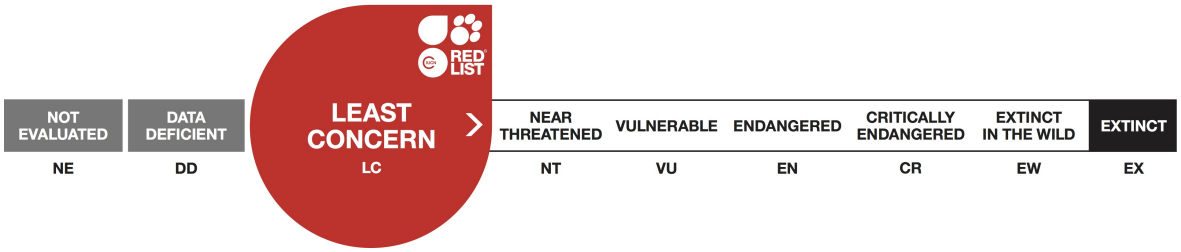
The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™
ISSN 2307-8235 (online)
IUCN 2008: T118264888A118265889
Scope: Global
Language: English

Canis lupaster, African Wolf

Assessment by: Hoffmann, M. & Atickem, A.



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Citation: Hoffmann, M. & Atickem, A. 2019. *Canis lupaster*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2019: e.T118264888A118265889. http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2019-1.RLTS.T118264888A118265889.en

Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Canidae

Taxon Name: *Canis lupaster* Hemprich and Ehrenberg, 1832

Synonym(s):

- *Canis anthus* (Cuvier, 1820)

Common Name(s):

- English: African Wolf, African Golden Wolf

Taxonomic Source(s):

Koepfli, K.P., Pollinger, J., Godinho, R., Robinson, J., Lea, A., Hendricks, S., Schweizer, R.M., Thalmann, O., Silva, P., Fan, Z., Yurchenko, A.A, Dobrynin, P., Makunin, A., Cahill, J.A., Shapiro, B., Álvares, F., Brito, J.C., Geffen, E., Leonard, J.A., Helgen, K.M., Johnson, W.E., O'Brien, S.J., Van Valkenburgh, B. and Wayne, R.K. 2015. Genome-wide evidence reveals that African and Eurasian Golden jackals are distinct species. *Current Biology* 25: 2158–2165.

Taxonomic Notes:

Recent studies based on genome-wide sequencing and morphology have shown that "golden jackals" in Africa are larger in size than those from Eurasia and are actually more closely related to the Grey Wolf *Canis lupus*. African animals hence represent a previously overlooked distinct species, the African Wolf, *Canis lupaster* (see Rueness *et al*. 2011, Gaubert *et al*. 2012, Koepfli *et al*. 2015, Viranta *et al*. 2017). However, the putative presence of Golden Jackal in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt remains unclear (see Gaubert *et al*. 2012, Viranta *et al*. 2017).

One small point of confusion pertains to the correct species name for the African Wolf, since authors have alternated between *Canis lupaster* and *Canis anthus*, of which the latter has priority. However, Viranta *et al*. (2017) provide a rationale for considering *Canis anthus* a *nomen dubium* (in part due to the fact that the holotype is also missing), and use *C. lupaster* as the name for the African Wolf.

The treatment herein therefore provisionally follows the latter authors, but the situation may warrant further investigation.

Assessment Information

Red List Category & Criteria: Least Concern ver 3.1

Year Published: 2019

Date Assessed: September 30, 2018

Justification:

The African Wolf is widely distributed across the northern and north-eastern parts of the African continent, and while it is known to be declining in parts of its range, there is no evidence that these

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declines would be sufficient for the species to meet the thresholds for listing as threatened.

Geographic Range

Range Description:

The African Wolf is widespread in the northern and north-eastern parts of Africa, occurring from Senegal and Morocco in the west to Egypt, Ethiopia and Somalia in the east, then ranging southwards to northern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, northern Central African Republic and northern Tanzania (Jhala and Moehlman 2004, Gaubert *et al*. 2012, Moehlman and Jhala 2013, Moehlman and Hayssen 2018). The species has only recently been recognized as distinct, on morphological and molecular grounds, from the Eurasian Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*) and hence the range of the Golden Jackal in Africa as previously understood is here taken to represent the range of the African Wolf.

