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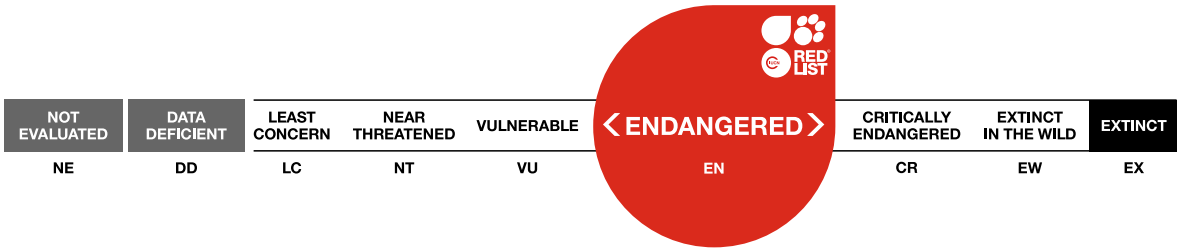
Ateles chamek, Black-faced Black Spider Monkey

Amendment version

Assessment by: Alves, S.L. *et al.*



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Primates	Atelidae

Scientific Name: *Ateles chamek* (Humboldt, 1812)

Synonym(s):

- *Ateles longimembris* J. A. Allen, 1914
- *Ateles peruvianus* Lönnberg, 1940

Common Name(s):

- English: Black-faced Black Spider Monkey, Black Spider Monkey, Chamek Spider Monkey, Peruvian Black Spider Monkey
- French: Atèle à face noire
- Spanish; Castilian: Maquisapa, Marimono, Mono Araña negro
- German: Schwarzgesicht-Klammeraffe
- Portuguese: Coatá-preto, Macaco-aranha-de-cara-preta

Taxonomic Notes:

Traditionally, *Ateles* taxonomy is based on Kellogg and Goldman (1944) that recognize four species: *Ateles paniscus* (two subspecies, including *Ateles paniscus chamek*), *A. belzebuth* (3 subspecies), *A. geoffroyi* (nine subspecies) and *A. fusciceps* (two subspecies). Froehlich *et al.* (1991), Medeiros (1994) and Medeiros *et al.* (1997) argue that *A. paniscus* is a distinct species without subspecies. Boer and Bruijn (1990) indicated that *A. chamek* should be considered a full species, while Froehlich *et al.* (1991) and Collins (2008) classify the taxon as a subspecies of *Ateles belzebuth (A. b. chamek)*. According to Collins (2008), genetic evidence shows that the morphological similarities that spider monkeys of Cocha Cashu National Park in Peru share with *A. paniscus* in Suriname and the Guiana Shield (black coat and pink face) are superficial and thus should be classified as *Ateles belzebuth chamek.* Rylands *et al.* (2000), Rylands and Mittermeier (2009) and Konstant and Rylands (2013) recognize *A. chamek* as a distinct species. According to van Roosmalen and van Roosmalen (2014) the species of spider monkey that occurs throughout the interfluve between the Rios Madeira, Mamoré, Guaporé and Tapajós, an area recognized for the occurrence of *A. chamek*, should be *Ateles longimembris.* In this region, Cruz Lima (1945) recognized this spider monkey as a subspecies of *Ateles paniscus*, while Groves (2001) considered *A. longimembris* as a synonym of *A. chamek.* Van Roosmalen and van Roosmalen (2014) report that they regard it as a distinct species of *Ateles* occurring between the Rios Purus and Madeira, south and west of the Rio Ipixuna (right bank tributary of the Rio Purus).

