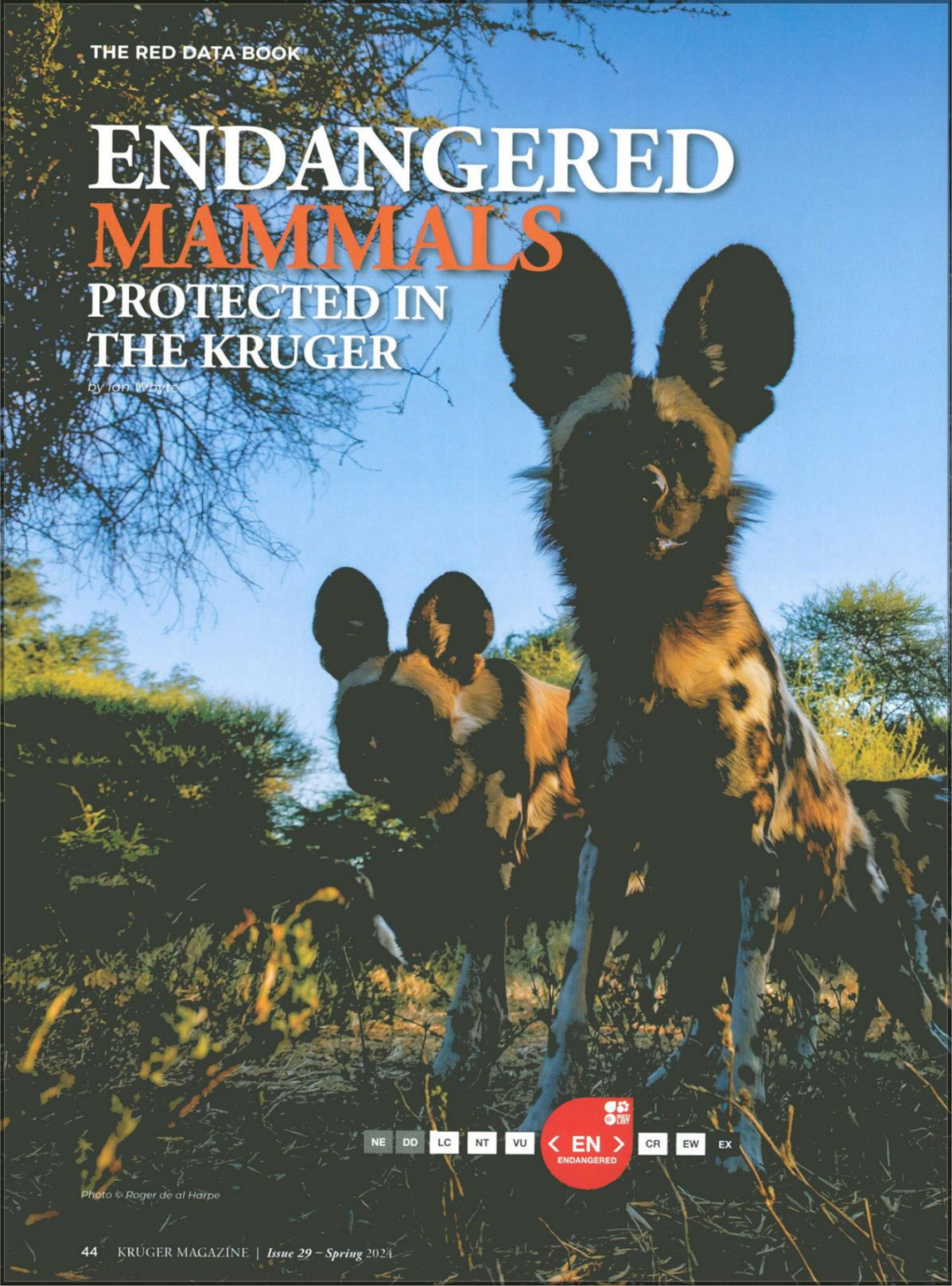


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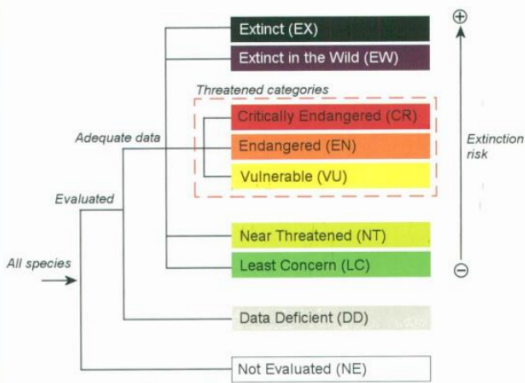


Dr Ian Whyte is an independent environmental consultant who retired from SANParks in 2007. He was previously engaged in full-time wildlife research in the Kruger National Park from 1970-2007. At the time of retirement, he was responsible for the coordination of all research projects pertaining to elephant, buffalo and other large herbivores and rare antelope. He is a member of the IUCN's Species Survival Commission's African Elephant Specialist Group. He has co-authored three field guides to the birds of the Kruger National Park and in 2020, released his book about his life and work in the KNP.

