

## Supplemental Information

# **Flexible reproductive seasonality in Africa-dwelling papionins is associated with low environmental productivity and high climatic unpredictability**

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**REFERENCES Erreur ! Signet non défini.**

## Appendix S1. Comparisons of measures of the intensity of birth seasonality.

In order to select one or more measure of the intensity of birth seasonality, we computed four classical measures (see Table S1):

*The length of the r-vector ( $r_{\text{birth}}$ )* measures the degree of uniformity of the birth distribution across the annual cycle and varies from 0 to 1 (Di Bitetti & Janson, 2000; Janson & Verdolin, 2005; Thompson & McCabe, 2013). When  $r_{\text{birth}}=0$ , births are evenly spread across months (i.e. non-seasonal), while when  $r_{\text{birth}}=1$ , births all occur at the exact same month of the year (extremely seasonal).

*The breadth of the birth peak in a given population using the minimum number of consecutive months in which 50% of births occurred* (called ‘BPB 50’).

*The breadth of the birth peak using the minimum number of consecutive months in which 80% of births occurred* (called ‘BPB 80’) (Heldstab et al., 2018, 2020; Zerbe et al., 2012).

*A categorical measure of reproductive seasonality, i.e. significant vs. non-significant birth peak.* To do so, we ran Rayleigh tests to assess, statistically, if birth distributions are uniform ( $H_0: r_{\text{birth}}=0$ ) or not ( $H_1: r_{\text{birth}} \neq 0$ ) along the annual cycle, using the ‘r.test’ function from ‘CircStats’ package (Agostinelli & Lund, 2018). Populations’ birth peaks were categorized as significant when the result of the Rayleigh test allowed us to reject the null hypothesis of a uniform birth distribution.

We found strong correlations between  $r_{\text{birth}}$  and both BPB 50 (cor= -0.91,  $p < 10^{-4}$ ) and BPB 80 (cor= -0.99,  $p < 10^{-4}$ ), and thus opted to use  $r_{\text{birth}}$  in all downstream analyses.

## Appendix S2. Method to compute the between-year variation in the timing of rainfall

We were interested to test the effect of the unpredictability of the rainfall peak in term of timing on the intensity of reproductive seasonality (H1-7), and we thus had to quantify how much the timing of rainfall varied between-years. First, for each population, we used the predictable rainfall variation component ( $K_{\text{rain}} + \text{Rainfall S}$ ) to compute the mean rainfall date  $\mu_{\text{rain}}$ , which indicates the annual peak of rainfall. To do so, we used circular statistics: the length of the vector for each month equals the amount of rainfall (in mm) that fell this month, and then computed (similarly to what we did for  $\mu_{\text{birth}}$ )  $\mu_{\text{rain}}$ , as the angle, converted in a date, of the r-vector of rainfall values (Markham, 1970). We used the function ‘circ.summary’ from the ‘CircStats’ package (Agostinelli & Lund, 2018), and the same methodology allowed us to compute  $\mu_{\text{NDVI}}$ . Second, we computed the mean rainfall date for each year. We separated our rainfall data in 22 distinct periods of 365 days centered on  $\mu_{\text{rain}}$ . For example, if  $\mu_{\text{rain}} = 10^{\text{th}}$  of September, periods ran from March, 10th to the next March, 10th. We similarly separated our rainfall data in 44 distinct semesters ( $n=365/2$  days) for environments with 2 rainy seasons: the first semester going from February to July, and the second one going from August to January, given the observed distribution of the seasonal component of rainfall in these environments (see Figure 2). Third, for each given year (or semester), we computed the mean rainfall date using circular statistics. Fourth, we computed the standard deviation of these mean dates per year and population, to quantify the between-year rainfall variation in timing, with higher values corresponding to higher uncertainty in the annual timing of rainfall. For environments with 2 rainy seasons, we quantified two standard

deviations, one per semester, and further computed the mean of these two standard deviations as the measure of between-semester rainfall variation in timing.