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Endangered A2acd+3cd+4acd ver 3.1

Year Published: 2021

Date Assessed: January 26, 2015

Justification:

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Ateles chamek is listed as Endangered as the species is estimated to have declined by at least 50% over the past 45 years (three generations) primarily due to hunting and habitat loss. The forests in the southern part of its range, particularly in the states of Rondônia and Mato Grosso (Brazil), are devastated along the agricultural frontier/arc of deforestation moving from south to north through the Brazilian Amazon. Cattle farming and forest loss are also widespread in northern Bolivia and south-eastern Peru. Major development projects (dams, highways and transmission lines) are potential future threats to the species with strong indications of a continued decline at the same rate over the next three generations. Hunting and deforestation are widespread throughout the southern part of its range, mainly in Brazil.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2020 – Endangered (EN)
https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-2.RLTS.T41547A17928789.en

2008 – Endangered (EN)
https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T41547A10497375.en

2003 – Least Concern (LC)

1996 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/LC)

Geographic Range

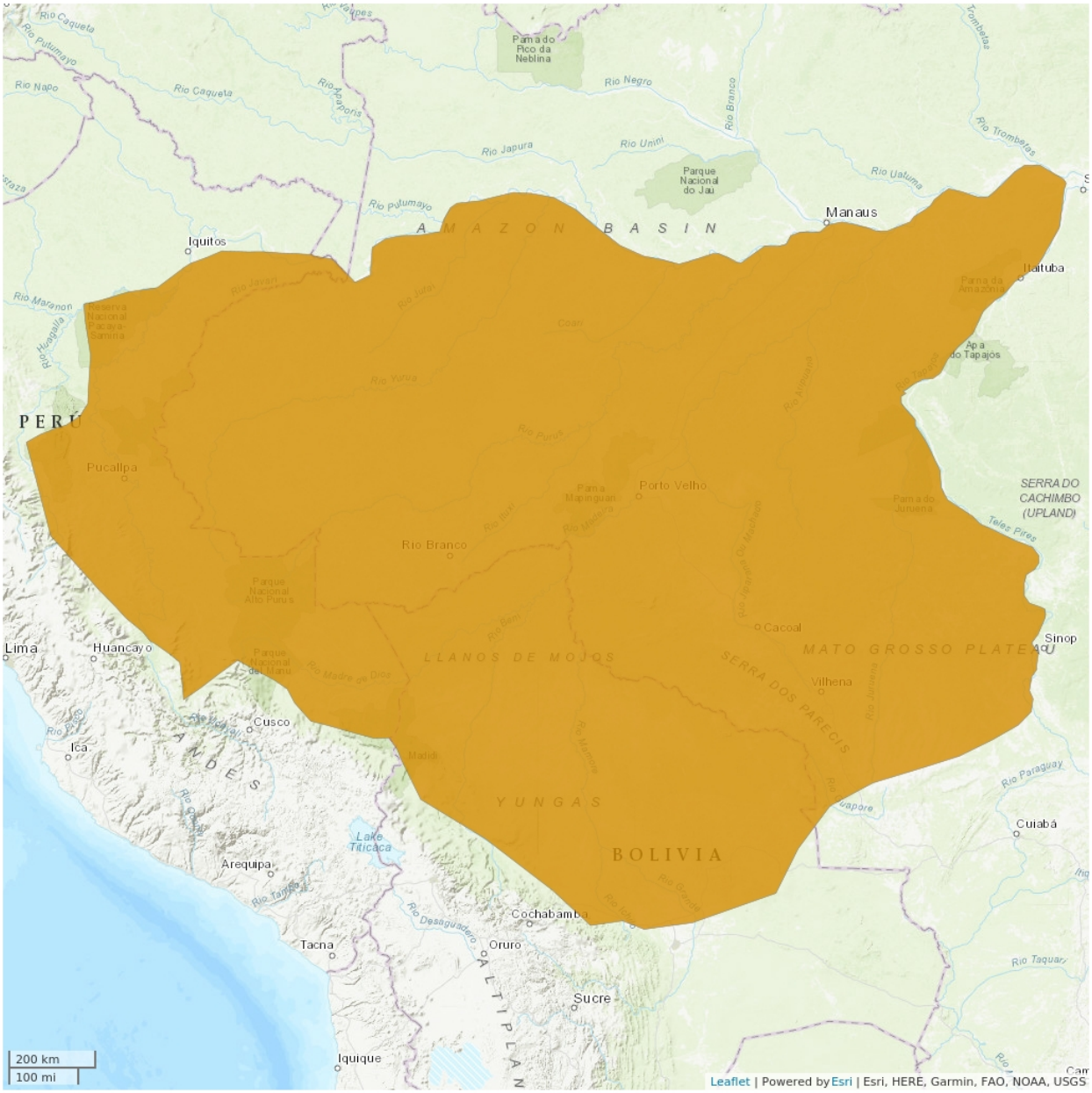
Range Description:

