Original Study

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Annotated checklist of mammals from French Guiana

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Abstract: The Guiana Shield hosts large, well-preserved forest areas and littoral habitats (savannas, mangroves) with high biological diversity. Based on previous work and continuously growing knowledge resulting from taxonomic updates, ongoing field work, genetic and acoustic surveys, and an increasing network of non-professional but highly skilled naturalists, we propose a list of 198 terrestrial species of mammals, including 91 non-flying species and 107 bats, and 27 marine and estuarine species. The updated list provides, for each species, habitats preference, abundance, and conservation status. Although some groups (e.g., bats) and poorly contacted species (e.g., marine species) still require further taxonomic and ecological research, the work proposed in the checklist is expected to provide a relevant reference basis for taxonomic assignments, necessary for policy implementation, actions plans, and conservation prioritizations.

Keywords: French Guiana; mammals; diversity; taxonomy; distribution; conservation

1 Introduction

The pace of global forest habitat loss in South America, most particularly Amazonia, is on the rise, with dramatic consequences to biodiversity (WWF 2024). Amazonian forest ecosystems, like other tropical forests, are also threatened by large-scale defaunation (Bogoni et al. 2020) that will modify the ecological functions of forests (da Silva Batista et al. 2025). Pressures nevertheless remain much lower in the region of the Guianas (Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana and the Brazilian state of Amapá), on the northern Atlantic coast of the Guiana Shield (*sensu* Hammond 2005). The historical absence of large-scale deforestation makes this region the largest repository of tropical forest vegetation on Precambrian terrain in the world (Hammond 2005). The region is an area of major importance for conservation of several large terrestrial mammals, for instance jaguars (Jedrzejewski et al. 2023) and giant otters (Wallace et al. 2025).

French Guiana is a European overseas territory bordering Brazil to the east and south, and Suriname to the west. Its surface area is 83,534 km^2. Coastal and marine habitats are characterized by shallow depths with a slowly declining continental shelf extending up to 150 km offshore (Boyé et al. 1979). Littoral and coastal environments are influenced by large rivers running from south to north, which discharge sediments and fresh water into the Atlantic Ocean. Eastward, the Amazon River in Brazil, through its massive, suspended sediment discharge, plays an important role in the composition of the estuarine, coastal, and continental-shelf marine ecosystems (Artigas et al. 2003). The coastal area is narrow, at the transition between the northern boundary of the Precambrian Guiana Shield and the recent Pleistocene-Holocene alluvial plain (Prost and Lointier 1987), and is covered with mangroves, swamps, savannahs, marsh and transition forests. Most of the remaining territory is occupied by upland moist forests, which remain largely pristine and inaccessible compared to other Amazonian countries. In more detail, upland moist forests are implanted on generally well-drained clayic ferralic soils with elevations of 0–600 m (Guitet et al. 2016). Canopy reflectance has defined five main forest types in terms of structure: (i) low dense forests, high forests with (ii) regular or (iii) disrupted canopy, (iv) mixed high and open forests, and (v) *Euterpe* palm forests (Gond et al. 2011).

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The population of French Guiana is 301,099 inhabitants and a low population density of 3.6 people per km^2, according to the 2022 census (INSEE 2023). The majority of people live on the ~50-km-wide coastal strip, which concentrates the main villages and cities as well as the country's economic activities.Most of the remaining population lives along the two main rivers, the Maroni on the Surinamese border and the Oyapock on the Brazilian border, for a total surface of urbanized areas of 1,300–1,400 ha (i.e., less than 0.02 % of the territory) (AUDEG 2019).

The updated list of French Guianan mammals has a long history since the pioneer versions more than two decades ago (Brosset and Charles Dominique 1990; Charles Dominique et al. 2001; Pons and Granjon 1998). Fifteen years after the last published version (Catzeflis 2010), this 2025 anniversary version is a tribute to Francois Catzeflis, who passed away November 25, 2021 (Denys and Granjon 2022). A history of mammalogy in French Guiana is summarized in Lim and Catzeflis (2014). Taxonomy changes are on going and, as a legacy message, new species are still recorded in French Guiana. Further, in order to adress conservation issues, the law protecting terrestrial mammals (arrêté du 15 mai 1986, published in the *Journal officiel de la république française*, 1987, n°4157) is 40 years old, and needs to be updated. The checklist proposed here is both the state of the art of terrestrial, flying and marine mammal species, and a scientific basis for the legal framework for policy makers.

2 Materials and methods

As in previous versions of the checklist, the taxonomic arrangement of the species currently recognized in French Guiana follows Mammal Diversity Database (2025), GBIF (GBIF 2025), and TAXREF (TAXREF 2024), except for systematic revisions subsequent to those references, and/or in discussion. The arrangement of taxa follows the phylogenetic hierarchy (Wilson and Reeder 2005).For each species, a note is added on known distribution (derived from the public participative database www.faune-guyane.fr, managed by GEPOG NGO, Cayenne, French Guiana. Within each Order, the relative abundance of species is derived from occurrence data, after camera trapping surveys (Antunes et al. 2022; de Thoisy et al. 2016a), line-transect surveys (de Thoisy et al. 2010; Richard-Hansen et al. 2015), baited trap surveys for rodents and marsupials (de Thoisy et al. 2012), bat net captures (Catzeflis et al. 2013; Charles-Dominique et al. 2001; de Thoisy et al. 2016b), marine surveys (Pusineri et al. 2021), and authors' expertise and unpublished data. Conservation status is derived from the Regional Red list assessment (UICN France et al. 2017) when available, or International Red List status when not assessed at the regional scale.

Additional information and Supplementary Data are provided to clarify certain synonymies, localities of recent collections, or some taxonomic issues not yet fully resolved, and/or discrepancies with taxonomic references.

3 Results: updated and annotated checklist of French Guianan mammals

Didelphimorphia – Didelphidae Gray, 1821

Caluromys J. A. Allen, 1900

– *Caluromys philander* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread in all habitats. Evaluated by the Regional Red List authority as "Least Concern".

Chironectes Illiger, 1811

– *Chironectes minimus* (Zimmermann, 1780). Cryptic, few observations, in upland pristine forests and in the old coastal plain forests. Due to this lack of information for reliable assessment of status, considered as "Data Deficient".

Cryptonanus Voss et al. 2005

– *Cryptonanus* cf. *agricolai* (Moojen, 1943). This taxon was found for the first time in barn owl pelts (Baglan and Catzeflis 2016) and later captured in savannas near Sinnamary in 2013. It is likely the same taxon that has been captured in Amapá (da Silva et al. 2013). Although a new species was suggested (Baglan and Catzeflis 2016), the recent revision of *Cryptonanus agricolai* shows important morphological and genetic variability, with occurrence of geographic lineages, rather than different taxa (Nascimento et al. 2022). Consequently, the taxon found in French Guiana is herein proposed temporarily as *Cryptonanus* cf. *agricolai.* Indeed, mitochondrial DNA (cytochrome b) sequences form a sister clade to the "A" lineage of *C. agricolai* (see Supplementary Data 1), found in North-West Brazil. The French Guianan taxon may be considered as a new mitochondrial lineage, distinct from *Cryptonanus agricolai* found in Maranhão (Nascimento et al. 2022). Due to the few records and supposed restriction to relict savannas from the coastal areas, *Cryptonanus* cf. *agricolai* is considered as "Endangered".

Didelphis Linnaeus, 1758
- *Didelphis imperfecta* Mondolfi and Perez-Hernandez, 1984. Previously included in *Didelphis albiventris.* Common in pristine and slightly disturbed forests. “Least Concern”.
- *Didelphis marsupialis* Linnaeus, 1758. Common, widespread in all habitats. “Least Concern”.

Glironia Thomas, 1912
- *Glironia venusta* (Thomas, 1912). The first record was in 2017 at Mont Itoupé, in the south of the country (Sant and Catzeflis 2018). Several sightings were later made in the center and in coastal forest in the west of the country (Alexandre and de Thoisy 2023). Those last records in French Guiana expanded the distribution of this species 300 km north of its previously known range. Due to the low number of records, the species is considered as “Data Deficient”.

Gracilinanus Gardner and Creighton, 1989
- *Gracilinanus emiliae* (Thomas, 1909). Few records, likely restricted to primary forests. “Data Deficient”.

Hyladelphys Voss, Lunde, and Simmons, 2001
- *Hyladelphys kalinowskii* (Hershkovitz, 1992). Few records, in primary forests. “Data Deficient”.

Marmosa Gray, 1821
- *Marmosa demerarae* Thomas, 1905. *Marmosa cinerea* was used until the early 1990s, and the species was included in the genus *Micoureus* until 2009 (Voss and Jansa 2009). Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.
- *Marmosa lepida* (Thomas, 1888). Few records, so far restricted to primary and old secondary forests. “Data Deficient”.
- *Marmosa murina* Linnaeus, 1758. Very common, widespread. “Least Concern”.

Marmosops Matschie, 1916
- *Marmosops parvidens* (Tate, 1931). Common, widespread. “Least Concern”.
- *Marmosops pinheiroi* (Pine, 1981). Seems less common than *M. parvidens*, but widespread. “Least Concern”.