### **Appendix S3. Definition of the targeted reproductive windows used in tests of Hypothesis 2, regarding the reproductive stage synchronized with the food peak**

For H2-1 ('conception'), we first determined the mean conception date per population with the formula:  $\mu_{\text{conc}} = \mu_{\text{birth}} - \text{gestation length}$ . We used the mean gestation length (in days) per population when it was provided in the literature, or used a species-specific gestation length otherwise, because within-species variation in gestation length is low (see Table S3). We tested if females tended to conceive during, soon before, or soon after the annual food peak, comparing random NDVI values to observed seasonal NDVI values in (i) the six months surrounding  $\mu_{\text{conc}}$ , (ii) the three months before  $\mu_{\text{conc}}$  and (iii) the three months after  $\mu_{\text{conc}}$ . For H2-2 ('lactation'), we considered lactation period as the 6 months following birth. Indeed, this window has often been used to characterize lactation and infant dependency, and in particular the period of high infanticide risk, in several baboon populations (Altmann, 1980; Palombit, 2003). We tested if females tended to adjust the entire lactation period, early-lactation (3 months post-birth) or mid-lactation (3-6 months post-birth) with the annual food peak, by comparing random NDVI values to seasonal NDVI values in the 6 months after  $\mu_{\text{birth}}$ , the 3 months after  $\mu_{\text{birth}}$  or from 3 to 6 months after  $\mu_{\text{birth}}$ , respectively. For H2-3 ('weaning'), we determined the mean weaning age per population using as a proxy the mean duration of post-partum amenorrhea ('PPA', in days) (Borries, Lu, Ossi-Lupo, Larney, & Koenig, 2014; Lee, Majluf, & Gordon, 1991) (see Table S3). We computed the mean weaning date,  $\mu_{\text{PPA}}$ , as  $\mu_{\text{birth}} + \text{PPA}$ . We tested if females tended to adjust weaning, mid-weaning (here approximated by the 3 months before  $\mu_{\text{PPA}}$ ) or late-weaning (here approximated by the 3 months following  $\mu_{\text{PPA}}$ ) with the annual food peak, by comparing random NDVI values to seasonal NDVI values observed in the 6 months surrounding  $\mu_{\text{PPA}}$ , and in the 3 months before and after  $\mu_{\text{PPA}}$ , respectively.

**Table S1:** Birth seasonality data for the populations considered in this study

Species	Population	Number of births	Number of years of survey	$r_{\text{birth}}$	P-value (Rayleigh)	BPB 80 (months)	BPB 50 (months)	$\mu_{\text{birth}}$	References
<i>Cercocebus atys</i>	Tai	52	3	0.8312	$<10^{-5}$	3	2	5-Jan	(Range, Förderer, Storrer-Meystre, Benetton, & Fruteau, 2012)
<i>Cercocebus sanjei</i>	Udzungwu Mountains	28	3	0.5588	$<10^{-5}$	6	3	17-Aug	(Thompson & McCabe, 2013)
<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>	Kibale	72	9	0.2762	0.0041	8	5	13-Feb	(Arlet et al., 2014)
<i>Macaca sylvanus</i>	Akfada	56	8	0.9350	$<10^{-5}$	2	2	6-May	(Ménard & Vallet, 1993)
	Tigounatine	75	8	0.9467	$<10^{-5}$	2	1	24-May	
<i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	Lekedi	218	9	0.6766	$<10^{-5}$	5	2	1-Jan	(Dezeure, Charpentier, & Huchard, 2022)
	Moukalaba-Doudou	208	2	0.7940	$<10^{-5}$	3	2	8-Jan	(Hongo, Nakashima, Akomo-Okoue, & Mindonga-Nguelet, 2016)
<i>Papio anubis</i>	Gashaka-Gumti	32	5	0.2167	0.2237	8	4	17-Dec	(Higham et al., 2009)
	Gilgil	118	10	0.1873	0.0159	9	5	23-Feb	(Bercovitch & Harding, 1993)
	Queen Elizabeth	35	2	0.0971	0.7216	9	5	17-Jan	(Rowell, 1966)
<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Amboseli	496	33	0.1344	0.0001	9	6	12-Oct	(Alberts et al., 2005)
	Mikumi	164	8	0.1584	0.0163	9 <sup>+</sup>	6 <sup>+</sup>	24-Jul	(Rhine, Wasser, & Norton, 1988)
	Tana River	35	5	0.1413	0.5004	9	6	25-Nov	(Bentley-Condit & Smith, 1997)

