1996. Data were collected biweekly at K-30 (n=26), K-14 (n=26), K-15 (n=24), and Dura (n=23) and once a month at Sebatoli (n=14) and

Mainaro (n=10). Rebel activity prevented us from sampling at Mainaro in January, February, and April of 1997. The census was conducted by C. Chapman, L. Chapman, S. Balcomb, volunteers, and field assistants following line-transect procedures previously used in Kibale [Struhsaker, 1975; National Research Council, 1981; Skorupa, 1988; Butynski, 1990; Struhsaker, 1997]. Censuses were conducted between 0700 hr and 1400 hr at a speed of approximately 1 km per hr. Data collected included primate species observed, time of observation, straight line distance between the animal and observer (visually estimated), and mode of detection. At the beginning of the study observers trained together to estimate observer to animal distance. Variation between observers in sighting estimates was assessed at the end of the study. While particular estimates could be inaccurate, overestimates of distances tended to be countered by underestimates.

A variety of methods have been proposed for estimating primate density using transect data and considerable controversy exists regarding the accuracy of these different methods [Burnham et al., 1980; Chapman et al., 1988; Skorupa, 1988]. Given this controversy and the difficulty of obtaining the sample size needed to use computer programs such as "Distance" [Buckland et al., 1993], we relied on empirical criteria for selecting the best method. Ghiglieri [1979, 1984], Struhsaker [National Research Council, 1981], and Skorupa [1988] concluded that a modified Kelker [1945] method produced the best empirical results for primates at Kibale. Following these recommendations, we plotted the distance at 10 m intervals and used a 50% cut-off rule to select the sighting distance. If X_i is the number of sightings in distance class i for a given species, the last distance considered was at the end of the first class such that X_{i+1}/X_i and X_{i+2}/X_i were both equal to 0.50 or less. We used the observer to animal sighting distance, rather than perpendicular distance, because empirical data indicate that perpendicular distance underestimates transect width for forest dwelling primates [National Research Council, 1981; Whitesides et al., 1988; Chapman et al., 1988; Struhsaker, 1997]. Thus, the density of groups was calculated as the number of groups sighted within the truncated sighting distance divided by the area sampled (length of the census route times the truncated distance for animal sighting distance).

Obtaining reliable group counts of forest dwelling primates is extremely difficult as inactive animals are often hard to locate and, when groups are traveling, animals often take different pathways which are difficult for an observer located at one site to see. As a result a considerable effort was placed on counting groups in each area. Each month between July 1996 and May 1998, two observers spent 2 days at each site following groups and attempting to obtain accurate counts. Counts were rarely attempted when a group was stationary, rather the best counts were obtained when a group was moving and crossing a gap in the forest, the river (Dura, Sebatoli, and Mainaro), or a road (Kanyawara and Dura). Repeat counts were made of the same group to ensure accuracy and to document changes in group size over the year long period. Groups were identified either by individually recognizable animals or by matching the group count to previous ones. In addition, counts were made opportunistically while observers were collecting behavioral data and groups were seen to cross a road or river. For each site, the estimate of group density derived from the transect survey was multiplied by the average group size for that site to determine the density of individuals. Thus, if particular habitat modification influences group size [Struhsaker, 1997; Skorupa, 1988], this effect was taken into consideration when calculating the density of individuals.

It is widely acknowledged that chimpanzee density is difficult to determine [Marchesi et al., 1995; Plumptre & Reynolds, 1996]. Direct counts of social groups from line-transect methods [Struhsaker, 1975, 1997] are known to underestimate

