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Geographical range

Amazing Species: White-lipped Peccary

The **White-lipped Peccary**, *Tayassu pecari*, is currently listed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is found throughout the Neotropics in 18 countries, ranging from south-eastern Mexico to northern Argentina. The species is extinct in El Salvador, and other small isolated populations face the same fate in Central America and in threatened biomes such as the Atlantic Forest in Brazil.

Despite its wide range, White-lipped Peccaries are declining because of widespread habitat loss, over-hunting and disease. The species form large social herds, and a single population requires extensive and contiguous areas of habitat to obtain sufficient resources throughout the year. Recently, evidence of rapid local extinctions or population crashes have been documented in habitats considered preserved and of good quality.

White-lipped Peccaries are classified as Appendix II of CITES which makes it an offence to trade this species internationally without a permit. Peru is the only country that permits legal export of peccary pelts; other countries are also exploring this option. Priorities for conservation include the need to increase the size of protected areas, preserve ecological corridors between fragmented habitats and enforce conservation laws.

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