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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Lowland Tapir

The **Lowland Tapir**, *Tapirus terrestris*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This species occurs through a wide geographic range from north-central Colombia and east of the Andes, throughout most of tropical South America. It occurs mostly in tropical lowland rainforest, but can also be found in seasonally dry habitats such as the Chaco of Bolivia and Paraguay.

The Lowland Tapir is threatened with loss of habitat through deforestation, hunting for meat and competition with livestock. Hunting is a serious threat along the numerous new road systems and settlements, and along the agricultural frontier in the Amazon basin. Hunting also occurs around logging camps and can completely eliminate the species from seemingly viable habitat. Lowland Tapirs can be common road kills, particularly as an increasing number of tracks are cut into forests for logging.

This species occurs in numerous protected areas across its range and it is listed on CITES Appendix II which makes it an offence to trade them internationally without a permit. However, although Lowland Tapirs are officially and legally protected in many range countries, hunting laws are seldom enforced and therefore have proven to be ineffective.

www.iucnredlist.org
www.tapirs.org
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