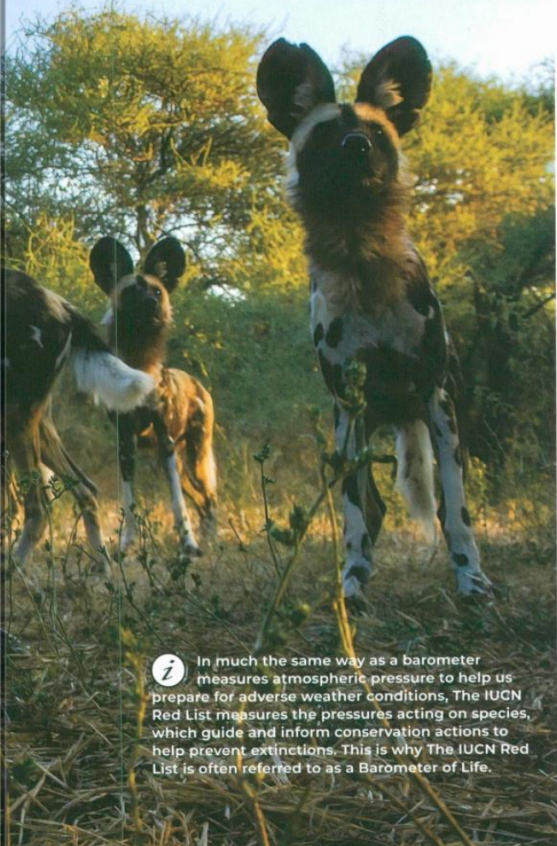
WATCH THIS!

Scan the QR code or visit shorturl.at/B7BgX to watch the video: 'The IUCN Red List: A Barometer of Life'. Published by IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature.

THE RED DATA BOOK



Structure of the IUCN Red List Categories (version 3.1) IUCN



i In much the same way as a barometer measures atmospheric pressure to help us prepare for adverse weather conditions, The IUCN Red List measures the pressures acting on species, which guide and inform conservation actions to help prevent extinctions. This is why The IUCN Red List is often referred to as a Barometer of Life.

In the previous edition of KRUGER MAGAZINE (Issue 28, Winter 2024), we examined the Critically Endangered (CE) species that make up a part of the biodiversity of the Kruger National Park (KNP). None of the CE mammals occur in the Park, and the only birds were three of the vultures – the white-backed, the hooded and the white-headed.

Scan the QR code or visit krugermagazine.zinioapps.com to access the article in Issue 27. All issues are available in digital format on the KRUGER MAGAZINE App – now available to download from your preferred App store.

In this article we will consider the five mammals that fall in the Endangered (EN) category.

i There may be differences between the listed status of a species in the 'National' and the 'Global' Red listings. A species may be considered locally 'Endangered', but in a wider context it may have a different Global status. Download the National Red List! shorturl.at/qtwVK

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< ENDANGERED >

Conservation and
Research Actions
Underway

Neamblysomus julianae is listed as **Endangered** under IUCN criteria B2ab(iii).
 "No Biodiversity Management Plan exists for the entire species. However, a multifaceted approach will be required to successfully conserve the species for future generations."



Learn more!
shorturl.at/FrRAh

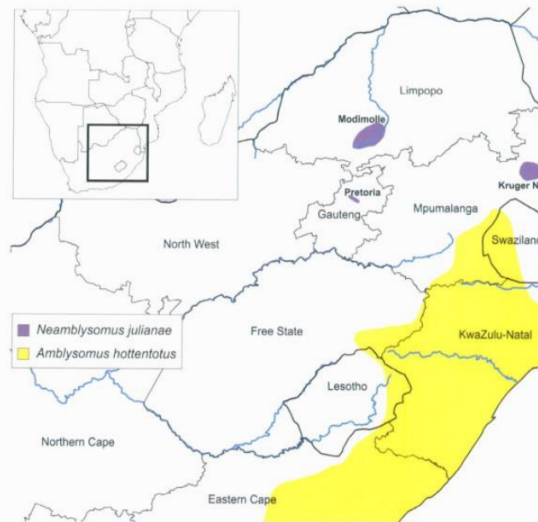
Juliana's golden mole (*Neamblysomus julianae*).
 Photo © Craig R Jackson
 IUCN Conservation Status: Endangered

Juliana's golden mole (*Neamblysomus julianae*).

