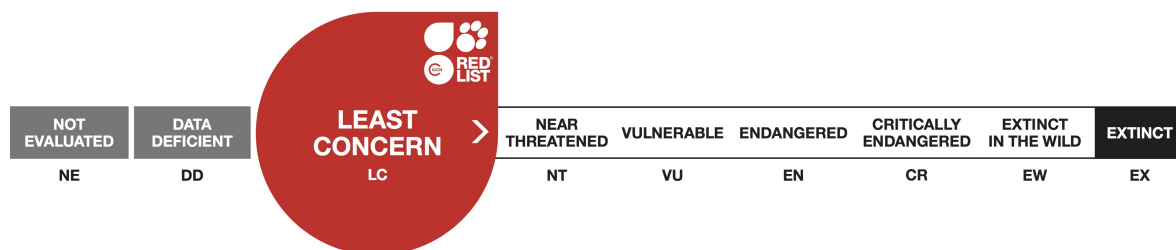


Suricata suricatta, Meerkat

Assessment by: Jordan, N.R. & Do Linh San, E.



View on www.iucnredlist.org

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Herpestidae

Taxon Name: *Suricata suricatta* (Schreber, 1776)

Common Name(s):

- English: Meerkat, Slender-tailed Meerkat, Suricate
- French: Suricate

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern [ver 3.1](#)

Year Published: 2015

Date Assessed: February 28, 2015

Justification:

It is listed as Least Concern because this species is relatively widespread within southern Africa, present in several protected areas, and there are no major threats.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T41624A10518954.en>

1996 – Lower Risk/least concern (LR/lc)

Geographic Range

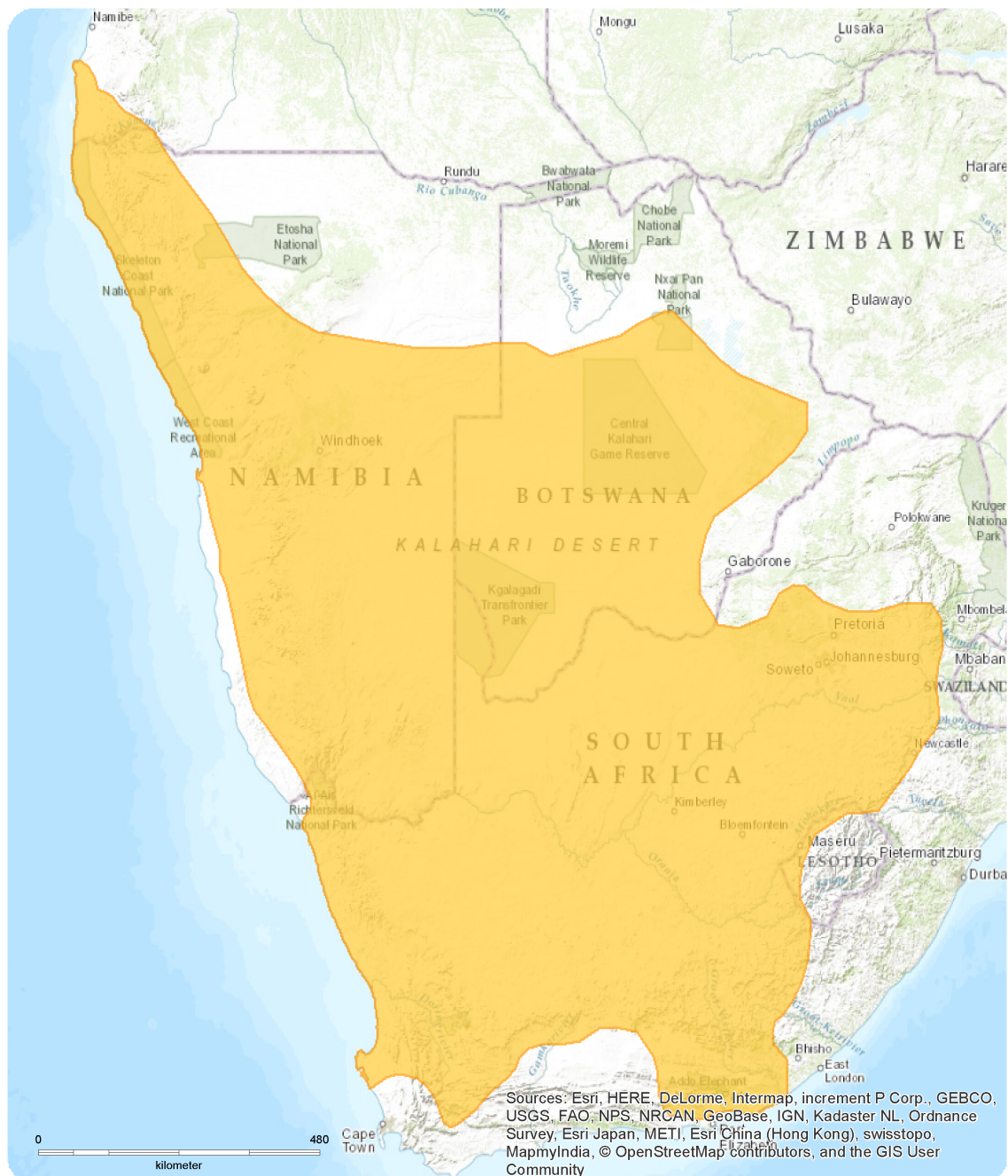
Range Description:

This species is widespread in the western parts of southern Africa, including western and southern Namibia, southwestern Botswana, and north and west South Africa, with a very marginal intrusion into extreme southwestern Angola (Macdonald 2013). Lynch (1994) suggested that this species may occur in the lowlands of Lesotho, but there have been no records so far (N. Avenant pers. comm. 2013).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Angola (Angola); Botswana; Namibia; South Africa

Distribution Map

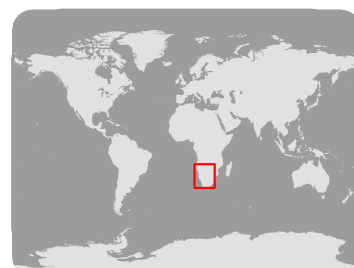


Suricata suricatta

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
IUCN (International Union for
Conservation of Nature)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.

Population

Densities can fluctuate greatly across the range, and are influenced by rainfall and predation. In the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, South Africa, densities declined from one individual/km² in April 1994 to 0.32 individual/km² in May 1995 following a reduction in rainfall (Clutton-Brock *et al.* 1999).

Current Population Trend: Stable

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This is an inhabitant of arid, open country, characterised by short grasses and sparse woody growth. It is absent from true desert and forested areas, and also from mountainous terrain (Macdonald 2013). It is carnivorous, feeding mostly on invertebrates.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

This species is not used.

Threats

There are no major threats to the species. There is currently no evidence that infection with tuberculosis (probably *Mycobacterium bovis*), which may be common in this species (Drewe 2010), has led to any direct persecution in farming areas, or that a present small trade in Meerkats as pets has affected wild populations.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

It is present in several large and well-managed protected areas, including the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

Credits

Assessor(s): Jordan, N.R. & Do Linh San, E.

Reviewer(s): Duckworth, J.W. & Hoffmann, M.

Contributor(s): Macdonald, D.

Bibliography

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External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the [Red List website](#).

Appendix

Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	-	Suitable	-
4. Grassland -> 4.5. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
8. Desert -> 8.1. Desert - Hot	-	Suitable	-

Conservation Actions in Place

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Occur in at least one PA: Yes

Additional Data Fields

Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 6

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