



Cynisca feae, Ugly Worm Lizard

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Reptilia	Squamata	Amphisbaenidae

Taxon Name: *Cynisca feae* (Boulenger, 1906)

Synonym(s):

- *Placogaster feae* Boulenger, 1906

Common Name(s):

- English: Ugly Worm Lizard, Fea's Worm Lizard

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2013

Date Assessed: July 16, 2012

Justification:

Cynisca feae is listed as Least Concern as there are not thought to be any significant threats impacting it across its range, it is moderately wide-ranging and can be common, and it may be more widespread than is currently known. Further research should be carried out on this little known species because of its fossorial habits and the remoteness of the area in which it is found.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2010 – Least Concern (LC)

Geographic Range

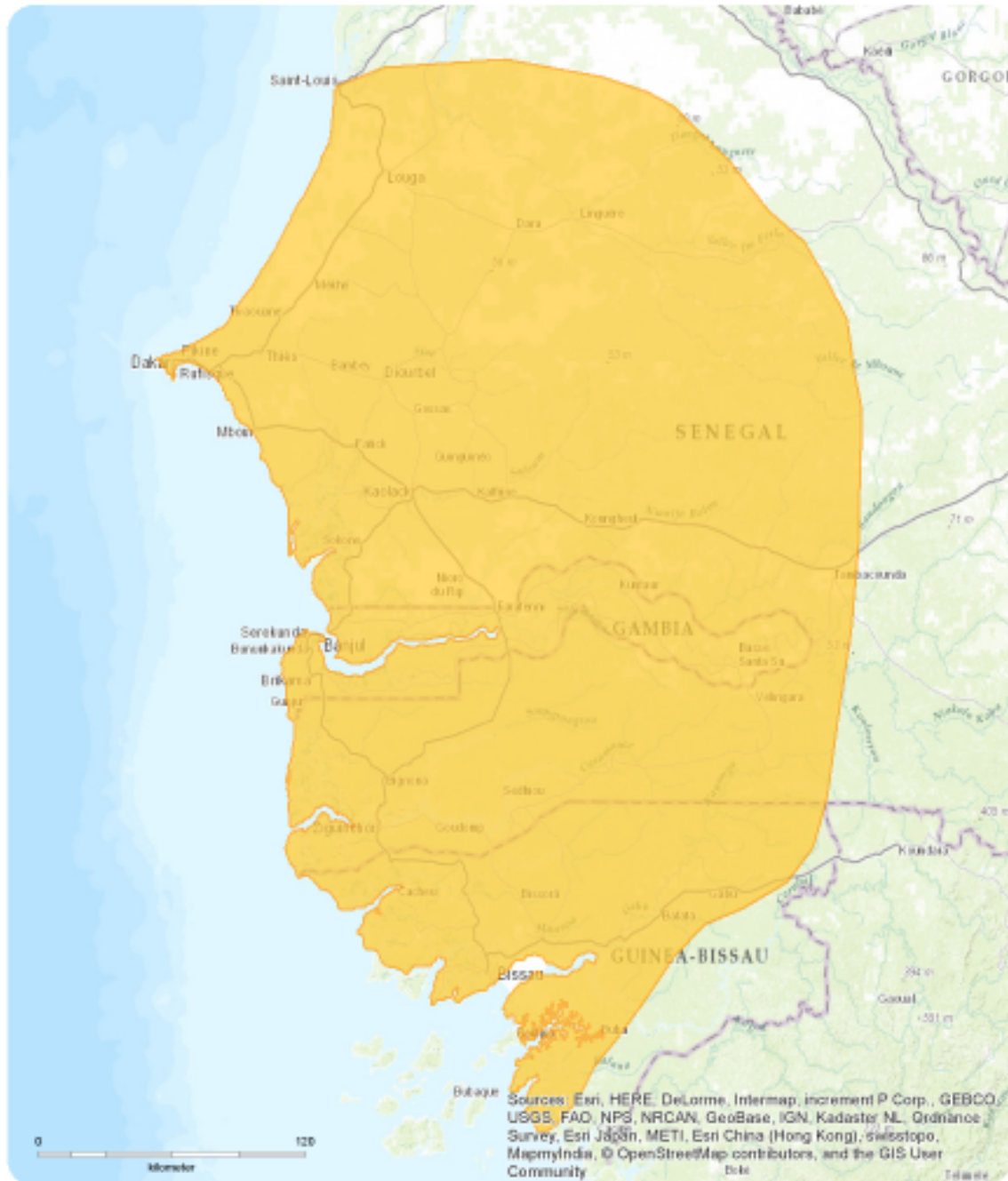
Range Description:

This species is endemic to the far west coastal territories of Africa, being found in eastern Senegal, the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau (Boulenger 1906; Gans 1987, 2005).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Gambia; Guinea-Bissau; Senegal

Distribution Map



Cynisca feae

Range
■ Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
 IUCN, CI



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



Population

This species is common in western Gambia (O. Pauwels pers. comm., M. Jallow pers. comm. 2012). Surveys in 2004 and 2006 in the Abuko Nature Reserve (Gambia) suggest the population has declined by almost 20%, probably due to a combination of harvesting, forest exploitation for timber and land clearance for rice production (M. Jallow pers. comm. 2012). These impacts are however thought to be localized, and surveys of Kiang West and Gambia River Nature Reserves suggest that the population at these sites is stable.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occurs in the soil just under the leaf litter in secondary forest and seems very tolerant of habitat disturbance (O. Pauwels pers. comm.). It has been found in small secondary forest patches in cultivated areas.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade (see Appendix for additional information)

There is no information on use or trade in this species for Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. In Gambia the species is harvested for food and medicine by the Manjagos people.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Although there are reported declines in Abuko Nature Reserve, Gambia, apparently resulting from the combined impacts of exploitation, land clearance for rice production, and timber extraction, these are likely to be localized and the species is not thought to be declining markedly in the rest of the country. No information is available for Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, but it is unlikely that a major threat has or is currently impacting this species, as it can survive in small, fragmented secondary forest patches (O. Pauwels pers. comm.). However, a possible threat could arise if heavy landscape change clears all forest cover in parts of its range.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no known species-specific conservation measures in place for this species, though it is found in Abuko Nature Reserve, Kiang West Nature Reserve and Gambia River Nature Reserve in the Gambia, and in the latter two reserves the population appears to be stable. Further research into its biology, population status and distribution of this species is needed because this small fossorial species can be easily overlooked and the region in which it is found has been poorly inventoried. Research may be needed to clarify whether declines currently thought to be localized are more widespread. Its distribution may be wider than currently known (O. Pauwels pers. comm.).

Credits

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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	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	-	Marginal	-

Use and Trade

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

End Use	Local	National	International
Food - human	Yes	No	No
Medicine - human & veterinary	Yes	No	No

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 -> 2.1.2. Small-holder farming	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.3. Logging & wood harvesting -> 5.3.3. Unintentional effects: (subsistence/small scale)	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion		

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

Population
Population severely fragmented: No

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