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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
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Geographical range

www.iucnredlist.org
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Species of the Day: Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana

The **Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana**, or Swamper, *Ctenosaura bakeri*, is classified as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Once considered to be one of the rarest iguanas in existence, the Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana is named after the Caribbean island of Utila, Honduras, which it inhabits, and the whorls of enlarged spiny scales that encircle the tail.

Declared functionally extinct in the early nineties, there is now thought to be a population of approximately 10,000 in two or three groups. Distribution is linked to habitat where sandy, open nest sites, as well as mangroves, are essential. The major threats to the Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana are tourist development, deforestation for local timber use, invasive plants which cover nest sites, hunting and rubbish dumping.

In 1994, the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Senckenberg Nature Research Society began protecting the species. The Iguana Research and Breeding Station has since developed, which has been very successful in releasing iguanas into suitable remaining habitat. Despite these efforts, further work is still needed to help to protect the Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana and its fragile mangrove habitat.



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