

# Crossarchus alexandri, Alexander's Cusimanse

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## **Taxonomy**

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Herpestidae

Taxon Name: Crossarchus alexandri Thomas & Wroughton, 1907

#### Common Name(s):

English: Alexander's CusimanseFrench: Mangue d'Alexandre

## **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 as it is widespread and apparently common in an area of relatively little-encroached habitat, and there are no major threats (although this species is probably declining because of hunting and habitat loss).

#### **Previously Published Red List Assessments**

2008 - Least Concern (LC) - http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T41593A10489295.en

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

## **Geographic Range**

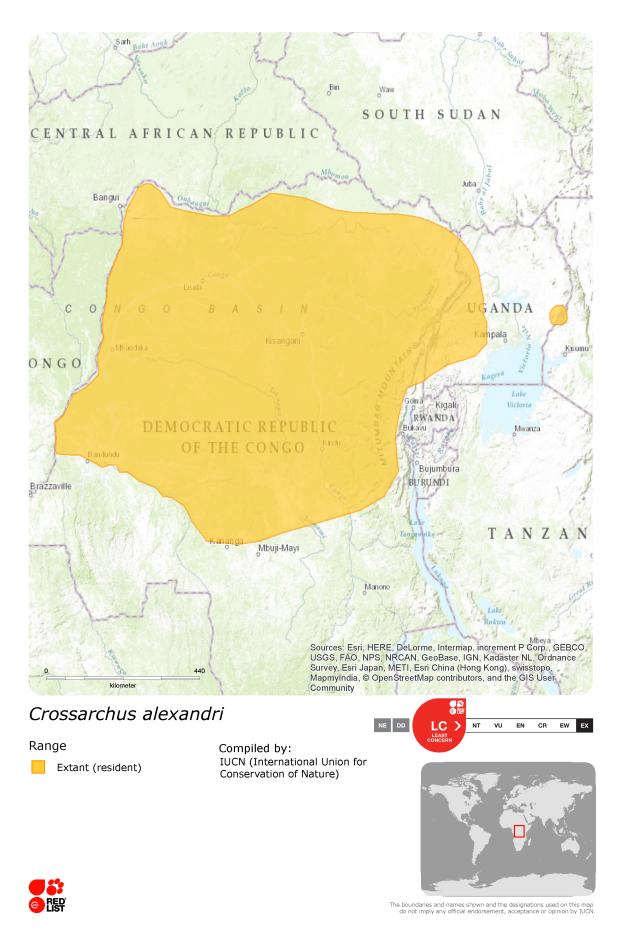
#### **Range Description:**

This species is endemic to central Africa, where it is confined to rainforest in DR Congo limited in the north by the Ubangi River and in the south by the Kasai River. It is also present in western Uganda. A disjunct population lives on the slopes (between 1,500 and 2,900 m asl) of Mt Elgon, Uganda (Van Rompaey and Colyn 2013). As suggested by Ray (2001), it occurs in southwestern Central African Republic (Sonet *et al.* 2014, T. Aebischer and R. Hickisch pers. comm. 2014).

#### **Country Occurrence:**

Native: Central African Republic; Congo; Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Uganda

# **Distribution Map**



# **Population**

Although there is no direct information on abundance, it is common in bushmeat markets in northeastern DR Congo (Colyn *et al.* 1987) suggesting that it is widespread and abundant in this region. In the Ituri Forest, Bambuti pygmies captured this species with greater frequency than other carnivores (Hart and Timm 1978).

**Current Population Trend:** Decreasing

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

It inhabits lowland and montane rainforest. It is commonly found near villages in the Ituri Forest (Ray *in* Van Rompaey and Colyn 2013).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

#### **Use and Trade**

This species is used as bushmeat (Van Rompaey and Colyn 2013).

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no major threats, but numbers are probably declining due to habitat loss and bushmeat hunting. The Mt Elgon population also may be threatened by hunting and habitat degradation (Kingdon 1997).

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

This species is present in several protected areas, although the degree of protection varies.

#### **Credits**

**Assessor(s):** Angelici, F.M. & Do Linh San, E.

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

**Contributor(s):** Hoffmann, M.

## **Bibliography**

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Hart, J.A. and Timm, R.M. 1978. Observations on the Aquatic Genet in Zaire. Carnivore 1: 130-132.

IUCN. 2015. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2015-4. Available at: <a href="www.iucnredlist.org">www.iucnredlist.org</a>. (Accessed: 19 November 2015).

Kingdon, J. 1997. *The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals*. Academic Press, San Diego, California, USA.

Ray, J.C. 2001. Carnivore biogeography and conservation in the African forest. In: W. Weber, L. White, A. Vedder and L. Naughton-Treves (eds), *African rain forest ecology and conservation*, pp. 214-232. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, USA.

Sonet, G., Colyn, M., Verheyen, E., Nagy, Z.T., Wendelen, W., Van Rompaey, H. and Hulselmans, J. 2014. Afrotropical forest-dwelling mongooses (Mammalia: Herpestidae: *Crossarchus*) investigated by craniometry and mitochondrial DNA. *Journal of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research* 52(4): 323-330.

Van Rompaey, H. and Colyn, M. 2013. *Crossarcus alexandri* Alexander's Cusimanse. In: J. Kingdon and M. Hoffmann (eds), *The Mammals of Africa. V. Carnivores, Pangolins, Equids and Rhinoceroses*, pp. 374-376. Bloomsbury, London, UK.

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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 -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	-	Suitable	Yes
1. Forest -> 1.9. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane	-	Suitable	Yes

#### **Threats**

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Majority (50- 90%)	Slow, significant declines	Medium impact: 6
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

## **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

## **Additional Data Fields**

Distribution	
Upper elevation limit (m): 2900	

Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 4

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