Golden moles are not golden in colour, but the name does refer to the iridescent sheen their dense fur shows when viewed in bright light. They are small, sightless, mostly subterranean mammals, not closely related to true moles. They forage in sub-surface tunnels but construct deeper chambers for breeding. Golden moles' diet consists of invertebrates, such as insects, earthworms and snails. This species is endemic to South Africa. It is considered to be locally common, but the population is severely fragmented and known from only three isolated and range-restricted subpopulations.

Two of these occur within protected areas. One is in and around Nylsvley Provincial Nature Reserve (Modimolle District, Limpopo), while the other is protected in the southwestern section of the KNP where sandy granitic soils around Pretoriusskop provide suitable habitat.

The major threat and the cause of their population's decline has been from anthropogenic habitat alteration. Though the KNP population is thought to be reasonably secure, there is a concern



Known geographic distribution of the widespread Hottentot golden mole and the range-restricted Juliana's golden mole. Map © Arrie Klopper

that road infrastructure within the Park may form barriers that impede golden mole movements. The very restricted ranges of these subpopulations are possibly insufficient to ensure the long-term persistence of the species.



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Conservation and
Research Actions
Underway

Redunca fulvorufula is listed
as **Endangered** under criteria
A2ad.

"In South Africa alone,
they are protected in at least
nine National Parks, and in
numerous provincial reserves
and conservancies."



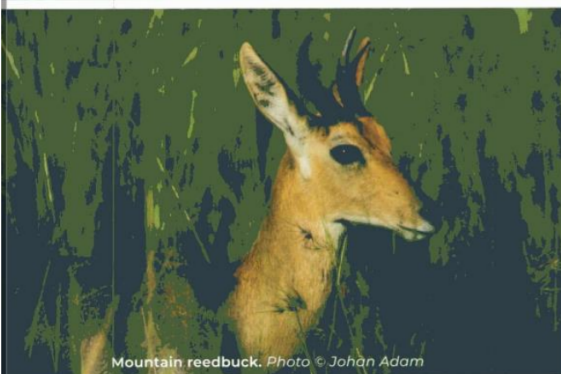
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Mountain reedbuck (*Redunca fulvorufula*). Photo © Robbyh
IUCN Conservation Status: Endangered



Mountain reedbuck. Photo © Stoffel



Mountain reedbuck. Photo © Johan Adam

Mountain reedbuck (*Redunca fulvorufula*).

The habitat requirements of these animals restrict them to rocky and grassy hillsides. They can be found in all provinces, although only marginally in the Western and Northern Cape. They occur in many formally protected areas but are found mainly on private land. They have been extensively reintroduced into parts of their former range, but their numbers have reportedly declined markedly.



In the Kruger they were known to occur only in the rocky and mountainous habitats in the Berg-en-Dal area.

Translocations

Between 1974 and 1976, this population was augmented by the introduction of a total of 370 animals from the Mountain Zebra National Park. But by 2009 their numbers had declined and there were only an estimated 150 individuals still to be found in the Park. This number probably represents the carrying capacity for this species in the Kruger due to the limited amount of suitable habitat.

The reasons for declines elsewhere are thought to be expansion of human settlements, and resulting increase in illegal hunting, disturbance by cattle herders and their livestock, and hunting by domestic dogs.



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Oribi male (*Ourebia ourebi*). Photo © Quintus Strauss
IUCN Conservation Status:
Global: Least Concern
National: Endangered

Oribi (*Ourebia ourebi*).

Historical evidence suggests that these small antelopes may have at some time occurred naturally in the KNP. This is perhaps questionable as their favoured habitats are Highveld grasslands.

Translocations

While there were no recent records for KNP, efforts were made in the 1970s to improve their national conservation status by introducing a small breeding nucleus into the Park:

1 Genetic evidence indicates that all oribi in South Africa belong to a single population, so in **1972**, 57 animals were captured on the Highveld near Badplaas and released into the two large breeding camps in the high lying grasslands in the Pretoriuskop area.