<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	Filoha	218	7	0.0208	0.9097	10	6	21-Jun	Swedell, unpubl. data
<i>Papio kindae</i>	Kasanka	70	7	0.4971	<10 <sup>-5</sup>	6	4	16-Jul	(Petersdorf, Weyher, Kamilar, Dubuc, & Higham, 2019)
<i>Papio ursinus</i>	De Hoop	30	4	0.0969	0.7574	9	5	20-Oct	(Barrett, Henzi, & Lycett, 2006)
	Drakensberg	37	7	0.4143	0.0014	6	4	23-Nov	(Lycett, Weingrill, & Henzi, 1999)
	Moremi	122	10	0.3710	<10 <sup>-5</sup>	7	4	27-Sep	(Cheney et al., 2004)
	Tokai	52	2	0.2394	0.0507	8	5	21-Dec	Chowdhury, unpubl. data
	Tsaobis	215	15	0.1046	0.0949	9	5	18-Nov	(Dezeure et al., 2021)
<i>Theropithecus gelada</i>	Simien	354	9	0.1550	0.0002	9	5	8-Oct	(Tinsley Johnson, Snyder-Mackler, Lu, Bergman, & Beehner, 2018)

+ Approximated birth peak breadths for Mikumi, given that the number of births was only provided per 3 month-period (not per month)  
Populations with significant birth peak (P-values of the Rayleigh test <0.05) are grey shaded.

**Table S2:** Components of environmental variation per population.

These data have been extracted and computed following the methods described in the main text (see 3-Environmental data).

Species	Population	Country	GPS coordinates (West,South, East,North)	Latitude (°)	Mean annual rainfall (mm)	Magnitude of rainfall seasonality	Number of rainy season(s)	Rainfall peak breadth (months)	Magnitude of rainfall unpredictability	Timing of rainfall unpredictability (days)	Habitat	$\mu_{rain}$	$\mu_{NDVI}$
<i>Cercocebus atys</i>	Tai	Ivory Coast	7.26, 5.75, -7.21, 5.80	5.8	1691	3.73	2	NA	3.08	9.31	Tropical forest	18-Jul	6-Feb
<i>Cercocebus sanjei</i>	Udzungwu Mountains	Tanzania	36.80, -7.78, 36.88, -7.68	7.7	1187	7.45	1	5	3.98	14.96	Tropical forest	20-Feb	30-Sep
<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>	Kibale	Uganda	30.40, 0.45, 30.45, 0.50	0.5	1155	3.76	2	NA	2.99	8.49	Tropical forest	30-Sep	19-May
<i>Macaca sylvanus</i>	Akfadou	Algeria	36.69, 4.55, 36.71, 4.61	36.7	760	4.03	1	8	5.82	33.85	Mosaic forest-grassland	12-Jan	2-Aug
	Tigounatine	Algeria	36.4, 4.13, 36.45, 4.18	36.4	789	4.11	1	8	5.71	33.81	Mosaic forest-grassland	18-Jan	15-Mar
<i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	Lekedi	Gabon	13.03, -1.81, 13.04, -1.80	1.8	1913	4.96	1	7	3.17	12.16	Tropical forest	12-Jan	11-Apr
	Moukalaba-Doudou	Gabon	10.24,-2.60, 10.35,-2.50	2.5	1482	6.26	1	6	3.76	13.37	Tropical forest	20-Jan	30-Mar
<i>Papio anubis</i>	Gashaka-Gumti	Nigeria	11.58,7.51, 11.66,7.56	7.5	1969	7.06	1	6	3.50	8.88	Mosaic forest-grassland	31-Jul	5-Aug
	Gilgil	Kenya	36.23,-0.61, 36.45, -0.48	0.5	1220	2.62	2	NA	3.79	10.29	Open savannah	29-Apr	23-Jun
	Queen Elizabeth	Uganda	29.70, -0.57, 29.80, -0.47	0.5	1015	2.99	2	NA	3.21	9.00	Mosaic forest-grassland	6-Nov	8-Dec