Black-faced Black Spider Monkey is found in the northern and central lowlands of Bolivia, western Brazil and north-eastern Peru. It occurs to the South of the Rio Amazonas-Solimões, west of the Rios Tapajós-Teles and Pires, to the Río Ucayali in Peru (where it is replaced by *Ateles belzebuth* on the left bank of the lower Ucayali). It crosses the middle Ucayali south of the Río Cushabatay (a left bank tributary of the Ucayali), extending into the interfluvium of the Ríos Ucayali and Huallaga (Konstant and Rylands 2013). From there, it extends south along the eastern Cordillera into Bolivia, south of the Río Madre de Dios, south to about 17°S, and from there extending north-east through the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park (Wallace et al. 1998), into the states of Rondônia and Mato Grosso, Brazil, to the left bank of the Rio Teles Pires and Rio Tapajós. Rabelo et al. (2014) recorded the species in the Mamirauá Sustainable Development Reserve (Amazonas, Brazil), on the northern bank of the Rio Solimões, extending the known distribution of *Ateles chamek* to the interfluvium of the Rios Solimões and Japurá. The information regarding the species distribution and its conservation status were recently updated by Rabelo *et al*. (2018). These authors compiled a list of the species records to update the species extent of occurrence (building the minimum convex polygon adjusted to river boundaries), and used tools of species distribution modelling to estimate the species area of occupancy. Its extent of occurrence (EOO) was calculated as 3,052,182 km², and the estimated area of occupancy as 927,754 km² (28% of the extent of occurrence). Its extent of occurrence and area of occupancy are inferred to have decreased in the recent past; up to 23% of forest loss has been lost in parts of the species' range since 2000 (Global Forest Watch 2020) and Rabelo *et al*. (2018) calculated that, by 2002, the species had already lost 15% of the forest cover within its predicted area of occupancy.

Country Occurrence:

Native, Extant (resident): Bolivia, Plurinational States of; Brazil (Acre, Amazonas, Mato Grosso, Rondônia); Peru

Distribution Map



Legend

EXTANT (RESIDENT)

Compiled by:

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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

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Population

The Black-faced Black Spider Monkey is widespread and relatively common where not hunted for its meat (Konstant and Rylands 2013). In Bolivia, *Ateles chamek* population densities are usually between five and 25 animals/km², reaching a maximum of 80 animals/km² at sites where not hunted (R. Wallace pers. comm). Where densities are highest, its distribution correlates with local habitat heterogeneity, such as areas with adjacent floodplains or terra firme forests (Haugaasen and Peres 2005). The highest recorded densities for *A. chamek* were observed in the Manu National Park in Peru, where White (1986) estimated 31 individuals/km², McFarland Symington (1988a) 25-31 individuals/km², and Endo *et al*. (2010) 14-49 individuals/km². In the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park in Bolivia, Wallace *et al.* (1998) estimated 32 individuals/km², and in the Guaporé Biological Reserve in Brazil, Alves (2013) estimated 26 individuals/km² in igapó clear-water flooded forest. Factors determining different *Ateles* population densities in various habitats and study sites are discussed by McFarland Symington (1988b), who concluded that high densities depend on the abundance and productivity of certain key plant resources.

