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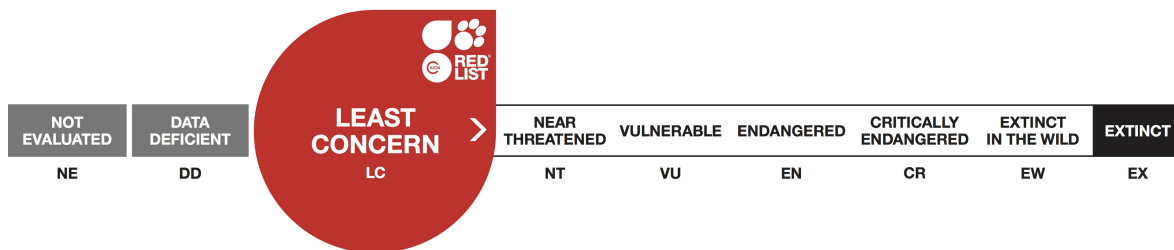
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## *Cynictis penicillata*, Yellow Mongoose

Assessment by: Do Linh San, E., Cavallini, P. & Taylor, P.



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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Carnivora	Herpestidae

**Taxon Name:** *Cynictis penicillata* (G.[Baron] Cuvier, 1829)

### Common Name(s):

- English: Yellow Mongoose
- French: Mangouste fauve, Mangouste jaune

## 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 and common (sometimes occurring at high densities), there are currently no major threats, and it 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.T41597A10490863.en>

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

## Geographic Range

### Range Description:

This species is confined to southern Africa, with a marginal intrusion into extreme southwestern Angola. Within this range, it occupies the drier western parts, being widespread in Namibia, Botswana and much of central and western South Africa, but absent from the Namib Desert and Caprivi Strip in Namibia, the Okavango Delta in Botswana, Zimbabwe (except for an extreme western record), and the easterly regions of southern Africa (Taylor 2013). It is probably extinct from Lesotho (N. Avenant pers. comm. 2013).

### Country Occurrence:

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

**Possibly extinct:** Lesotho

# Distribution Map

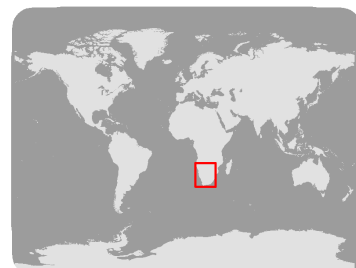


## *Cynictis penicillata*

Range

■ Extant (resident)

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



## Population

Population densities vary tremendously, probably depending on habitat productivity, predation pressure and maybe interspecific competition. Earlé (1981) reported a record high density of 133–200 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> in Vaal Dam (Free State), whereas a "low" density of 6.0–7.1 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> was estimated in the West Coast N. P. (Western Cape; Cavallini 1993, Cavallini and Nel 1995). Similar densities were observed by Do Linh San *et al.* (unpublished data) in the Great Fish River Reserve (Eastern Cape; 4–10 individuals/km<sup>2</sup>) and by le Roux *et al.* (2008) in the Kuruman River Reserve (Northern Cape; 4–14 individuals/km<sup>2</sup>). Finally, an intermediate density of 23–26 individuals/km<sup>2</sup> was recorded by Balmforth (2004) in a population living in a farmland near Heidelberg (Western Cape).

**Current Population Trend:** Stable

## Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

This is predominantly a species of open grassland, scrub and arid savannas in the drier, semi-arid, western parts of southern Africa. Because of its use of burrows, rocky and hard soils are avoided (Taylor 2013). It is predominantly insectivorous, but opportunistic and will hunt rodents, birds, other vertebrates and arachnids (Taylor 2013). The Yellow Mongoose is the primary host for the viverrid strain of rabies endemic to the interior plateau of South Africa, where Yellow Mongoose population densities are highest. The role of the Yellow Mongoose as a maintenance host is promoted by its diurnal and colonial, burrow-living habits (Taylor 2013).

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Use and Trade

This species is not used.

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

There are no major threats to the species, though the possible local impact of road mortality might be worth investigating. In addition, there has been a report of local hunting with dogs and shooting of Yellow Mongooses on farmland near Heidelberg (Western Cape, South Africa) where this species is regarded as a pest because of burrow construction in crop areas. This did not seem to have had any significant impact on the population which still lives at a higher density than in natural areas (Balmforth 2004).

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

The Yellow Mongoose occurs in numerous protected areas across its range in southern Africa, including Etosha N. P., the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, West Coast N. P., Mountain Zebra N.P., Addo N. P. and the Great Fish River Reserve.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Do Linh San, E., Cavallini, P. & Taylor, P.

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

**Contributor(s):** Hoffmann, M.

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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
3. Shrubland -> 3.8. Shrubland - Mediterranean-type Shrubby Vegetation	-	Suitable	Yes
4. Grassland -> 4.5. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	Yes

### Threats

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

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
5. Biological resource use -> 5.1. Hunting & trapping terrestrial animals -> 5.1.3. Persecution/control	Ongoing	Minority (50%)	No decline	Low impact: 4
	Stresses:	2. Species Stresses -> 2.1. Species mortality		

### 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

<b>Distribution</b>
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
<b>Population</b>
Population severely fragmented: No
<b>Habitats and Ecology</b>
Generation Length (years): 3



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