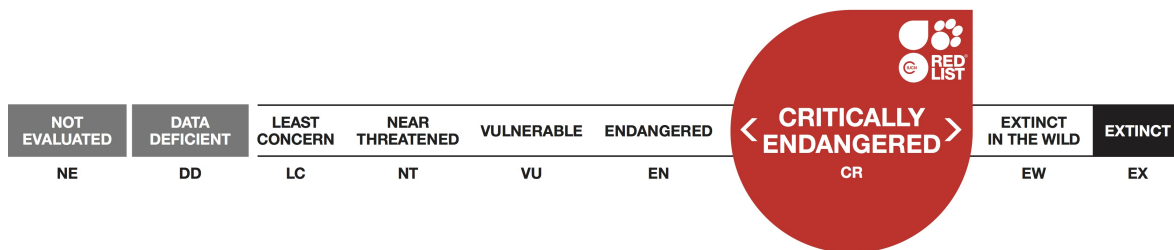




Tragelaphus eurycerus ssp. isaaci, Mountain Bongo

Assessment by: IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group



View on www.iucnredlist.org

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Cetartiodactyla	Bovidae

Taxon Name: *Tragelaphus eurycerus ssp. isaaci* (Thomas, 1902)

Parent Species: See [Tragelaphus eurycerus](#)

Common Name(s):

- English: Mountain Bongo, Eastern Bongo

Taxonomic Notes:

Mountain Bongo is treated here as a separate subspecies. Genetic research into its taxonomic status is ongoing.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Critically Endangered C2a(i) [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2017

Date Assessed: September 6, 2016

Justification:

Numbers of this isolated subspecies have undergone a severe decline. Very small remnant populations survive in the Aberdares (<50), Mount Kenya (10-15), Eburu Forest (*ca* 10), Maasai Mau Forest Complex (20+; new Bongo groups discovered May 2013) and SW Mau Forest (<10). Current estimates (Mountain Bongo Surveillance Project 2015) therefore suggest a total of *ca* 100 individuals, well below the Critically Endangered threshold of 250 mature individuals. The taxon is still declining and none of the subpopulations listed above contains 50 mature individuals.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Critically Endangered (CR)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T22057A9354511.en>

1996 – Endangered (EN)

1994 – Vulnerable (V)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Eastern or Mountain Bongo formerly occurred in and around forested mountains zones of Mt. Kenya, the Aberdares, Mau forest, Cherangani hills and Chepalungu hills in Kenya and Mount Elgon in Kenya and Uganda (Elkan and Smith 2013). Mountain Bongo was exterminated from the Uganda side of Mount Elgon around 1913-1914 (Kingdon 1982) and it is now confined to four completely isolated

populations in patches of forest on Mt. Kenya, Mau Forest, Eburu Forest and the Aberdares in Kenya (Elkan and Smith 2013, Mountain Bongo Surveillance Project 2015).

For the distribution map, see the species-level assessment: *Tragelaphus eurycerus*.

Country Occurrence:

Native: Kenya

Regionally extinct: Uganda

Population

The current population estimate (Mountain Bongo Surveillance Project 2015) for the Mountain Bongo is *ca* 100 individuals: Aberdare Mts (<50); Mt Kenya (10-15); Eburu Forest (*ca* 10); Maasai Mau Forest Complex (20+; new Bongo groups discovered May 2013); and SW Mau Forest (<10).

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The Mountain Bongo is associated with montane forests in the Kenya highlands. Bongo thrive on transition vegetation at the forest edge and in new growth areas that occur after disturbance (post-timber exploitation, elephant disturbance, tree-falls, landslides, burned fields; Elkan and Smith 2013). Forest clearings and mineral licks are important for geophagy and socialization (Elkan and Smith 2013, and references therein). Bongo are primarily browsers, but exhibit some seasonal grazing on grasses (Elkan and Smith 2013). There is a record from 4,300 m on Mount Kenya (Young and Evans 1993).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

There has been an increase in hunting of Mountain Bongo by local people, including hunting with dogs.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Threats to Mountain Bongo include hunting with dogs and loss of habitat in the Mau and Eburu forests to illegal logging. The decline of Mountain Bongo populations in the Aberdares in recent years has been attributed to increased hunting by local people and habitat loss, and even to the increased numbers of Lion in the area (Elkan and Smith 2013). Although these factors have no doubt contributed to the decline of Mountain Bongo, the impact of disease has probably been underestimated: the grazing of cattle in the forest reserves of Mount Kenya and the Aberdares as high as the Hagenia forest on the Aberdares plateau may have greater implications for Bongo conservation than hunting pressure in terms of disease transmission (L. Estes pers. comm. in Elkan and Smith 2013). Percival (1928) reported that rinderpest drastically reduced the populations of Mountain Bongo in the 1890s, and populations are thought to have suffered greatly in later epidemics in the early 1900s.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

The Mountain Bongo's survival in the wild is dependent on more effective protection of the surviving remnant populations in Kenya (East 1999). Two conservation initiatives are currently in progress on Mountain Bongo. A program to reintroduce Bongo to Mt Kenya began in 2004, when 18 animals were flown from North American zoos to a captive-breeding facility at Mount Kenya Game Ranch, on the north-western slope of the mountain. A second phase began in 2005, with the commencement of a research program into the Mountain Bongo's ecology. This project will attempt to determine the configuration of Bongo habitat on both the Aberdares and Mount Kenya, using recently collected field and remotely sensed data (L. Estes pers. comm. in Elkan and Smith 2013). Meanwhile, the Bongo Surveillance Program, initiated in 2004, has been investigating the status of the remaining wild Bongo populations in Kenya (L. Estes pers. comm. in Elkan and Smith 2013).

Credits

Assessor(s): IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group

Reviewer(s): Cooke, R.

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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	Resident	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 -> 2.1.2. Small-holder farming	Ongoing	-	-	-
	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	-	-	-
	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		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: Yes
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Percentage of population protected by PAs (0-100): 91-100
Area based regional management plan: No
Invasive species control or prevention: No
In-Place Species Management

Conservation Actions in Place
Harvest management plan: No
Successfully reintroduced or introduced benignly: No
Subject to ex-situ conservation: Yes
In-Place Education
Included in international legislation: No
Subject to any international management/trade controls: No

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Actions Needed
1. Land/water protection -> 1.1. Site/area protection
2. Land/water management -> 2.1. Site/area management
3. Species management -> 3.3. Species re-introduction -> 3.3.1. Reintroduction

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 -> 1.5. Threats
2. Conservation Planning -> 2.1. Species Action/Recovery Plan

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Number of Locations: 4
Population
Number of mature individuals: 70-80
Continuing decline of mature individuals: Yes
Extreme fluctuations: No
Population severely fragmented: Yes
No. of subpopulations: 5

Population
All individuals in one subpopulation: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 8.0

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