In Brazil, Peres (1997) estimated densities of *Ateles chamek* in várzea white-water flooded forests and unflooded forests along the Rio Juruá as reaching 2.6-6.0 individuals/km², while Haugaasen and Peres (2005) in the lower Rio Purús region estimated densities of only 0.3-0.5 individuals/km².

Iwanaga and Ferrari (2002) recorded sighting rates averaging 0.69 individuals/10 km (range 0.11-2.40) at 33 survey sites in the state of Rondônia, Brazil. They found that the sighting rate was slightly lower in areas where *A. chamek* and *Lagothrix cana* occurred together (0.58 individuals/10 km) than in areas where *L. cana* is absent (0.73 individuals/10 km).

There is an inferred population decline of at least 50% in the past three generations (45 years) which is also inferred to ongoing and suspected to continue in the future. This population decline is inferred primarily due to loss of area of occupancy and extent of occurrence due to habitat loss and degradation, in addition to threats faced by hunting. This taxon is restricted to primary forest. The population decline and local extinction of *Ateles* in most areas with human activity are the result of hunting pressure that is often associated with habitat destruction and degradation (van Roosmalen and Klein 1988, Peres 1997, Parry *et al*. 2007). The species of the genus are present in altered/fragmented areas but generally do not persist for long periods (Peres 1990, 1997).

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology **(see Appendix for additional information)**

The species occurs in lowland terra firme unflooded forest, semi-deciduous forest, riparian and flooded forest (várzea and igapó forests) with little or no hunting pressure (van Roosmalen and Klein 1988; Konstant and Rylands 2013). They are also found in transitional forest (forest to savanna) in southwestern Amazonia. In Bolivia, in the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, Wallace *et al.* (1998) recorded *A. chamek* most often in tall forest (4.42 encounters per 10 km), followed by so-called saternejal forest (along the forest–savanna border, in the vicinity of small forest streams that undergo periodic flash floods; 2.49 encounters per 10 km). Garcia and Tarifa (1988) found *A. chamek* to be restricted to high forest in the Beni Biological Station. Otherwise, Alves (2013) recorded *A. chamek* in both unflooded terra firme and open/dense igapó clear-water flooded forests, but not in cerradão dense savanna woodland. This taxon is restricted to primary forest. The population decline and local

extinction of *Ateles* in most areas with human activity are the result of hunting pressure that is often associated with habitat destruction and degradation (van Roosmalen and Klein 1988; Peres 1997; Parry *et al.* 2007). The species of the genus are present in altered/fragmented areas but generally do not persist for long periods (Peres 1990, 1997). In the state of Rondônia (Brazil), *A. chamek* occurs in some forest fragments without hunting pressure (Ferrari *et al*. 1996; Iwanaga and Ferrari 2001, 2002), indicating a relative flexibility of the taxon to habitat disturbances in the absence of hunting.

Spider monkeys travel and forage in the upper levels of the forest. They spend most time in the upper canopy, sometimes using the middle and lower strata but are rarely seen in the understory. Due to the use of the highest levels of the forest, they spend more time hanging from branches, moving by brachiation, arm swinging, and climbing, than walking or running on all fours. They are highly frugivorous and feed largely on the mature, soft parts of a very wide variety of fruits, which comprise about 80-90% of their diet and are found mainly in the emergent trees and upper part of the forest canopy (van Roosmalen and Klein 1988). In the state of Rondônia (Brazil), Iwanaga and Ferrari (2001) recorded a diet consisting of 97.1% fruits, of which the Moraceae and Caesalpinaceae families account for 53.3% of the species exploited by *A. chamek*. Similar findings were presented by Felton *et al*. (2008) for the Guarayos Forest Reserve in Bolivia, where Moraceae was the most important plant family in the diet, both in terms of number of species and time spent feeding. They also eat young leaves and flowers (especially during periods of fruit shortage at the beginning of the dry season), but occasionally also young seeds, floral buds, pseudobulbs, aerial roots, bark, decaying wood, honey, and at rare occasions small insects such as termites and caterpillars. They play a significant role as seed dispersers. Van Roosmalen (1985) and van Roosmalen and Klein (1988) found that *A. paniscus* was dispersing the seeds of at least 138 species (93.5% of all fruits species consumed) through their ingestion and subsequent defecation (endozoochory). Another 10 species were dispersed by carrying them off some distance from the tree before dropping them (exozoochory). Only in 23 species the seeds were ruined or digested (seed predation).

