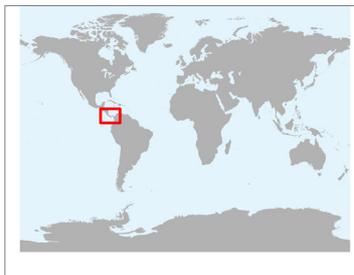




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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Pygmy Three-toed Sloth

The **Pygmy Three-toed Sloth**, *Bradypus pygmaeus*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is known only from the tiny island Isla Escudo de Veraguas in the archipelago of Bocas del Toro, Panama. This recently discovered species is a dwarf compared with its mainland relatives and is the most endangered of all Xenarthra*.

Given its restricted range there are probably less than 500 individuals of this species. Although the island is uninhabited, locals are thought to occasionally poach the Pygmy Three-toed Sloth. The threat of tourism development has been removed as the whole island is now a marine reserve. However, cutting of the mangroves by indigenous people continues to greatly reduce the Sloth's habitat.

Isla Escudo de Veraguas is protected as a wildlife refuge and is contained within the Comarca Indigenous Reserve. However, law enforcement within this protected area is currently inadequate. Improved protection and local awareness programmes are needed to better conserve the Pygmy Three-toed Sloth.

*The name *Xenarthra* means "strange joints", and was chosen because their vertebral joints have extra articulations and are unlike those of any other mammals.

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