<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Amboseli	Kenya	37.27, -2.71, 37.32, -2.62	2.7	490	7.77	2	NA	8.93	10.29	Open savannah	31-Jan	14-Mar
	Mikumi	Tanzania	37.37, -7.29, 37.49, -7.19	7.2	1296	4.43	1	8	4.87	46.98	Open savannah	25-Feb	13-Apr
	Tana River	Kenya	40.13, -1.94, 40.13, -1.93	1.9	608	6.04	2	NA	7.64	10.78	Open savannah	12-Jan	4-Mar
<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	Awash	Ethiopia	39.96, 9.00, 40.07, 9.12	9.05	762	7.36	1	6	4.92	12.95	Open savannah	22-Jul	23-Aug
<i>Papio kindae</i>	Kasanka	Zambia	30.21,- 12.58, 30.22,-12.55	12.6	1148	9.73	1	5	4.16	7.11	Mosaic forest-grassland	19-Jan	26-Feb
<i>Papio ursinus</i>	De Hoop	South Africa	20.52,- 34.45, 20.60,-34.39	34.4	373	2.08	1	9	8.82	94.32	Open savannah	17-Jun	29-May
	Drakensberg	South Africa	29.44,- 29.28, 29.54, - 29.15	29.2	946	6.30	1	6	3.89	13.22	Open savannah	12-Jan	5-Feb
	Moremi	Botswana	22.86, - 19.42, 23.01, - 19.27	19.3	507	7.63	1	5	7.25	22.91	Open savannah	26-Jan	20-Feb
	Tokai	South Africa	18.39, - 34.08, 18.43, - 34.05	34.1	517	4.46	1	8	7.41	22.79	Mosaic forest-grassland	5-Jul	22-Jun
	Tsaobis	Namibia	15.67, - 22.46, 15.88, - 22.30	22.4	239	9.87	1	4	13.65	18.29	open savannah	19-Feb	9-Apr
<i>Theropithecus gelada</i>	Simien	Ethiopia	38.31, 13.20, 38.42, 13.28	13.2	1007	6.63	1	7	4.28	16.03	Open savannah	24-Jul	23-Aug



**Table S3:** Reproductive parameters per population.

Species	Population	Gestation (days)	Weaning age (days)	References
<i>Cercocebus atys</i>	Tai (reproductive data from a captive population)	167	216	(Gust, Busse, & Gordon, 1990) (captive population)
<i>Cercocebus sanjei</i>	Udzungwu Mountains	172	204	(Fernández, Doran-Sheehy, Borries, & Brown, 2014)
<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>	Kibale	186	224	(Wallis, 1983)
<i>Macaca sylvanus</i>	Akfadou	164*	NA	(Kingdon et al., 2012)
	Tigounatine	164*	NA	(Kingdon et al., 2012)
<i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	Lekedi	175	288	(Dezeure et al., 2022)
	Moukalaba-Doudou	175*	NA	
<i>Papio anubis</i>	Gashaka-Gumti	185	322	(Higham et al., 2009)
	Gilgil	180	407	(Smuts & Nicolson, 1989)
	Queen Elizabeth	180*	NA	
<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Amboseli	178	332	(Gesquiere, Altmann, Archie, & Alberts, 2017)
	Mikumi	178*	NA	
	Tana River	182	443	(Bentley-Condit & Smith, 1997)

