Genetta piscivora, Aquatic Genet

Assessment by: Gaubert, P. & Do Linh San, E.

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Taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animalia</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
<td>Mammalia</td>
<td>Carnivora</td>
<td>Viverridae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taxon Name: *Genetta piscivora* (J.A. Allen, 1919)

Synonym(s):
- *Osbornictis piscivora*

Common Name(s):
- English: Aquatic Genet
- French: Genette aquatique

Taxonomic Notes:
Traditionally this species has been included in the genus *Osbornictis*, but it is here treated in *Genetta*, because Gaubert *et al.* (2004) demonstrated that *Osbornictis* and *Genetta* are congeneric, in agreement with Verheyen (1962) and Stains (1983). For further discussion see Wozencraft (2005) and Gaubert (2013).

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Near Threatened ver 3.1

Year Published: 2015

Date Assessed: April 20, 2015

Justification:
This poorly-known species has no reliable information on its current population status or precise limits of distribution. There have been no confirmed records for almost four decades, although search effort for this largely aquatic species has been extremely limited. Its range area is estimated at ca. 224,000 km², which suggests that its extent of occurrence (EOO) would be well above the threshold for Vulnerable under criterion B1. However, this species seems to be naturally rare and mostly confined to rainforest areas bordering small rivers. Assuming a likely low average density of one individual per 15–20 km² and a proportion of mature individuals of 67%, the total population would contain a maximum of 10,000 mature individuals (criterion C1).

It is likely that bushmeat hunting has affected this species’ population over the past 12 years (three generations, assuming a generation length of four years), but it is unknown whether this could have led to a 10% decrease (criterion C1). Considering the above, Aquatic Genet is here listed as Near Threatened based on a population size estimated to number 10,000 mature individuals at best and a population decline possibly approximating 10% over the past 12 years. However, further survey work may reveal that the impact of hunting and habitat loss is such that this species is in fact Vulnerable, or conversely that its distribution range is much larger (with an expansion in Uganda and Burundi), and that the species should better be listed as Least Concern.

http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T15628A45201673.en
Previously Published Red List Assessments
1996 – Data Deficient (DD)

Geographic Range

Range Description:
Aquatic Genet is endemic to The Democratic Republic of the Congo, where it is patchily distributed from the right bank of the Congo River, eastward to the Rift Valley. There are unconfirmed records from west Uganda and Burundi (Van Rompaey and Colyn 2013). The species occurs at elevations of 460–1,500 m a.s.l.

Country Occurrence:
Native: Congo, The Democratic Republic of the
**Genetta piscivora**

**Range**

- Extant (resident)

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

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**Distribution Map**

Sources: ESRI, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community.
Population

This is considered among the rarest of African carnivores, and it is known only from around 30 museum specimens. In 53 hunts in the Ituri Forest only two individuals (or 1.8% of all carnivores) were captured (Hart and Timm 1978). No dead or live specimens have been recorded or reported since the late 1970s.

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

A rainforest inhabitant, most specimens of this species have been collected in forests dominated by Gilbertiodendron trees (Van Rompaey and Colyn 2013). Nearly all specimens were obtained from local hunters who caught them with snares usually put out on trails near small rivers (Van Rompaey 1988). It is piscivorous, taking fish from river banks.

Systems: Terrestrial, Freshwater

Use and Trade

This species is hunted and used as bushmeat.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Major threats to this species are unclear, but it is hunted as bushmeat by the Bambuti pygmies; the meat is taboo to all, except male elders (Van Rompaey and Colyn 2013). It is not clear whether there are any pressing threats to its particular habitat.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species is given complete protection by the Congolese government (Ordinance No. 79-244 of 16 Oct 1979). It is present in the Okapi Faunal Reserve and it is certainly a priority for further survey work to better understand its distribution, population status and more importantly, threats.

Credits

Assessor(s): Gaubert, P. & Do Linh San, E.
Reviewer(s): Duckworth, J.W. & Hoffmann, M.
Contributor(s): Hoffmann, M.
Bibliography


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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Major Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest -&gt; 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Wetlands (inland) -&gt; 5.1. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Wetlands (inland) -&gt; 5.2. Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent/Irregular Rivers/Streams/Creeks</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Biological resource use -&gt; 5.1. Hunting &amp; trapping terrestrial animals -&gt; 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stresses: 2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality

Conservation Actions in Place
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Actions in Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occur in at least one PA: Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Actions Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Land/water management -&gt; 2.1. Site/area management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.2. Population size, distribution &amp; trends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Research Needed

1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats

### Additional Data Fields

#### Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower elevation limit (m)</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper elevation limit (m)</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of mature individuals</td>
<td>10000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing decline of mature individuals</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme fluctuations</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population severely fragmented</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing decline in subpopulations</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme fluctuations in subpopulations</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All individuals in one subpopulation</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Habits and Ecology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation Length (years)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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