



© David Hewett

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	< ENDANGERED >	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

Species of the Day: Tasmanian Devil

The **Tasmanian Devil**, *Sarcophilus harrisi*, is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Although now found only in Tasmania, this iconic animal formerly occupied much of the Australian mainland, but disappeared at least 400 years ago, and possibly as long as several thousand years ago.

Historically, early European settlers considered the Tasmanian Devil a nuisance that killed poultry. As a consequence, it was intensively persecuted for many years through trapping and poisoning until a protective law was passed in 1941 that saw numbers gradually rise again. Today, the greatest threat to this species is the fatal cancer known as Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). Since its discovery, Tasmanian Devil numbers have declined by 60%, and localized declines exceed 90% in places where the disease has been present for the longest time.

Considerable effort is being made at the local, national and international level to reverse the fate of the Tasmanian Devil. At the forefront of this is the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program, which aims to monitor the impact of DFTD, develop methods of managing its impact and maintain a disease-free insurance population.

www.iucnredlist.org
www.arkive.org
 Help Save Species



Species of the Day is sponsored by



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership: IUCN (including the Species Survival Commission), BirdLife International, Conservation International, NatureServe and Zoological Society of London.