



# Sybilla's Forest



Hello, my name is Sybilla and I'm a Slender Loris! I live in the beautiful tropical dry evergreen forest in Southern India. I am nocturnal which means I only come out at night to eat bugs and plants and play with my friends! During the day I sleep in the branches of the trees. You have to look closely for me because I'm only as big as the length of your forearm and I move very slowly!







**A long time ago, my family and all of the other Slender Loris's in Southern India almost completely disappeared! There are still only a few of us today because the humans try to capture us in cages to use for traditions in the villages. Also, the humans destroyed our home, the forest, by cutting it down for firewood and timber. The rest of the trees they cut down to make fields for farming. The humans turned our home into a desert. The animals who lived in the forest before could not survive.**



**My parents came here a few years ago, about forty years after the forest was replanted. This is what it looked like after the human's killed the trees and this is what my home looks like now!**







The only type of trees that were left when the rest of the forest was destroyed was the Palmyra or what the humans call the “Tree of 1,000 uses”. It grows very tall and has a single trunk with giant palm leaves that are 2 to 3 yards long! The palm leaves are used for everything from paper to decorations for the Pongol celebration! Sometimes I run over roofs made of palm thatching and climb over fences that are made from palm.





**I always see Parrots and Weaver birds in the Palmyra trees! The Parrot makes holes and sit in the trees and the Weaver birds make nests that hang from the tree.**







One of the trees that the humans replanted is the Neem tree. It's a very tall evergreen tree which means it does not need a lot of water. It has bright green leaves, small white flower blossoms and oval shaped fruit! Sometimes I eat the flowers, but the humans use the Neem tree for many kinds of medicine and soap. People also use the twigs as a toothbrush to clean their teeth!





**The leaves from the tree are used to keep away evil spirits. Also when the Tamil people make offerings to the Gods, they always put Neem leaves in the offering. I sleep in Neem trees because I feel very safe there.**







**Another tree the humans planted is the Banyan tree. It grows very tall and has long, shiny, oval leaves. Its branches grow out very wide and send roots from the branches to the ground! I always play in the branches of these trees; they are also good to hide in to sneak up on bugs!**

**The Banyan tree is used for medicine, to make furniture, paper and ropes. Some people say that more than 10,000 people can sit in the shade under the branches of the tree! Can you find me in the crowd of people?**





**The Banyan tree is very special. It only grows when a bird eats and drops it's seed in the bark of another tree, like a Palmyra. The Banyan tree then grows around the tree the seed was dropped on.**

**The leaves taste so good that the animals eat it before it can grow into a big tree if it grows from the ground.**



**The Banyan tree is the national tree of India. It is the biggest of all of the trees and known as the tree of knowledge and life! It is also known as a tree that makes wishes come true! The Banyan tree is my favorite! I sit in this tree every day and wish that the forest with never be destroyed again so that the animals in India who live in trees always have a home!**

**The Tamil people sometimes think the Banyan trees are haunted with evils spirits and stay away from them, but I really like the Banyan tree! When my wishes come true, sometimes I even think the Banyan trees have good spirits inside of them!**







**The Peepal tree grows very quickly and has branches that spread very far. It has a purple fruit with gray bark. Since I'm gray, it's perfect for me to hide in! I bet you can't find me! The Peepal tree lives the longest of all of the trees in the tropical dry evergreen forest!**

**It is used for many types of medicine and cleans your gums if you chew the roots. It is also used to make red dye and the leaves are used for decorations.**





**The Peepal Tree is considered a sacred tree because Lord Buddha meditated under the tree to receive enlightenment. Today the tree is sacred and represents Peace. To Hindus, Vishnu was born under the tree. I have seen many Tamil people today use the tree as a place to gather and worship Ganesh.**





These are only some of the trees that make up my home, the Tropical Dry Evergreen Forest. It is important for the humans to live sustainably so that the animals of the forest have a place to live and humans can keep using the trees for medicine and housing in the future! Thank you for letting me show you around my home! You can visit all of the trees around the Botanical Garden!

