

PRIMATES IN PERIL

The significance of Brazil, Madagascar, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo for global primate conservation

Primates, our closest living relatives, are facing an **extinction crisis**.

4 COUNTRIES

harbor almost 2/3rds of the world's primate species. Therefore, these countries are **hotspots for conservation and protecting biodiversity**.

BRAZIL
DRC
INDONESIA
MADAGASCAR

THE MAIN DRIVERS

of primate population decline differ across these countries, and include:

Large and growing **human population**

Expansion of **agriculture, logging, mining and fossil fuel** extraction by multinational corporations

Unsustainable **demands of consumer nations** for agricultural and nonagricultural products

Food insecurity

Bushmeat hunting

Illegal trade of primates for pets, traditional medicine and mystical purposes

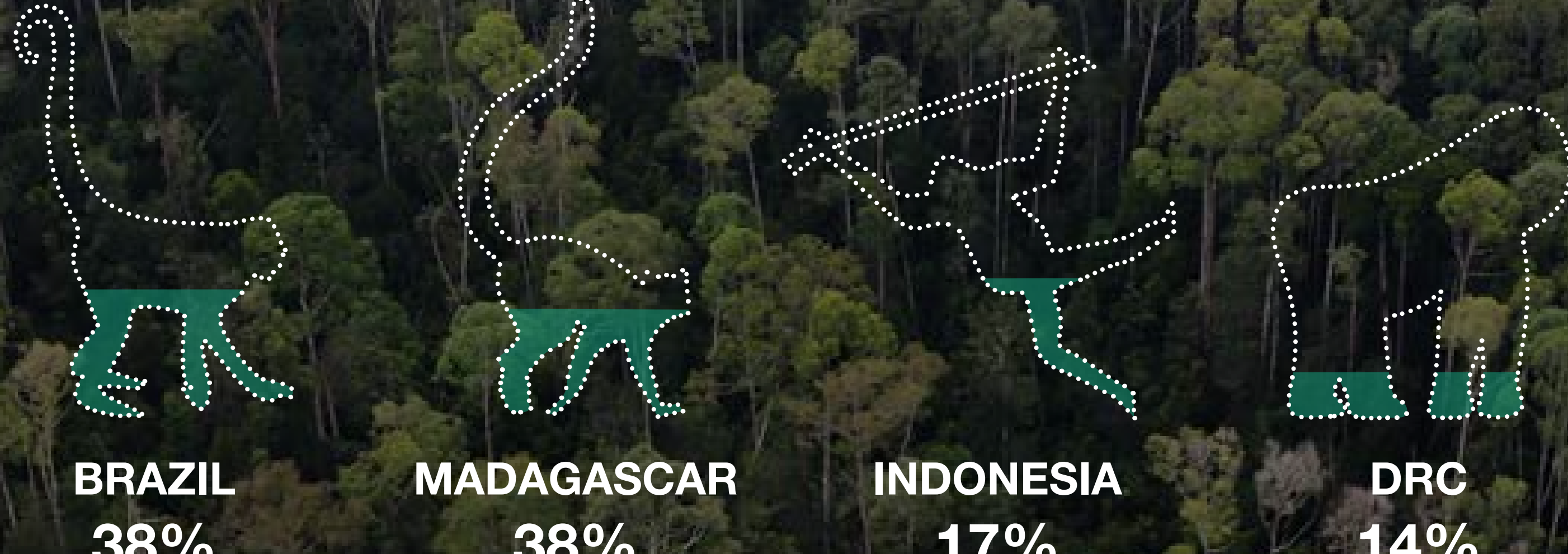
Human and domestic animal **infectious diseases**