<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	Filoha	182	266	(Swedell, 2006, 2011)
<i>Papio kindae</i>	Kasanka	178*	NA	
	De Hoop	190	265	(Weingrill, Gray, Barrett, & Henzi, 2004)
	Drakensberg	190*	NA	
<i>Papio ursinus</i>	Moremi	183	453	(Cheney et al., 2004; Johnson & Bock, 2004)
	Tokai	190*	NA	
	Tsaobis	190	353	(Dezeure et al., 2021)
<i>Theropithecus gelada</i>	Simien	183	534	(Roberts, Lu, Bergman, & Beehner, 2017)

\* Mean gestation length was not available for these populations. So, we used mean gestation length of other population of the same species with the highest sample size. We considered that the gestation length of Kinda baboons was similar to the ones of yellow baboons.

**Table S4:** Reproductive timing in relation to food availability seasonality.

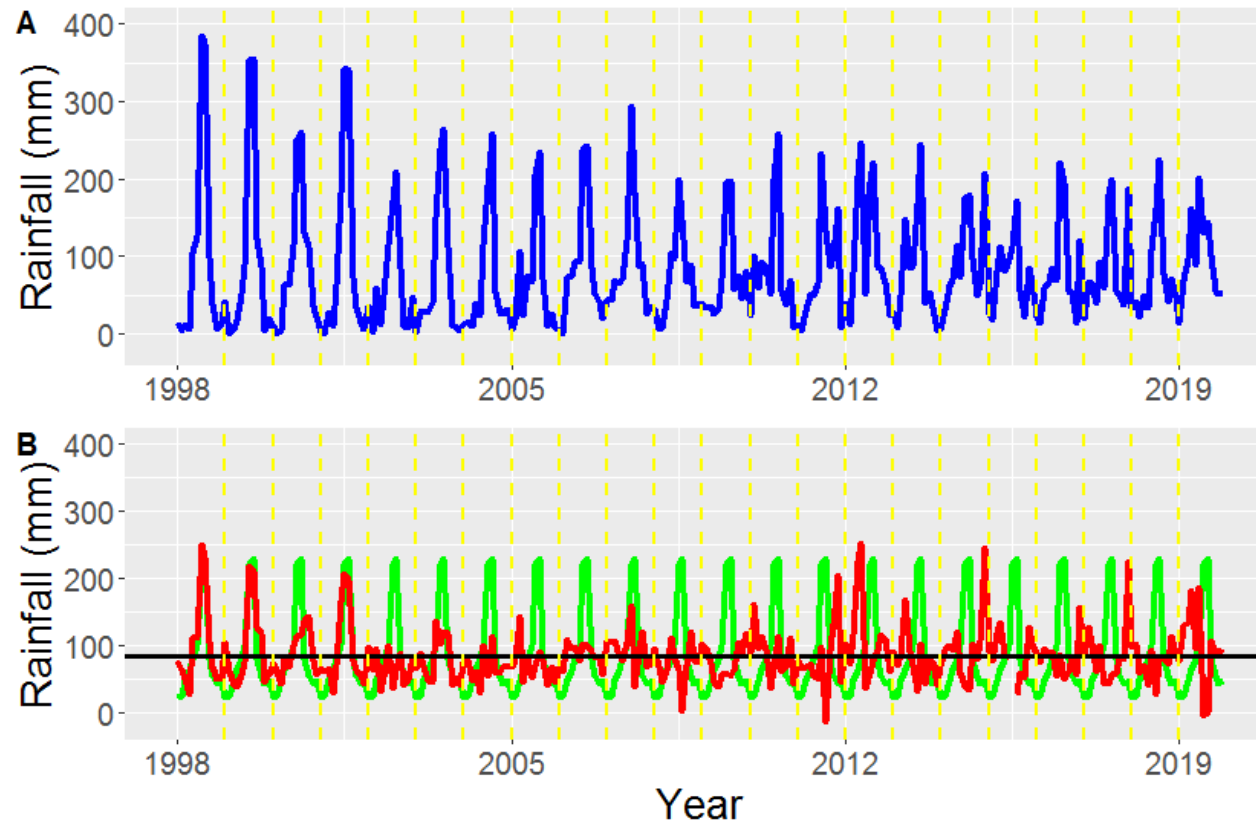
For each population with a significant birth peak, we give the statistics and P-values of the Fisher-Pitman permutation test (Z test) investigating if NDVI (our proxy of food availability) is higher than random during different stages of female reproductive cycle, namely conception, lactation, or weaning. For the conception hypothesis (H2.1), we looked at the NDVI values either around (3 months before and after), 3 months before or 3 months after the mean conception date  $\mu_{\text{conc}}$ . For the lactation hypothesis (H2.2), we looked at NDVI values during either the 6 months following the mean birth date  $\mu_{\text{birth}}$  ('Whole lactation'), the 3 months after  $\mu_{\text{birth}}$  ('Early lactation'), or from 3 to 6 months after  $\mu_{\text{birth}}$  ('Mid lactation'). For the weaning hypothesis (H2.3), we looked at the NDVI values either around (3 months before and after  $\mu_{\text{PPA}}$ ), 3 months before or 3 months after the mean weaning date  $\mu_{\text{PPA}}$ . Significant effects are indicated in bold. In addition, we indicated the difference, in months, between the mean conception date ( $\mu_{\text{conc}}$ ) and the mean NDVI date ( $\mu_{\text{NDVI}}$ ), between the mean NDVI date ( $\mu_{\text{NDVI}}$ ) and the mean birth date ( $\mu_{\text{birth}}$ ), and between the mean NDVI date ( $\mu_{\text{NDVI}}$ ) and the mean weaning date ( $\mu_{\text{PPA}}$ ).

