Eunectes murinus, Green Anaconda

Assessment by: Calderón, M. et al.

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Taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animalia</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
<td>Reptilia</td>
<td>Squamata</td>
<td>Boidae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scientific Name: *Eunectes murinus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Synonym(s):
- *Boa murina* Linnaeus, 1758

Common Name(s):
- English: Green Anaconda, Anaconda

Taxonomic Source(s):

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern ver 3.1
Year Published: 2021
Date Assessed: November 22, 2014

Justification:
This species is listed as Least Concern in consideration of its large range and numerous protected areas within the range. As a consequence, it is probably not declining at a rate sufficient to warrant listing in a threatened category at this stage. The species is subject to a number of threats and more information on population size and trends is needed to better understand the conservation status of this species.

Geographic Range

Range Description:
This species occurs broadly in South America in the Llanos, Amazonia, and the Pantanal, east of the Andes in Colombia, Venezuela, the Guianas, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Trinidad (Cole *et al.* 2013, Infante-Rivero *et al.* 2008). It occurs at elevations between sea level and 1,000 m.

Country Occurrence:
**Native, Extant (resident):** Bolivia, Plurinational States of; Brazil; Colombia (Colombia (mainland)); Ecuador (Ecuador (mainland)); French Guiana; Guyana; Paraguay; Peru; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of (Venezuela (mainland))
Population
This species can be locally common in some parts of its range. There is no information on population trends.

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)
This aquatic snake is a nocturnal species that basks during the day (Martins and Oliveira 1998). Rivas (2000) described the species as crepuscular, showing higher activity at the end of the day and early in the evening. He found snakes moving, stalking prey, constricting prey, and mating at all times of the day as well as during the night. It is found in various aquatic habitats including oxbow lakes in western Amazonia (Martins and Oliveira 1998) and in hyper-seasonal savannas (llanos) in Venezuela (Rivas 2000). It is an euryphagic species, feeding on several aquatic and terrestrial vertebrates like fishes, reptiles, birds, large size mammals and other snakes and members of their own species. As juveniles anacondas feed heavily on birds, and gradually include reptiles and mammals in their diet as they grow larger (Martins and Oliveira 1998, Rivas 2000, Infante-Rivero et al. 2008, Rivas et al. 2016). It is a live-bearing species (Duellman 1978, Martins and Oliveira 1998). Neonates, particularly male, exhibit many of the characteristic life history traits of adults, such as "slow growth rates, low feeding frequency, little mobility, and preference for similar habitats of stagnant, shallow water covered by aquatic vegetation" (Rivas et al. 2016).

**Systems:** Terrestrial, Freshwater (=Inland waters)

Use and Trade
The skin of this species is sometimes used for leather accessories: more than 2,100 skins were seized in the Netherlands back in 1988–1990 that "supposedly originated from Venezuela", including skins of both *Eunectes murinus* and *E. notaeus* (Rivas 2007). In parts of Peru and northeastern Brazil the fat of this species is used in traditional medicine (Alves et al. 2007).

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)
The Green Anaconda is the world’s largest snake by weight, and is persecuted because people fear it due to its size. Some of its aquatic and riparian habitat is being destroyed and degraded due to hydroelectric dams. Oil drilling has destroyed habitat in Colombia, Peru and Venezuela. Some individuals are killed by vehicles on roads, but this threat is very localized. In Paraguay, a population locally considered critically endangered is threatened by beach tourism and human impact in the area around the Laguna Blanca reserve (Smith et al. 2016).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)
This species occurs in many protected areas and indigenous reserves throughout its range. The species is protected under CITES Appendix II. This species requires environmental education campaigns to reduce persecution. Research is needed on population trends. Studies on regional commercial trade activities for medicinal purposes, are recommended.

Credits

https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2021-2.RLTS.T44580041A44580052.en
Bibliography


Citation


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External Resources
For Supplementary Material, and for Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website.
Appendix

Habitats
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Major Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest -&gt; 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest -&gt; 1.8. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Swamp</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Savanna -&gt; 2.2. Savanna - Moist</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Wetlands (inland) -&gt; 5.1. Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Rivers/Streams/Creeks (includes waterfalls)</td>
<td>Resident</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Artificial/Aquatic &amp; Marine -&gt; 15.2. Artificial/Aquatic - Ponds (below 8ha)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Artificial/Aquatic &amp; Marine -&gt; 15.9. Artificial/Aquatic - Canals and Drainage Channels, Ditches</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use and Trade
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>End Use</th>
<th>Local</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>International</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wearing apparel, accessories</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine - human &amp; veterinary</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Threats
(http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Agriculture &amp; aquaculture -&gt; 2.1. Annual &amp; perennial non-timber crops -&gt; 2.1.3. Agro-industry farming</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Slow, significant declines</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stresses:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Ecosystem stresses -&gt; 1.1. Ecosystem conversion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Ecosystem stresses -&gt; 1.2. Ecosystem degradation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Ecosystem stresses -&gt; 1.3. Indirect ecosystem effects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Agriculture &amp; aquaculture -&gt; 2.3. Livestock farming &amp; ranching -&gt; 2.3.3. Agro-industry grazing, ranching or farming</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Slow, significant declines</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stresses:</td>
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### Conservation Actions in Place

#### Conservation Action in Place

- **In-place land/water protection**
  - Occurs in at least one protected area: Yes

#### Conservation Actions Needed

#### Research Needed

### Additional Data Fields

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower elevation limit (m): 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper elevation limit (m): 1,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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