2 In **1973**, a further 42 were released into the wild in the area to the south of Pretoriuskop.



Conservation and Research Actions Underway

The oribi is listed as **Least Concern** (LC) across their African range due to their wide distribution, although their populations are currently decreasing. For the South African oribi (*O. o. ourebi*) however, the species has undergone national population decline of 13% over a period of 18 years due to habitat, over-utilisation, poor law enforcement and lack of cooperative management. It is therefore listed as **Endangered** (EN) under the C criterion for South Africa.

Plans to curb the continuing decline and enhancing conservation efforts include translocations, raising awareness regarding conservation of the species' habitats, as well as captive breeding.



Learn more!
shorturl.at/ATwEa



Photo © Nick Dale



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*"It is now believed
that oribi have again
become locally extinct
in the KNP."*

Oribi herd. Photo © David

3 The animals did not flourish in the breeding camps and in 1974, 24 were removed from these enclosures and released near Stolsnek. These translocations were not successful (probably due to unsuitability of the habitat)

and it is now believed that oribi have again become locally extinct in the KNP.

Where oribi occur naturally their main threats are from habitat degradation and loss, mainly as a result of agricultural developments.



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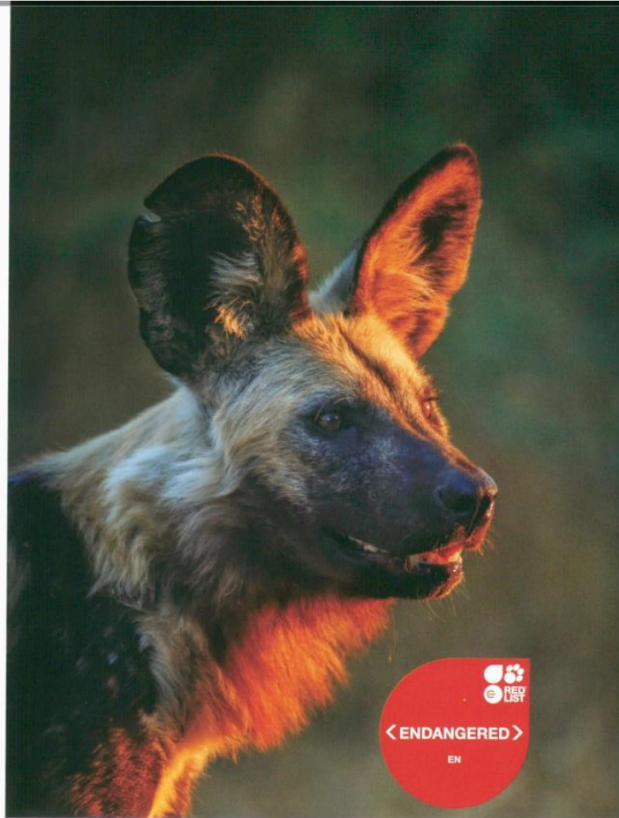
THE RED DATA BOOK

African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*).

They have disappeared from much of their historic range in South Africa and nowadays the species occupies three distinct population groupings.

There is a protected population in the Greater Kruger National Park, an intensively managed metapopulation (a group of spatially separated populations of the same species) in several public and private reserves, and a free-roaming wild population residing and traversing land outside of protected areas. This part of the population is most at risk.

In the Kruger, the wild dog population would seem secure, but it fluctuates markedly in response to rainfall cycles with survival rates improving in drier times. They are either better at hunting in dry times or better at avoiding predators such as lions (or both). Presumably these are in response to improved visibility. They seem to be particularly vulnerable to lion predation as there are a few cases on record of multiple pups being killed by lions soon after leaving the den when following adults on a hunt. They have high reproductive rates with up to 22 pups recorded in a litter, but also have high mortality rates and a low average longevity.



African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*).
 Photo © Roger de la Harpe
 IUCN Conservation Status: Endangered



Conservation and Research Actions Underway

Lycaon pictus is listed as **Endangered** under criteria C2a(i).

Regional conservation strategies have been developed for African wild dog throughout their range (IUCN SSC 2008, 2009, 2012), and these have catalysed the development of national action plans in many range states. Key conservation strategies for the species include improving coexistence between people and African wild dog, encouraging land-use planning to maintain and expand subpopulations, building capacity for African wild dog conservation within range states, outreach to improve public perceptions of African wild dog at all levels of society, and ensuring a policy framework compatible with African wild dog conservation.



Learn more!
shorturl.at/PnQ57



African wild dog pups. Photo © Mint Images



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They can live up to 12 years but reportedly only average between five and seven.

