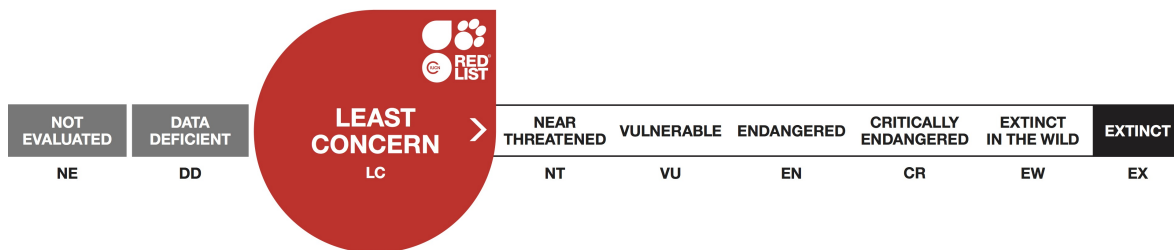


Genetta genetta, Common Genet

Assessment by: Gaubert, P., Carvalho, F., Camps, D. & Do Linh San, E.



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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Viverridae

Taxon Name: *Genetta genetta* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Regional Assessments:

- [Mediterranean](#)
- [Europe](#)

Common Name(s):

- English: Common Genet
- French: Genette commune
- Spanish: Gineta

Taxonomic Notes:

There is a high degree of intraspecific variation in this species, which has resulted in many described subspecies; the validity of many of these is unknown, while others might actually represent distinct species (Gaubert *et al.* 2004, 2005, 2009). This assessment includes the South African Small-spotted Genet (*Genetta felina* (Thunberg, 1811)), which has recently been regarded as a separate species by Jennings and Veron (2009) following Gaubert *et al.* (2004, 2005).

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2015

Date Assessed: February 28, 2015

Justification:

Common Genet is listed as Least Concern as it has a wide distribution on the African continent and extraliminally, have a very broad habitat tolerance, and are present in numerous protected areas.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T41698A10521041.en>

1996 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

Common Genet is a widespread species, occurring on the northern Saharan fringe (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and possibly Lybia), and then in open and dry savanna zones throughout sub-Saharan Africa in three large blocks, corresponding roughly to West Africa, East Africa and southern Africa (Delibes and Gaubert 2013). Also occurs in coastal regions of Arabia, Yemen and Oman (Harrison and Bates 1991);

records from Palestine are in error (Schlawe 1980, Kock 1983).

In Europe, this species occurs in all of continental Portugal and Spain, Andorra, and western, south-western and southeastern France (Delibes 1999, Gaubert *et al.* 2008). It is also found on the Mediterranean islands of Majorca, Ibiza, and Cabrera (Balearic Islands; Delibes 1999). There are also scattered records from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and north-west Italy (Delibes 1999). In the latter country the presence of the species seems to be the result of natural colonisation from France, whereas the records from the former countries are likely to have been from the unintentional release of captive animals. Phylogeographic analyses confirmed that this species has been introduced to Europe and the Balearic islands (Gaubert *et al.* 2009, 2011). It has been recorded from sea level to 2,600 m a.s.l. in the High Atlas mountains of Morocco (Cuzin 2003) and at least 3,000 m a.s.l. in the Ethiopian Highlands (Admasu *et al.* 2004).

