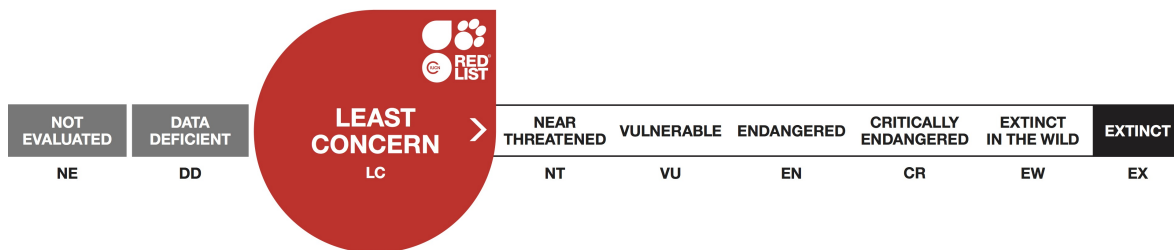


Helogale hirtula, Somali Dwarf Mongoose

Assessment by: Do Linh San, E. & Hoffmann, M.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

Citation: Do Linh San, E. & Hoffmann, M. 2015. *Helogale hirtula*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T41608A45206437. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T41608A45206437.en>

Copyright: © 2015 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorized without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale, reposting or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission from the copyright holder. For further details see [Terms of Use](#).

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](#).

If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with [feedback](#) so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Herpestidae

Taxon Name: *Helogale hirtula* Thomas, 1904

Common Name(s):

- English: Somali Dwarf Mongoose, Desert Dwarf Mongoose, Ethiopian Dwarf Mongoose
- French: Mangouste velue

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, although poorly known, this species is believed to have a relatively wide distribution, there are no obvious major threats, and it presumably occurs in several protected areas across its range.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T41608A10506399.en>

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

Geographic Range

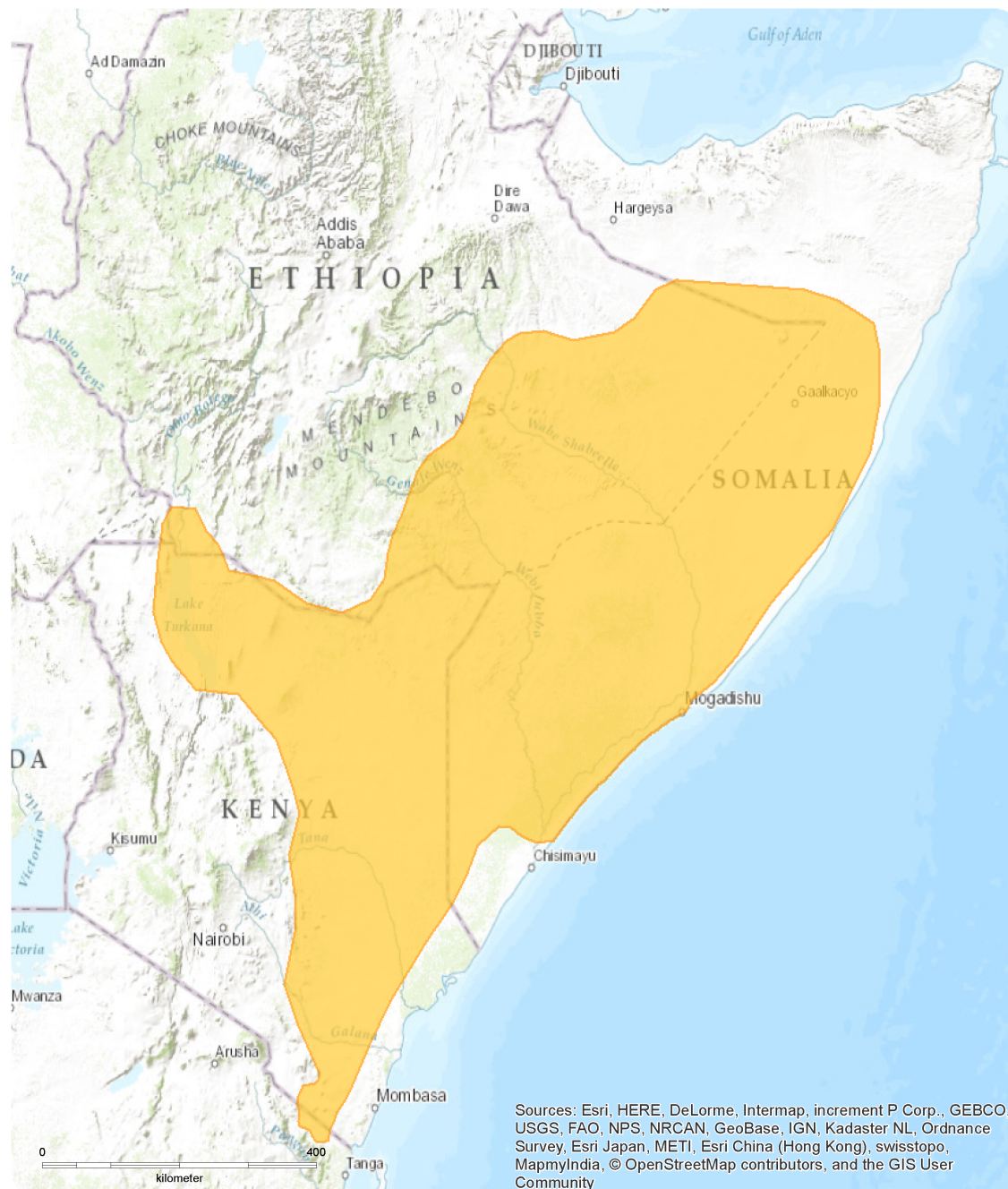
Range Description:

