

## HABITAT SELECTION BY CHIMPANZEES (*PAN TROGLODYTES*) IN SAVANNA WOODLAND, WESTERN TANZANIA

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We studied habitat selection by chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) in the Ugalla, Masito, Mukuyu, and Karobwa savanna woodlands in western Tanzania (5°15'S, 29°45'E to 6°30'S, 31°30'E). These areas are largely covered by deciduous savanna woodland and partly by evergreen forest and grassland. First, we collected data on the locations of beds and other traces of chimpanzees by direct observation and information from local people during 1998–2003, 2005, and 2008. We divided the study areas into chimpanzee habitat and non-habitat. Then, using ERDAS Imagine (LGGM), we made a vegetation map of the study areas based on Landsat imagery and vegetation data for locations determined using a portable geographic positioning system (GPS). We also calculated the degree of slopes from the 90-m SRTM Digital Elevation Model. Finally, we compared the geological traits and vegetation in the habitat and non-habitat areas using environmental factor analysis with ArcGIS (ESRI). This showed that (1) slopes were more common in the habitat; chimpanzees may prefer hilly areas because some predators cannot hunt efficiently in hilly areas, and chimpanzees can escape into trees; and (2) the chimpanzee habitat had more evergreen forests. The chimpanzees in the study area frequently made beds in the dominant tree, kabamba-jike (*Monopetalanthus richardsiae*), in evergreen forests. The choice of sleeping sites may have influenced the proportion of evergreen forest in chimpanzee habitat.

Keywords: chimpanzee, slope, evergreen forest, savanna woodland