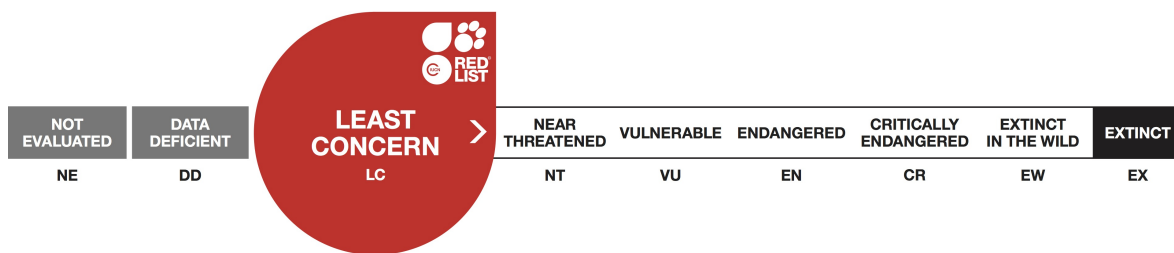


Pedetes capensis, Spring Hare

Errata version

Assessment by: Child, M.F.



View on 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	Pedetidae

Taxon Name: *Pedetes capensis* (Forster, 1778)

Common Name(s):

- English: Spring Hare, Springhaas, Springhare

Taxonomic Notes:

The East African form of the springhare has long been regarded as a subspecies of *P. capensis* (Dieterlen 1993). However, there are clear morphological, behavioural, placental and phylogeographic and cytogenetic differences ((Matthee and Robinson 1997 and references therein) which strongly argue for recognition of the two species. Differences include smaller nasals, smaller bullae, proportionately narrower incisors, and a more vaulted brain case in *P. surdaster* (Thomas, 1902); a diploid number of $2n=40$ in *P. surdaster* and $2n=38$ in *P. capensis*, the presence of endotheliochorial placenta and the absence of yolk sac inversion in *P. surdatur*, and the use of communal burrow systems in *P. surdaster*.

Assessment Information

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

Year Published: 2016

Date Assessed: September 7, 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.

Previously Published Red List Assessments

2008 – Least Concern (LC)

<http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2008.RLTS.T16467A5916557.en>

2004 – Least Concern (LC)

1996 – Vulnerable (VU)

Geographic Range

Range Description:

This species occurs in southern Democratic Republic of Congo, Angola, western Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, south of the Zambezi River, and in South Africa in the Limpopo Province, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, although they are absent from the eastern parts, Free State, extreme north-western KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and Northern Cape. It has not been