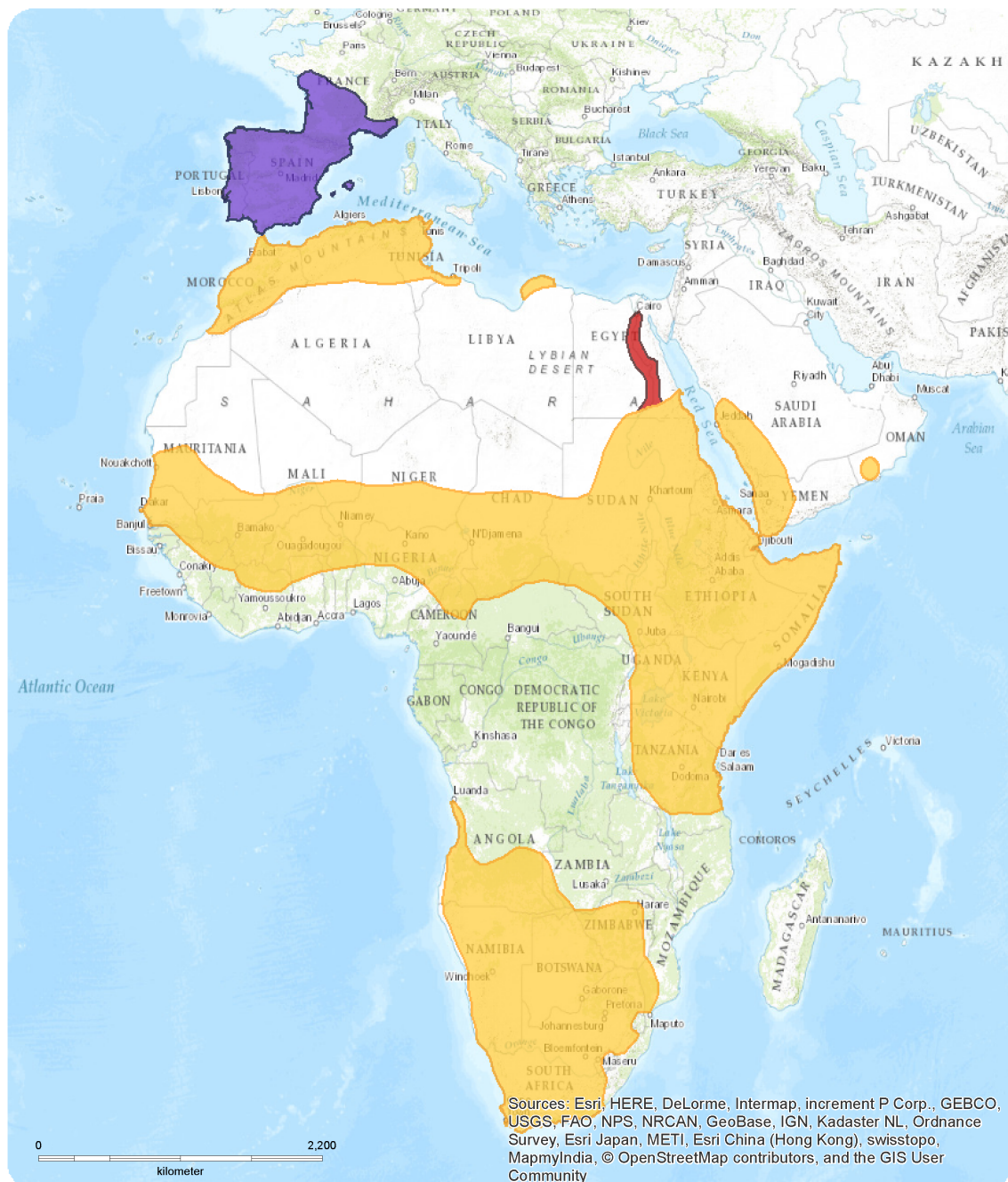
Country Occurrence:

Native: Algeria; Angola (Angola); Benin; Botswana; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Côte d'Ivoire; Djibouti; Egypt; Eritrea; Ethiopia; Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Kenya; Lesotho; Libya; Mali; Mauritania; Morocco; Mozambique; Namibia; Niger; Nigeria; Oman; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Somalia; South Africa; Sudan; Tanzania, United Republic of; Togo; Tunisia; Uganda; Yemen; Zambia; Zimbabwe

Introduced: Andorra; France; Portugal; Spain (Spain (mainland))

Vagrant: Italy

Distribution Map

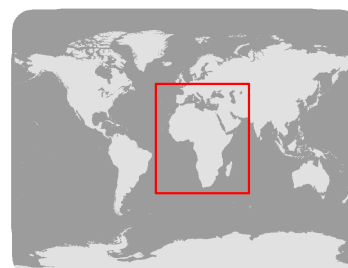


Genetta genetta

Range

- Extant (resident)
- Extinct
- Introduced

Compiled by:
IUCN (International Union for
Conservation of Nature)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