Country Occurrence:

Native: Algeria; Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Central African Republic; Chad; Djibouti; Egypt (Egypt (African part)); Eritrea; Ethiopia; Guinea; Kenya; Libya; Mali; Mauritania; Morocco; Niger; Nigeria; Senegal; Somalia; South Sudan; Sudan; Tanzania, United Republic of; Tunisia; Western Sahara

Distribution Map

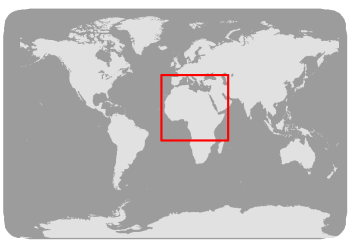
Canis lupaster

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.

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Population

In the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, densities can range as high as two adults per km² (Moehlman 1983, 1986, 1989).

Current Population Trend: Decreasing

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Due to its tolerance of dry conditions and its omnivorous, adaptable diet, the African Wolf is able to occupy semi-desert, short to medium grasslands and savannas (Moehlman and Jhala 2013). In Ethiopia, the species has been recorded at elevations up to 3,800 m in the Bale Mountains of Ethiopia (Sillero-Zubiri 1996) down to sea level in Eritrea (Moehlman and Hayssen 2018). In Ethiopia, the species feeds on rodents, insects, carcasses and occasionally predates on livestock (Atickem *et al*. 2017, Gutema *et al*. 2018).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

There is no significant trade in African Wolf products, although skins and tails are very occasionally sold.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The African Wolf is probably declining slowly across parts of its range due to lack of habitat and indiscriminate predator control programmes. The species is considered as a key livestock predator in many parts of the Ethiopian Highlands (Atickem *et al*. 2017) and elsewhere. They are frequently found in close proximity to human settlement (Yirga *et al*. 2017) possibly due to higher food availability from human waste and livestock prey. However, extended urbanization may also affect the availability of shelter, especially for breeding. The African Wolf also may occasionally be hunted as a game species and eaten, as has been recorded in Morocco (F. Cuzin pers. comm. 2007).

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

Legal protection

Not included on the CITES Appendices.

Presence in protected areas

The African Wolf is present in a great number of protected areas across their range, including the Serengeti-Masai Mara-Ngorongoro complex in East Africa.

Captivity

Not commonly held in conservation breeding programmes.

Gaps in knowledge

Most of what is known of the biology of this species comes from studies in the Serengeti and more recently from the Guassa Highlands of Ethiopia. There is otherwise little quantitative information available on densities, habitat use, and ranging patterns in relation to food availability. Information on dispersal, survival and mortality factors of adults, pups and dispersing individuals is needed. Aspects of

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disease in relation to population dynamics and transmission need to be better understood.

Credits

Assessor(s): Hoffmann, M. & Atickem, A.

Reviewer(s): Sillero-Zubiri, C.

Contributor(s): Moehlman, P.D.

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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	Yes
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	Yes
4. Grassland -> 4.5. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	Yes
4. Grassland -> 4.7. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical High Altitude	-	Suitable	Yes

Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.2. Commercial & industrial areas	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.3. Agro-industry farming	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	Negligible declines	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.1. Ecosystem conversion		

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Research, Monitoring and Planning
Action Recovery plan: No
Systematic monitoring scheme: No
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: No
Occur in at least one PA: Yes
Area based regional management plan: No
Invasive species control or prevention: Not Applicable
In-Place Species Management
Harvest management plan: No

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Conservation Actions in Place
Successfully reintroduced or introduced beningly: No
Subject to ex-situ conservation: No
In-Place Education
Subject to recent education and awareness programmes: No
Included in international legislation: No
Subject to any international management/trade controls: No

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Lower elevation limit (m): 500
Upper elevation limit (m): 3800
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 3-4

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The IUCN Red List Partnership

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