

Selous' Mongoose *Paracynictis selousi*



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Namibian conservation status	Least Concern
Global IUCN status	Least Concern First assessed 1996, unchanged since then
Namibian range	Restricted to northern and north-eastern Namibia
Global range	Occurs only in southern Africa, extending from Angola in the west through to Zambia and Malawi in the east, including most of Zimbabwe and the northern parts of Namibia, Botswana and South Africa
Population estimate	Unknown
Population trend	Unknown, but assumed to be stable
Habitat	Open scrub and woodlands on sandy soils
Threats	No major threats

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

A medium-sized mongoose (weight 1–2 kg), identified by its greyish appearance with black legs and a fairly bushy tail with white at the tip (Apps 2000).

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The range of this species is restricted to woodland and savanna habitats in a band across southern Africa extending from Angola to Malawi through north-eastern Namibia, Zambia, northern Botswana and Zimbabwe; north-eastern South Africa is the southern-most part of its range (Stuart & Stuart 2013a). It is considered rare across its range, although the species is not well studied in any of these range states.

In Namibia, the known range for Selous' mongoose is restricted to the north-east. Their fairly common presence there has been confirmed by camera trap photos. They have also been sighted at and close to Swartbooisdrif on the Kunene River. The latter records are reliable and represent a range extension from their known range a bit further north in Angola. This species might be more widespread in Namibia than we currently recognise, but remains hidden

due to its nocturnal and secretive habits.

POPULATION ESTIMATE AND TREND

This species is not well known in any of its range states, and no attempt has been made to estimate its population in Namibia. The global population trend for this species is also unknown (Mateke *et al.* 2016).

ECOLOGY

Selous' mongoose is rarely seen in the wild, as it is nocturnal and solitary. It feeds mainly on insects, but also takes other invertebrates, rodents, reptiles, amphibians and birds (Apps 2000). This species is understudied across its range.

THREATS

No major threats are identified.

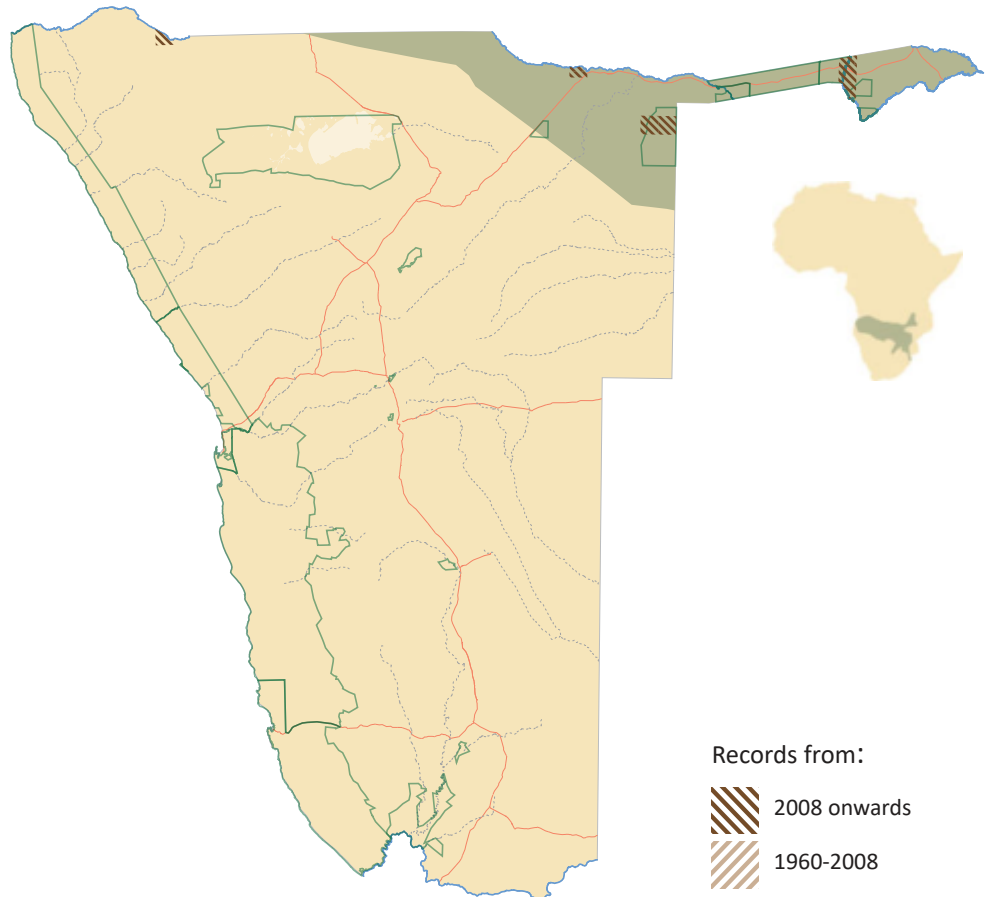
CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern in Namibia. Selous' mongoose is a rather marginal species in this country, confined to the far northern

Distribution records of Selous' mongoose, and present estimated area of distribution in Namibia.

Inset: African distribution of Selous' mongoose according to IUCN (Mateke *et al.* 2016).

The Namibian distribution in the main map is more up to date and does not necessarily agree with the distribution shown in the inset.



parts. Nevertheless, its frequent occurrence in camera trap photographs in the Zambezi and Kavango East Regions suggests that it is fairly common in the north-east. It is listed as Least Concern internationally, mainly because it occurs in a variety of habitats across its range and faces no known threats (Mateke *et al.* 2016).

ACTIONS

No specific actions are needed for the conservation of this species.

Assessors: John Pallett and Gail Thomson
Reviewer: Chris Stuart and Mathilde Stuart

Suggested citation: Pallett J & Thomson G 2022. A conservation assessment of Selous' Mongoose *Paracynictis selousi*. In: NCE, LCMAN, MEFT (eds) 2022. Conservation Status and Red List of the Terrestrial Carnivores of Namibia. Pp 136-137. MEFT, LCMAN & NCE, Windhoek, Namibia