Spider monkeys live in large, territorial, multi-male/multi-female groups of 37-55 individuals (Wallace 2005; Konstant and Rylands 2013). However, they are rarely seen together, and almost always found travelling, feeding and resting in subgroups of varying size and composition (usually 2-4 individuals). The only persistent association is that of a mother and her offspring (McFarland Symington 1990). Iwanaga and Ferrari (2002) recorded a mean (± SE) group size of 3.34 ± 2.60 individuals (n = 219 sightings) at a number of localities in the state of Rondônia in Brazil. At Lago Uauaçú, in the lower Rio Purús region, Haugaasen and Peres (2005) observed a mean groups size of 6.0 individuals/group in terra firme forest, but 12.6 individuals/group in várzea forest. Often single group members travel on their own, and each female occupies a preferred “core area” within the group’s home range. Klein and Klein (1976, 1977) estimated 259-388 ha home ranges with 20-30% overlap between groups for *A. belzebuth* in La Macarena National Park in Colombia. *Ateles* species are rarely seen in association with other primates, and if, they are occasional and ephemeral, resulting from the simultaneous occupation of fruiting trees.

Six estimated birth periods, spread throughout the year, were given by Klein (1971) for *Ateles belzebuth* (i.e., December, January, April, September, October and November). Spider monkeys apparently reach sexual maturity at 4-5 years of age (Klein 1971; Eisenberg 1973, 1976). They give birth to a single offspring after a long gestation period of 226-232 days, with a minimum birth interval of 17.5 months (in captivity) or 28-30 months in the wild (Eisenberg 1973, 1976). Late maturation and long inter-birth intervals make it difficult for the species to recover from hunting and other threats.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

It is used as food by humans.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The major threat to the species is subsistence and market hunting (with guns) for food. An additional threat is habitat loss due to agricultural expansion (mainly soya), especially in the southern portion of the species' range. Only 32% of the species' area of occupancy lies within protected areas (24%) and Indigenous Lands (8%; Rabelo *et al*. 2018). Based on trends of deforestation in the Amazon (Soares-Filho *et al*. 2006), Rabelo *et al*. (2018) calculated that, by 2002, the species had already lost 15% of the forest cover within its predicted area of occupancy, and may lose 31–40% of its highly suitable habitat by 2050. In other parts, e.g. in the Peruvian Amazon, mining or habitat degradation due to selective logging pose a major threat to the species. The latter affects the key fruiting species and forest structure, but also opens the forest and provides new access for hunters.

In Brazil, populations of Ateles chamek suffered a serious decline, with local extinctions in many areas (Zanon *et al*. 2008). In Peru, the taxon is extinct due to hunting in adjacent areas of the Panguana Biological Station, in lower Río Llullapichis and along the Río Pachitea (Freese *et al*. 1982). During surveys of the lower Río Urubamba and in the interfluve between the Ríos Urubamba and Tambo in Peru (which includes areas with high human intervention and hunting pressure), the species was one of the least recorded (Aquino *et al*. 2013).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is confirmed, or may occur, in a number of protected areas:

