



**Mkingu Nature Reserve**, in the South Nguru Mountains, is an area of dense mountain forest with dramatic viewpoints. Mkingu Nature Reserve is the largest forest remaining in the South Nguru Mountains. The forest is home to many plant and animal species including Black-and-white colobus monkeys, Mountain galagos and Black-and-rufous elephant-shrews. Some of the plants and animals that are found in Mkingu are unique to this forest never having been recorded elsewhere including 19 plant taxa. There are seven vertebrate species that are unique to the South Nguru Mountains. Between 2007 and 2013, six new amphibian species were recorded from the South Nguru Mountains. For bird watchers, the reserve offers a chance to see 215 bird species including a rare chance to see Moreau's sunbird and Banded green sunbird.

The South Nguru Landscape is the main water catchment area for the Wami River. This river provides water to Chalenze Town, the Mtibwa sugar plantation and many villages in Morogoro and Coast Region.

**The South Nguru Mountains are part of the Eastern Arc Mountains.**

The **Eastern Arc** is a chain of ancient forested mountains stretching across Tanzania and into Kenya. Many unique species thrive in these isolated massifs, including over 500 plant species and numerous animals that are found nowhere else on earth. Acre for acre there are more unique plant and animal species in the Arc than anywhere else in Africa, and the area is considered one of the planet's most important biodiversity hotspots.

**Nature Reserve Facts**

- Total area: 23,387 ha
- Altitude: 380 – 2,140 m
- Highest peak: Maskati Peak (2,140 m)
- Annual rainfall: 1,200 – 4,000 mm
- Maximum temperatures: 12 – 24°C
- Important for: high biodiversity, water catchment, environmental and cultural values
- Threats: illegal logging, agricultural clearance and fire
- Gazetted as a forest reserve in 1954 / 55; NR gazetment due to be finalised by early 2015.
- Managed by: Tanzania Forest Services Agency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism
- Location: Between latitude 6 °01' - 6 °13' South and longitude 37 °26' - 37 °37' East

**Visitor Attractions**

Mkingu Nature Reserve offers visitors an opportunity to explore and experience this forest wilderness. As tourism is still relatively new, nature trails are under development. Visitors should check with the Conservator for the latest information about campsites and recommended trails. The Conservator's office is in Mkindo Village.

**Nature Trails**

**Maskati - Kombora Trail**

The trail starts at Maskati Village and ends at Kombora sub-village in Ubiri Village. The trail takes approximately

6 hours to walk. The trail passes the 2,140 metre high Makunguru Peak (3hrs from Maskati Village centre) with spectacular views over the north-western part of the reserve then the beautiful Dibohelo waterfall (2hrs from Kombora).

**Mhonda - Mafuta Trail**

This trail starts at Mhonda Village and passes through Kwelikwiji, Mafuta and then Ubiri Villages. From Mhonda Village, the trail passes through farms and then up into the forest where it follows a ridge. The walk takes 7 hours at a steady pace. The trail passes through intact, evergreen forest passing the pool at the meeting point of the Chazi and Mlangali rivers and the 7-chambered Malolo Cave finally reaching the dramatic 200 metre high Lusingiso waterfalls. From the falls, visitors can proceed to the camp site at Mafuta Village (approximately 1 hr from the falls). As none of these trails are marked on the ground, it is essential that visitors are accompanied by a local guide



*The meeting of the Chazi and Mlangali Rivers*

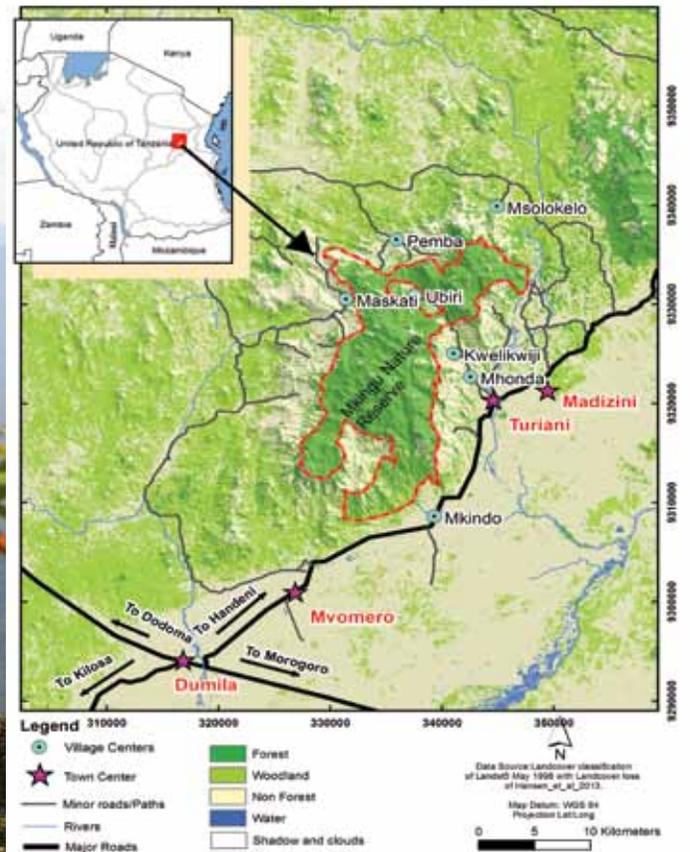
## Organizing your trip

### Access

The reserve is most easily reached via Turiani Town, which is about 120 km from Morogoro Town. From Turiani visitors can either continue north towards Maskati Village; or access the reserve via Mhonda Village.

### Accommodation

Simple guest houses are available in Madizini Town. Within the Mkingu nature reserve, there is one camp site with basic camping facilities approximately 800 metres from Mafuta Village centre on the eastern side of the reserve. Campers need to be completely self-sufficient in terms of camping equipment, food, drinking water and cooking facilities. Basic supplies are available in Madizini Town.



## Entry fees (subject to change)

Visitor fees help to protect and conserve the forests. They must be paid before entering the reserve. Visitor fees can be paid at Mkingu Nature Reserve Office in Mkingo Village.

### Entry fees (per person per day):

- Tanzanian nationals and residents: 1,500 TSh
- Tanzanian students: 500 TSh
- Non-residents: US\$ 10 (students US\$ 5)
- Children under 5: free

### Camping fees (per person per night):

- Tanzanian nationals and residents: 3,000 TSh
- Non-residents: US\$ 35

### Vehicles fees (per day)

- Tanzanian nationals and residents: 10,000 TSh
- Non-residents: US\$ 50

Guides charge TZS 10,000 per person / day for nationals and residents; and US\$ 25 for non-residents. The Conservator can provide information about guides.

### You can get in touch with the Conservator by:

Mobile: +255 712 580 218 or +255 759 229874

Or with the Assistant Conservator

Mobile: +255 713 509 061

E-mail: [kindoabeid@yahoo.com](mailto:kindoabeid@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.easternarc.or.tz/nguru](http://www.easternarc.or.tz/nguru)



Welcome to the  
**Mkingu Nature Reserve**

**Into the wild:  
Explore Tanzania's  
Ancient Rain Forests!**

