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Herpailurus yagouaroundi, Jaguarundi

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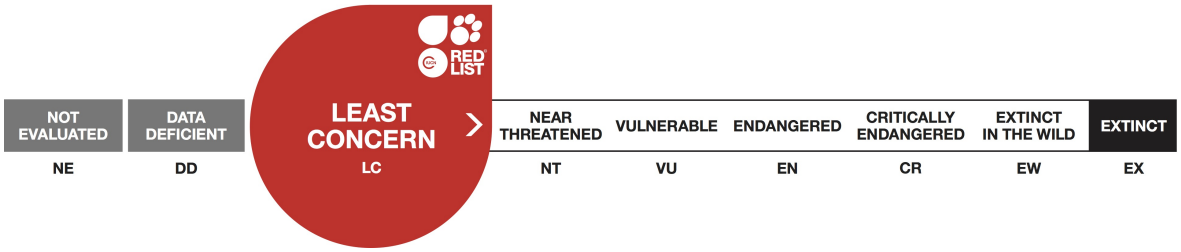

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Felidae

Taxon Name: *Herpailurus yagouaroundi* (É. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1803)

Synonym(s):

- *Felis yagouaroundi* É. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1803
- *Herpailurus yagouaroundi* (Lacépède, 1809) [name invalid]
- *Puma yagouaroundi* (É. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1803)

Common Name(s):

- English: Jaguarundi, Eyra Cat
- Spanish: Gato Colorado, Gato Moro, Jaguarundi, León Brenero, Leoncillo, Onza, Tigrillo, Yaguarundi, Yaguarundí

Taxonomic Source(s):

Segura, V., Prevosti, F. and Cassini, G. 2013. Cranial ontogeny in the Puma lineage, *Puma concolor*, *Herpailurus yagouaroundi*, and *Acinonyx jubatus* (Carnivora: Felidae): a three-dimensional geometric morphometric approach. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 169(1): 235-250.

Taxonomic Notes:

Taxonomy is currently under review by the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group. Johnson *et al.* (2006) and Eizirik *et al.* (2008) placed *yagouaroundi* in the genus *Puma*. However, Agnarsson *et al*. (2010) noted that the Jaguarundi is not a sister species to the Puma. More recently Segura *et al*. (2013) looked at cranial development within the Puma clade and found that while this is similar in Cheetah and Puma, that of the Jaguarundi is quite different. Given these phylogenetic uncertainties, and these and other morphological and behavioural differences, the IUCN SSC Cat Specialist Group retains this species in *Herpailurus*.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern ver 3.1

Year Published: 2015

Date Assessed: May 9, 2014

Justification:

The Jaguarundi is much less abundant than previously perceived, with population sizes intrinsically small and needs to be monitored in the future as the threats persists and will likely fragment and reduce the overall population. It is more commonly associated with open formations like savannas, but could also be found in disturbed formations such as pastures (Caso 2013). However, it usually ranks low within the felid guild – de Oliveira em style="font-size: 12pt;">et al. 2010, de Oliveira 2011), therefore, the rampant habitat conversion to industrial agriculture of the Brazilian savannas of the Cerrado biome should pose a serious threat for the species. With density estimates considerably low, extent of occurrence

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considerably smaller than its extensive area of occupancy, and the negative impact of Ocelots (Caso 2013, de Oliveira em style="font-size: 12pt;">et al. 2010, de Oliveira 2011) it is likely that no conservation units, with the probable exception of the mega-reserves of the Amazon basin could sustain long-term viable populations of Jaguarundis. In Brazil, that comprises most of the species geographic range, the Jaguarundi was considered Vulnerable (C1), given its reduced area of occupancy (AOO), expected decline of 10% in the next 15 years due to habitat loss and fragmentation, very low population densities and its estimated effective population size (Almeida *et al.* 2013). In Mexico, it seems that most Jaguarundi populations are stable, however, the subspecies *P. y. cacomitli* (Gulf Coast Jaguarundi) of northeast Mexico is the most in danger. This species could already be Near Threatened (A3c), however, there is not currently enough information to make this judgement range wide. Therefore, the species is listed as Least Concern but it should be regularly reviewed.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC)

2002 – Least Concern (LC)

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

1990 – Indeterminate (I)

1988 – Indeterminate (I)

1986 – Indeterminate (I)

1982 – Indeterminate (I)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

The Jaguarundi occurs from the eastern lowlands of Chipinque National Park in Nuevo Leon, Mexico (NE limit) and the western lowlands of Mexico, all the way to southern Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay (Dotta *et al.* 2007) and south through central Argentina at *ca* 39ºS. This is predominantly a lowland species ranging up to 2,000 m, but in Colombia has been reported up to 3,200 m (Cuervo *et al.* 1986) It is probably extinct in the US (south Texas) (Sunquist and Sunquist 2002, Caso 2013).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Argentina; Belize; Bolivia, Plurinational States of; Brazil; Colombia; Costa Rica; Ecuador; El Salvador; French Guiana; Guatemala; Guyana; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Suriname; Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

Possibly extinct: United States (Texas)

Distribution Map

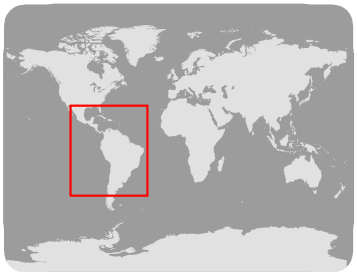
Herpailurus yagouaroundi

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

Contrary to earlier characterizations of this species as relatively common and abundant (Nowell and Jackson 1996), research indicates that the Jaguarundi is an uncommon, low density species. Densities are very low everywhere it has been sampled, and Jaguarundis are more commonly found at 0.01-0.05/km² or lower (de Oliveira *et al.* submitted), but reaching up to 0.2/km² in a few and restricted high density areas (Caso 2013). The Jaguarundi's density/numbers are negatively impacted by those of the larger sized Ocelot (the "ocelot effect") (de Oliveira *et al.* 2010, Caso 2013). Considered Near Threatened in Argentina (Diaz and Ojeda 2000) and threatened in Mexico (SEMARNAT 2010).