chimpanzee density since apes, as large bodied mammals, occur at relatively low densities and unhabituated chimpanzees often flee before they are detected by observers [Ghiglieri, 1979, 1984; Tutin & Fernandez, 1984; Skorupa, 1988]. Alternatively, nest counts have been used as a measure of chimpanzee density [Ghiglieri, 1984; Tutin & Fernandez, 1984; Skorupa, 1988; White, 1994; Hashimoto, 1995; Plumptre & Reynolds, 1996; Hall et al., 1998] and it is widely asserted that this is the most practical and reliable method [Skorupa, 1988; Hashimoto, 1995; Plumptre & Reynolds, 1997]. Along each of the 4 km census routes, new chimpanzee nests were flagged perpendicular to their location along the transects and the following were recorded: perpendicular distance from the transect to the nest, the height of the nest, the age-class of the nest, and the tree species in which the nest was located. This methodology is equivalent to the marked nest counts following Plumptre & Reynolds [1996]. Chimpanzee nest density was calculated based on the total number of nests seen per km² per day [White, 1994; Plumptre & Reynolds, 1996; see Hashimoto, 1995; Plumptre & Reynolds, 1996 for a comparison of chimpanzee nest density techniques). Assuming that the chimpanzees at these sites make one nest a day [Ghiglieri, 1979, 1984], the value produced by this method is equivalent to density of individuals of nest building age. Transect width was calculated following Skorupa [1988].

To estimate the biomass of the primates, adult male and female body weight were collected from the literature (using data on wild caught animals where possible). The populations were assumed to have an equal sex ratio, and half of the members of a group were assumed to be juveniles that were half the weight of the adult.

RESULTS

Quantification of Land Cover

Forest (57.9%) and grassland (14.6%) were the most extensive habitats in Kibale. Grasslands were much more common in the southern sections of the national park than in the northern areas. Woodlands were prevalent in the far south of the park, but they only covered 5.8% of the total park's surface area. Wetlands and lakes comprised 2.2% of the park and were distributed throughout the area. Plantations, primarily conifers, planted in the 1960s on grasslands [Osmaston, 1959; Kingston, 1967] and constitute 1.0% of the park's area [Struhsaker et al., 1989; Chapman & Chapman, 1996; Struhsaker, 1997; Zanne, 1998]. These plantations are primarily found in the northern sections of the park near Sebatoli and in the more central areas around Kanyawara. Abandoned farms (10.3%) and degraded forest (8.7%; largely representing secondary forest associated with agricultural encroachment) cover 146 km². Seventy-six percent of these degraded lands were found in the southern corridor.

Primate Survey and Density Estimation

In the distributional survey, we visited 24 sites distributed throughout the park (Fig. 1). At 11 (46%) of these sites all six of the common diurnal primate species were observed. In seven (29%) of southern sites all species were seen except blue monkeys. Most intriguingly, blue monkeys were common in the north of the park but were at such a low density that they were not seen in 134 km of transects walked at Dura and Mainaro. At five (21%) of the remaining sites, it is believed that all species were present, but the duration of the sampling was too short to locate them. For these sites, this claim was substantiated by talking to

park guards and local villagers. At the remaining site, Lake Kabaleka in the southwest corner of the park, only redbtail monkeys, black-and-white colobus, vervet monkeys, and baboons were seen. At this site there is a thin strip of forest surrounding the lake, and this forest is separated from other forests by approximately 6 km of grassland. Vervet monkeys and baboons were more abundant in the southern sections of the park than in the north. Baboons were more abundant in areas near grasslands. Vervet monkeys were frequently seen in the very far south of the park; however they were extremely rare in the north (e.g., to our knowledge only two male vervet monkeys have been seen in Kanyawara in 29 years; T.T. Struhsaker personal communication and CAC personal observation).

Despite the broad distribution of most of the common diurnal primates throughout the park, patterns of abundance varied dramatically among species and sites (Table 1, Fig. 1). In the transect component of the study, 97 census walks were conducted for a total of approximately 388 km. The two colobine species were present at all sites. The lowest density that was recorded for both these species was at the undisturbed Dura River site. Mangabeys were found throughout the forested sections of the park, but were most abundant in the two most southern sites. Blue monkeys were common in the north of the park, but their numbers progressively decline as one travels south. Redtail monkeys were abundant in all areas except the most heavily logged sites. Many of these patterns of distribution are not easily interpreted in light of basic forest structure. For example, it is difficult to see how changes in the tree community composition could explain the decline in blue monkey abundance from the north to the south. Similarly, red colobus and black-and-white colobus were found at the lowest density at the Dura River site; a location that has not been disturbed and harbors a well developed and diverse forest (Chapman and Chapman [1999], Struhsaker [1975], and Clutton-Brock [1975] report higher densities near this site in the 1970s).