Metachirus Burmeister, 1854
- *Metachirus nudicaudatus* (E. Geoffroy, 1803). Common, widespread. “Least Concern”.

Monodelphis Burnett, 1830
- *Monodelphis touan* (Shaw, 1800). Previously considered as *Monodelphis brevicaudata*, until Pavan et al. (2012) showed that *Monodelphis* from the Eastern part of the Guiana Shield (French Guiana and Amapá) and east of Pará state, including Marajó island, belongs to the species *M. touan*, although *M. brevicaudata* is found more westward, in Guyana and Venezuela. Common, widespread. “Least Concern”.

Philander Brisson, 1762
- *Philander opossum* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread. “Least Concern”.

Cingulata – Chlamyphoridae Bonaparte, 1850

Cabassous McMurtrie, 1831
- *Cabassous unicinctus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Records are mainly in the northern coastal plain, species uncommon. “Data Deficient”.

Priodontes F. Cuvier, 1825
- *Priodontes maximus* (Kerr, 1792). Uncommon, but likely widespread. “Least Concern”.

Cingulata – Dasypodidae Gray, 1821

Dasypus Linnaeus, 1758
- *Dasypus kappleri* Krauss, 1862. Widespread and common in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.
- *Dasypus guianensis* Barthe et al. 2024. Formerly *D. novemcinctus*, the nine-banded armadillos from French Guiana and Amapa form a new taxa *D. guianensis* sp. nov., based on Barthe et al. (2024). This description and final acceptance of this regional endemic taxon arrived after a long series of molecular (Gibb et al. 2016) and morphological (Billet et al. 2017; Hautier et al. 2017) studies.

Pilosa – Bradypodidae Gray, 1821

Bradypus Linnaeus, 1758
- *Bradypus tridactylus* Linnaeus, 1758. Common, widespread. “Least Concern”.

Pilosa – Choloepidae (Gray 1871) (syn. Megalonychidae Ameghino, 1889)

Choloepus Illiger, 1811
- *Choloepus didactylus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common in upland and slightly disturbed upland forests, widespread. “Least Concern”.

Pilosa – Cyclopedidae Pocock, 1924

Cyclopes Gray, 1821
- *Cyclopes didactylus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Although highly cryptic, likely widespread and common. “Least Concern”. The genus has been extensively revised and

new species described, but the taxon from the Guiana shield was confirmed as *C. didactylus* (Miranda et al. 2018).

Pilosa – Myrmecophagidae Gray, 1825

Myrmecophaga Linnaeus, 1758

– *Myrmecophaga tridactyla* Linnaeus, 1758. Wide distribution, most records in northern savannahs, where road kills may be a significant threat. "Least Concern".

Tamandua Gray, 1825

– *Tamandua tetradactyla* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread including in disturbed areas. "Least Concern".

Sirenia – Trichechidae Gill, 1872

Trichechus Linnaeus, 1758

– *Trichechus inunguis* (Natterer *in* Pelzeln 1883). A single animal was identified with a molecular approach, using both nuclear and mitochondrial markers (B. de Thoisy, C.S. Lima, F.R. Santos, unpub. data), confirming a non-hybrid specimen.
– *Trichechus manatus* Linnaeus, 1758.

Lima et al. (2019, 2024) showed that animals from the Amazon mouth to Guyana are hybrids and suggested a long hybridization history, during which a stable and structured hybrid swarm was generated. Phenotypic signs, expected to differentiate both species (e.g., white breast spot and absence of nails in *T. inunguis*) have shown no predictive values regarding genetic status. Despite the hybrid status of the population, it has been evaluated by the regional red list authorities. Although it is found in most estuaries (Castelblanco-Martinez et al. 2017), the evaluation process concluded in an "Endangered" conservation status, due to the small population size. Recent reassessments of abundance suggest pronounced declines (de Thoisy, unpub. data).

Primates – Atelidae Gray, 1825

Alouatta Lacépède, 1799

– *Alouatta macconnelli* (Linnaeus, 1766). Previously *Alouatta seniculus* (see Groves 2001). Common, widespread. "Least Concern".

Ateles E. Geoffroy, 1806

– *Ateles paniscus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread in upland pristine forests, but may be threatened by overhunting (de Thoisy 2018). "Least Concern".

Primates – Callithricidae

Saguinus Hoffmannsegg, 1807

– *Saguinus midas* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread in all forest types. "Least Concern".

Primates – Cebidae Bonaparte, 1831

Cebus Erxleben, 1777

– *Cebus olivaceus* Schomburgk, 1848. Common, widespread. The status of *C. olivaceus* on the Guiana Shield has been discussed and challenged (Boubli et al. 2012; Lima et al. 2017), and *C. olivaceus* spp. *castaneus* may be considered as a synonym of *Cebus castaneus* (GBIF 2025; TaxRef 2024). Relying on the latest Neotropical list of the IUCN/Primate Specialist Group (Rylands and Mittermeier 2024), we still consider it as *C. olivaceus*. "Least Concern".

Saimiri Voigt, 1831

– *Saimiri sciureus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread in all forest types. "Least Concern."

Sapajus Kerr, 1792. The taxon *Sapajus* includes eight species formerly included in the genus *Cebus* (Lynch Alfaro et al. 2012a,b).

– *Sapajus apella* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread in all forest types. Sensitive to overhunting (de Thoisy 2018). "Least Concern".

Primates – Pitheciidae Mivart, 1865

Chiropotes Lesson, 1840

– *Chiropotes sagulatus* (Humboldt, 1811). Previously considered as *C. chiropotes*, recent molecular evidence (Carneiro et al. 2023) show that the Guianas host *C. sagulatus.* Updated database of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group (Rylands and Mittermeir 2024) also accepted *C. sagulatus* for the Guianas. *C. sagulatus* is restricted to the southern half of the country and was evaluated as "Data deficient" due to lack on populational data.

Pithecia Desmarest, 1804

– *Pithecia pithecia* (Linnaeus, 1766). Common, widespread. "Least Concern".

Rodentia – Caviidae Fisher de Waldheim, 1817

Hydrochoerus Brisson, 1762

– *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris* (Linnaeus, 1766). Common, widespread. "Least Concern".

Rodentia – Cuniculidae Miller and Gidley, 1918. Agoutidae Gray, 1821 is considered as a synonym.

Cuniculus Brisson, 1762

– *Cuniculus paca* (Linnaeus, 1766). Also known as *Agouti paca*, as *Cuniculus* Brisson, 1762 is a senior synonym of *Agouti* Lacépède, 1799. Common, widespread in all habitats. “Least Concern”.

Rodentia – Dasyproctidae Bonaparte, 1838

Dasyprocta Illiger, 1811

– *Dasyprocta leporina* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread in all habitats, including in anthropized areas. “Least Concern”.

Myoprocta Thomas, 1903

– *Myoprocta acouchy* (Erxleben, 1777). Common, widespread in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.

Rodentia – Erethizontidae Bonaparte, 1845

Coendou Lacépède, 1799

– *Coendou melanurus* (Wagner, 1842). Previously known as *Sphiggurus melanurus* and *S. insidiosus.* Not often observed, likely restricted to the upper strata of both primary and secondary forests. “Least Concern”.
– *Coendou longicaudatus.* Previously *C. prehensilis* (Linnaeus, 1758) until the revision of Menezes et al. 2021. Common, widespread in all forest types, including periurban areas and gardens. “Least Concern”.

Rodentia – Echimyidae Gray, 1825

Echimys G. Cuvier, 1809

– *Echimys chrysurus* (Zimmermann, 1780). Common, widespread. “Least Concern”.

Isothrix Wagner, 1845

– *Isothrix sinnamariensis* Vié et al. 1996. Known from only a few localities, mainly in upland forests. “Data deficient”.

Makalata Husson, 1978

– *Makalata didelphoides* (Desmarest, 1817). Previously known as *Echimys armatus* and *Makalata armata.* Likely common and widespread. “Least Concern”.
– *Makalata* sp-1. Molecular barcodes from *Makalata* specimen from the coastal areas of Amapá (C.R. Silva, unpub. data) and French Guiana suggest a new taxon (Supplementary Data 2). Unknown distribution and abundance, may be in sympatry with *M. didelphoides.* Not evaluated.

Mesomys Wagner, 1845

– *Mesomys hispidus* (Desmarest, 1817). Common, widespread, including in degraded habitats. “Least Concern”.

Proechimys J.A. Allen, 1899

– *Proechimys cuvieri* Petter, 1978. Common, widespread, including in degraded habitats. “Least Concern”.
– *Proechimys guyannensis* (E. Geoffroy, 1803). May also be known as *Proechimys cayennensis.* Common, widespread, including in degraded habitats. “Least Concern”.

Rodentia – Sciuridae Fischer de Waldheim, 1817

Guerlinguetus Gray, 1821

– *Guerlinguetus aestuans* (Linnaeus, 1766). Previously known as *Sciurus aestuans* (de Vivo et Carmignotto, 2015). Widespread, common in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.

