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



Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Sagalla Caecilian

The **Sagalla Caecilian**, *Boulengerula niedeni*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Only discovered in 2004, this species inhabits areas of rich, fertile soil within 30 km<sup>2</sup> of Sagalla Hill, an isolated mountain in southeast Kenya. Subterranean, rarely encountered and regularly mistaken as an earthworm, the Sagalla Caecilian is one of the most threatened amphibians on the planet.

Conversion of much of the indigenous forest to *Eucalyptus* plantation has led to a loss of habitat over most of its range. In remaining areas, soil erosion due to poor farming practices has seen the disappearance of this species from an increasing area of otherwise suitable terrain.

Current projects, managed by the Taita Taveta Wildlife Forum, aim to replant indigenous forest and remove alien *Eucalyptus*. Attention is also given to the promotion of sustainable natural resource management by communities through the introduction of appropriate alternative livelihoods and improved agricultural practice. There is real hope that the methods developed to achieve active conservation of this species will benefit communities and biodiversity across the Eastern Arc Mountains.

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