Atilax paludinosus. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015

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The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™
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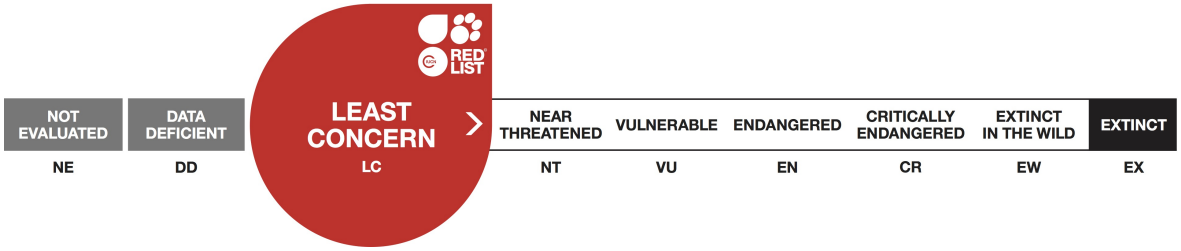
Atilax paludinosus, Marsh Mongoose

Assessment by: Do Linh San, E., Angelici, F.M., Maddock, A.H., Baker, C.M. & Ray, J.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Herpestidae

Taxon Name: *Atilax paludinosus* (G.[Baron] Cuvier, 1829)

Common Name(s):

- English: Marsh Mongoose, Water Mongoose
- French: Mangouste des marais

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern ver 3.1

Year Published: 2015

Date Assessed: February 28, 2015

Justification:

This species is listed as Least Concern because it has a wide distribution range, is generally common where there is suitable habitat, and occurs in several protected areas. There is no reason to believe that the species is declining at a rate fast enough to warrant listing in a threat category, and it does not meet any of the other IUCN Red List Criteria for even Near Threatened.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC) – http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T41590A10487772.en

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

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species is widely distributed from Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone eastward to southern Sudan and Ethiopia and south to southern Africa, where it is absent from most of Namibia, Botswana and large parts of central South Africa, wherever adequate water and cover are unavailable (Baker and Ray 2013). It is present on Pemba Island, but absent from Zanzibar (Pakenham 1984). It has been recorded from sea level to altitudes of 3,950 m asl in Bale Mountains N.P., Ethiopia (Yalden *et al*. 1996). Wozencraft (2005) lists this species as occurring in Algeria, presumably an error as there are no confirmed records from this country (M. Ahmim pers. comm. 2013).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Angola (Angola); Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Congo; Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Côte d'Ivoire; Equatorial Guinea; Ethiopia; Gabon; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Kenya; Lesotho; Liberia; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Rwanda; Senegal; Sierra Leone; Somalia; South Africa; Sudan; Swaziland; Tanzania, United Republic of; Togo; Uganda; Zambia; Zimbabwe

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Distribution Map

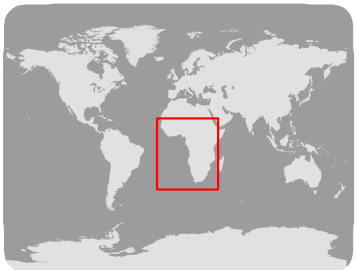
Atilax paludinosus

NE | DD | LC LEAST CONCERN | NT | VU | EN | CR | EW | EX

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)



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

It is generally common in suitable habitat. It was the second most photographed species in a camera-trapping study in the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania (De Luca and Mpunga 2005). In KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, the density was recorded at 1.8 individuals/km^2 (Maddock 1988).

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

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

It is mainly restricted to riparian habitats (rivers, streams, swamps, marshes and dams), wherever there is suitable vegetation cover and water in close proximity. It may also be found along estuaries and in coastal areas. Sometimes it is found away from watercourses, though only for limited periods (Baker and Ray 2013). Diet comprises mostly aquatic prey with crustaceans often dominating, which is unusual among mongooses (Baker and Ray 2013, Do Linh San *et al.* unpublished data). However, in some areas rodents constitute the main prey in terms of biomass (Maddock 1988).

Systems: Terrestrial, Freshwater

Use and Trade

The Marsh Mongoose is commonly found in bushmeat markets. It was the most common carnivore appearing in bushmeat markets in southeast Nigeria (Angelici *et al.* 1999) and was also commonly recorded in bushmeat surveys in the Classified Forest of Diecke, Guinea (Colyn *et al*. 2004).

Threats **(see Appendix for additional information)**

There are currently no major threats known to the species although hunting, habitat loss and encroachment by humans into its habitat are likely reasons for its declining population. Since it is dependent on riverine vegetation for shelter, the loss of this habitat may result in some localised declines where habitat loss is taking place (Baker and Ray 2013). The effects of water pollution on local availability of food resources and therefore Marsh Mongoose populations is unknown and would warrant investigation. The drainage of swamplands for conversion to arable land has been identified as a threat to this species in eastern Africa (Andama 2000).

Conservation Actions **(see Appendix for additional information)**

This species is present in several protected areas across its range.

Credits

Assessor(s): Do Linh San, E., Angelici, F.M., Maddock, A.H., Baker, C.M. & Ray, J.

Reviewer(s): Duckworth, J.W. & Hoffmann, M.

Contributor(s): Hoffmann, M.

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Citation

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External Resources

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 -> 1.8. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Swamp	-	Suitable	Yes
4. Grassland -> 4.6. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Seasonally Wet/Flooded	-	Marginal	-
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.1. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)	-	Suitable	Yes
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.2. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks	-	Suitable	Yes
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.3. Wetlands (inland) - Shrub Dominated Wetlands	-	Suitable	Yes
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.4. Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands	-	Suitable	Yes
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.7. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Freshwater Marshes/Pools (under 8ha)	-	Suitable	Yes
9. Marine Neritic -> 9.10. Marine Neritic - Estuaries	-	Suitable	Yes
13. Marine Coastal/Supratidal -> 13.5. Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Freshwater Lakes	-	Suitable	Yes
15. Artificial/Aquatic & Marine -> 15.1. Artificial/Aquatic - Water Storage Areas (over 8ha)	-	Suitable	Yes

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	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.2. Commercial & industrial areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

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7. Natural system modifications -> 7.2. Dams & water management/use -> 7.2.7. Abstraction of ground water (agricultural use)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 3950
Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 4

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The IUCN Red List Partnership

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is produced and managed by the IUCN Global Species Programme, the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) and The IUCN Red List Partnership.

The IUCN Red List Partners are: BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International; Microsoft; NatureServe; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Texas A&M University; Wildscreen; and Zoological Society of London.