

Afromontane Rainforest on Malundwe Hill in Mikumi National Park, Tanzania

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ABSTRACT

On Malundwe Hill (07° 24' S, 37° 18' E) in Mikumi National Park, Tanzania, there is a 450-ha patch of Afromontane rainforest. This is currently the only area of the endemic-rich forests of eastern Tanzania to be protected by national park status.

INTRODUCTION

Mikumi National Park is located about 300 km west of Dar es Salaam in east central Tanzania. The park was established in 1964, primarily to conserve the large mammal populations centred on the Mkata River flood plain. In 1975 the park was extended in the north to include the Tendigo swamp, and southwards to cover a large area of upland, hilly miombo woodland to become continuous with the Selous Game Reserve. Its total area is now about 3300 km² (Fig. 1).

Malundwe Hill reaches 1275 m in altitude and is capped by closed canopy moist forest, its twin peaks clearly visible from the tarmac Tanzania to Zambia road which traverses the park. Access is only possible by foot, the journey taking about 4 h through broken country from the power line maintenance road south-east of Mikumi tourist lodge.

