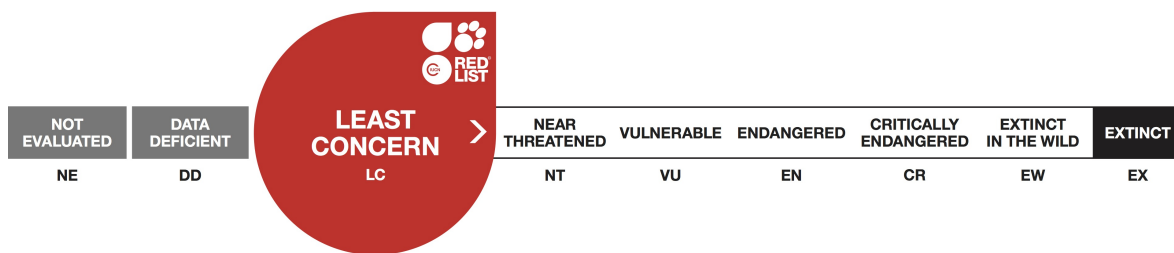


## *Hystrix africaeaustralis*, Cape Porcupine

### Errata version

Assessment by: Cassola, F.



View on [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

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If you see any errors or have any questions or suggestions on what is shown in this document, please provide us with [feedback](#) so that we can correct or extend the information provided.

## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Chordata	Mammalia	Rodentia	Hystricidae

**Taxon Name:** *Hystrix africae australis* Peters, 1852

### Common Name(s):

- English: Cape Porcupine

## Assessment Information

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

**Year Published:** 2016

**Date Assessed:** August 8, 2016

### Justification:

Listed as Least Concern in view of its wide distribution, presumed large population, it occurs in a number of protected areas, has a tolerance of a degree of habitat modification, and because it is unlikely to be declining fast enough to qualify for listing in a more threatened category. Some limited hunting by humans occurs some parts of the range, but the population overall is stable.

### Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T10748A3212042.en>

2004 – Least Concern (LC)

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

## Geographic Range

### Range Description:

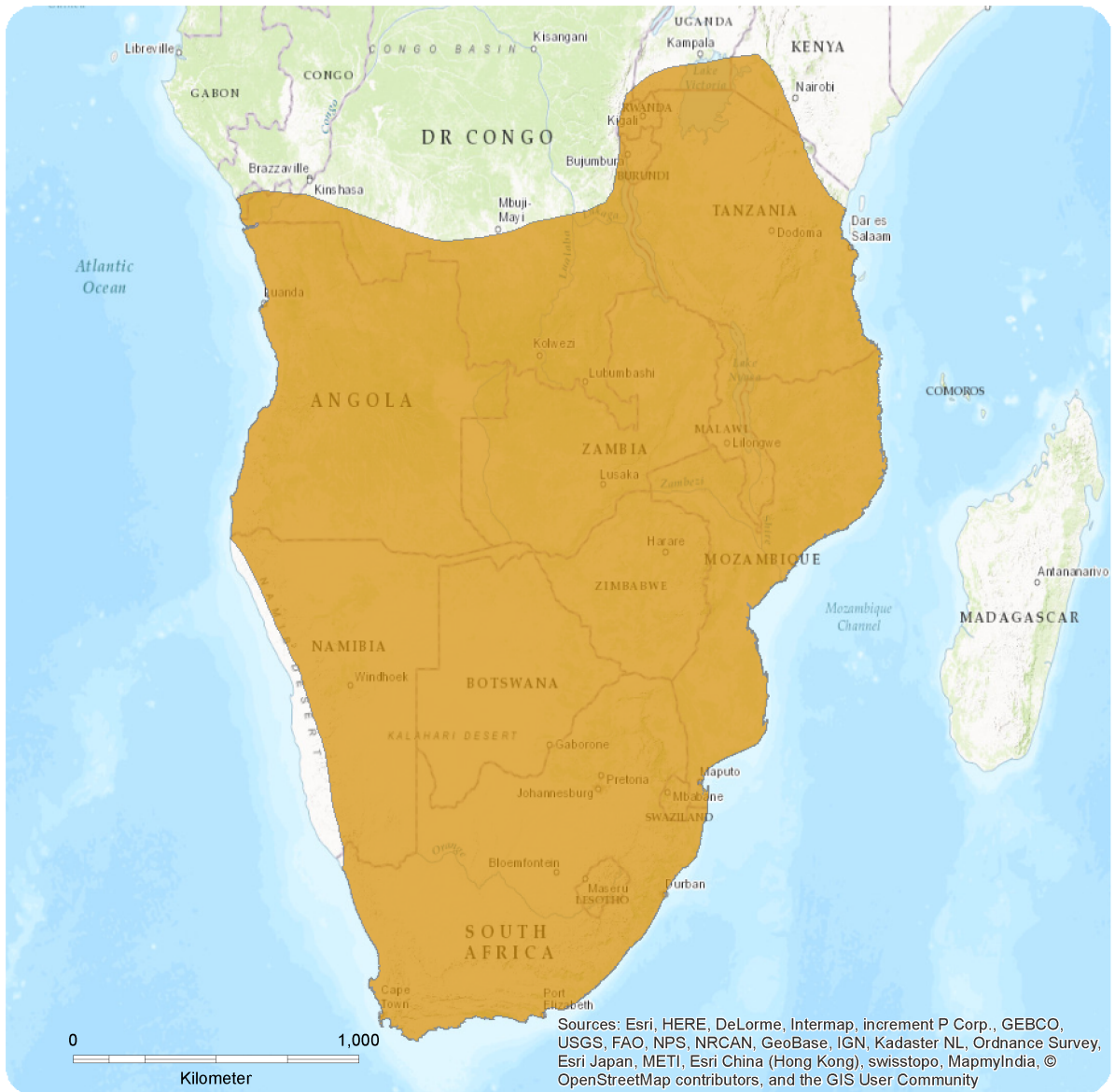
This widespread African species occurs from Kenya and southern Uganda in the north, through Tanzania, Rwanda, southeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, extreme southwestern Congo, Angola, Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique, and then south throughout the southern African Subregion (although it is absent from much of central Botswana). There is no confirmed evidence that they occur on The island of Zanzibar, Tanzania. It is found from sea level to over 2,000 m asl.

