



Geographical range

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Amazing Species: Maned Three-toed Sloth

The <u>Maned Three-toed Sloth</u>, *Bradypus torquatus*, is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species[™]. It is only found in the remaining fragments of the Atlantic Forest of eastern and northeastern Brazil. In 2009, this species was down-listed from its previous Endangered classification.

This slow-moving, arboreal mammal is threatened by the continued loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat. In southern Bahia the economic crisis of the cocoa plantation (*Theobroma cacao*) is increasing forest clearance to allow for other economic alternatives, mainly pastures. In other areas, native forests are cleared for other reasons, including coal production, agriculture and urban expansion. The genetic integrity of distinct populations is threatened by the release of confiscated animals at different sites without knowledge or understanding of their origins.

The Maned Three-toed Sloth is present in a number of protected areas, such as the Biological Reserves of Una (Bahia), Augusto Ruschi (Espírito Santo) and Poço das Antas (Rio de Janeiro), among others. Halting deforestation is the key to saving this species from extinction, and research on the genetically divergent populations should be promoted to better understand their conservation needs.