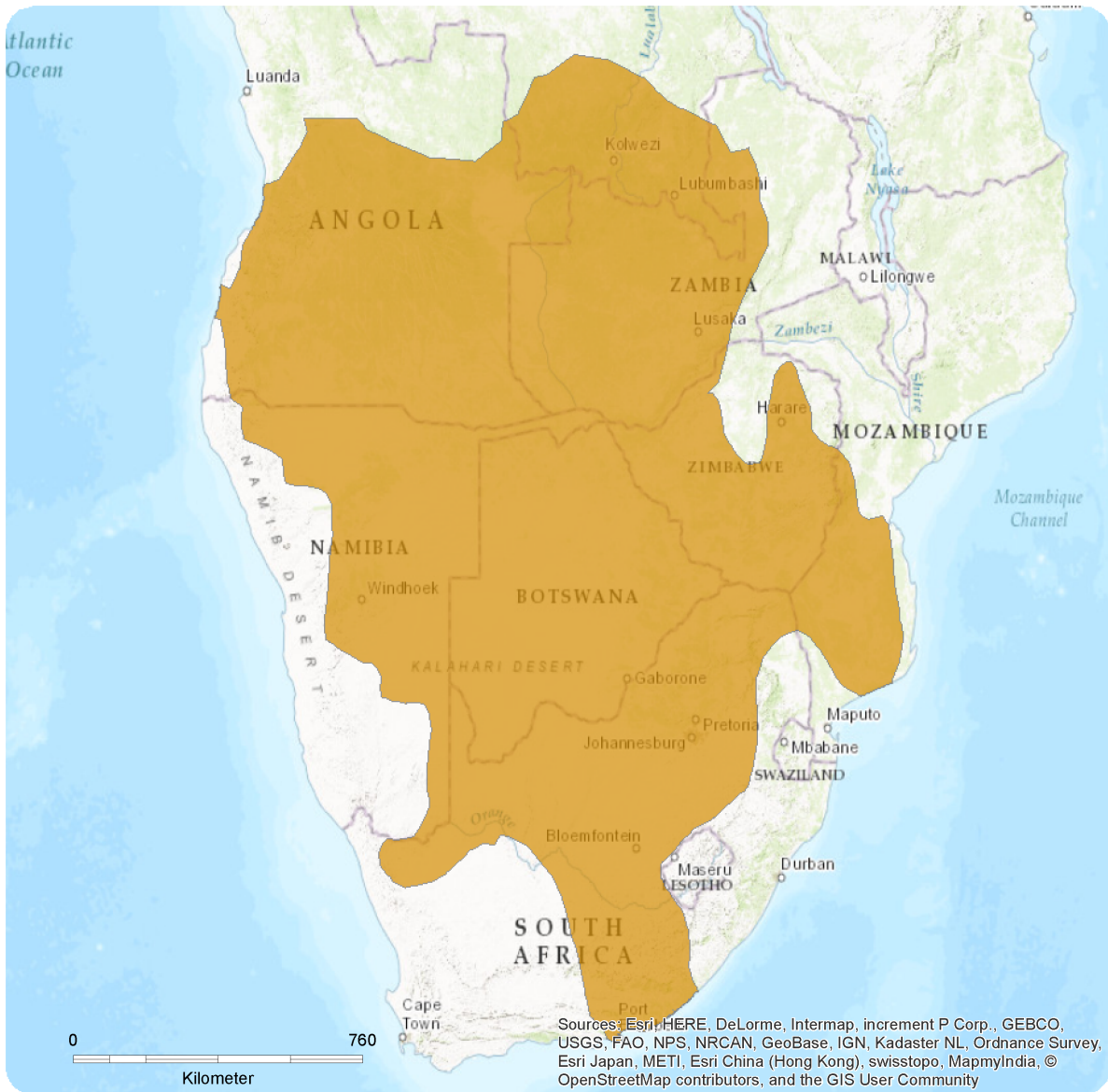
recorded from Lesotho.

Country Occurrence:

Native: Angola (Angola); Congo, The Democratic Republic of the; Mozambique; Namibia; South Africa; Zambia; Zimbabwe

Distribution Map

Pedetes capensis

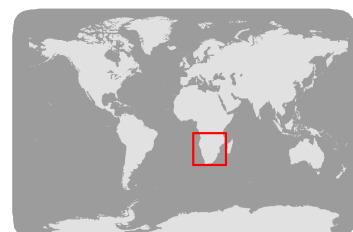


Range

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 generally common, though estimates of abundance are lacking.

Current Population Trend: Unknown

Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

Throughout their range they occur only where there is suitable substrate, as they are unable to burrow in hard substrates and prefer lighter sandy soils. If they do occur in these areas, it is usually where there are intrusions of sandy alluvium, such as along rivers, or in patches of sandy soil overlaying hard ground. They are commonly seen on open sandy ground or sandy scrub, overgrazed grassland, on floodplain grassland or pans, and in cultivated areas.

The species is nocturnal, and forage in groups of two to six individuals.

Systems: Terrestrial

Use and Trade

Hunted for food and clothing.

Threats

There are no major threats to this species as a whole. Springhare have great value as a source of protein, and Butynski (1975) estimated that, in Botswana, 2.5 million springhare were taken annually for food by the indigenous peoples. The San secure them by hooking them out of their burrows using a pole with a barb on the tip, as do the Ndebele in Zimbabwe using a burred seedpod lashed to the end of a pole which is screwed into the fur so tightly that the springhaas can be withdrawn. The San also use the skins to make water and food containers, mats or karosses, and the best thread is made from the tail sinews. In agricultural areas, springhare can become a problem; Butynski (1973) estimated that 10-15% of maize, sorghum, beans and groundnuts grown in Botswana were destroyed by springhare.

Conservation Actions (see Appendix for additional information)

This species occurs in several protected areas throughout the range, many with good management. Further research is needed into harvest levels for this species.

Credits

Assessor(s): Child, M.F.

Reviewer(s): Amori, G.

Contributor(s): Butynski, T.M. & de Jong, Y.A.

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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 -> 14.1. 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 -> 2.1. Savanna - 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
Conservation sites identified: Yes, over entire range

Research Needed

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

Research Needed
3. Monitoring -> 3.1. Population trends

Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated extent of occurrence (EOO) (km ²): 4759417
Population
Population severely fragmented: No
Habitats and Ecology
Generation Length (years): 5-6

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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