

LOWLAND PACA

Cuniculus paca

Linnaeus, 1766



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Mammalia

Order: Rodentia

Family: Cuniculidae

5 subspecies recognized



APPENDIX III

UNCOMMON



LEAST CONCERN

Identification : Adults can grow to 77 cm in length for a weight of 14 kg. Short limbs with powerful claws, very long square head. Short hairs with a shiny appearance. Coloration is reddish-brown with rows of white spots on sides. Belly is white.

Range: The species lives in Central and South America, from south-east Mexico to Colombia, Venezuela and Guianas, south to Southern Brazil and Uruguay.

Habitat : All kinds of forests, including disturbed forests, mangroves, up to 2000 m.

Behavior: The species is terrestrial, solitary, territorial and nocturnal. Mostly lives in pairs. Feeds on fruits, leaves, bark, seeds, cultivated crops. Low reproductive rate.

Status in the wild: The species is still widespread and common but, in parts of its range, it is now heavily threatened by loss of habitat and relentless hunting.

In captivity: This species is slowly spreading thanks to good captive breeding efforts in European zoos. It is also displayed in some American zoos, extremely rarely in Asia. Subspecies status unknown. It has been bred in zoos since at least the 1880s.