

Smithers RHN. 1986. The species and their categories - Cheetah. In: South African Red Data Book - Terrestrial Mammals (Report No.125).

Keywords: 1ZA/Acinonyx jubatus/African wild cat/black-footed cat/Cape Province/captive breeding/cheetah/distribution/endangered species/farm/Felis nigripes/Felis silvestris/Felis silvestris lybica/habitat/Kalahari/Kruger National Park/Leptailurus serval/Mammalia/Natal/National Park/population decline/Red List/status/Transvaal

Abstract: In the South African Red Data Book of 1986, the cheetah is reported as "out of danger", while in the former edition of 1976/7 it was attributed to the category "endangered". In the Cape province, there is a small resident population in the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, and they occur from time to time as vagrants on farms in the northern parts of the province along the Botswana border. Extinct in the Orange Free State and Natal. In the Transvaal there is a resident population in the Kruger National Park and individuals cross onto farms in the north from Zimbabwe and Botswana. The development of their habitat, their incompatibility with domestic stock and the high value of their skins appear to be the main responsible factors for their decline.

THE SPECIES AND THEIR CATEGORIES

Of the 92 species included in this Red Data Book the breakdown between the various categories, as they are defined in the section TERMINOLOGY, is given in the following list.

The category into which the various species were placed in the former Red Data Books, Meester (1976) and Skinner, Fairall & Bothma (1977) is indicated by the placing of the capital letters before the colloquial name: E Endangered; V Vulnerable; R Rare; O Out of Danger; I Indeterminate; SC Special Case; ND Not Designated; and - Not Included.

Two species have become EXTINCT within historical times:

Quagga Blue antelope

One species is EXTINCT IN SOUTH AFRICA although it still occurs extra-limitally:

Lichtenstein's hartebeest

Three species are considered to be ENDANGERED:

R	Riverine rabbit	E	Roan antelope
E	Wild dog		

Fourteen species are considered to be VULNERABLE:

R	Giant golden mole	R	Pangolin
-	Rough-haired golden mole	ND	Antbear
R	Tonga red squirrel	E	Cape mountain zebra
R	Ngoye red squirrel	E	Hook-lipped rhinoceros
-	White-tailed mouse	V	Oribi
R	Honey badger	R	Sable antelope
-	African wild cat	E	Suni

Twenty-five species are considered as RARE:

R	South African hedgehog	R	Aardwolf
R	Yellow golden mole	R	Brown hyaena
R	Grant's golden mole	R	Serval
ND	Four-toed elephant-shrew	-	Small spotted cat
R	Samango monkey	R	Leopard
R	Namaqua dune mole-rat	R	Tree dassie
R	Woosnam's desert rat	SC	Hippopotamus
R	Giant rat	R	Bontebok
R	Spectacled dormouse	R	Tsessebe
R	African striped weasel	R	Blue duiker
R	African civet	R	Red duiker
R	Meller's mongoose	R	Sharpe's grysbok
-	Selous' mongoose		

Two species are now considered to be OUT OF DANGER:

E Cheetah

SC African elephant

Forty-five species, are so inadequately known that they must be relegated to the INDETERMINATE category:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| - | Long-tailed forest shrew | - | Rüppell's bat |
| R | Maquassie musk shrew | - | Kuhl's bat |
| - | Greater dwarf shrew | - | Rusty bat |
| - | Least dwarf shrew | R | Butterfly bat |
| R | Van Zyl's golden mole | - | De Winton's long-eared bat |
| R | De Winton's golden mole | - | Botswana long-eared bat |
| R | Visagie's golden mole | R | Aloe serotine bat |
| - | Duthie's golden mole | R | Damara woolly bat |
| - | Sclater's golden mole | R | Lesser woolly bat |
| - | Gunning's golden mole | - | Wood's slit-faced bat |
| - | Zulu golden mole | - | Lander's horseshoe bat |
| R | Juliana's golden mole | - | Peak-saddle horseshoe bat |
| R | Egyptian tomb bat | - | Dent's horseshoe bat |
| R | Large-eared free-tailed bat | - | Swinny's horseshoe bat |
| - | Natal free-tailed bat | - | Short-eared trident bat |
| - | Madagascar free-tailed bat | - | Commerson's leaf-nosed bat |
| R | Transvaal free-tailed bat | - | Tiny fat mouse |
| - | Ansorge's free-tailed bat | - | Nyika climbing mouse |
| R | Midas free-tailed bat | - | Pygmy rock mouse |
| R | Welwitsch's hairy bat | R | Water rat |
| R | Angola hairy bat | R | Mozambique woodland mouse |
| R | Lesueur's hairy bat | - | Grant's rock mouse |
| - | Rufous hairy bat | | |