Species	Population	<b>Conception hypothesis (H2.1)</b>						$\mu_{\text{conc}} - \mu_{\text{NDVI}}$ (month)
		Around conception		Before conception		After conception		
		Z test	P-value	Z test	P-value	Z test	P-value	
<i>Cercocebus atys</i>	Tai	2.642	1.000	1.492	0.932	1.559	0.941	5.45
<i>Cercocebus sanjei</i>	Udzungwa	0.517	0.694	<b>-1.573</b>	<b>0.045</b>	2.170	0.986	4.91
<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>	Kibale	-1.00	0.167	<b>-2.262</b>	<b>0.009</b>	1.107	0.855	2.73
<i>Macaca sylvanus</i>	Akfadou	1.187	0.876	-1.082	0.182	2.452	0.991	3.71
	Tigounatine	0.780	0.771	1.096	0.859	-0.755	0.240	-3.09
<i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	Lekedi	-0.616	0.277	<b>-1.772</b>	<b>0.032</b>	1.061	0.841	2.93
	Moukalaba	1.585	0.947	-1.081	0.177	2.911	1.000	3.55
<i>Papio anubis</i>	Gilgil	-0.514	0.314	-0.994	0.186	0.400	0.627	2.10
<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Amboseli	-1.616	0.056	<b>-1.701</b>	<b>0.05</b>	-0.164	0.459	1.12
	Mikumi	-0.744	0.242	0.599	0.732	-1.458	0.077	-2.5
<i>Papio kinda</i>	Kasanka	<b>-2.707</b>	<b>0.002</b>	-1.03	0.168	<b>-2.096</b>	<b>0.005</b>	-1.28