Differences in density between logged and unlogged areas reveal conflicting patterns with respect to the effect of logging on primate abundance. Chimpanzees were the only species to consistently occur at lower densities in logged areas than in unlogged areas. Redtails had lower densities in heavily logged areas, but not in lightly logged areas. Red colobus show a decline in density between the unlogged K-30 site and the neighboring logged sites at K-14 and K-15; however, they were abundant at Sebatoli, a logged site to the far north. Black-and-white colobus were found at their lowest density at Dura River, which is an unlogged, relatively pristine site and were abundant at the logged sites. Documenting a pattern of the effect of logging on blue monkeys is confounded by their tendency to decline in abundance from the north to the south of the park.

TABLE I. Group Densities of the Common Primates in Different Areas of Kibale National Park^a

Species	Sebatoli	K-15	K-14	K-30	Dura	Mainaro
<i>C. guereza</i>	2.05	9.12	4.83	2.00	0.79	3.85
<i>P. tephrosceles</i>	6.53	4.43	4.35	5.50	0.53	10.25
<i>C. ascanius</i>	2.53	1.04	11.48	4.83	12.19	10.25
<i>C. mitis</i>	2.53	0.35	0.91	1.00	0 ^b	0 ^b
<i>L. albigena</i>	1.97	0.87	2.41	1.13	3.29	5.13
<i>P. troglodytes</i>	1.12	0.82	0.86	1.78	4.81	2.83

^aDensity estimates for the monkeys were derived from line transect surveys (groups/km²), while chimpanzee density was derived from nest counts (number of nests/km²/day).

^bKnown to be present in the area but not seen during the transect censuses.

The majority (76%) of the agricultural encroachment (farm and degraded forest land use categories) occurred in the south of the park in the area represented by Mainaro. This area had relatively large populations of all species, except blue monkeys that were present in the area, but were not seen on the line-transect survey.

Because of the difficulty of obtaining accurate counts of primate groups, we have focused on estimating differences in the density of primate groups. In doing so, we have assumed that group size is equal among sites. However, intraspecific variation in group size has been extensively documented [Struhsaker & Leland, 1979; Chapman, 1989]. Kibale has been the site of numerous investigations of primate behavior and ecology that provide detailed counts of primate groups in different areas. For example, Butynski [1990] documented that blue monkey group size decreased by 52% from K-14 to K-30. Oates [1974] reported that black-and-white colobus group size was 25% smaller in K-14 as compared to K-30. Olupot (personal communication) found that mangabey group sizes decreased by 21% between K-14 and K-30 and by 36% between K-15 and K-30. Based on repeat counts made during this study, we made a crude estimate of the number of individuals for each species in the park and their biomass (Table 2). However, these estimates should be interpreted with caution until more detailed counts of habituated groups can be obtained.

A review of the literature illustrates that the biomass of primates found within Kibale is high (Table 3) in comparison to other locations. What the primate biomass would have been had the park not been disturbed remains uncertain. Nonetheless, the current biomass estimate illustrates the importance of this park to regional primate conservation efforts.

DISCUSSION

The objective of this study was to provide information on which primate populations are able to persist in areas that had experienced different types and intensities of human disturbance. Such information is important for assessing the value of protected areas that have been degraded or of regenerating habitats outside of protected areas. We assess this objective in two types of human modified landscapes: degraded agricultural land and commercially logged areas.