Bolivia

- Madidi National Park (1,895,000 ha) (Wallace *et al*. 2012)
- Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve (400,000 ha) (Wallace, pers. obs.)
- Cotapata National Park (60,000 ha) (in range)
- Apolobamba National Park (483,700 ha) (in range)
- Manuripi Heath National Park (7471,884,000 ha) (in range)
- Amboró National Park (180,000 ha) (in range) (Wallace, pers. obs.)
- Carrasco National Park (622,600 ha) (in range)
- Noel Kempff Mercado National Park (1,500,000 ha) (Wallace *et al*. 1998)
- Isiboro-Secure National Park (1,200,000 ha) (in range)
- Ríos Blanco y Negro National Reserve (1,423,900 ha) (Wallace *et al*. 2000)
- Beni Biosphere Reserve / Beni Biological Station (135.274 ha) (Garcia and Tarifa 1988, Painter *et al*. 1995)

Brazil

- Amazônia National Park (1,114,917 ha) (in range)
- Serra do Divisor National Park (846,408 ha) (in range)
- Serra da Cutia National Park (284,923 ha) (in range)

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• Pacaás Novos National Park (708,664 ha) (in range)
• Mapinguari National Park (1,572,422 ha) (in range)
• Abufari Biological Reserve (224,819 ha) (in range)
• Jaru Biological Reserve (353,386 ha) (in range)
• Guaporé Biological Reserve (618,173 ha) (in range)
• Jutaí-Solimões Ecological Station (287,101 ha) (in range)
• Rio Acre Ecological Station (79,418 ha) (in range)
• Iquê Ecological Station (217,184 ha) (in range)
• Cuniã Ecological Station (49,886 ha) (in range)

Peru

• Manu National Park (Soini et al. 1989)
• Bahuaja-Sonene National Park (1,091,416 ha) (in range)
• Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve (2,080,000 ha) (Aquino and Encarnación 1994)

It is included on Appendix II of CITES.

Credits

Assessor(s):	Alves, S.L., Ravetta, A.L., Paim, F.P., Mittermeier, R.A., Rabelo, R.M., Wallace, R.B., Messias, M.R., Calouro, A.M., Rylands, A.B., de Melo, F.R. & Boubli, J.P.
Reviewer(s):	Cotton, A., Molur, S., Schwitzer, C. & Reuter, K.E.
Contributor(s):	Cornejo, F.M.
Facilitator(s) and Compiler(s):	Angelico, M.
Authority/Authorities:	IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group

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External Resources

For Supplementary Material, and for Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website.

Appendix

Habitats

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	-	Suitable	-

Use and Trade

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

End Use	Local	National	International
Food - human	Yes	Yes	No

Threats

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	-	-	Low impact: 3
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.2. Small-holder farming	Ongoing	-	-	Low impact: 3
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.3. Agro-industry farming	Ongoing	-	-	Low impact: 3
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.2. Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	Ongoing	-	-	Low impact: 3
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.3. Livestock farming & ranching -> 2.3.3. Agro-industry grazing, ranching or farming	Ongoing	-	-	Low impact: 3
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
3. Energy production & mining -> 3.2. Mining & quarrying	Ongoing	-	-	Low impact: 3

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	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	-	-	Low impact: 3
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.3. Logging & wood harvesting -> 5.3.5. Motivation Unknown/Unrecorded	Ongoing	-	-	Low impact: 3
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		

Conservation Actions in Place

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Action in Place
In-place land/water protection
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range
Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes
In-place education
Included in international legislation: Yes
Subject to any international management / trade controls: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Conservation Action Needed
2. Land/water management -> 2.1. Site/area management
3. Species management -> 3.1. Species management -> 3.1.1. Harvest management

Research Needed

(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
1. Research -> 1.6. Actions
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

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Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km²): 927754
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km²): 3052182
Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 15

Amendment

Amendment reason: The order of the Assessor names have been corrected in this assessment, and some previously missing initials have been added. Some edits have also been made to the text to better justify the populaiton reductions used in this assessment and to add some information that was previously missing from the assessment.

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The IUCN Red List Partnership

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