Sciurillus Thomas, 1914

– *Sciurillus pusillus* (E. Geoffroy, 1803). Widespread, common in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.

Rodentia – Cricetidae Wagner, 1843

Daptomys Anthony 1929

– *Daptomys oyapocki* (Dubost and Petter 1978). Previously known as *Neusticomys oyapocki*, this species was reclassified to the genus *Daptomys* by Salazar-Bravo et al. (2023) during their revision of the Tribe Ichthyomyini. Rare, less than 10 records so far. May be restricted to pristine upland forests and lives close to small watercourses. “Data deficient”.

Euryoryzomys Weksler, Percequillo *et* Voss, 2006

– *Euryoryzomys macconnelli* (Thomas, 1910). Previously included in the genus *Oryzomys* (Weksler et al. 2006). Restricted to well-drained upland and pristine forests. “Least Concern”.

Holochilus Brandt, 1835

– *Holochilus nanus* O. Thomas Wagner, 1897. Previously known as *H. sciureus*, until the revision of the genus (Prado et al. 2021a,b). Known from only a few localities, in open and wetland habitats of the north of the country. Due to restricted area and threats to habitats, evaluated as “Vulnerable”.

Hylaeamys Weksler, Percequillo *et* Voss, 2006

– *Hylaeamys megacephalus* (Fischer, 1814). Previously known as *Oryzomys capito* (Weksler et al. 2006). Widespread and common in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.
– *Hylaeamys yunganus* (Thomas, 1902). Previously in the genus *Oryzomys* (Weksler et al. 2006). Widespread and common in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.

Neacomys Thomas, 1900
- *Neacomys dubosti* Voss, Lunde and Simmons, 2001. Seems to be restricted to upland and pristine forests. "Least Concern".
- *Neacomys paracou* Voss, Lunde and Simmons, 2001. Seems to be restricted to upland and pristine forests. "Least Concern".

Nectomys Peters, 1861
- *Nectomys rattus* (Pelzeln, 1883). Initially described in French Guiana as *Nectomys parvipes* (Petter 1979). *N. melanius* is a synonym (Voss et al. 2001). Widespread, may favor small forest and wooded savanna watercourses. "Least Concern".

Oecomys Thomas, 1906
- *Oecomys auyantepui* Tate, 1939. Widespread and common in forest habitats. "Least Concern".
- *Oecomys bicolor* (Tomes, 1860). Widespread and common in forest habitats. "Least Concern".
- *Oecomys rex* Thomas, 1910 (previously in synonymy with *Oecomys regalis*). Although not common, seems to be more abundant in modified and distributed forests. "Least Concern".
- *Oecomys rutilus* Anthony, 1921. The most abundant of arboreal Cricetidae, widespread in all forest types. "Least Concern".
- *Oecomys* sp-1. This large *Oecomys* was captured in French Guiana at two localities, in Amapá, and Guyana. Mitochondrial barcode suggest a new taxon, that remains to be explored (Supplementary Data 3). Unknown distribution, not evaluated.

Oligoryzomys Bangs, 1900
- *Oligoryzomys delicatus* (Allen *et* Chapman, 1897). Weksler and Bonvicino (2015) and da Cruz et al. (2019) revised the genus and suggested that *Oligoryzomys* from northern French Guiana should be considered as *O. delicatus.* Cytochrome oxydase 1 barcode confirmed the clustering of animals from Macouria, French Guiana, with animals from Trinidad Island, which is the type locality of *O. delicatus* (da Cruz et al. 2019). Not common, likely restricted to herbaceous habitats. "Data deficient".
- *Oligoryzomys messorius* (Thomas, 1901). Two samples from southern French Guiana are genetically divergent from those of the littoral areas, and clustered with *O. messorius* as proposed by Weksler and Bonvicino (2015) and da Cruz et al. (2019). Unknown distribution, abundance and ecology. "Data deficient".

Rhipidomys Tschudi, 1845
- *Rhipidomys leucodactylus* (Tschudi, 1845). Only one specimen was captured, in the Nouragues Nature reserve (Guillotin and Petter 1984). Unknown distribution, likely rare. "Data deficient".
- *Rhipidomys nitela* Thomas, 1901. Common, widespread, including in degraded habitats. "Least Concern".

Sigmodon Say and Ord, 1925
- *Sigmodon alstoni* (Thomas, 1881). Although no living animal was recorded, two skulls were found in owl pellets from the northern savannas (Baglan and Catzeflis 2016). Unkown distribution, likely rare, considered as "Data Deficient".

Zygodontomys J.A. Allen, 1897
- *Zygodontomys brevicauda* (J.A. Allen *et* Chapman, 1893). Likely restricted to the northern and open habitats, may occur in disturbed and/or anthropized areas. "Least Concern".

Rodentia – Muridae - Murinae Illiger, 1811

Mus Linnaeus, 1758
- *Mus musculus* Linnaeus, 1758. Widespread in anthropized habitats (Catzeflis 2018). Introduced, not evaluated.

Rattus Fischer, 1803
- *Rattus norvegicus* (Berkenhout, 1769). Widespread (Catzeflis 2018). Introduced, not evaluated.
- *Rattus rattus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Widespread (Catzeflis 2018). Introduced, not evaluated.

Chiroptera – Emballonuridae P. Gervais, 1856

Centronycteris Gray, 1838
- *Centronycteris maximiliani* (Fischer, 1829). Uncommon, rarely captured (Sinnamary: Paracou sation; Approuague river; Nouragues station) but bioacoustic studies reveal its presence in all primary forests (Rufray and Vrignaud 2015). "Least Concern".

Cormura Peters, 1867
- *Cormura brevirostris* (Wagner, 1843). Common, widespread in all forest types, including peri-urban gardens and forests. "Least Concern".

Cyttarops Thomas, 1913
- *Cyttarops alecto* Thomas, 1913. The species is only known from three specimens collected on the coastal plain: Tonate (1985), Acarouany (1985) (both deposited at Senckenberg Museum Frankfurt, Germany), and Saint-

Elie (1990) (Masson and Cosson 1992). The later is deposited in the collection JAGUARS, Cayenne, Kwata NGO/Institut Pasteur de la Guyane (Weksler et al. 2025). Since then, no further mention has been reported either by visual observation, capture or bioacoustic study. "Data Deficient".

Diclidurus Wied-Neuwied, 1820

- *Diclidurus ingens* Hernandez-Camacho, 1955. Uncommon. Reported in French Guiana by an individual from Awala-Yalimapo (deposited at Institut des Sciences de l'Evolution, Montpellier University, France). Advances in bioacoustic studies in recent years reveal that the species is widely distributed from the coast to mature forests, even in urban areas above artificial lights. "Data Deficient".
- *Diclidurus isabellus* (Thomas, 1920). Rare. Rufray (unpub. data) have reported the presence of a small *Diclidurus* hunting close to the water on the Oyack River near Roura and on the Kourou River. The small size and buffy white coloration of the individuals observed, combined with the hunting technique low over water are characteristic of the species (Ochoa et al. 2008). Moreover, the acoustic characteristics of these animals are very similar to those described for *D. isabellus* by Miller in Venezuela (Miller et al. 2023). Further investigations are planned to better assess its status.
- *Diclidurus scutatus* Peters, 1869. Uncommon, rarely captured, but bioacoustic studies reveal its presence in all forest types, even near urban areas where it hunts above lights. "Data Deficient".

Peropteryx Peters, 1867

- *Peropteryx kappleri* Peters, 1867. Common, widespread in all forest types. "Least Concern".
- *Peropteryx leucoptera* Peters, 1867. Very rare. Since the first two sightings in 1991 at Paracou (Simmons and Voss, 1998), only five further observations recorded in over 30 years. To date, its echolocation remains unknown and precludes acoustic surveys. "Data Deficient".
- *Peropteryx macrotis* (Wagner, 1843). Common, widespread in all forest types with a preference for areas with boulder fields, caves, and cliffs. "Data Deficient".
- *Peropteryx trinitatis* Miller, 1899. Not common. Only found on the coastal plain, where it is well known in downtown Cayenne. It is also found in coastal forest habitats with rocks, similarly to *P. macrotis.* "Data Deficient".

Rhynchonycteris Peters, 1867

- *Rhynchonycteris naso* (Wied-Neuwied, 1820). Common, widespread along rivers, small river tributaries and marshes. "Least Concern".

Saccopteryx Illiger, 1811

- *Saccopteryx bilineata* (Temminck, 1838). Common, widespread in all forest types. "Least Concern".
- *Saccopteryx canescens* Thomas, 1901. Records are mainly in the northern coastal plain, where it frequents mangroves, sand forest and savannah edges, sometimes in suburban areas. "Data Deficient".
- *Saccopteryx gymnura* Thomas, 1901. Very rare, only known from 4 records in natural clearings of forest, more than 30 years after its discovery. "Data deficient".
- *Saccopteryx leptura* (Schreber, 1774). Common, widespread in all forest types. "Least Concern".

Chiroptera – Furipteridae Gray, 1866

Furipterus Bonaparte, 1837

- *Furipterus horrens* (F. Cuvier, 1828). Rare. Mainly in primary forest near rocky areas but also known around villages. "Least Concern".

