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Geographical range

Amazing Species: Pichi

The **Pichi**, *Zaedyus pichiy*, is listed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. This solitary species has the southernmost natural distribution of any armadillo, and ranges from central Argentina and Chile south to the Straits of Magellan. It is the only armadillo known to enter hibernation over winter, which is probably critical to its survival during the harsh Patagonian winter.

Although the Pichi is relatively widespread, its numbers are thought to be declining primarily as a result of hunting for food and sport. In parts of its range, local extinctions have occurred due to a disease associated with excessive ambient humidity, for example, after intense rainfall. Its habitat is also thought to be locally threatened by the overgrazing of livestock.

Despite legislation that prohibits the hunting of Pichis in Argentina and Chile, they continue to be targeted by hunters (who use dogs to seek them out). Fortunately, it is present in many protected areas across its range.

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