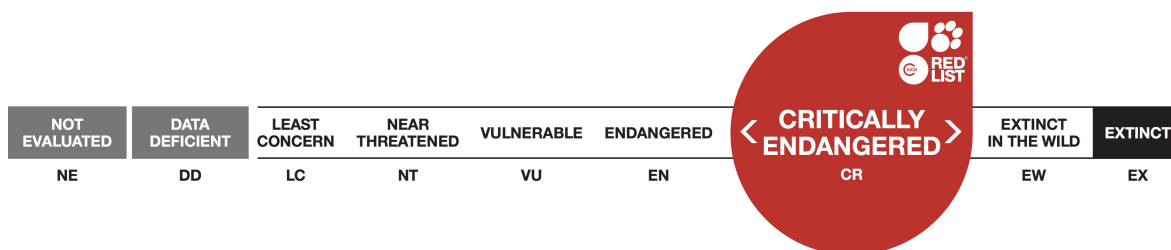


Clarias cavernicola, Cave Catfish

Assessment by: Bills, R.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

Citation: Bills, R. 2007. *Clarias cavernicola*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2007*: e.T63363A12662977. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2007.RLTS.T63363A12662977.en>

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Actinopterygii	Siluriformes	Clariidae

Taxon Name: *Clarias cavernicola* Trewavas, 1936

Common Name(s):

- English: Cave Catfish

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Critically Endangered B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii) [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2007

Date Assessed: March 1, 2007

Justification:

Occurs in a single location (Aigamas Cave, Namibia). There is a threat to the cave's water source and thus to the species environment from ground water extraction. The potential threat of illegal collectors for the aquarium trade also exists. Given that the area of the lake is 18 m X 2.5 m and that the water level has been steadily dropping due to water extraction the species qualifies as Critically Endangered under criterion B due to restricted range, single location and ongoing decline in the extent of available habitat.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

1996 – Critically Endangered (CR)

1994 – Endangered (E)

1990 – Endangered (E)

1988 – Endangered (E)

1986 – Endangered (E)

Geographic Range

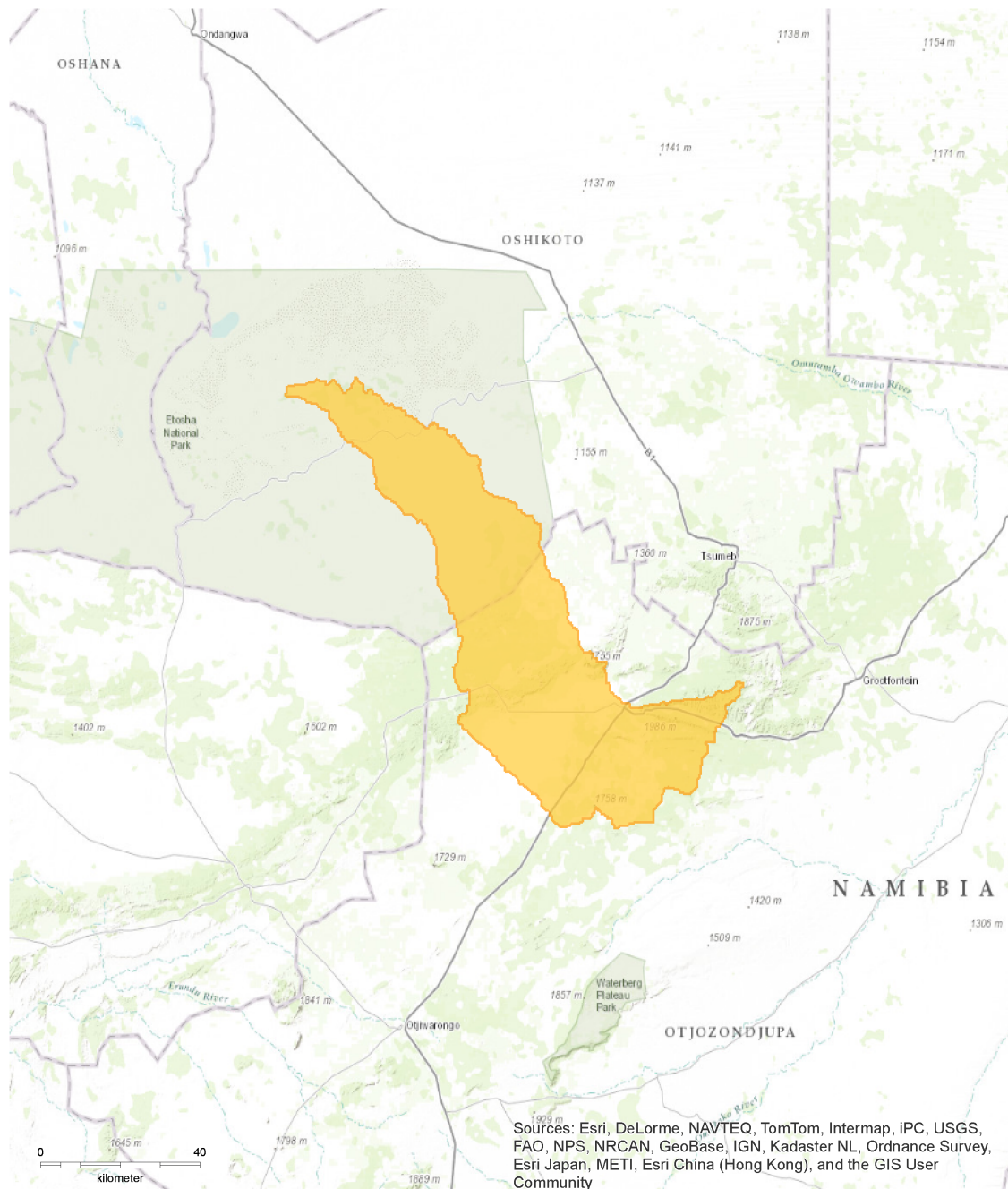
Range Description:

Known only from the type locality: Aigamas Cave, Otavi, Namibia. The pool is 18 m by 2.5 m in area, and 30 to 52 m deep (Proudlove 2006).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Namibia

Distribution Map

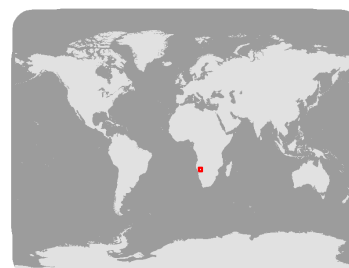


Clarias cavernicola

Range

■ Extant

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.



Population

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Subterranean waters of the Aigamas cave system. Rocky substrates. Water temperature is around 25°C and the species appears to live over shelves of shallow water up to 15 m in depth (Proudlove 2006).

Systems: Freshwater

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Depletion of ground water; the cave lake has been used as a water supply in an otherwise very dry area (Proudlove 2006). Pumping of water has reduced the depth of the lake from 70 m to 50 m since 1921 (Skelton 1990, Bruton 1995). Potentially exploitation from aquarists.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Control of water extraction. Collections of fishes regulated by permits.

Credits

Assessor(s): Bills, R.

Reviewer(s): Snoeks, J. (Freshwater Fish Red List Authority) & Darwall, W. (Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Unit)

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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?
5. Wetlands (inland) -> 5.18. Wetlands (inland) - Karst and Other Subterranean Hydrological Systems (inland)	-	Suitable	-

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.4. Fishing & harvesting aquatic resources -> 5.4.1. Intentional use: (subsistence/small scale)	Future	-	-	-
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.2. Dams & water management/use -> 7.2.8. Abstraction of ground water (unknown use)	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	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 -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats

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