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This unusual native to western African forests along with swamps is one of only two extant species throughout the Hippopotamidae family; the other is its much larger cousin, the common hippopotamus. It is estimated that there are fewer than 3,000 pygmy hippos in the wild, plus this figure is expected to decline with the 20 percent through the next twenty years. They're threatened through the a style of factors, most notably habitat loss, poaching, hunting, natural predators, plus war. The IUCN Red Encyclopedia ranks the pygmy hippo as endangered.

Endemic to Sierra Leone, Republic of Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, and Liberia, these nocturnal animals are difficult to scrutinize throughout the wild. Most of what is known about pygmy hippos comes from captive animals in zoos, where they may be successfully bred. They're solitary plus semi-aquatic: they rely on immersion in water to keep their skin moist as well as to regulate their body temperature, nevertheless they spend time on land as well. These herbivores eat ferns, broad-leaf plants, grasses, and fruits. Although their habitat had already been ' dwindling for extra than a century, the explosion in human development over last thirty years has brought potent change to the pygmy hippo. Their historical ranges have been logged, farmed, in addition to settled. Forced into deeper forests, population groups have become segregated. Armed conflict in large numbers number~hordes~tens of millions~huge number~thousands and thousands} African countries has placed added pressure throughout the hippo, as well as war zones are typically considered too dangerous for conservationists to do their work.

Despite official protected reputation in Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone, there do not come into sight to be any real enforcement measures in place. Reports suggest that property are lacking. In Liberia, where most pygmy hippos reside, the IUCN deems conservation efforts as incomplete through the face of massive deforestation. It appears that the only hope for the present is captive breeding. The number of captive-born pygmy hippos has more than doubled since 1970. Nevertheless, it is by and large agreed that zoo animals are physically in addition to psychologically stressed through the their captivity, plus, obviously, such measures do small to improve position for the species during the wild.

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