### Country Occurrence:

**Native:** 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

# Distribution Map

*Hystrix africae australis*

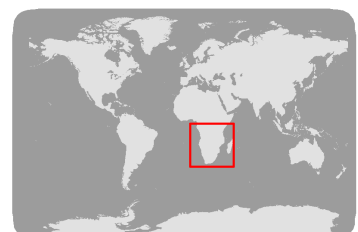


## Range

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.



## Population

It is fairly common, although hunting pressure may account for its absence in some areas.

**Current Population Trend:** Stable

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

It is found in most of the types of vegetation encountered in southern Africa. They are generally absent from forest, and are only found here marginally. They have been recorded in the coastal parts of the Namib Desert in Namibia. Day-time shelters may take the form of rock crevices, caves and abandoned Aardvark (*Orycteropus afer*) burrows or other types of holes in the ground. Holes are often modified to their own requirements, but they also dig their own burrows as they do in East Africa. It is a nocturnal, territorial and mostly solitary forager, although it can occasionally be found foraging in groups of two to three animals. This species is monogamous and live in groups comprising either an adult pair, an adult pair and their offspring from consecutive litters, or an adult male and young of the year (Skinner and Smithers 1990, Skinner and Chimimba 2005). The species has a gestation period of 93 to 94 days, after which one to three young are born. There is a single litter per year.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Use and Trade

It is hunted for food.

## Threats

There are no major threats to this species. Porcupines have benefited from agricultural development and their destructive feeding habitats have led to them being considered as a problem in some farming areas, especially where root crops, potatoes, groundnuts and maize are grown. Porcupines are also notorious for ring-barking trees, which exposes the tree's heartwood and increases susceptibility to fungal infections.

## Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

It occurs in many protected areas, most of which are very well managed.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Cassola, F.

**Reviewer(s):** Amori, G.

**Contributor(s):** Grubb, P.

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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?
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.4. Artificial/Terrestrial - Rural Gardens	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.3. Artificial/Terrestrial - Plantations	-	Suitable	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.2. Artificial/Terrestrial - Pastureland	-	Unknown	-
14. Artificial/Terrestrial -> 14.1. Artificial/Terrestrial - Arable Land	-	Suitable	-
4. Grassland -> 4.5. Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
3. Shrubland -> 3.5. Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry	-	Suitable	-
2. Savanna -> 2.2. Savanna - Moist	-	Suitable	-

### Conservation Actions in Place

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

Conservation Actions in Place
In-Place Land/Water Protection and Management
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range

### Additional Data Fields

<b>Distribution</b>
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km <sup>2</sup> ): 8743574
Lower elevation limit (m): 0
Upper elevation limit (m): 2000
<b>Population</b>
Population severely fragmented: No
<b>Habitats and Ecology</b>
Generation Length (years): 7

## Errata

**Errata reason:** This errata assessment has been created because the map was accidentally left out of the version published previously.

## The IUCN Red List Partnership



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