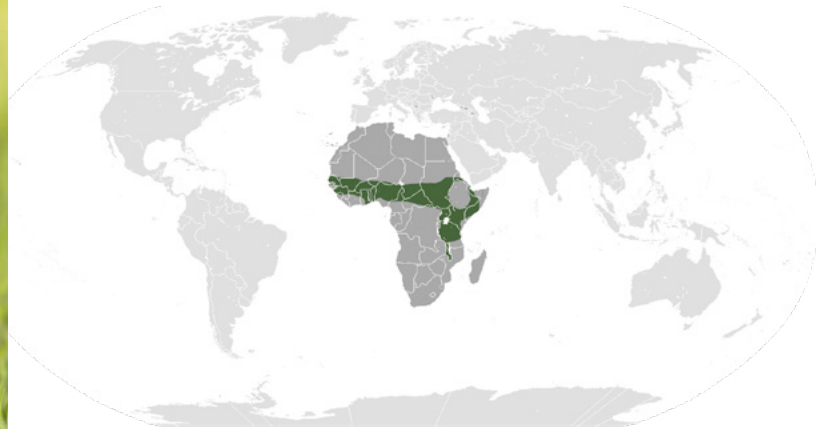


Coexisting with HEDGEHOGS

Scientific name *Atelerix albiventris*



Range of the African pygmy hedgehog

Nocturnal and solitary

African pygmy hedgehogs only come out at night. This means they could be **living in your garden for a long time** before you ever actually see them. Adults are solitary creatures and only come together to mate. Young hedgehogs may initially venture out with their mothers and juveniles may stick together for a while after leaving the nest.

Territorial

African pygmy hedgehogs **establish home territories** and have been seen fighting aggressively to maintain these. If a hedgehog is removed unnecessarily from its home, it may be difficult for it to return or establish a new range elsewhere.

Hedgehogs are great to have in the garden because they help to control insect populations and create a healthier ecosystem.

African pygmy hedgehogs don't hibernate

African pygmy hedgehogs can be found **foraging year-round**. If it becomes particularly cold, they go into a state of torpor where they reduce their activity and wait for it to get warmer.

Hedgehogs will eat anything!

As **omnivores**, a hedgehog's diet can be very opportunistic and very wide, including insects, vegetation, fungus, and dead animals.

Anointing behaviour

When a hedgehog encounters a novel smell or taste, they will take a small amount of the substance and chew it up, creating a lot of **frothy saliva** that they then spread on the sides of their quills with their tongue. While it looks very strange, it is a completely normal behaviour!

Ways to live happily with **HEDGEHOGS**



Try not to disturb the nests

Hedgehog mothers will make warm, safe nests in the grass and undergrowth for their babies. They will then leave the babies alone, sometimes for hours at a time, while they forage. If you find a nest of babies without their mother, please do not disturb them. Cover the nest back up and leave it. Touching the babies will stress them and may lead to the mother rejecting them. Check in again in a few hours. If you don't see any evidence that the mother has returned or the babies are cold and crying, then contact Lilongwe Wildlife Centre for help.

Try not to disturb their sleeping sites

If it is cold and they go into torpor, hedgehogs may not move around much or respond to you. Cover their sleeping site back up or, if they are out, move them to a sheltered spot and leave them be.

Create hedgehog safe spaces in your garden

This involves leaving spaces in your garden that hedgehogs can hide and forage in. These are areas with good undergrowth and things like old logs and low bushes.

Hedgehogs do not typically carry rabies

Some people may mistake the anointing foamy saliva behaviour for rabies.

Keep dogs and cats away from hedgehogs at night

Hedgehogs are most active at night and this is when they are most likely to be attacked by dogs. Keeping dogs inside or on a leash at night will help keep hedgehogs safe.

Check bonfires before lighting

Thoroughly disturb bonfires before lighting, as there could be hedgehogs nesting or hiding inside.

Kuyanjana (kukhalira limodzi) ndi **KANUNGU / CHISONI**



Scientific name *Atelerix albiventris*



Usiku komanso pawokha

Akanungu (Chisoni) opekeza muno mu Africa amayenda usiku basi. Zomwe zikutanthauza kuti akhoza kumakhala mmunda mwanu nthawi yaitali musanawaone. Akanungu akulu amakhala pawokha ndipo amawoneka pomwe akufuna kukumana. Ana amatha kukhala ndi mai awo ndipo anawa amayenda limodzi ngati asuntha pachisa chawo.

Malo awo

Akanungu amakonza malo awo ndipo amafunitsitsa kukhala malo abwino. Ngati kanungu wachotsedwa pamalo pake zimakhala zovuta kuti akonze malo ena kapena abwelele ku malo akale.

Akanungu ndi abwino mu munda mwathu kuti tizilombo tichepe komanso kuthandizila chilengedwe.

Kubisala (Kusintha)

Akanungu amakhallira kusaka chaka chonse. Ngati kwazizila amasanduka ndi kusintha zochita komanso basi osatakataka kufikila kutatentha.

Zimadya chilichonse!

Zimadya masamba komanso zinyama zimene kuphatikiza zomera, tizilombo komanso zakufa zimene.

Kununkhiza

Pamene Kanungu wamva fungo lachilendo kapena kulawa, mpamene amatenga kachidutswa nkudya kenako amatulutsa malovu athovu ndi lilime lake omwe amalavulira nthenga zake. Ndi zodabwitsa koma limenelo ndie khalidwe lake!

Njira zoyanjanilana ndi **AKANUNGU**



Yesetsani kuti mwasamala zisa / malo awo

Kanungu wamai amakonza zisa mmatsekela, mtchire kuti malowa akhale ofentha kwa ana ake. Kenako awasiya ana okha kwakanthawi uku akuyang'ana zakudya. Ngati mwapeza chisa ndi ana opanda mai chonde musasokoneze. Tchingani chisa kenako bwelerani muchokepo. Kugwira ana kumapeleka mantha kenako mai uja amawanyanyala. Bwelerani pakapita nthawi pang'ono koma ngati mai sanabwelere ndipo ana azidwa komanso akulira afotokozeleni a bungwe la Lilongwe Wildlife Centre.

Musasokoneze malo omwe akugonapo

Ngati kwazizila ndipo asintha zochita, sangathe kuyendayenda komanso ndi kusuntha komwe. Tchingani malo awo kapena asuntheni akhale malo otchingika bwino akhale pompo okha.

Konzani malo otetezeka akanungu mminda mwanu

Izi zifuna kuti musiyey malo mmunda mwanu omwe akanungu angabisale ndi kusaka chakudya. Malo abwino atchire komanso zipika ndi zomera.

Akanungu sakhala ndi mphere

Anthu ena amasokoneza malovu athovu awo ndi chiwewe.

Agalu ndi Mphaka atalikile nthawi ya madzulo

Akanungu amatakataka usiku ndipo nthawi iyi ndiyomwe angalumidwe ndi agalu. Tsekerani agalu kapena kuwamanga pa chingwe usiku wonse kuti titeteze akanungu.

Yang'anani bwino bwino zikuse musanayatse moto

Tembenezani zikuse bwino bwino musanayatse moto, chifukwa pakhoza kukhala zisa kapena kubisala akanungu.