

Bonobo

Pan paniscus



Range: Democratic Republic of the Congo. Formerly Zaire

Size: ♂: 119 cm (29-32 in)
♀: 111 cm (27.5-30 in)

Weight: ♂: 37-61 kg (86 lbs)
♀: 27-38 kg (68 lbs)

Tail: no tail

Habitat: lowland rainforest

Estrus cycle: 35-40 days

Estrus length: 10-20 days

Gestation: 240 days

Litter: 1

Weaning: 48 months

Sexual maturity: 9-24 months

Social: fission-fusion. Females emigrate. Males stay in natal troop

Activity: Diurnal

Food: fruits, fungi and small animals

IUCN: Endangered

Subspecies: monotypic

Longevity: captive: 30 wild: 12-13

Order: Primates Family: Hominidae

The bonobo or pygmy chimpanzee is only slightly smaller than the chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes* but has a slimmer body and relatively long, more slender limbs. It feeds chiefly on the ground mainly on fruits and seeds, but also on leaves, flowers, fungi, eggs and small animals. This ape can live in groups of up to 80 but is usually found in smaller groups as it forages and grooms. Sexual relations are common between males, females, and young in various combinations, and may be used to ease social tensions. Females are dominant and leave their family groups when mature; males tend to stay.

Bonobos are endangered and listed on CITES I appendix. The major threats to the species is habitat loss and poaching. Logging is the main factor in habitat loss in the bonobos' range. Although bonobo pelt is used in the fur trade, bushmeat is the major cause for hunting the species.