



Geographical range

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Amazing Species: Beira

<u>Beira</u>, *Dorcatragus megalotis*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species[™]. Endemic to the Horn of Africa, this dainty little antelope occurs only in Somaliland and the Puntland area of Somalia, just extending into southern Djibouti.

Beira is one of the least well-known antelopes in the world. Political instability in the region has prevented field surveys in almost all of its range over the last 25 years, and it is not known how many survive in the wild. Beira live in arid stony hills and its habitat is being degraded by overgrazing and competition with domestic sheep and goats. Another threat is the unregulated cutting down of trees for charcoal production, removing a vital source of shade in the hot summer months.

Across 90% of its range no conservation measures are in place for Beira and none have been taken for over 20 years. There is only one protected area containing this species, at the edge of its distribution, in Djibouti. Legal protection to prevent hunting and action to curb the felling of trees are urgently needed, as are field surveys when the political situation allows. Funding for training of wildlife rangers and equipment is also a priority.