Population

This is one of the most common small carnivores in its native range, though detailed data on density in Africa are scarce; in Serengeti, Waser (1980) estimated a density of 1.5 ± 0.37 individuals/km². In Europe, this species is moderately abundant, with increasing populations in France, and densities of 0.3 to 0.98 individual/km² (Delibes 1999, Camps and Llimona 2004). It is common in suitable habitat throughout the Iberian peninsula (Palomo and Gisbert 2002), where populations are either stable or slowly increasing (Camps 2015). On Ibiza, habitat is declining and becoming more fragmented, thus this species is suspected to be declining.

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

The Common Genet tends to prefer all types of wooded habitats (deciduous and evergreen), where it is often associated with rivers and brooks, but it is a generalist and can be found in other habitats where there is suitable prey. It avoids open habitats, but may occur even in small fragments of woodland in farmland or near villages, and usually is absent from rainforests, dense woodlands and woodland-moist savanna mosaics (e.g., miombo woodland in Angola; Delibes and Gaubert 2013). The Common Genet feeds mainly on small mammals, but will also take birds, other small vertebrates, insects, and fruits (Delibes and Gaubert 2013). Is not uncommonly found in proximity human buildings, people and their domestic animals, which could have implications for disease transmission (Admasu *et al.* 2004).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

Occasionally they are eaten by people in some localities, and body parts are used for medicinal purposes while skins may be used for the manufacture of karosses in southern Africa (Delibes and Gaubert 2013); in North Africa too the species is hunted for its fur for decorative purposes (Cuzin 2003). In Europe, Common Genet used to be trapped for its fur (Delibes 1999).

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

Locally, Common Genets have been and are still killed for their meat, body parts, skin and fur. In Portugal this species is illegally killed in predator trapping for hunting management and this, together with road-kills, may be the most important sources of anthropogenic mortality. In south Portugal, although Genets seem to avoid highways, they are particularly sensitive to national roads (two paved lanes). Two thirds of the road-kills recorded over a 10-year period were subadults and the road-kill index was *ca* 12.8 individuals/100 km/year (F. Carvalho unpubl. data). Overall, however, it is believed that these sources of mortality do not currently threaten local populations. The only exception concerns Ibiza, where the Genet is threatened by the loss and fragmentation of habitat caused by urbanisation and infrastructure and tourism development.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

It is present in many protected areas across its range. This species is listed on Appendix III of the Bern Convention, as well as EU Habitats and Species Directive, Annex V (Delibes 1999). Protected by national law in some range states (e.g., Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia).

Credits

Assessor(s): Gaubert, P., Carvalho, F., Camps, D. & Do Linh San, E.

Reviewer(s): Duckworth, J.W. & Hoffmann, M.

Contributor(s): Herrero, J. & Cavallini, P.

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External Resources

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Appendix

Habitats

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

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
1. Forest -> 1.4. Forest - Temperate	-	Suitable	-
1. Forest -> 1.5. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
1. Forest -> 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland	-	Marginal	-
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	-	Suitable	-
2. Savanna -> 2.2. Savanna - Moist	-	Marginal	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.4. Shrubland - Temperate	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.6. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Moist	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	-	Suitable	-
0. Root -> 6. Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	-	Marginal	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	-	Marginal	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	-	Marginal	-

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.2. Commercial & industrial areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.3. Tourism & recreation areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Slow, significant declines	Low impact: 5
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion 1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation 2. Species Stresses -> 2.2. Species disturbance		
4. Transportation & service corridors -> 4.1. Roads & railroads	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Causing/could cause fluctuations	Low impact: 5

	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality 2. Species Stresses -> 2.3. Indirect species effects -> 2.3.7. Reduced reproductive success		
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)	Ongoing	Unknown	Negligible declines	Unknown
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

Conservation Actions Needed

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

Conservation Actions Needed
2. Land/water management -> 2.1. Site/area management

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): >20,000
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 3000
Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 4

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