Q Dr Gus Mills (the renowned and long-serving carnivore specialist in the Kruger) and his colleagues estimated that in the Kruger there were 434 dogs in 36 packs in 1995, but by the year 2000 this had dropped to 177 individuals in 25 packs. This was expected to improve with the advent of drier periods. They also found that, contrary to what might intuitively be expected, wild dog distribution was not correlated to high prey (impala) densities, but rather to low lion densities.



African wild dog. Photo © Chris



African wild dog. Photo © Paco Como

"In the Kruger there were 434 dogs in 36 packs in 1995, but by the year 2000 this had dropped to 177 individuals in 25 packs."

Apart from lion predation, there are other threats to wild dogs. These animals are wide-ranging with home ranges in the greater Kruger of up to 1100km² in extent. They are difficult to contain and will sometimes disperse into non-conservation areas where conflicts occur with local farmers and other people. Diseases such as canine distemper and rabies have also been known to decimate whole packs.



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Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*).
Photos © Nick Dale
IUCN Conservation Status:
Global Status: Critically Endangered
National Status: Endangered

Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*).

The subspecies found in the Kruger is *D.b. minor* and were probably shot out by early hunters prior to the establishment of the KNP. But in the late 1930s, Ranger Harry Kirkman followed up on reports of a black rhino in the area south of the Lower Sabie Rest Camp. He found the animal's tracks but could not get to see the animal. This was the last record of this species in the KNP as thereafter, there were no further records.

Translocations

Translocations from the Natal Parks Board (now Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife) started in 1971. Initially, most of these animals were surplus bulls:

1 Translocations were intermittent but continued until **1982**. A total of 65 were introduced from KwaZulu-Natal.

2 A further 12 were received from the Kariba area of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in **1972**. These animals were released at various localities in the southern and central regions.



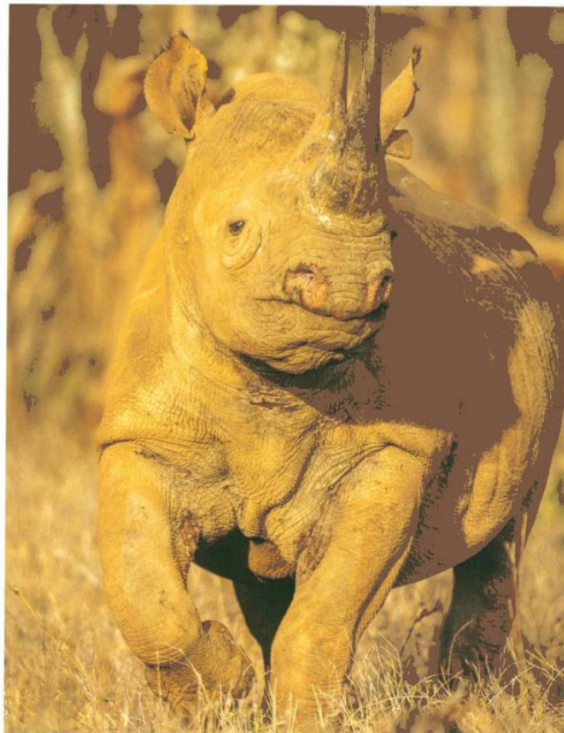
Conservation and Research Actions Underway

Diceros bicornis is listed as **Critically Endangered** under IUCN criteria A2abd+4abd.

Black rhino have been listed on CITES Appendix I since 1977. All international commercial trade in black rhino and their products have been prohibited. To help reduce illegal trade, and complement CITES international trade bans, domestic anti-trade measures and legislation were implemented in the 1990s by a number of consumer states. Effective field protection of rhino subpopulations has been critical.



Learn more!
shorturl.at/wPB0x





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3 In the late 1980s, a cow and a large calf were seen from a helicopter in the Nyandu Sandveld area in the far north-east of the Park. It is thought that they had strayed into the Kruger after being translocated from the Zambezi Valley to the Gonarezhou National Park in southern Zimbabwe.

A 2012 Regional Red Data assessment classified this subspecies as 'Vulnerable'. But the rhino poaching pandemic has had a significant but undisclosed impact on the species, and in 2016 they were reassessed and classified as regionally 'Endangered'. Their major threat is still from poaching for their horns.



"Black rhino's major threat is from poaching for their horns."



Conservation is crucial for the long-term survival of all these species, and in this respect, the Kruger National Park is of critical importance. In the next article we will examine the Endangered birds that occur in this wonderful Park. ■



WATCH THIS!

Scan the QR code or visit shorturl.at/4lCkh to watch the video: 'Mammal Red List'. Published by The Endangered Wildlife Trust.