Abandoned farms (10.3%) and degraded forest (8.7%) now cover 19% of the park. Unfortunately, we do not know what proportion of the farms were established on areas that were forest vs. grassland. However, if the areas that are now abandoned farms were all once forested, this means that 79 km² of forest has been lost. Based on density estimates from nearby sites, this would represent a loss of 52,612 monkeys and 200 chimpanzees. Populations would also have been affected by the degradation of the 66 km² (8.7%) of forest. The only species

TABLE II. The Density (Individuals/km²) and Total Population Size of the Common Primates in Kibale National Park

Species	Density (ind./km ²)	Total population size
<i>C. guereza</i>	26	13,228
<i>P. tephrosceles</i>	159	80,675
<i>C. ascanius</i>	184	92,945
<i>C. mitis</i>	6	3,133
<i>L. albigena</i>	45	22,607
<i>P. troglodytes</i>	3	1,527
Total	423	214,114

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TABLE III. Estimates of Primate Biomass and Primate Community Richness at Selected Forest Sites (Biomass = kg/km²)

Site	Biomass	Frugivore biomass	Folivore biomass	Number of species	Source ^a
Asia					
Kutai Nature Reserve, Borneo	335	273	82	7	1
Kuala Lompat, Malaysia	933	596	337	6	2
Ketambe, Sumatra	837	702	135	6	3
Sepilok, Sabah	268	184	83	6	4
Africa					
Kibale National Park, Uganda	2,330	1,116	1,214	13	5
Kibale National Park, Uganda	1,954	754	1,200	11	6
Tai, Cote d'Ivoire	802	244	558	9	7
Tiwai Island, Sierra Leone	1,379	786	600	11	8
Douala-Edea, Cameroon	409	198	217	7	9
Lope Reserve, Gabon	319	228	91	8	10
Budongo Forest Reserve, Uganda	545	262	284	5	11
Ituri Forest, Zaire	710	402	308	12	12
South/Central America					
Manu National Park, Peru	636	456	180	11	13
Urucu River, Amasonas, Brazil	381	344	37	13	14
Barro Colorado Island, Panama	445	29	416	5	15
Raleighvallen, Suriname	251	157	94	8	16
La Macarena, Columbia	235	88	235	7	17
Santa Rose, Costa Rica	327	181	146	3	18
Los Tuxtlas, Mexico	171	161	11	2	19
Madagascar					
Morondava N5, Madagascar	685	247	438	7	20
Morondava CS7, Madagascar	583	357	226	7	20
Ampijoroa, Madagascar	771	444	327	7	20
Ankarana, Madagascar	346	165	181	10	20
Analamazaotra, Madagascar	375	208	167	11	20
Ranomafana, Madagascar	290	249	41	12	20

^a1 Rodman, 1978; Rodman personal communication, Waser, 1987. 2 Terborgh and van Schaik, 1987; Raemaekers and Chivers, 1980. 3 Terborgh and van Schaik, 1987. 4 Oates et al., 1990; Davies et al., 1988. 5 This Study and Chapman et al. in press to include other species (e.g., nocturnal primates) weights from Stuhlsaker and Leland, 1987; Wrangham et al., 1994, Cords, 1987; Jones and Bush, 1988; Weisenseal et al., 1993; and Harvey et al., 1987; Does not include baboons or vervet monkeys. 6 Butynski, 1990 (Ngogo); see also estimates in Struhsaker 1997 and Pope, 1996. 7 Terborgh and van Schaik, 1987; Galat and Galat-Luong, 1985 with *Pan* added from Bouliere, 1985. 8 Oates et al., 1990 (mid-point in range used). 9 Oates et al., 1990. 10 White, 1994 (mean of five neighboring sites). 11 Plumptre et al., 1994a,b (density, unlogged forest only), Harvey et al., 1997 (weights assuming 50/50 sex ratio and 1/2 group immature weighing 1/2 adult). 12 Thomas, 1991 (density). 13 Terborgh, 1983 and Symington, 1988 for *Ateles belzebuth*, Harvey et al., 1987 (weights). 14 Peres, 1993. 15 Glanz, 1982; Eisenberg and Thorington, 1973. 16 Mittermeier and van Roosmalen, 1981 (body weights adjusted). 17 Klein and Klein, 1977 (densities, midpoints of ranges), Harvey et al., 1987 (weights assuming 50/50 sex ratio and 1/2 group immature weighing 1/2 adult). 18 Chapman, 1988, 1990, Glander et al., 1991, Chapman unpublished. 19 Estrada and Coates-Estrada, 1985. 20 Ganzhorn, 1992.

seen to use degraded forests were the red colobus, black-and-white colobus, red tails, and chimpanzees. This pattern of habitat use is supported by the fact that black-and-white colobus and redtails are frequently observed in forest fragments outside Kibale National Park, and red colobus and chimpanzees are occasionally seen using such habitats [Onderdonk, 1998]. In contrast, blue monkeys and mangabeys have never been seen in forest fragments outside of Kibale and are currently rarely seen near the forest edge [Onderdonk, 1998; Chapman & Onderdonk, 1998].