This species is patchily distributed in the Horn of Africa region, being present in southern and southeastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia and northern Kenya (Kingdon and Van Rompaey 2013). Laurent and Laurent (2002) reported this species from Djibouti (although this requires confirmation). A single, uncertain sighting in Mkomazi, Tanzania, might extend the species' known range into the northeastern parts of Tanzania (Kingdon and Van Rompaey 2013). They occur up to around 600 m asl in Ethiopia (Yalden *et al.* 1980, 1996).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Ethiopia; Kenya; Somalia

Distribution Map

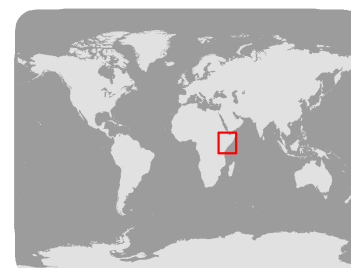


Helogale hirtula

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
International Union for the
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

Although reliable estimates of their abundance are not available, Somali Dwarf Mongooses are abundant in some localities.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

In Ethiopia, this species is restricted to a zone of bush, thicket and shrubby deciduous woodlands dominated by species of the genera *Acacia*, *Commiphora*, *Grewia*, *Cordia*, *Euphorbia* and *Sterculia* (Kingdon and Van Rompaey 2013). Like the Common Dwarf Mongoose (*Helogale parvula*), with which they are broadly sympatric, they use termitaria and stony outcrops as dens.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

It is unknown whether this species is used as bushmeat.

Threats

There are not believed to be any major threats to this species.

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. & Hoffmann, M.

Reviewer(s): Duckworth, J.W.

Contributor(s): Kingdon, J.

Bibliography

IUCN. 2015. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015-4. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 19 November 2015).

Kingdon, J.S. and Van Rompaey, H. 2013. *Helogale hirtula* Somali Dwarf Mongoose. In: J. Kingdon and M. Hoffmann (eds), *The Mammals of Africa. V. Carnivores, Pangolins, Equids and Rhinoceroses*, pp. 366-367. Bloomsbury, London, UK.

Laurent, A. and Laurent, D. 2002. *Djibouti: Les mammifères d'hier à aujourd'hui pour demain*. Editions Beira, Toulouse, France.

Yalden, D.W., Largen, M.J. and Kock, D. 1980. Catalogue of the mammals of Ethiopia. 4. Carnivora. *Monitore zoologico italiano/Italian Journal of Zoology, N.S. Supplemento* 13(8): 169-272.

Yalden, D.W., Largen, M.J., Kock, D. and Hillman, J.C. 1996. Catalogue of the Mammals of Ethiopia and Eritrea. 7. Revised checklist, zoogeography and conservation. *Tropical Zoology* 9(1): 73-164.

Citation

Do Linh San, E. & Hoffmann, M. 2015. *Helogale hirtula*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015*: e.T41608A45206437. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T41608A45206437.en>

Disclaimer

To make use of this information, please check the [Terms of Use](#).

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?
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	-	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	Yes
4. Grassland -> 4.5. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Marginal	-

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

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Upper elevation limit (m): 600
Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 4

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](#).