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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo

The **Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo**, *Tolypeutes tricinctus*, is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is found only in northeastern Brazil and was believed to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1988 in a handful of locations. This species mainly occurs in Caatinga habitat characterized by dry thorn scrubland and thorn forest.

The Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo has a striking threat response, rolling up into an almost impenetrable ball, with the head and tail interlocked to seal the shell completely. It is threatened by intense hunting pressure, as well as habitat loss and degradation, which have led to a population decline of more than 30% over the last 10 to 15 years. One of the main causes of deforestation in the Caatinga is the extraction of native forest for the production of firewood. Plantations of biofuel crops and cattle ranching are additional problems that significantly affect its habitat.

An action plan has recently been developed to save the Brazilian Three-banded Armadillo from extinction. The species is the 2014 FIFA World Cup Mascot, and it is hoped that this will result in increased awareness and funding for this unique and charismatic species.

**Knowledge Experts**  
**Get Involved**



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.