species and while a fair amount is known about most of the aspects of its life history there is a paucity of information on reproduction. They are widely blamed for their depredations on small domestic stock and for the damage they do in apiaries.

AFRICAN WILD CAT

VULNERABLE

Felis lybica

Taxonomy	Distribution	Habitat	Habits	Food	Reproduction
+					+

While we have a fair amount of information on the ecology of this species it is included for the somewhat unusual reason that it is subject to hybridization with domestic cats and pure strain Felis lybica is not today found around settlements where there are domestic cats. It seems inevitable that this process, albeit slow, will continue to the eventual elimination of F. lybica in southern Africa.

The characters that mark F. lybica and the domestic strains are fairly obvious and a watch should be maintained for hybridization and efforts made in some of the larger conservation areas to prevent this taking place. In Natal the staff members of parks and reserves may keep cats only if they have been rendered sterile.

PANGOLIN

VULNERABLE

Manis temminckii

Taxonomy	Distribution	Habitat	Habits	Food	Reproduction
	+	+	+	+	+

Except in the northern and north-western Transvaal, from whence there are numerous records, records of the species in the Republic are few and far between and therefore sightings of the species, which is unmistakable among African mammals, should be brought to the notice of conservation authorities. Information is needed on the other facets of its life history as noted in the table. There is a need to know their susceptibility to certain organic insecticides.

ANTBEAR

VULNERABLE

Orycteropus afer

Taxonomy	Distribution	Habitat	Habits	Food	Reproduction
	+		+		+

Our knowledge of the time of year in which the young are born and

		POPULATION DISTRIBUTION							DATA SHEET PAGE No.	
		CONSERVATION STATUS		Endemic	Wide	Marginal	Limited	CURRENT POPULATION TREND		AFRICAN DISTRIBUTION
		1985	1976/7							
Family Felidae Cheetah <u>Acinonyx jubatus jubatus</u>		O	E				X	S	W	162
Leopard <u>Panthera pardus melanotica</u>		R	R				X	S	W	140
Serval <u>Felis serval serval</u>		R	R				X	D	W	135
Small spotted cat <u>Felis nigripes nigripes</u> <u>F. n. thomasi</u>		R R	- -			SSP	X X	S S	M	138
African wild cat <u>Felis lybica cafra</u> <u>F. l. griselda</u>		V V	- -		X X			D D		77
Family Elephantidae African elephant <u>Loxodonta africana africana</u>		O	SC				X	U	L	165
Family Procaviidae Tree dassie <u>Dendrohyrax arboreus arboreus</u>		R	R				X	S	L	143
Family Orycteropodidae Antbear <u>Orycteropus afer afer</u>		V	-		X			S	W	82
Family Rhinocerotidae Hook-lipped rhinoceros <u>Diceros bicornis minor</u>		V	E				X	U	M	88
Family Equidae Cape mountain zebra <u>Equus zebra zebra</u>		V	E			SSP	X	U	M	84
Family Hippopotamidae Hippopotamus <u>Hippopotamus amphibius capensis</u>		R	SC				X	S	W	145