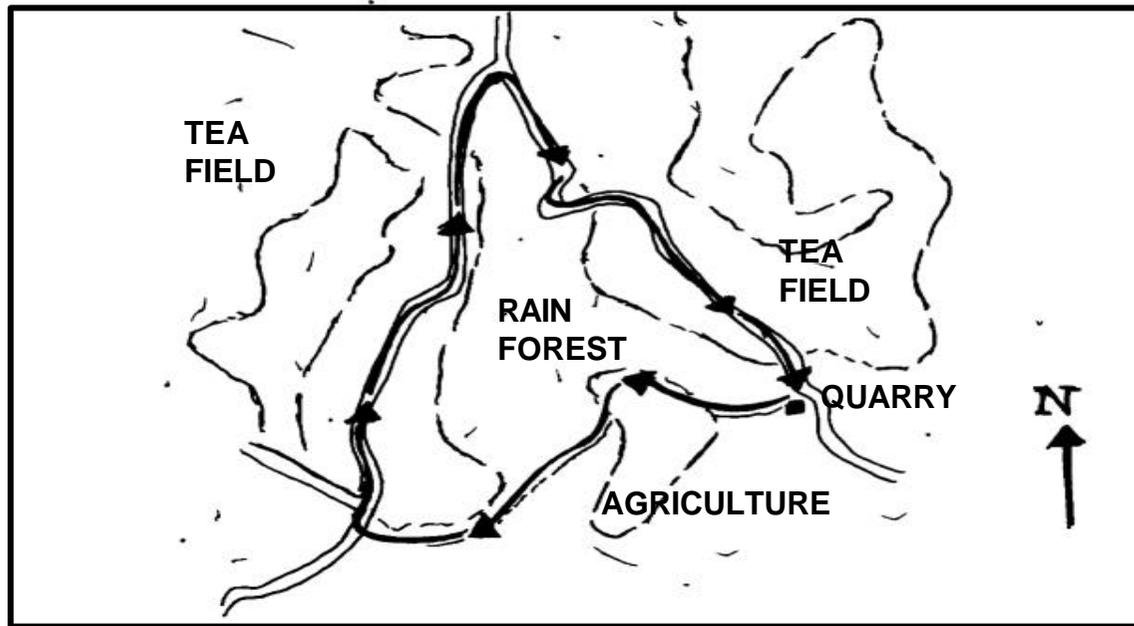


MONGA TRAIL MAP



Amani Nature Reserve:

Monga Trail

...IN A NUTSHELL

Monga trail is a combined drive and a walk through forests and tea plantations. The drive is 5.7 kilometers each way; the walk 3.2 kilometers. You can also walk the whole trail. A 4WD is recommended at all times, especially during the rainy season.

Total time required is about 2 - 5 hours.

The Monga trail provides a good overview of the interplay between pristine rainforests and tea plantations in the Amani area. The drive also takes you through local villages located at the shadow of the rainforest and shows the varied landscape and land use of the area.

Many birds and monkeys can be spotted on the trail. The open spaces created by the tea plantations are ideal for bird watching, especially at the edges of the rainforests.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The East Usambara Area Conservation Management Programme (EUCAMP) aims at protecting biodiversity and water sources while sustaining villager's benefits from the forest. The project is implemented by the Forestry and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism with financial support from the Government of Finland and European Union.

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TRAIL GUIDE

The drive begins from Amani Nature Reserve offices. Alternatively, you can walk the route. Drive towards Muheza and soon take the small road just after the Amani Dairy. At the bottom of this road, turn sharp left over the Dodwe River.

0.3 km: Follow the valley road with the site of an old boating lake to your left, now colonised by reeds and bullrushes.

1.8 km: A large rock to the left marks the boundary between Amani Nature Reserve and the public lands of the Mbomole village. Note cloves, cinnamon, sugarcane, cocoyams and banana cultivation to the right.

2.4 km: Turn left at a junction and cross a small stream. After about 300 meters ignore the road to your right, cross a small bridge and bear right towards the Mbomole village.

3.2 km: A line of mature *Eucalyptus saligna* trees above road to the left marks re-entry to Amani Nature Reserve.

3.3 km: Enter Monga Tea Estate.

3.7 km: Take the right fork following the valley bottom.

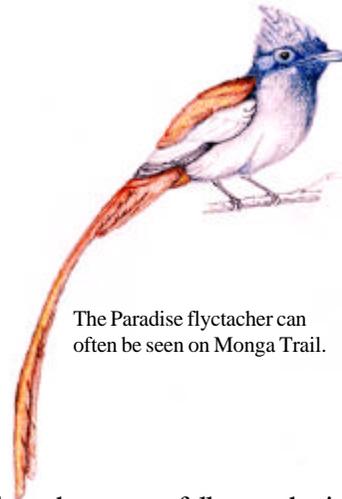
4.5 km: At a right hand bend with bamboo to the right you re-enter the forest. Continue on a winding road through tea plantations and forests.

5.7 km: Park your car at the quarry where there is a sign for the Monga Trail. Do not leave valuables in view.

The walk begins from the Monga trail sign by taking a minor road to the forest on the left. You may first notice some Quinine trees *Cinchona ledgeriana* remaining from an old plantation in the area. *Maesopsis eminii* has now heavily invaded the old plantation area.

As you walk further into the forest, you will probably hear an orchestra of varied birdsong. If you sit and observe for a while you are likely to see some of the diverse birds species in the area - though forest birds are known to be notoriously shy! Some common birds include the Green-headed oriole, Tambourine dove, Dark-backed weaver and Square-tailed drongo - a dark bird with red eyes and a noisy call.

You may also encounter a mixed party of insectivorous birds that move together through the forest for security and extra insects flushed into view by their passage. One of the commonest ones in the Paradise flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*.



The Paradise flycatcher can often be seen on Monga Trail.

Some distance forward on the easy-to-follow path., it leaves the Amani Nature Reserve (the boundary is marked by a pit on the left of the trail) and enters a 18 ha field of tea planted in 1953. You may see pluckers picking the young shoots into baskets; only the first two leaves and bud are picked for best quality tea. If the bushes are brown, the tea has been recently pruned. This is done every three years to keep the plucking table at a reasonable height and to encourage new growth.

From the tea field there is a fine view over mixed natural forest, tea, and distant scrubby grassland. A block of fast-growing Eucalyptus trees, planted as fuelwood for the tea factory as well as to substitute for indigenous species, can be seen on the hillside to the right.

Walk through the tea through a large clump of *Anthocleista grandiflora* (Mpumu, used as a cure for asthma) and bamboo. Join the main Kwamkoro-Monga road by a further clump of bamboo. Turn right and immediately right again through more tea.



The thick, almost wall-like canopy of the rain forest, can be observed from the edges of the tea plantations.

Climbing the hill you will see a block of riverine forest to the left, and behind it a large block of Eucalyptus. On the edge look out for white or pink flowers and green brown fruits which are often found on the edges of the tea fields. Near the top of the hill, strips of wiry Vetiveria grass (locally called khus-khus) are planted on the road side for erosion. Keep to the right and at the junction with Monga staff houses to your left, turn right.

Follow the main road towards Amani for 1.2 km through an avenue of red flowers *Spathodea nilotica* (Nandi Flame trees) until you rejoin your car back at the quarry