Chiroptera – Mormoopidae Saussure, 1860

Pteronotus Gray, 1838

- *Pteronotus alitonus* Pavan, Bobrowiec *et* Percequillo, 2018. The *P. parnelli* taxon previously considered in French Guiana was split into two groups differentiated by their echolocation frequency: *Pteronotus rubiginosus* at 53 kHz and *Pteronotus* sp. 3 at 59 kHz (de Thoisy et al. 2014). Pavan et al. (2018) described *Pteronotus* sp. 3 as *P. alitonus.* Common. Endemic to the Guiana Shield. Abundant in rocky areas inland (boulder fields, caves). Also occurs under engineering structures (bridges, culverts) along the coastal plains. "Least Concern".
- *Pteronotus gymnonotus* Natterer, 1843. Not common. In all forest types, gardens, and agricultural landscapes. "Least Concern".
- *Pteronotus personatus* (Wagner, 1843). Not common. In all forest types, gardens, and agricultural landscapes. "Least Concern".
- *Pteronotus rubiginosus* (Wagner, 1843). Formely considered as *P. parnelli* (de Thoisy et al. (2014). Common. Abundant in inland forest with rocky areas (boulder fields, caves), also present under engineering structures (bridges, culverts, etc.) along the coastal plain. "Least Concern".

Chiroptera – Noctilionidae Gray, 1821

Noctilio Linnaeus, 1766

- *Noctilio albiventris* Desmarest, 1818. Rare. Known only in mangroves, swamp forest on coastal plains and along the Maroni River. "Vulnerable".
- *Noctilio leporinus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread along rivers, marshes, and mangroves. "Least Concern".

Chiroptera – Phyllostomidae Bonaparte, 1845

Ametrida Gray, 1847

– *Ametrida centurio* Gray, 1847. Not common. Mainly in primary and old secondary forests. “Least Concern”.

Anoura Gray, 1838

– *Anoura caudifer* (E. Geoffroy, 1818). Not common. Likely restricted to primary forests. “Least Concern”.
– *Anoura geoffroyi* Gray, 1838. Common, widespread in all forest types with a preference for rocky areas such as boulder fields, caves, and cliffs. “Least Concern”.

Artibeus Leach, 1821

Following considerations of Baker et al. (2016) and Cirranello et al. (2016), small species of *Artibeus* (*A. cinereus*, *A. gnomus*) are not considered as belonging to the genus *Dermanura* Gervais 1856.

– *Artibeus bogotensis* (Andersen, 1906). Confirmed by DNA barcoding from skin biopsies of one individual captured in southern French Guiana, 2021 (JAGUARS collection code: C4131_JAG. Genbank accession number: PX117157). Also known from Surinam and Guyana (Lim et al. 2008), its conservation status remains to be determined.
– *Artibeus cinereus* Gervais, 1856. Common. Mainly in secondary forest of the coastal plain. Presence in inland forests now questionable since the discovery of *D. bogotensis.* “Data Deficient”.
– *Artibeus concolor* Peters, 1865. Not common. Mainly in secondary forests. Surprisingly, one individual was observed as far away as Grand Connétable Island (18 km off the coast), foraging on cactus flowers of *Cereus hexagonus.* “Least Concern”.
– *Artibeus gnomus* (Handley, 1987). Previously referred to as *Artibeus glaucus*, which is a different taxon (Hoofer et al. 2008). Common. Widespread in primary and old secondary forests. “Least Concern”. *Artibeus lituratus* (Olfers, 1818). Common. Widespread in primary forest. “Least concern”.
– *Artibeus obscurus* (Schinz, 1821). Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.
– *Artibeus planirostris* (Spix, 1823). Previously considered as *Artibeus jamaicensis* (Lim, 1997). Common, widespread in all forest types, gardens and agricultural landscapes. “Least Concern”.

Carollia Gray, 1838

– *Carollia brevicauda* (Schinz, 1821). Common. Mainly in primary forests or in old secondary forests. “Least Concern”.
– *Carollia perspicillata* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread in all forest types, gardens and agricultural landscapes. “Least Concern”.

Chiroderma Peters, 1860

– *Chiroderma trinitatum* Goodwin, 1958. Not common. Mainly in primary forest. “Least Concern”.
– *Chiroderma villosum* Peters, 1860. Not common. Mainly in primary forests. “Least Concern”.

Choeroniscus Thomas, 1928

– *Choeroniscus minor* (Peters, 1868). Not common. Likely restricted to primary forests. “Least Concern”.

Chrotopterus Peters, 1865

– *Chrotopterus auritus* (Peters, 1856). Not common. In low density in primary forests. “Least Concern”.

Desmodus Wied-Neuwied, 1826

– *Desmodus rotundus* (E. Geoffroy, 1810). Common, widespread in all forest types, with important populations in degraded coastal forests close to livestock areas. “Least Concern”.

Diaemus Miller, 1906

– *Diaemus youngii* (Jentink, 1893). Rare. Known from five localities only, always close to houses hosting chickens or near heron (Ardeids) colonies, at forest edge. “Data Deficient”.

Gardnerycteris Hurtado et Pacheco, 2014

– *Gardnerycteris crenulatum* (E. Geoffroy, 1803). The taxon is *Gardnerycteris crenulatum* in GBIF and TaxRef databases, but following Brandão et al. (2019), *Gardnerycteris crenulata* is more appropriate with Latin grammatical rules. Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.

Glossophaga E. Geoffroy, 1818

– *Glossophaga soricina* (Pallas, 1766). Common, widespread in all forest types, and in gardens and agricultural areas. “Least Concern”.

Glyphonycteris Thomas, 1896

– *Glyphonycteris daviesi* (Hill, 1964). Rare. Only in primary forest. “Least Concern”.
– *Glyphonycteris sylvestris* Thomas, 1896. Not common. Mainly in primary forest, but some records in secondary forests and even in urban areas. “Least Concern”.

Hsunycteris Parlos et al. 2014

– *Hsunycteris thomasi* (J. A. Allen 1904). Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.

Lampronycteris Sanborn, 1949

– *Lampronycteris brachyotis* (Dobson, 1878). Rare, four records in the last 30 years. Known only in the north of the country from primary or old secondary forests. “Data Deficient”.

Lichonycteris Thomas, 1895

– *Lichonycteris degener* Miller, 1931. Based on a Central American specimen, Hill (1985) synonymized *L. degener* under *L. obscura.* But thereafter, cheekteeth morphology, lighter brown fur coloring and distribution of *L. degener* east of the Andes differentiated *L. obscura* (distributed west of the Andes, with a type locality in Nicaragua) from *L. degener* Griffiths *et* Gardner 2008). However Zamora-Gutierrez and Ortega (2020), again consider *L. degener* as a synonym of *L. obscura.* Following Griffiths and Gardner (2008) and assuming a major role of geography in the driving of Neotropical bats speciation (Hernández-Canchola et al. 2021), we consider *L. degener* as a valid species.Few records, in primary and secondary forests. “Data Deficient”.

Lionycteris Thomas, 1913

– *Lionycteris spurrelli* Thomas, 1913. Common, widespread in primary forest with a preference for areas with rocks, such as boulder fields, caves, and cliffs. “Least Concern”.

Lonchorhina Tomes, 1863

– *Lonchorhina inusitata* Handley and Ochoa, 1997. Rare and endemic to the Guiana Shield. Strictly confined to primary inland forests that included rocky areas (boulder fields, caves). “Least concern”.

Lophostoma d’Orbigny, 1836

– *Lophostoma brasiliense* Peters, 1866. Rare. In all types of forest, with a preference for swamp forests. “Least Concern”.
– *Lophostoma carrikeri* (J.A. Allen, 1910). Rare. In all forest types from mangroves to inland primary forest. “Least Concern”.
– *Lophostoma schulzi* (Genoways and Williams, 1980). Not common and endemic to the Guiana Shield. Mainly in primary forest, but some records in secondary forest. “Least Concern”.
– *Lophostoma silvicolum* d’Orbigny, 1836. As Smith (2008) points out, the species was originally described as *L. silvicolum*, but was frequently spelt *sylvicola* in the literature. But according to article 32.5 of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature “incorrect transliteration or latinization […] are not to be considered inadvertent errors”, therefore the original spelling should be considered as correct. Widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.

Macrophyllum Gray, 1838

– *Macrophyllum macrophyllum* (Schinz, 1821). Not common. Until recently, this species was considered to be restricted to small inland forested water tributaries. However, since 2019, about thirty new records were collected based on the discovery of several breeding sites around coastal forest creeks and marshes, providing a better understanding of its distribution and habitats. “Least Concern”.

Mesophylla Thomas, 1901

– *Mesophylla macconnelli* Thomas, 1901. Not common. Mainly in primary forest. “Least Concern”.

Micronycteris Gray, 1866. The genus *Micronycteris* is a species complex that still requires taxonomic investigations (Porter et al. 2007).