Climate change

Political instability and **Corruption**

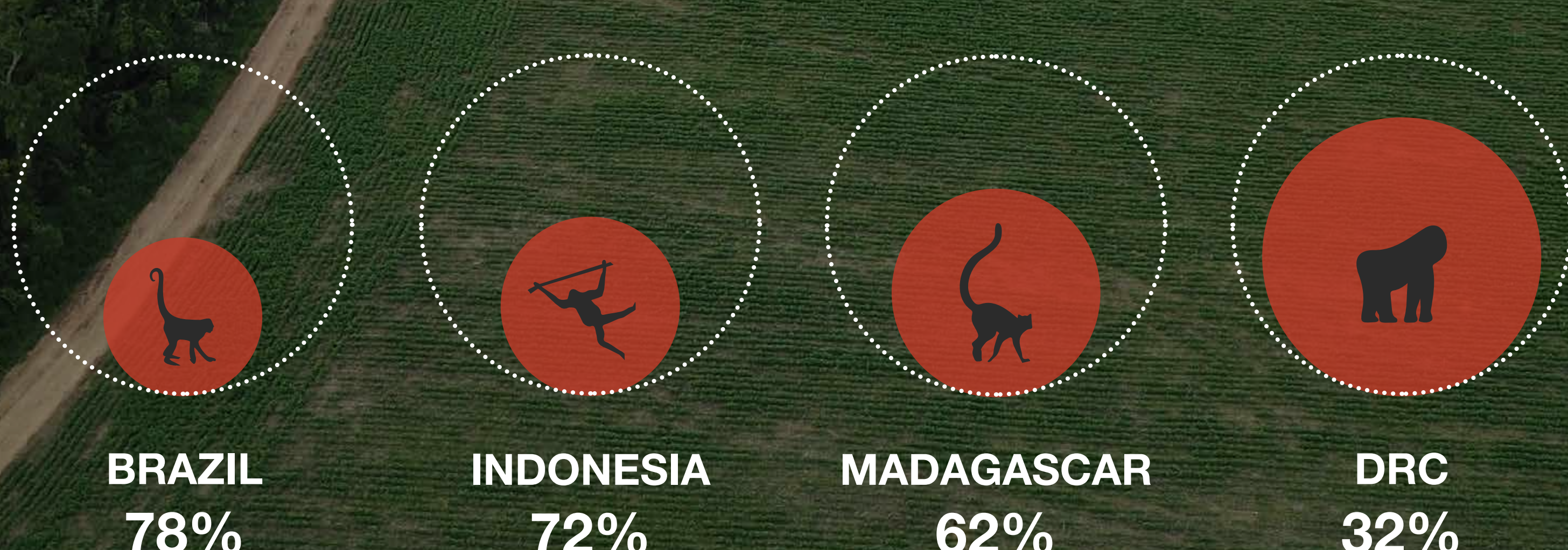
PROTECTED AREAS

We assessed the distribution of protected areas and primates in each country and found that **the great majority of primate populations lack adequate protection**. From the primate ranges, the following falls within protected areas:



DECREASING RANGES

We modeled **spatial conflict between current primate distributions and projected agricultural expansion** (a primary driver of habitat fragmentation, deforestation, and loss of biodiversity) in these four primate-richest countries. The results show that under a worst-case scenario, by the end of the 21st century, primate ranges will contract by:



WHAT CAN WE DO?

Expand **protected areas**

Create **forested corridors for migration** between otherwise isolated subpopulations

Incentivize the **restoration of natural forest communities**

Increase food security and opportunities that are beneficial to people's livelihoods

Prioritize **sustainability and clean energy**

Require consumer nations and international corporations to **pay into a green sustainability/conservation fund** to offset overconsumption and environmental damage

WE CAUTION...

... that primates are like the canary in the coal mine. If we continue to pollute, degrade, and overexploit environments, then in the coming decades **these ecosystems will no longer be suitable for humans**.

Image credits:
• Orangutan (top image), Rainforest in Indonesia (Protected areas background), and Ring-tailed lemur (We caution...): Rhett A. Butler (Mongabay)
• Rescued gibbon (Main drivers, left image): Harrington Photography
• Primate as bushmeat in DRC (Main drivers, right image): Robert Abart
• Soybean plantation and recent deforestation of forest patches in Brazil (Decreasing ranges background): Fabiano R. de Melo
• Grauer's Gorilla (What can we do, top left): J. Martin
• Northern muriqui (What can we do, middle left): Rapihady Gauthier
• Asian slow loris (What can we do, top right): Andrew Wainman (Little Fireface Project)
• Black and white ruffed lemur (What can we do, bottom left), and Greater bamboo lemur (What can we do, bottom right): Stelig Johnson
• Male brown howler (What can we do, middle right): Julio Cesar Bicca-Marques

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