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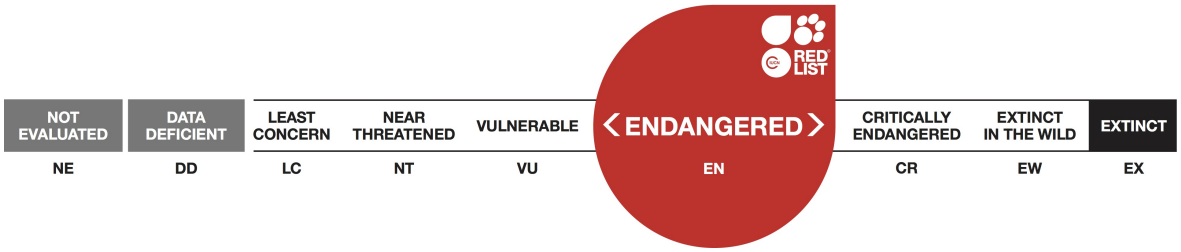
Bradypodion caeruleogula, Eshowe Dwarf Chameleon

Assessment by: Tolley, K.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Chamaeleonidae

Taxon Name: *Bradypodion caeruleogula* Raw & Brothers, 2008

Common Name(s):

- English: Eshowe Dwarf Chameleon, Dhlinza Dwarf Chameleon, uMlalazi Dwarf Chameleon

Taxonomic Notes:

Recently described from Dlinza Forest (Raw and Brothers 2008). Genetic studies (Tilbury and Tolley 2009) indicate that chameleons from two additional nearby forests (Entumeni and Ongoya) also belong to this taxon.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Endangered B1ab(i,ii,iii)+2ab(i,ii,iii) ver 3.1

Year Published: 2017

Date Assessed: May 16, 2013

Justification:

Has a very limited distribution (the extent of occurrence and area of occupancy are below the Endangered thresholds) and occurs in only three forests (Entumeni, Dlinza and Ongoya). Entumeni (in a rural area) is fragmented—broken into small patches due to human activities, while Ongoya (in a rural area) and Dlinza (in the town of Eshowe) are not as heavily transformed but nevertheless impacted and vulnerable to external pressures. Overall, the range is considered to be severely fragmented [B1a+2a]. Fragmentation effects and the disruption of landscape level processes continue due to high human populations outside the forests, both within buffer zones and across the broader landscape (Berliner *et al*. 2006; D. Berliner pers. comm.). Human population densities are especially high near Dlinza and Ongoya (D. Berliner pers. comm.). Ongoya is formally protected but is nevertheless affected by human activities (Boudreu *et al*. 2005); Dlinza and Entumeni are partially protected but there is a serious threat of fragmentation and disturbance which could affect natural processes [B1b(i,iii), B2b(ii,iii)]. The species therefore qualifies for listing as Endangered.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Found in three forest patches (Entumeni, Dlinza and Ongoya) in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

Country Occurrence:

Native: South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal)

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Population

No information currently available, but considered severely fragmented as the forest patches are small and disconnected.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Found in forests where it prefers the high canopy, or high perches in smaller trees (Tolley and Burger 2007).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

Not known to be used or traded.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Threats generally relate to habitat degradation as a result of human activities. The broader landscape is heavily populated by a rural community (Driver *et al*. 2005), as are the buffer zones surrounding Dlinza and Ongoya. Entumeni and Dlinza have been heavily transformed by plantations and the original forest matrix is no longer intact.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Develop a Biodiversity Management Plan. Although all three forests are protected at some level, human impacts in the area are expected to continue. Conservation of this species should therefore mainly ensure that the forests are properly protected and that encroachment is minimised. Restore degraded areas within the forests, and reduce population density in buffer zones, to help ensure that ecological processes are not further disrupted and that the forests remain healthy and intact. Perform additional surveys to determine whether chameleons use only pristine forest or are also found in degraded forest, and whether forest fragmentation has a seriously negative effect on gene flow.

Credits

Assessor(s): Tolley, K.

Reviewer(s): Bauer, A.

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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 -> 1.9. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane	-	Suitable	-

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.3. Agro-industry farming	Ongoing	Unknown	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.2. Wood & pulp plantations -> 2.2.2. Agro-industry plantations	Ongoing	Unknown	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.3. Logging & wood harvesting -> 5.3.3. Unintentional effects: (subsistence/small scale) [harvest]	Ongoing	Unknown	-	-
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 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 Research, Monitoring and Planning
Systematic monitoring scheme: No
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)

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Conservation Actions Needed
2. Land/water management -> 2.1. Site/area management
2. Land/water management -> 2.3. Habitat & natural process restoration

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.1. Taxonomy
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends
3. Monitoring -> 3.4. Habitat trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km²): 38
Continuing decline in area of occupancy (AOO): Yes
Extreme fluctuations in area of occupancy (AOO): No
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km²): 1300
Continuing decline in extent of occurrence (EOO): Yes
Extreme fluctuations in extent of occurrence (EOO): No
Number of Locations: 3
Population
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Unknown
Population severely fragmented: Yes
No. of subpopulations: 3
All individuals in one subpopulation: No
Habitats and Ecology
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes
Generation Length (years): 3-4

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: Arizona State University; BirdLife International; Botanic Gardens Conservation International; Conservation International; NatureServe; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Sapienza University of Rome; Texas A&M University; and Zoological Society of London.