– *Micronycteris brosseti* Simmons and Voss, 1998. Rare. The holotype (MNHN 1995.1030), an adult male was collected at Paracou, central coastal area in 1991. In primary and secondary forests. “Least Concern”.
– *Micronycteris hirsuta* (Peters, 1869). Not common. Mainly in primary forests. “Least Concern”.
– *Micronycteris megalotis* (Gray, 1842). *M microtis* was included as a distinct species in the previous version of the French Guiana list (Catzeflis 2010) but this clade is not further supported after the recent revision of the genus (Porter et al. 2007).Not common. Mainly in primary forests. “Least Concern”.
– *Micronycteris minuta* (Gervais, 1856). Not common. Mainly in primary forests, but also in suburbans forests. “Least Concern”.
– *Micronycteris schmidtorum* Sanborn, 1935. Not common. Mainly in primary forests. “Least Concern”.

Mimon Gray, 1847

– *Mimon bennettii* (Gray, 1838). Rare. Strictly confined to rocky areas (boulder fields, caves) in primary inland forests. “Least concern”.

Phylloderma Peters, 1865

– *Phylloderma stenops* Peters, 1865. Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.

Phyllostomus Lacépède, 1799
- *Phyllostomus discolor* Wagner, 1843. Not common. In all forest types, even in gardens. “Least Concern”.
- *Phyllostomus elongatus* (E. Geoffroy, 1810). Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.
- *Phyllostomus hastatus* (Pallas, 1767). Common. widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.
- *Phyllostomus latifolius* (Thomas, 1901). Rare. Strictly confined to rocky areas (boulder fields, caves) in primary inland forests. “Least Concern”.

Platyrrhinus Saussure, 1860
- *Platyrrhinus brachycephalus* (Rouk et Carter, 1972). Not common. Localised in coastal woodlands, particularly in sand forests on the edge of savannahs. “Near threatened”, as its habitats are in decline due to agricultural and urban development on the coastal plains.
- *Platyrrhinus fusciventris* Velazco, Gardner and Patterson, 2010. Previously included in *P. helleri* (Velazco et al. 2010). Probably common and widespread, mainly found in secondary forests. The taxonomy of species in the *Platyrrhinus helleri* group in French Guiana nevertheless remains uncertain. The species *P. helleri*, formerly reported in French Guiana, is restricted to the north-west of South America and in Central America. Velazco et al. (2010) have highlighted the existence of two sympatric species in the region, *P. fusciventris* and *P. incarum*. However, the morphological characteristics that differentiate those two species are subtle, making genetic identification almost essential. Their local status therefore remains uncertain, especially as a new species in the same group, *P. guianensis*, was recently described from Guyana and Suriname (Velazco and Lim, 2014). “Data Deficient”.
- *Platyrrhinus incarum* (Thomas, 1912). Previously included in *P. helleri* (Velazco et al. 2010), and the second species split with *P. fusciventris*. Probably common and widespread, mainly found in secondary forests. But similarly to *P. fusciventris*, local status remains uncertain. “Data Deficient”.

Rhinophylla Peters, 1865
- *Rhinophylla pumilio* Peters, 1865. Common, widespread in primary or old secondary forests. “Least Concern”.

Sturnira Gray, 1842
- *Sturnira giannae* Velazco and Patterson, 2019. Previously included in *S. lilium* (Velazco and Patterson 2019). Common, widespread in secondary forest, even in gardens and agricultural landscapes. “Least Concern”.
- *Sturnira tildae* de la Torre, 1959. Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.

Tonatia Gray, 1847
- *Tonatia maresi* (Williams, Willig and Reid, 1995). Previously considered as *Tonatia saurophila* Koopman et Williams, 1951. Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.

Trachops Gray, 1847
- *Trachops cirrhosus* (Spix, 1823). Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.

Trinycteris Sanborn, 1949
- *Trinycteris nicefori* (Sanborn, 1949). Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.

Uroderma Peters, 1866
- *Uroderma bilobatum* Peters, 1866. Common, widespread in all forest types. “Least Concern”.
- *Uroderma magnirostrum* Davis, 1968. Presence of the species first evidenced with DNA barcoding (JAGUARS biological collection codes: C1100_JAG, GenBank accession number PX117158; C1102_JAG, accession number PX117159; C3592_JAG, accession number PX117160). Rare, known only from the periurban forests around Cayenne. No regional IUCN Status.

Vampyriscus Thomas, 1900
- *Vampyriscus bidens* (Dobson, 1878). Extremely rare. Discovered in 1989 in the Nouragues National Nature Reserve, it has only been reported once before, in 1997, on the Kaw mountain. The specimen is in the collection JAGUARS, Cayenne, Kwata NGO/Institut Pasteur de la Guyane (Weksler et al. 2025). Since then, no further data has been collected. “Data Deficient”.
- *Vampyriscus brocki* Peterson, 1968. Not common. Mainly in primary forest or in old secondary forest. “Least Concern”.

Vampyrodes Thomas, 1900
- *Vampyrodes caraccioli* (Thomas, 1889). Rare. Mainly in primary forests. “Least Concern”.

Vampyrum Rafinesque, 1815
- *Vampyrum spectrum* (Linnaeus, 1758). Not common. Mainly in primary forests, but also in old secondary forests even on the islands off Cayenne.” Least Concern”, but NT in the Word Red List.

Chiroptera – Thyropteridae Miller, 1907

Thyroptera Spix, 1823

- *Thyroptera discifera* (Lichtenstein and Peters, 1855). The species is mainly found in primary forests. "Data Deficient".
- *Thyroptera tricolor* Spix, 1823. Common. Roosts in *Heliconia's* leaves mainly in secondary forest on coastal plain or along rivers but is also present in natural clearings of primary forest. "Least Concern".

Chiroptera – Molossidae Gervais, 1856

Cynomops Thomas, 1920

- *Cynomops greenhalli* (Goodwin, 1958). Not common. Rarely caught, but well known by acoustic studies in secondary forest, agricultural landscapes, and suburban areas. "Data Deficient".
- *Cynomops mastivus* (Thomas, 1911). Formerly considered to be rare, but captures at drinking areas allowed the characterization of its sonar signal. Now considered common thanks to bioacoustic surveys. Known in all forest types. "Least Concern".
- *Cynomops milleri* (Osgood, 1914). Rare, although known from primary and secondary forests. "Least concern".
- *Cynomops planirostris* (Peters, 1866). Rare. Records are mainly in the northern coastal plain, where it frequents savannah edges, marshes and suburban areas. "Data Deficient".

Eumops Miller, 1906

- *Eumops auripendulus* (Shaw, 1800). Common. Abundant near savannah, marshes, rivers and swamp forests with the palm tree *Mauritia flexuosa*. Present in primary forest in large palm trees along riverbanks. Also roosts in buildings. "Least Concern".
- *Eumops hansae* Sanborn, 1932. Rare, but in all forest types on coastal plain and inland forests. "Data Deficient".
- *Eumops maurus* (Thomas, 1901). Very Rare. Only three reports, one in 2006 on a building at Saint-Georges-de-l'Oyapock (North-East), another in 2012 at saut Tamanoir on Mana River (West) and one on the upper Litani river, at the Surinamese frontier (2024) "Data Deficient".

Molossops Peters, 1865

- *Molossops neglectus* Williams *et* Genoways, 1980. Discovered in 2012 on Mana river from acoustic studies (Rufray 2015). Never caught, known only from acoustic studies. Its characteristic echolocation has been recorded mainly around gold mines in Mana and Maroni Basin. "Data Deficient".

Molossus E. Geoffroy, 1805

- *Molossus coibensis* Allen, 1904. Catzeflis et al. (2016) showed that *Molossus barnesi* was a junior synonym of *M. coibensis*. Not common. Mainly in secondary forest of the coastal plains and in urban areas. "Data Deficient".
- *Molossus molossus* (Pallas, 1766). Common. Widespread in all habitats. Abundant in urban areas. "Least Concern".
- *Molossus rufus* (E. Geoffroy, 1805). Previously considered as *Molossus ater* (E. Geoffroy, 1805). Common, widespread in all forest types. "Least Concern".
- *Molossus alvarezi* (González-Ruiz et al. 2011). Rare. Previously considered as *Molossus sinaloae* J. A. Allen, 1906. Known only from coastal plain. "Data Deficient".

Nyctinomops Miller, 1902

- *Nyctinomops laticaudatus* (E. Geoffroy, 1805). Rare. Strictly confined to rocky areas such as rapids on rivers and inselbergs. "Data Deficient".

Promops Gervais, 1856

- *Promops centralis* Thomas, 1915. Not common and rarely caught, but acoustic studies reveal its presence in low density everywhere from the coast to inland forests, even in towns (Froidevaux et al. 2020). "Least Concern".
- *Promops nasutus* (Spix, 1823). Very rare. Only two acoustic reports in 2014 and 2024 from the same locality, Ranch Terre Rouge near Mana. "Data Deficient".

Chiroptera – Natalidae Gray, 1866

Natalus Gray, 1838

- *Natalus tumidirostris* Miller, 1900. Rare. Mainly confined to rocky areas (boulder fields, caves) in primary forests. One record is reported on the coast, with a roost observed in a building at Awala-Yalimapo. "Data Deficient".