Despite these reductions in primate number, primate abundance is still relatively high within the remaining forests in the southern corridor. Unfortunately, it is difficult to evaluate the long-term implications of these data. First, deforestation for agriculture may initially cause population densities to rise in remaining forests as animals are concentrated in these refugia. It may take a number of years before population densities decline to the density the area can support because of reproductive failure. For example, Struhsaker [1976] found that it was nearly 10 years after the loss of approximately 90% of a major food resource before a statistically significant decline in the vervet monkeys of Amboseli, Kenya could be detected. In *Cynometra* forest in the Ituri, Thomas [1991] documented red colobus density to be 80% lower than our *Cynometra* study site, suggesting the density near Mainaro may be artificially high. Secondly, 76% of the degraded lands occurred in the southern corridor; however we lack information on primate populations in this area prior to disturbance. Much of the forest in the southern corridor is a monodominant *Cynometra* forest, a forest type very different from other areas of the park. However, in spite of these cautionary considerations, at present the density of primates in the southern corridor suggests that degraded areas that regain protected status could play important roles in conservation of particular species.

With respect to logging, the most appropriate comparison is that between the unlogged K-30, the lightly logged K-14, and the heavily logged K-15 sites. Struhsaker [1975, 1997] and Skorupa [1988] made detailed comparisons of these areas in the 1970s and 1980s and our findings echo their results [see also Chapman et al., in press.]. Heavy intensity logging corresponds to a decline in primate group density in all species except black-and-white colobus. Light intensity logging is associated with increased abundance of black-and-white colobus and redbelt monkeys. Compared to unlogged areas red colobus and blue monkeys decline in abundance in lightly logged areas, but the decline is less than that associated with heavily logged areas. While differences in group size and changes in social organization associated with logging [Skorupa, 1988; Struhsaker, 1997] must be considered, these results suggest that light intensity logging may, in some instances, be compatible with primate conservation. However, high intensity logging, which is typical for most logging operations throughout Africa, is incompatible with primate conservation.

The findings from our study offer a number of lessons for projects attempting to assess impacts of human modifications on primate populations. First, there is often a high degree of natural spatial variation in the abundance of animal populations that can obscure contrasts between a control site (e.g., undisturbed) and a treatment site (e.g., disturbed). For example, if one simply contrasted the abundance of blue monkeys in K-30 (high density) and Mainaro (low density), it would be logical to conclude that agricultural encroachment leads to declines in blue monkey densities. However, by adding additional sites and through the distributional survey, it is evident that there is a general decline in blue monkey abundance as one travels from the north of the park to the south. This is a natural pattern that seems to be unrelated to human modification (Lwanga, 1987). Similar conflicting results would be found with red colobus and black-and-white colobus. Second, this study illustrates the importance of having before and after disturbance data, as well as the importance of careful selection of control sites. One approach that is commonly used in assessments is to contrast primate abundance in a human-impacted area with a neighboring control area that has not been altered [Struhsaker, 1975, 1997; Weisenseel, et al. 1993; Fimbel, 1994a,b; Plumtre & Reynolds, 1994a,b; Bennett & Dahaban, 1995]. The assumption is that the control and treatment areas had the same primate densities prior to

