Poecilogale albinucha, African Striped Weasel

Assessment by: Stuart, C., Stuart, M. & Do Linh San, E.

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Taxonomy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animalia</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
<td>Mammalia</td>
<td>Carnivora</td>
<td>Mustelidae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Taxon Name:** Poecilogale albinucha (Gray, 1864)

**Common Name(s):**
- English: African Striped Weasel
- French: Poecilogale à nuque blanche

**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 this species occurs at relatively low densities across its wide distribution range, it has been found to have a wide habitat tolerance, to face no known major threats, and to be present in several protected areas.

**Previously Published Red List Assessments**

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

**Geographic Range**

**Range Description:**
This species ranges from southwestern Uganda and Kenya to the Western Cape in South Africa (Stuart and Stuart 1998, 2013). Because of its secretive nature it has probably been overlooked in many areas, especially in light of records from sites that were previously considered unsuitable (Stuart and Stuart 2013). It has been recorded from nearly sea level to 2,300 m asl in Malawi (Medland and Dudley 1995).

**Country Occurrence:**
**Native:** Angola (Angola); Botswana; Burundi; Congo; Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Kenya; Lesotho; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Rwanda; South Africa; Swaziland; Tanzania, United Republic of; Uganda; Zambia; Zimbabwe
Poecilogale albinucha

Range

- Extant (resident)

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IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2015-4.RLTS.T41662A45215258.en
Population
It is rare to uncommon, with highest densities reached in moist higher rainfall grasslands (Stuart and Stuart 2013).
Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)
It is mainly found in savanna associations, although this species probably has a wide habitat tolerance and has been recorded from lowland rainforest, semi-desert grassland, fynbos and pine plantations (Larivière and Jennings 2009, Stuart and Stuart 2013). Road kills have been collected from areas of pastures and cultivated fields.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade
Cunningham and Zondi (1991) regarded this species as one of the most-used animals in traditional medicine, and in parts of its range the skins are commonly used by traditional healers and sangomas as a good luck charm.

Threats (see Appendix for additional information)
There are no major threats to the species but it is hunted for use in traditional medicines.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)
This species is present in several protected areas across its range, including Masai Mara N. R., Serengeti N. P., North Luangwa N. P., Hwange N. P., Kruger N. P. and the southwestern part of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (Stuart and Stuart 1990).

Credits
Assessor(s): Stuart, C., Stuart, M. & Do Linh San, E.
Reviewer(s): Duckworth, J.W. & Hoffmann, M.
Contributor(s): Hoffmann, M.
Bibliography


Citation


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External Resources

For Images and External Links to Additional Information, please see the Red List website.
Appendix

Habitats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Suitability</th>
<th>Major Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Forest -&gt; 1.6. Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Lowland</td>
<td></td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Savanna -&gt; 2.1. Savanna - Dry</td>
<td></td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Shrubland -&gt; 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry</td>
<td></td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Grassland -&gt; 4.5. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry</td>
<td></td>
<td>Suitable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Grassland -&gt; 4.7. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical High Altitude</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Artificial/Terrestrial -&gt; 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Threats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Impact Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. Biological resource use -&gt; 5.1. Hunting &amp; trapping terrestrial animals -&gt; 5.1.1. Intentional use (species is the target)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Minority (50%)</td>
<td>Negligible declines</td>
<td>Low impact: 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conservation Actions in Place

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

Research Needed

<p>| Research Needed                                                                 |
| 1. Research -&gt; 1.2. Population size, distribution &amp; trends                           |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.3. Life history &amp; ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Research -&gt; 1.5. Threats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Data Fields

#### Distribution
- Lower elevation limit (m): 0
- Upper elevation limit (m): 2300

#### Population
- Population severely fragmented: No

#### Habitats and Ecology
- Generation Length (years): 3
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