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

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

The Jaguarundi occupies a broad range of both open and closed habitats, from Monte desert, semi-arid thorn scrub, restinga, swamp and savanna woodland to primary rainforest (Nowell and Jackson 1996). However, in open areas it sticks to vegetative cover, including secondary growth habitat, disturbed areas, and human induced grasslands (Mexico), open areas with some protection, provided forest or other dense cover is present (de Oliveira 1994, Caso 2013). This felid is perceived as more tolerant of human disturbance due to its use of open habitats.

This small-sized felid (5 kg) body shape suggests the species to be mostly terrestrial. However, it moves about easily in trees (de Oliveira 1994). Its litter size is 1.9 kittens (1–4). Because it is mostly diurnal, it tends to be the most easily seen Neotropical felid, which lead to the false assumption it was common. Diet includes mostly small mammals, birds and reptiles, with a mean prey mass of 380 g. However, larger sized prey (>1 kg) are not unusual (de Oliveira and Cassaro 2005, de Oliveira *et al.* 2010). Home range size varies greatly, ranging up to 100 km², larger than for any other Neotropical small cat (Konecny 1989), but smaller in Mexico (16.2 male; 12.1 female km²) (Caso 2013). The species is not the dominant small cat species in most areas, even in most areas of open habitats. Additionally, Jaguarundi is also negatively impacted by Ocelots (the "ocelot effect") (de Oliveira *et al*. 2010, Caso 2013). It has several colour morphs - brownish-black, grey and reddish yellow - which can even be found in the same litter (de Oliveira 1998).

Systems: Terrestrial

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

The species is generally not exploited for commercial trade, although Jaguarundis are doubtless caught in traps set for commercially valuable species and may be subject to low intensity hunting pressure around settled areas (Nowell and Jackson 1996). Its main threats are however, habitat loss and fragmentation, especially for large scale agriculture and pasture. Jaguarundis are commonly killed for killing poultry (IUCN Cats Red List workshop 2007, Caso 2013).

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

Included on CITES Appendix II. Populations of Central and North America are CITES Appendix I. The species is protected across most of its range, with hunting prohibited in Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, French Guiana, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname,

Uruguay, United States and Venezuela, and hunting regulations in place in Peru (Nowell and Jackson 1996). Further studies are required on the species ecology, demographics, natural history, and threats. Populations in protected areas are expected to be very low, likely because of the impact of the higher Ocelot densities (T.G. de Oliveira pers. comm.). This species is often perceived as not threatened due to its visibility (it is diurnal) and use of open habitats.

Credits

Assessor(s): Caso, A., de Oliveira, T. & Carvajal, S.V.

Reviewer(s): Nowell, K., Hunter, L., Schipper, J., Breitenmoser-Würsten, C., Lanz, T. & Breitenmoser, U.

Contributor(s): Lopez-Gonzalez, C.A., Payan, E., Eizirik, E., Leite-Pitman, M.R.P., Kelly, M. & Valderrama, C.

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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 -> 1.5. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	Yes
1. Forest -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	-	Suitable	Yes
1. Forest -> 1.9. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane	-	Marginal	-
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	-	Suitable	Yes
2. Savanna -> 2.2. Savanna - Moist	-	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.6. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Moist	-	Suitable	Yes
4. Grassland -> 4.5. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
4. Grassland -> 4.6. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Seasonally Wet/Flooded	-	Suitable	-

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
4. Transportation & service corridors -> 4.1. Roads & railroads	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.2. Unintentional effects (species is not the target)	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.3. Persecution/control	Ongoing	-	-	-
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
7. Natural system modifications -> 7.1. Fire & fire suppression -> 7.1.3. Trend Unknown/Unrecorded	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
In-Place Education
Included in international legislation: Yes
Subject to any international management/trade controls: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Actions Needed
1. Land/water protection -> 1.1. Site/area protection
1. Land/water protection -> 1.2. Resource & habitat protection
2. Land/water management -> 2.1. Site/area management
2. Land/water management -> 2.3. Habitat & natural process restoration
3. Species management -> 3.2. Species recovery
3. Species management -> 3.3. Species re-introduction -> 3.3.1. Reintroduction
3. Species management -> 3.4. Ex-situ conservation -> 3.4.1. Captive breeding/artificial propagation
3. Species management -> 3.4. Ex-situ conservation -> 3.4.2. Genome resource bank

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.1. Taxonomy
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology
1. Research -> 1.5. Threats
1. Research -> 1.6. Actions
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 0

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Distribution
Upper elevation limit (m): 3200
Population
Population severely fragmented: No

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