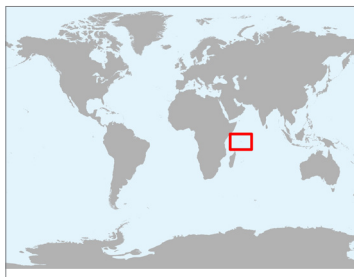




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|               |                |               |                 |            |            |  |                     |         |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|------------|--|---------------------|---------|
| NOT EVALUATED | DATA DEFICIENT | LEAST CONCERN | NEAR THREATENED | VULNERABLE | ENDANGERED | <b>&lt; CRITICALLY ENDANGERED &gt;</b> | EXTINCT IN THE WILD | EXTINCT |
| NE            | DD             | LC            | NT              | VU         | EN         | CR                                     | EW                  | EX      |



Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Seychelles Sheath-tailed Bat

The **Seychelles Sheath-tailed Bat**, *Coleura seychellensis*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century this species has undergone a progressive decline in both numbers and range. Today it is found only on two islands in the Seychelles – on the main island of Mahé and nearby Silhouette.

This insectivore is now the rarest species of bat in the world, with an estimated population of less than 100 individuals. It is thought that the decline of the Seychelles Sheath-tailed Bat has been primarily caused by the degradation of its foraging habitat and disturbance in their boulder cave roosts. Predation by introduced barn owls and cats, past pesticide use and overgrowth of roost entrances by invasive plants may also have contributed to their decline.

An Action Plan for this species was produced in 2005, but at present the bats and their roosts lack legal protection. In the absence of such affirmative government action, this species will continue its slide towards extinction.

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