Chiroptera – Vespertilionidae Gray, 1821

Lasiurus Gray, 1831

- *Lasiurus atratus* Handley, 1996. Very rare, endemic to the Guiana Shield. Only one report in 1990 near Saül, in the centre of the country (Masson and Cosson, 1992). This specimen is in the collection JAGUARS, Cayenne, Kwata NGO/Institut Pasteur de la Guyane (Weksler et al. 2025). "Data Deficient".
- *Lasiurus blossevillii* (Lesson and Garnot, 1826). Rare, some records in primary and secondary forests. "Least Concern".
- *Lasiurus ega* Gervais, 1856. Rare. Known in savannah, marshes, rice fields and livestock pastures in the North-West of the country. "Data Deficient".

– *Lasiurus egregius* (Peters, 1870). Rare. Few reports from primary forests near creeks and rivers. “Data Deficient”.

Myotis Kaup, 1829. The genus *Myotis* is a species complex that still requires taxonomic investigations.
– *Myotis albescens* (E. Geoffroy, 1806). Rare. Known from one specimen identified by Moratelli et al. (2015). “Data Deficient”.
– *Myotis nigricans* (Schinz, 1821). Common. In all forest types. “Data Deficient”.
– *Myotis riparius* Handley, 1960. *M. riparius* is a complex of three species on the Guiana Shield (Clare et al. 2007). Common, in all forest types. Data Deficient”.

Neoeptesicus (Cláudio et al. 2023), formerly *Eptesicus* Rafinesque, 1820
– *Neoeptesicus chiriquinus* (Thomas, 1920). Formerly *Eptsesicus andinus*, and/or *E. brasiliensis.* Not common. Mainly around natural clearings in primary or old secondary forests. “Least Concern”.
– *Neoeptesicus furinalis* (d’Orbigny, 1847). Common. Mainly in gardens and agricultural landscapes on coastal plains. Inland, only near degraded habitats such as clearings, villages and gold mines. “Least Concern”.

Carnivora – Mustelidae Fischer, 1817

Eira H. Smith, 1842
– *Eira barbara* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.

Galictis Bell, 1926
– *Galictis vittata* (Schreber, 1776). Although rare, the species is likely widely distributed. “Least Concern”.

Lontra Gray, 1843
– *Lontra longicaudis* (Olfers, 1818). Common, widespread in most of the watercourses and flooded swamps, even in lightly disturbed areas. “Least Concern”.

Pteronura Gray, 1837
– *Pteronura brasiliensis* (Gmelin, 1788). May be common in undisturbed rivers and flooded savannahs and swamps, but highly sensitive to the consequences of mining activities (turbidity, other pollutions, disturbances). Considered “Endangered”, as the number of mature individuals is low, with declines documented in several areas, and mining pressures continuously increasing, with low resilience of populations (Wallace et al. 2025).

Carnivora – Procyonidae Gray, 1825

Nasua Storr, 1780
– *Nasua nasua* (Linnaeus, 1766). Common, widespread in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.

Potos E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire *et* Cuvier, 1795
– *Potos flavus* (Schreber, 1774). Common, widespread in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.

Procyon Storr, 1780
– *Procyon cancrivorus* (Cuvier, 1798). Common, widespread, although more abundant in mangrove habitats. “Least Concern”.

Carnivora – Canidae Fischer, 1817

Cerdocyon Smith, 1839
– *Cerdocyon thous* (Linnaeus, 1766). The presence of *Cerdocyon* is not confirmed by a picture or a specimen, but some sightings in the North-East of the country (B. de Thoisy, obs. pers.; B. Goguillon, obs. pers.) were detailed enough to be considered as relevant. Rare, likely very restricted distribution. “Data deficient”.

Speothos Lund, 1839
– *Speothos venaticus* (Lund, 1842). Rare, but likely widespread in upland forests. “Least Concern”.

Carnivora – Felidae Fischer de Waldheim, 1817

Leopardus Gray, 1842
– *Leopardus pardalis* (Linnaeus, 1758). Previously *Felis pardalis.* Common, widespread in open and forest habitats. Least concern.
– *Leopardus tigrinus* (Schreber, 1775). Previously *Felis tigrina*. Although the type locality is “Cayenne, French Guiana”, no record is confirmed in French Guiana. The distribution area is nevertheless expected to include the Guianas. So far, the assumed presence of the species in French Guiana relies on two specimens, reportedly collected in French Guiana, and deposited in the Natural History National Museum (Paris) and at the Natural History Museum of Toulouse. “Data deficient”.
– *Leopardus wiedii* (Schinz, 1821). Previously *Felis wiedii*. Not common, but widespread. Likely restricted to upland forests. “Least concern”.

Panthera Oken, 1816
– *Panthera onca* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common, widespread in forest and open habitats. Interactions with humans are a growing threat for the species (de Thoisy 2016), and poaching (Polisar et al. 2023). Considered as “Near Threatened”, also due to small population size and threats on habitats in the North and North-West of the country.

Puma Jardine, 1834

– *Puma concolor* (Linnaeus, 1771). Common, widespread in forest and open habitats. “Near Threatened”, due to small population size and likely declining trends.

Herpailurus Severtzov, 1858

– *Herpailurus yagouaroundi* (E. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1803). May be reported as *Puma yagouaroundi* or *Felis yagouaroundi.* Common, widespread in open and forest habitats. “Least concern”

Perissodactyla – Tapiridae Gray, 1821

Tapirus Brisson, 1762

– *Tapirus terrestris* (Linnaeus, 1758). Common in forest habitats, but sensitive to overhunting. Many areas are already depleted, and abundance has declined in most of the accessible areas. Considered “Vulnerable”.

Artiodactyla – Balaenopteridae Gray, 1864

Balaenoptera Lacépède, 1804

– *Balaenoptera edeni* Anderson, 1878. Uncommon, continental slope and oceanic domain. Confirmed in 2019 by the observation of a group of 13 individuals feeding in the deep waters of the Demerara Plateau. “Least concern” (International status, no regional assessment).
– *Balaenoptera musculus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Uncommon, only one record, oceanic domain. “Data deficient”.
– *Balaenoptera physalus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Uncommon, continental slope and oceanic domain. Two subspecies are distinguished, one in the northern hemisphere (*B. physalus* Tomilin, 1946) and one in the southern hemisphere (*B. p. quoyi* Fisher, 1829). As French Guiana lies beyond the southern and northern distribution limits of these subspecies, so far it is not possible to determine which stock the observed individuals belong to. “Data deficient”.
– *Balaenoptera bonaerensis* (Burmeister, 1867). Continental slope and oceanic domain. Recorded for the first time in September 2023, when a live individual stranded on the mudflat of the Cayenne River estuary. The animal died a few hours after discovery. “Near threatened” (International status, no regional assessment).

Megaptera Gray, 1846

– *Megaptera novaeangliae* (Borowski, 1781). Few records, observations of mothers with unweaned young. Upper continental shelf and slope. French Guiana is home to two subspecies: *Megaptera novaenglia novaenglia* (Borowski, 1781) from the North Atlantic and *M. n. kuzira* (Gray, 1850) from the South Atlantic. “Data deficient”.

Artiodactyla – Delphinidae Gray, 1821

Delphinus Linnaeus, 1758

– *Delphinus delphis* Linnaeus 1758. Common, continental shelf and coastal strip in dry season. Formerly *Delphinus capensis* (Gray 1828) until morphological and molecular studies (Cunha et al. 2015) that invalidated *D. capensis* as a species and proposed the taxa *capensis* as a subspecies of *D. delphis.* The morphotype present in French Guiana has a long beak and a paler grey coloration than individuals observed in the West Indies. “Data deficient”.

Feresa Gray, 1870

– *Feresa attenuata* Gray, 1874. Few records, continental slope and oceanic domain. “Least Concern” (International status, no regional assessment).

Globicephala Lesson, 1828

– *Globicephala macrorhynchus* Gray, 1846. Few records, continental shelf, slope, and oceanic domain, sometimes in the coastal strip during the dry season. “Data deficient”.

Grampus Gray, 1828

– *Grampus griseus* (G. Cuvier, 1812). Uncommon, continental shelf, slope and oceanic domain. “Data deficient”.

Lagenodelphis Fraser, 1957

– *Lagenodelphis hosei* Fraser, 1956. Uncommon, continental slope. “Least Concern” (International status, no regional assessment).

Orcinus Fitzinger, 1860

– *Orcinus orca* (Linnaeus, 1758). Uncommon, continental slope. “Data deficient”.

Peponocephala Nishiwaki *et* Norris, 1966

– *Peponocephala electra* (Gray, 1846). Few records, end of continental shelf and slope. A female stranded alive in 2022 in a water canal in Cayenne, but did not survive. “Data deficient”.

Pseudorca Reinhardt, 1862

– *Pseudorca crassidens* (Owen, 1846). Common, continental shelf, slope, and oceanic domain, sometimes in the coastal strip during the dry season. “Data deficient”.

