

Gallotia simonyi

Taxonomic Authority: (Steindachner, 1889)

Synonyms:

Order: Sauria

Notes on taxonomy:

Region: 1

Common Names:

El Hierro Giant Lizard English
 Lagarto Gigante de El Hierro Spanish

Family: Lacertidae

General Information

Biome Terrestrial Freshwater Marine

Geographic Range of species:

This species is endemic to the island of El Hierro in the Canary Islands (Spain). The species was once present throughout much of the island and on the small offshore Roque Chico de Salmor. It is currently restricted to the southern end of the Risco de Tibataje, in la Fuga de Gorreta, located between Guinea and the so-called Paso del Pino (an area of about four hectares), with reintroduced populations on the Roque Chico de Salmor, and at Julian and la Dehesa on El Hierro. The species ranges between 350 and 500m asl.

Habitat and Ecology Information:

It is now confined to a small areas of cliff with sparse vegetation. The species is believed to have once occurred throughout much of El Hierro, being only absent from areas of laurel forest. It is a largely herbivorous species. It has two clutches of five to thirteen eggs.

Conservation Measures:

A recovery plan for this species has been developed, and captive-breeding and reintroduction programmes are in place. The species was successfully reintroduced to the Roque Chico de Salmor in 1999, and subsequent reintroductions have taken place at Julian and at la Dehesa. Continued control of feral cats should be resumed to allow population recovery. This species is protected by national and international legislation. It is listed on Appendix I of CITES. Both la Fuga de Gorreta and the Roque Chico de Salmor are protected areas.

Threats:

The major threat to this species is predation by feral cats, and possibly also by dogs and rats. A remnant population was extirpated from the Roque Chico de Salmor in the 1930s through the overcollection of animals for scientific institutions and commercial interests. Control of feral cats stopped in 2002.

Species population information:

The population of this species is about 300 to 400 animals in the wild (including re-introduced populations)..

Country Distribution

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced	Vagrant
Spain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FAO Marine Habitats

	Native - Presence Confirmed	Native - Presence Possible	Extinct	Reintroduced	Introduced
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Major Lakes

Major Rivers

Upper Level Habitat Preferences

	Score
3.4 Shrubland - Temperate	1
3.8 Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	1
6 Rocky areas (eg. inland cliffs, mountain peaks)	1
10.1 Coastline - Rocky Shores (includes rocky offshore islands and sea cliffs)	1

Lower Level Habitat Preferences

Score

Major threats

Code	Description of threat	Past	Present	Future
2	Invasive alien species (directly affecting the species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2	Predators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Harvesting (hunting/gathering)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Cultural/scientific/leisure activities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.5.2	Sub-national/national trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.5.3	Regional/international trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Intrinsic factors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9.1	Limited dispersal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Conservation Measures

Code	Conservation measures	In place	Needed
1	Policy-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.1	Management plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.1.1	Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.1.2	Implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1	Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2.1.2	National level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

9.2	Poor recruitment/reproduction/regeneration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1.2.2	Implementation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.7	Slow growth rates	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1.2.2.1	International level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.9	Restricted range	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1.2.2.2	National level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					2	Communication and Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					2.2	Awareness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					3	Research actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					3.2	Population numbers and range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					3.3	Biology and Ecology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					3.4	Habitat status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					3.5	Threats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					3.8	Conservation measures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					3.9	Trends/Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					4	Habitat and site-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					4.1	Maintenance/Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					4.4	Protected areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					4.4.2	Establishment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
					4.4.3	Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5	Species-based actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.1	Re-introductions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.4	Recovery management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.7	Ex situ conservation actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
					5.7.1	Captive breeding/Artificial propagation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Utilisation of Species

Purpose/Type of Use	Subsistence	National	International	Other purpose:
Primary forms removed from the wild	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25%
Source of specimens in commercial trade	100%	>75%	51-75%	26-50% <25%
Trend in wild offtake/harvest in relation to total wild population numbers over last five years:				
Trend in offtake/harvest produced through domestication/cultivation over last five years:				
CITES: Appendix I				

Red Listing

Red List Assessment: Critically Endangered (CR) Possibly Extinct

Red List Criteria: B1ab(v)+2ab(v)

Rationale for the Red List Assessment: Listed as Critically Endangered because its Extent of Occurrence is less than 100 km² and its Area Of Occupancy is less than 10km², its distribution is severely fragmented, and although it is no longer experiencing a continuing population decline, it has only been increasing since 2002 (and declines might have resumed since control of feral cats has stopped).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Date of Assessment: 12/17/2004

Assessor(s): Jose Antonio Mateo Miras, Valentin Pérez-Mellado

Notes on Red listing:

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