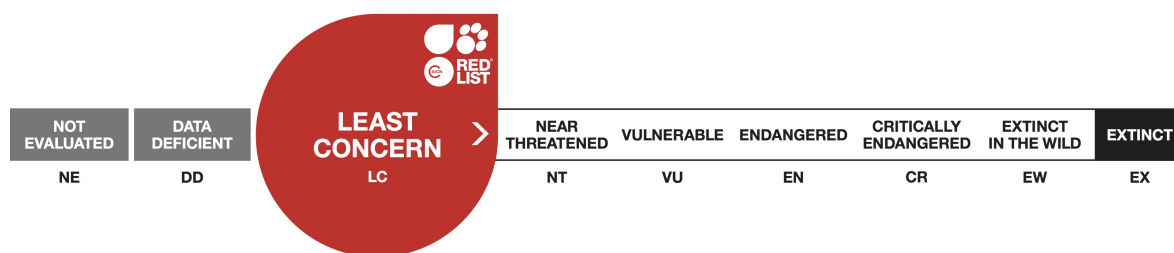


Rhynchogale melleri, Meller's Mongoose

Assessment by: White, P.A., Mateke, C.W., Bird, T.L.F., Swanepoel, L.H. & Do Linh San, E.



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Citation: White, P.A., Mateke, C.W., Bird, T.L.F., Swanepoel, L.H. & Do Linh San, E. 2015. *Rhynchogale melleri*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T41623A45209275.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T41623A45209275.en>

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Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Herpestidae

Taxon Name: *Rhynchogale melleri* (Gray, 1865)

Common Name(s):

- English: Meller's Mongoose
- French: Mangouste de Meller

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2015

Date Assessed: February 28, 2015

Justification:

This species is listed as Least Concern because although uncommon, this species is relatively widespread, faces no obvious major range-wide threats, and is present in several protected areas.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC) – <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T41623A10518345.en>

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

Geographic Range

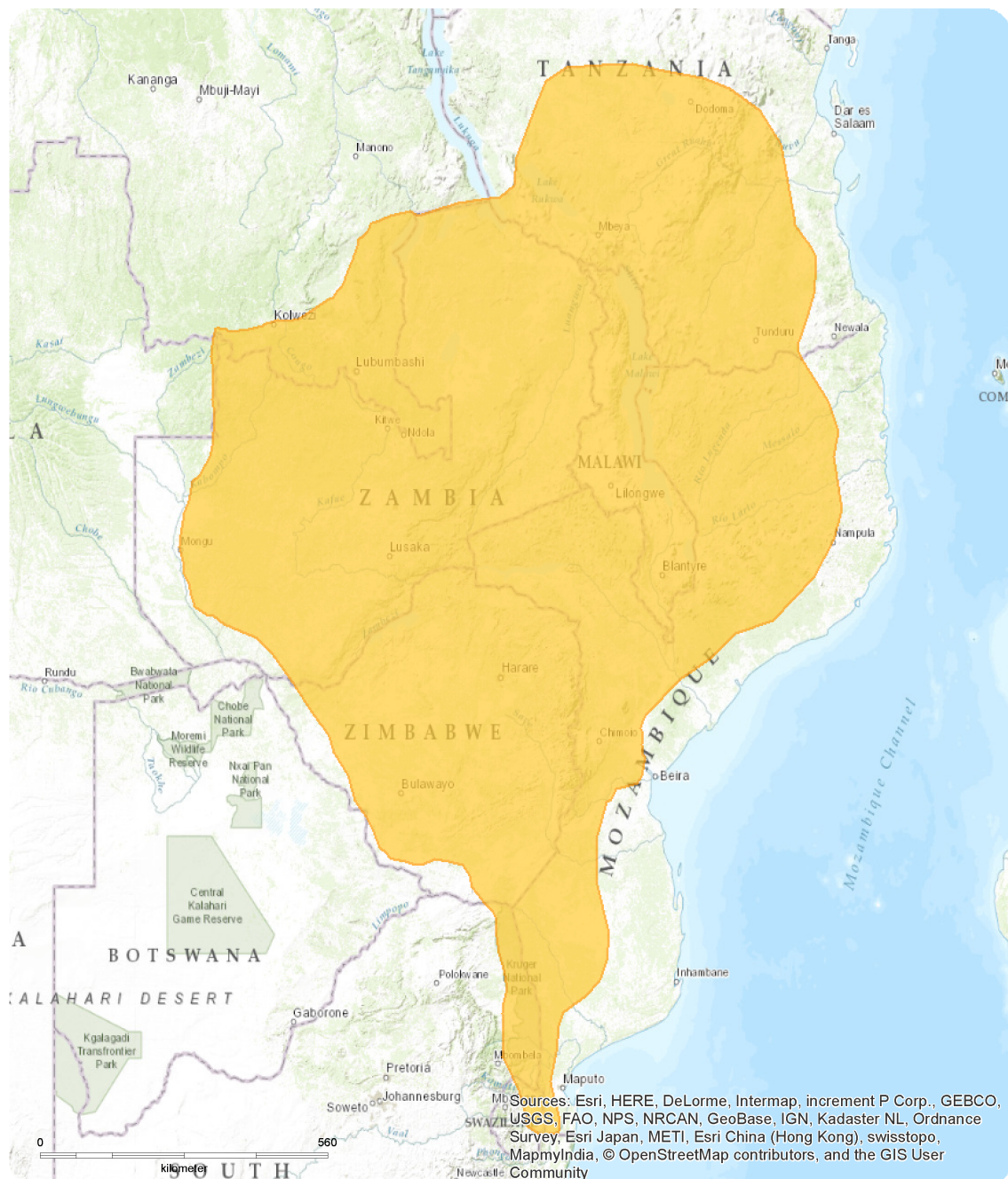
Range Description:

This species ranges from central Tanzania south through Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, to Swaziland and northeastern South Africa (Mpumalanga and Limpopo Provinces; Stuart and Stuart 2013). Camera trapping studies in the Ka-Ndengeza and Vyeboom villages, Vhembe district, Limpopo province in South Africa confirmed this species' presence (L.H. Swanepoel pers. obs. 2014). Similarly the presence of Meller's Mongoose has recently been confirmed in the Lower Zambezi Protected Area Complex (Bird and Mateke 2013) as well as in the North Luangwa Valley where it was one of the two small carnivore species camera-trapped most often (White 2013). A possible record from Chobe N. P. in Botswana (Purchase *et al.* 2007), if substantiated, would be the first record for this country. It has been recorded to 1,850 m asl in Tanzania (De Luca and Mpunga 2005).

Country Occurrence:

Native: Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Malawi; Mozambique; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania, United Republic of; Zambia; Zimbabwe

Distribution Map

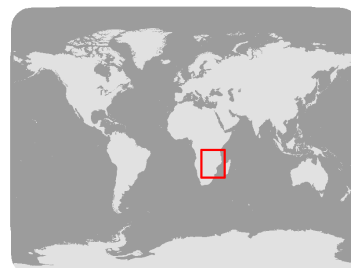


Rhynchogale melleri

Range

Extant (resident)

Compiled by:
International Union for the
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

It is apparently uncommon to rare, but it may be easily overlooked or confused with other mongoose species.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This is a savanna species, mainly associated with open woodland and grassland with termitaria (Stuart and Stuart 2013). It is found in miombo woodlands in Zambia (White 2013) and montane bamboo forests in Tanzania (De Luca and Mpunga 2005).

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

It is unknown whether this species is used as bushmeat.

Threats

There are no major threats to the species. Its favoured habitat is extensive, and in some parts overlap with very low human populations. However, in some parts of the range (e.g., Tanzania) there has been considerable expansion of the human population and their dogs, which could represent a significant localised threat (Stuart and Stuart 2013). That said, in the the Ka-Ndengeza and Vyeboom villages, Vhembe district, Limpopo province, in South Africa this species was detected in areas with high human and domestic dog abundances (L.H. Swanepoel pers. obs. 2014). In addition, miombo woodlands are heavily used for resource extraction by humans (Misana *et al.* 1996, Mapaire and Campbell 2002); therefore local management plans might be required to ensure adequate habitat protection for this species.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

It has been recorded from several protected areas across its range.

Credits

Assessor(s): White, P.A., Mateke, C.W., Bird, T.L.F., Swanepoel, L.H. & Do Linh San, E.

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

Contributor(s): Stuart, C., Stuart, M. & Hoffmann, M.

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Citation

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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?
1. Forest -> 1.5. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
1. Forest -> 1.9. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane	-	Suitable	-
2. Savanna -> 2.1. Savanna - Dry	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	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

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends
1. Research -> 1.3. Life history & ecology

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Upper elevation limit (m): 1850
Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 3

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