<i>Papio ursinus</i>	Drakensberg	1.209	0.881	-0.897	0.177	2.294	0.996	3.35
	Moremi	<b>-2.312</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>-2.649</b>	<b>0.005</b>	-0.021	0.468	1.25
<i>Theropithecus gelada</i>	Simien	2.291	0.994	2.201	1.000	0.445	0.677	-4.50
<b>Lactation hypothesis (H2.2)</b>								
		Whole lactation		Early lactation		Mid lactation		$\mu_{NDVI} - \mu_{birth}$ (month)
		Z test	P-value	Z test	P-value	Z test	P-value	
<i>Cercocebus atys</i>	Tai	<b>-1.607</b>	<b>0.043</b>	<b>-1.775</b>	<b>0.009</b>	-0.081	0.482	1.05
<i>Cercocebus sanjei</i>	Udzungwa	-0.685	0.254	0.782	0.773	<b>-1.573</b>	<b>0.045</b>	1.45
<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>	Kibale	-1.474	0.070	0.561	0.713	<b>-2.262</b>	<b>0.009</b>	3.16
<i>Macaca sylvanus</i>	Akfadou	<b>-2.604</b>	<b>0.001</b>	<b>-1.773</b>	<b>0.009</b>	-1.124	0.136	2.89
	Tigounatine	2.413	0.993	1.690	0.955	1.096	0.859	-2.30
<i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	Lekedi	<b>-2.432</b>	<b>0.005</b>	-1.036	0.173	<b>-1.772</b>	<b>0.032</b>	3.32
	Moukalaba	<b>-2.405</b>	<b>0.006</b>	-1.474	0.064	-1.304	0.114	2.70
<i>Papio anubis</i>	Gilgil	-1.382	0.089	-0.602	0.286	-0.994	0.186	3.98
<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Amboseli	-0.439	0.334	0.743	0.768	-1.25	0.109	5.03
	Mikumi	2.635	0.999	2.443	0.996	0.599	0.732	8.65
<i>Papio kindia</i>	Kasanka	1.419	0.920	2.669	1.000	-1.03	0.168	7.36
<i>Papio ursinus</i>	Drakensberg	<b>-2.694</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>-2.213</b>	<b>0.009</b>	-0.897	0.177	2.40
	Moremi	<b>-1.838</b>	<b>0.031</b>	0.528	0.691	<b>-2.649</b>	<b>0.005</b>	4.77
<i>Theropithecus gelada</i>	Simien	1.922	0.974	0.019	0.482	2.201	1.000	-1.51

**Weaning hypothesis (H2.3)**

		Around weaning		Before weaning		After weaning		$\mu_{NDVI}$ - $\mu_{PPA}$ (month)
		Z test	P-value	Z test	P-value	Z test	P-value	
<i>Cercocebus atys</i>	Tai	2.642	1.000	1.492	0.932	1.559	0.941	5.95
<i>Cercocebus sanjei</i>	Udzungwa	0.517	0.694	<b>-1.573</b>	<b>0.045</b>	2.170	0.986	-5.26
<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>	Kibale	0.807	0.775	-0.64	0.296	1.571	0.932	-4.21
<i>Macaca sylvanus</i>	Akfadou	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Tigounatine	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>Mandrillus sphinx</i>	Lekedi	2.797	1.000	2.324	0.986	0.905	0.818	5.85
	Moukalaba	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>Papio anubis</i>	Gilgil	-0.077	0.462	2.323	0.996	<b>-2.411</b>	<b>0.005</b>	2.62
<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Amboseli	2.978	1.000	1.276	0.900	2.163	0.986	-5.88
	Mikumi	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>Papio kinda</i>	Kasanka	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>Papio ursinus</i>	Drakensberg	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Moremi	<b>-1.838</b>	<b>0.031</b>	0.528	0.691	<b>-2.649</b>	<b>0.005</b>	1.87
<i>Theropithecus gelada</i>	Simien	2.291	0.994	2.201	1.000	0.445	0.677	4.95



**Figure S1:** Example of rainfall variation decomposition.

We represented in Panel A the average monthly cumulative rainfall (raw data, in mm) recorded at Simien National Park (example from the gelada population) over 22 years (from January 1998 to December 2019) in blue. In Panel B, the black horizontal line indicates the mean monthly rainfall ( $K_{\text{rain}}$ ), the green curve represents the predictable (seasonal, i.e. repeatable pattern between years) rainfall variation ( $K_{\text{rain}} + \text{Rainfall S}$ ), and the red curve represents the unpredictable (between-year) rainfall variation ( $K_{\text{rain}} + \text{Rainfall NS}$ ) over 22 years of records.

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