disturbance. The unlogged site at Kanyawara is only 3 km from the K-15 logged site and 9 km from the Sebatoli site. The general composition of the tree community at Sebatoli differs only modestly from that at Kanyawara [Chapman et al., 1997]. However, the density of red colobus at Sebatoli is approximately twice that of the K-15 site that was logged to a similar intensity, and the density of blue monkeys at Sebatoli is twice that of any other location. Clearly, in this case there is a confounding variable beyond that of disturbance regime, suggesting that control and treatment site should be selected to be as similar as possible before logging. Alternatively, one can collect data before and after a disturbance [Johns, 1986, 1988, 1992, 1997] or examine how population sizes change when a population is suspected to be recovering [Chapman et al., in press]. These sorts of studies may reveal more precise information, but this precision comes at the extremely high cost of long-term monitoring (i.e., more than 10 years). For some species, logging will not result in immediate death of individuals but may suppress reproduction. For such species it may take a number of years after logging before a significant decline in populations can be detected [Skorupa, 1988; Struhsaker, 1976, 1997]. Third, this study highlights the importance of long-term monitoring of populations. For example, we have no way of knowing if the estimated population densities in the southern corridor represent densities that the forest can support, or if they represent elevated densities resulting from immigration of animals into the remaining forest from degraded forest. Only by monitoring this population over the next decade will this become clear.

As with all censuses that attempt to estimate primate numbers over large areas, the reliance on the actual density values for particular species should be made with caution, since the calculations used will multiply any error. For example, if redtail monkey average group size at the Dura River was estimated at 25 instead of 18.4, it would change the estimate of the number of individuals in this section of the park by 12,529 animals. This can be further illustrated by comparing our estimate of densities in the section of Kibale represented by the Dura site to those of Struhsaker [1997] from the nearby Ngogo site. If, instead of using the Dura site to represent the area, we used an average of the Dura and Ngogo sites, and assumed that population sizes have not changed at Ngogo since Struhsaker's surveys (which J. Mitani et al. in unpublished data indicates is not the case), it would change the overall estimate of primate numbers in Kibale by only 1%. However, particular species would be affected dramatically (e.g., red colobus numbers would be estimated to be 14% greater). Considering these limitations, the best management tool will be to continue to monitor the areas, allowing the detection of relative changes over time.

The results obtained from this case study in Kibale suggest that incorporating degraded lands into management of primate populations may be an important conservation strategy. However, we should employ caution in generalizing these results. In Kibale, hunting of primates ceased in the early 1960's [Struhsaker, 1975; Skorupa, 1988]. This differs from many areas of Africa where hunting is a serious concern and tends to be associated with logging activities and agricultural encroachment [Wilkie et al., 1992, 1998; Fa et al., 1995; Chapman et al., 1999]. Even light levels of hunting can seriously affect species that have slow reproductive rates, such as chimpanzees. In addition, studies for other regions have reported findings that appear to conflict with the trends documented in Kibale. Plumptre & Reynolds [1994a] conclude that *C. mitis*, *C. ascanius*, and *C. guereza* benefit from heavy logging and herbicide treatment in Budongo Forest Reserve, Uganda. In Kibale heavy logging negatively affects all species, except *C. guereza*. [Struhsaker, 1975, 1997; Skorupa, 1988; Chapman et al., in press,

this study]. Similarly, mangabeys commonly occur in forest patches in Lopé, Gabon [Tutin et al., 1997], and blue monkeys often reside in patches near Budongo Forest Reserve Uganda [Fairgrieve, 1995], but neither of these species are found in the patches that surround Kibale [Onderdonk, 1998]. These contradicting findings call for more studies on effects of different types of disturbance on primates.

CONCLUSIONS

1. A detailed analysis of land use coverage of Kibale National Park, Uganda reveals that during the years of political and economic instability farmers encroaching into the area that is now National Park degraded 79 km² of forested land.

2. Distributional surveys at 24 sites and detailed line-transect censuses at six sites demonstrate that primate abundance in Kibale is high and that relationships between primate abundance and habitat disturbance are complex. Understanding the effect of disturbance on primate communities requires careful selection of control sites and documentation of primate abundance over a number of sites in the area.

3. Calculating the potential reduction in the primate populations that could have resulted from forest clearing and degradation clearly illustrates the importance of protecting land.

4. A review of the literature suggests that the biomass of primates in Kibale is high relative to other locations, illustrating the importance of Kibale to regional conservation.

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