Sotalia Gray, 1866

– *Sotalia guianensis* (Van Bénéden, 1864). Previously considered as *Sotalia fluviatilis* (Caballero et al. 2007). Supposed to be common and widespread in coastal waters, but the species declined (Bordin et al. 2022) and has been classified as "Endangered" based on strong pressures, mainly from bycatch.

Stenella Gray, 1866

– *Stenella attenuata* (Gray, 1846). Common, continental shelf and slope. "Data deficient".
– *Stenella clymene* (Gray, 1846). Uncommon, continental slope and oceanic domain. "Least concern" (International status, no regional assessment).
– *Stenella frontalis* (G. Cuvier, 1829). Common, continental shelf and slope. "Data deficient".
– *Stenella longirostris* (Gray, 1828). Few records, slope. "Data deficient".

Steno Gray, 1846

– *Steno bredanensis* (G. Cuvier *in* Lesson, 1828). Common, continental shelf and slope. Mixed groups of *S. bredanensis* and *Tursiops truncatus* are sometimes seen in the coastal strip during the dry season. "Data deficient".

Tursiops Gervais, 1855

– *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821). Common, continental shelf, slope and oceanic domain, coastal strip during the dry season. The observed individuals have a light grey colour with an almost white back, similar to the coastal morphotype found in the West Indies. A pelagic morphotype, larger and darker, may also be present in French Guiana. "Data deficient".

Artiodactyla – Kogiidae Gill 1871

Kogia Gray, 1846

– *Kogia breviceps* (de Blainville, 1838). Uncommon, oceanic. An individual stranded alive in 2017 on a mudflat in the Mahury estuary but was found dead a few days later on a beach (Bordin et al. 2020). "Least concern" (International status, no regional assessment).
– *Kogia sima* (Owen, 1866). Uncommon: (one individual observed dead in 2018 drifting offshore, and one stranding in 2025, continental slope and oceanic domain. "Least concern" (International status, no regional assessment).

Artiodactyla – Physeteridae Gray 1821

Physeter Linnaeus, 1758

– *Physeter macrocephalus* Linnaeus, 1758. Few records, continental slope, and oceanic area. Presence of mother with unweaned young. "Vulnerable".

Artiodactyla – Ziphiidae Gray, 1850

Mesoplodon Gervais, 1850

– *Mesoplodon densirostris* (de Blainville, 1817). Uncommon, continental slope. "Least concern" (International status, no regional assessment).

Ziphius Gray, 1850

– *Ziphius cavirostris* (G. Cuvier, 1823). Uncommon, continental slope and oceanic domain. "Data deficient".

Artiodactyla – Cervidae Goldfuss, 1820

Mazama Rafinesque, 1817

– *Mazama americana* (Erxleben, 1777). Cayenne, French Guiana is the type locality of the species, but the absence of a holotype for a more complete analysis called for the need to acquire a current topotype. It was collected in 2015 in Regina municipality, 100 km Eastward from Cayenne, and was proposed as a neotype (Cifuentes-Rincón et al. 2020). Common, widespread in forest habitats. "Least Concern".

Odocoileus Rafinesque, 1832

– *Odocoileus virginianus* (Boddaert, 1784). The name *O. cariacou* Molina and Molinari, 1999) was recently questioned, reverting back to the use of *O. virginianus* (Guttierez et al. 2017; Sandoval et al. 2023). Rare, distribution restricted to northern mangroves, swamps and flooded forests. "Vulnerable", due to small population size.

Passalites Gloger, 1841

– *Passalites nemorivagus* (Cuvier, 1817). The grey brocket deer was included in the *Mazama gouazoubira* group, before being accepted as *Mazama nemorivagus* (Barbanti-Duarte et al. 2008). A recent taxonomic repositioning of this species was proposed after the collection in 2015 of a specimen from its type locality (Régina, French Guiana). Subsequent morphological, cytogenetics, and phylogenetic analysis, confirm the taxon as a unique and valid species, and show early diversification within the Blastocerina clade and wide divergence from the other species, suggesting that the taxon should be transferred to a different genus. A taxonomic update of the genus name is proposed through the validation of *Passalites* Gloger, 1841, with *Passalites nemorivagus* (Cuvier, 1817) as the type species (Morales-Donoso et al.

2023). Common, widespread in forest habitats. “Least Concern”.

Artiodactyla – Tayassuidae Palmer, 1897

Dicotyles (G. Cuvier, 1835)

– *Dicotyles tajacu* (Linnaeus, 1758). Formerly *Pecari tajacu*, until the revision of the Tayassuidae (Acosta et al. (2020). Common, widespread in forest habitats and surroundings. ”Least Concern”.

Tayassu G. Fischer, 1814

– *Tayassu pecari* (Link, 1795). Widespread in forest habitats. Sensitive to overhunting, although large scale population cycles (Fragoso et al. 2022) complicate assessment of trends. Considered as “Near threatened”.

4 Discussion

4.1 Diversity and taxonomic issues

The updated list of mammals from French Guiana proposes 35 terrestrial families, 126 genera and 198 species. Brackish, coastal and marine taxa are organized in 6 additional families, 19 genera, and 27 species (Table 1).

There are 16 species in Didelphimorphia from French Guiana, which is one species more than the neighboring Amapá state in Brazil (Silva et al. 2013). The noticeable exception is a recent report of *G. venusta* in French Guiana (Alexandre and de Thoisy, 2023). The name *C. agricolae* should probably be assigned to *Cryptonanus* sp. from Amapá, as we propose for the French Guiana specimen, and as shown by the similarity of barcode sequences (Supplementary Data 1). Xenarthran species are the same as in Amapá, including sharing the newly described *D. guianensis* (Barthe et al. 2025).

The issue of Sirenia is still being investigated. The hybridization zone appears not to be a recent event, and introgression gene flow likely still occur (Lima et al. 2024). Genotyping of 13 animals led to molecular evidence of 12 hybrids, and one single pure bred, the Amazonian manatee *T. inunguis*. So far, no pure *T. manatus* has been recorded. Twenty-five species of marine species have been recorded in French Guiana’s Exclusive Economic Zone (approx. 130,000 km^2), which is more than half of the species recorded in the much larger zone in Brazil (n = 44; 3.66 Mkm^2 EEZ). Three additional species could also be present, but for which there is no visual confirmation: *Balaenoptera borealis* (acoustic detection in 2013 and 2018), *Stenella coeruleoalba* and *Inia geoffrensis* which could reach the Oyapock river in the rainy season (presence suggested by local fishermen). The presence of *I. geoffrensis* in the Oiapoque and Cassiporé rivers, located in Brazil’s extreme north near the French Guiana border, lends support to this report (Marmontel et al. 2021).

Table 1: Richness of French Giuanan mammals: families, genera, and species.

	Family	No. of genera	No. of species
Didelphimorphia	Didelphidae	12	16
Cingulata	Chlamyphoridae	2	2
	Dasypodidae	1	2
Pilosa	Bradypodidae	1	1
	Choloepidae	1	1
	Cyclopedidae	1	1
	Myrmecophagidae	2	2
Sirenia	Trichechidae	1	2
Primates	Atelidae	2	2
	Callithricidae	1	1
	Cebidae	3	3
	Pitheciidae	2	2
Rodentia	Caviidae	1	1
	Cuniculidae	1	1
	Dasyproctidae	2	2
	Erethizontidae	1	2
	Echimyidae	5	7
	Sciuridae	2	2
	Cricetidae	11	19
	Muridae	2	3
Chiroptera	Emballonuridae	7	15
	Furipteridae	1	1
	Mormoopidae	1	4
	Noctilionidae	1	2
	Phyllostomidae	33	58
	Thyropteridae	1	2
	Molossidae	6	15
	Natalidae	1	1
	Verspertilionidae	3	9
Carnivora	Mustelidae	4	4
	Procyonidae	3	3
	Canidae	2	2
	Felidae	4	6
Perissodactyla	Tapiridae	1	1
Artiodactylae	Balaenopteridae	2	5
	Delphinidae	12	15
	Kogiidae	1	2
	Physeteridae	1	1
	Ziphiidae	2	2
	Cervidae	3	3
	Tayassuidae	2	2
Total	41	144	225

French Guiana has a modest richness of monkeys, with eight species, which is two species less that in Amapá (da Silva et al. 2013) where *Aotus infulatus* and *Alouatta belzebul* also occur, this latter species is common in the savannas forests.

Rodentia is the second species-rich order of mammals after bats, with 37 species including the recent molecular

Table 2a: Ecology and conservation of French Guianan mammals: (a) habitats, distribution, abundance, and status of terrestrial and flying species.

