

Project Update: March 2017

The southern woolly lemur (*Avahi meridionalis*) is threatened by deforestation and fragmentation of its habitat. The species can't move across the open spaces caused by logging and becomes vulnerable to population isolation. We are investigating whether plantations of non-native tree species can be managed in such a way that they not only provide a sustainable supply of timber for local people but also provide safe habitat for lemurs.

Fieldwork for the current project got underway in January 2017. As well as conducting vegetation surveys of timber plantations within the Mandena Conservation Zone, southeast Madagascar, the team have begun conducting nocturnal behavioural observations of *Avahi* and using point count surveys to assess their relative abundance within the different habitat types. As well as *Avahi*, the team have encountered numerous mouse lemurs (*Microcebus* sp.) and dwarf lemurs (*Cheirogaleus* sp.) during their nocturnal observations, and a pair of bamboo lemurs (*Haplemur meridionalis*) are frequent visitors at the campsite.



Nocturnal lemur species (*Cheirogaleus* sp. and *Microcebus* sp.) have been observed within an acacia plantation (pictured) which may act as a corridor between two isolated patches of forest.