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Geographical range

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## Amazing Species: Hazel Dormouse

The **Hazel Dormouse**, *Muscardinus avellanarius*, is listed as 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This charismatic species occurs in much of continental Europe, northern Asia Minor (Turkey), and on islands including Corfu, Sicily and southern Britain, where it inhabits deciduous woodland, hazel coppice, thick shrubbery and farmland hedgerows.

Amazingly, dormice can hibernate for up to seven months a year in a nest close to the ground. The Hazel Dormouse is the only native dormouse on the British Isles and has undergone a serious decline, particularly here and in the north-western parts of its range. This decline is mainly due to habitat loss and fragmentation, resulting from forestry, urbanisation and agriculture. Isolation of their woodland habitat, as well as poor woodland management, have assisted in accelerating this decline.

The conservation of this species and its natural habitats, and the regulation of its exploitation, are ensured under its listing of the Bern Convention, Appendix III, and the EU Habitats and Species Directive, Annex IV. Many countries have also included this species on their national Red Lists.



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