		Habitats					
		Upland forests	Riparian forests	Degraded forests	Mangroves	Savannas	Swamps
Didelphimorphia	Didelphidae	15	12	10	4	5	4
Cingulata	Chlamyphoridae	2	2			2	
	Dasypodidae	2	2	1		1	
Pilosa	Bradypodidae	1	1	1			
	Choloepidae	1	1				
	Cyclopedidae	1	1	1			
	Myrmecophagidae	2	2	1		1	
Primates	Atelidae	2	1	1	1		
	Callithricidae	1	1	1			
	Cebidae	3	3	2	2		
	Pitheciidae	2	1	1			
Rodentia	Caviidae	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Cuniculidae	1	1	1		1	
	Dasyproctidae	2	2	1		1	
	Erethizontidae	2	2	2			
	Echimyidae	7	6	5	1		
	Sciuridae	2	2	2			
	Cricetidae	11	9	5		5	2
	Muridae			3			
Chiroptera	Emballonuridae	14	1	9	2	1	2
	Furipteridae	1					
	Mormoopidae	4	4	4			
	Noctilionidae		2		2	2	2
	Phyllostomidae	56	58	32	15	11	16
	Thyropteridae	2	2	1		1	1
	Molossidae	10	4	15	2	9	7
	Natalidae	1					
	Vespertilionidae	7	7	6	5	5	5
Carnivora	Mustelidae	4	4	3	3	3	3
	Procyonidae	3	3	2	1		
	Canidae	1	1			1	
	Felidae	6	4	3	2	2	2
Perissodactyla	Tapiridae	1	1	1			
Artiodactyla (terrestrial species)	Cervidae	2	2	2	1	1	1
	Tayassuidae	2	2	1			

		Distribution		Abundance		Status					
		Restricted	Wide	Rare	Common	DD	LC	NT	VU	EE	Not evaluated
Didelphimorphia	Didelphidae	2	14	6	10	4	11			1	
Cingulata	Chlamyphoridae	1	1		2	1	1				
	Dasypodidae		2		2		2				
Pilosa	Bradypodidae		1		1		1				
	Choloepidae	1		1		1					
	Cyclopedidae		1		1		1				
	Myrmecophagidae		2		2		2				
Primates	Atelidae		2		2		2				
	Callithricidae		1		1		1				
	Cebidae		3		3		3				
	Pitheciidae	1	1		2	1	1				
Rodentia	Caviidae		1		1		1				
	Cuniculidae		1		1		1				
	Dasyproctidae		2		2		2				
	Erethizontidae		2		2		2				
	Echimyidae	2	5	1	6	1	5				1

Table 2a: (continued)

		Distribution		Abundance		Status					
		Restricted	Wide	Rare	Common	DD	LC	NT	VU	EE	Not evaluated
	Sciuridae		2		2		2				
	Cricetidae	7	12	8	11	5	12		1		1
	Muridae	3			3						3
Chiroptera	Emballonuridae	5	10	9	6	8	6				1
	Furipteridae		1	1			1				
	Mormoopidae		4	2	2		4				
	Noctilionidae	1	1	1	1		1		1		
	Phyllostomidae	7	51	35	23	7	49	1			1
	Thyropteridae	1	1	1	1	1	1				
	Molossidae	5	10	11	4	9	6				
	Natalidae	1		1		1					
	Vespertilionidae	4	5	6	3	6	3				
Carnivora	Mustelidae		4	1	3		3			1	
	Procyonidae		3		3		3				
	Canidae	2		2		1					1
	Felidae		6	2	4	1	3	2			
Perissodactyla	Tapiridae		1		1				1		
Artiodactyla (terrestrial species)	Cervidae	1	2	1	2		2		1		
	Tayassuidae		2		2		1	1			

confirmation of cryptic species such as *O. messorius* (da Cruz et al. 2019) and *O. delicatus*. The last checklist of rodents in Amapá is lower in diversity (da Silva et al. 2013): the two *Oligoryzomys* species are not recognized, and the genus *Rhipidomys* is not recorded. The absence of the *R. nitela* is surprinsing for Amapá, because the species is common and widely distributed in French Guiana. Other taxa that still need to be recognized or described include *Makalata* sp. 1 and *Oecomys* sp. 1. *Makalata* sp. 1 occurs in the coastal areas and mangroves in French Guiana and Amapá, harboring similar cytochrome oxidase 1 sequences (da Silva and de Thoisy, unpub. data). Similarly, *Oecomys* sp. 1 occurs in upland forest off French Guiana and Amapá, with the same DNA barcoding signature (daSilva and de Thoisy, unpub. data).

Since the last list in 2013, the number of bats in French Giuana has increased by 6 species (*A. bogotensis, D. isabellus, M. neglectus, P. alitonus, P. nasutus, U. magnirostrum*), primarily because of more systematic genetic and acoustic analyses. In contrast, three species observed in the 90s (*C. alecto, V. bidens* and *L. atratus*) have not been found again in French Guiana despite intensive research. The diversity of chiropterans in French Guiana is far from complete. We estimate that there are at least ten species present in neighboring Brazil and Suriname that have yet to be discovered in French Guiana. Also, the small bats of the *Myotis* and *Peropteryx* genera undoubtedly contain new species to be described for science.

Carnivora diversity is almost similar to Amapá community (Silva et al. 2013). *Cerdocyon thous* with few records in French Guiana, considered rare, is common in Amapá state, and occurs in savannas, flooded plains and riparian forests (de Thoisy et al. 2013; Silva et al. 2013). Despite some potential records, *L. tigrinus* was not considered in Amapá list, as there is no voucher (Silva et al. 2013). Occurrence in French Guiana is based on two skins in two French Museums that are claimed to have been collected “around Cayenne”, but no recent records, direct sightings or roadkills are documented. The presence of *Neogale* (*Mustela*) *africana* in the region is questioned, as its distribution encompasses the southern half of the Guianas (Emmons and Helgen 2016; Ramirez-Chaves et al. 2014). The most recent bibliography, which has compiled records based on vouchers in collections and unambiguous records, does not include French Guiana and its environs, such as Amapá and Suriname, as a distribution area for *Neogale africana* (Bernal-Hoverud et al. 2024; Schiaffini 2022).

4.2 Distribution, ecology and conservation issues

Species abundance status is based on the frequency of sightings of each species in French Guiana. While there are a large number of naturally rare species in tropical forests, the presence/abundance of others, depending on their detectability, are potentially undervalued in this work. This should encourage continued efforts to acquire knowledge,

specifically of cetaceans, high-flying bats and small terrestrial mammals.

Most of the non-marine species (78 %) from French Guiana have a wide distribution across the country (Table 2a and b), are considered common (55 %), and have a "low concern status" (70 %). Those species are encountered in forests areas, which are the less threatened habitats in the country.

This statement nevertheless should no understate the role and importance of those habitats, because 10 % of species (20 non-flying and 3 flying species) are restricted to the Guiana Shield. Relying on a better forest conservation status, likely a more efficient protected areas network, and a strong regulatory framework, the country has a responsability for the conservation of the mammals in the region. One warning flag is the species closely associated to watercourses (Coutant et al. 2025), which are under the influence of the uncontrolled modern goldmining rush (Cortinhas Ferreira Neto et al. 2024).

Savanna habitats are also under strong pressures (Stier et al. 2020) and host the most threatened species and/or populations. Human demographic increases and associated infrastructure needs weaken the biodiversity of coastal plains, and will call for urgent attention, as urbanization may destroy fragile habitats, and increase fragmentation.

Threats are also significant on estuarine and marine species, although lack of ecological data may preclude a relevant assessment of the impacts on these species. As a consequence, of the 25 strictly marine species (Artiodatyla), 15 were considered as Data Deficient and 8 were not evaluated in the Regional Red List. On the estuarine and coastal region, manatees and Guiana dolphins are threatened by pollution, infrastructure development, and bycatch by local and artisanal fishing activities, and the reemerging threat of petroleum exploration, and industrial fishing, are increasing pressures on marine biodiversity.

5 Conclusions

The updated list of mammals from French Guiana reveals a high diversity, representative of the eastern part of the Guiana Shield. Although some groups, such as Chiroptera, and poorly contacted species (marine species, and rare and/or restricted taxa) still require further taxonomic and ecological research, this list is expected to provide a relevant reference basis for taxonomic assignments, necessary for policy implementation, police control, implementation of actions plans, land management, habitat and species conservation prioritizations.

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Table 2b: Ecology and conservation of French Guianan mammals: habitats, abundance, and status of marine species.

		Habitats				
		Rivers and estuaries	Coastal strip	Continental shelf	Slope	Oceanic domain
Sirenia	Trichechidae	1				
Artiodactyla (marine families)	Balaenopteridae			1	4	4
	Delphinidae	1	5	9	13	6
	Kogiigae				1	2
	Physeteridae				1	1
	Ziphiidae				2	1

		Abundance		Status					
		Rare	Common	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	Not evaluated
Sirenia	Trichechidae	1						1	
Artiodactyla (marine families)	Balaenopteridae	5		3	1	1			
	Delphinidae	8	7	11	3			1	
	Kogiigae	2			2				
	Physeteridae	1					1		
	Ziphiidae	2		1	1				

occurrence, and is an invaluable tool for the understanding of species distribution and rarity. The collection JAGUARS is hosted by the Institut Pasteur de la Guyane. Damien Donato and Anne Lavergne, from Institut Pasteur de la Guyane, are acknowledged for sample DNA barcoding. Lastly, Marcelo Weksler and Burton Lim are warmly acknowledged for their careful reviewing.

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