

Small Grey Mongoose *Herpestes pulverulentus*



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Namibian conservation status	Least Concern
Global IUCN status	Least Concern First assessed 1996, unchanged since then
Namibian range	Along the Orange River and the Fish River Canyon
Global range	Endemic to southern Africa, where it is a species of the Karoo and extends southwards to the coast and eastwards across Lesotho
Population estimate	Unknown
Population trend	Stable
Habitat	In Namibia found in low scrub and rocky terrain
Threats	No major threats

IDENTIFYING FEATURES

A small, diurnal mongoose, grizzled dark grey all over the body with darker or black legs, and a tail that thins gradually to the tip without any black.

DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT

The distribution of the small grey mongoose (also known as Cape grey mongoose) enters Namibia only in the far south. It has been recorded near the Fish River Canyon with verified sightings and a camera trap image submitted to the Environmental Information Service (2021).

In South Africa it extends southwards to the coast and eastwards across the Karoo and as far as Lesotho (Skinner & Chimimba 2005). The species has quite a wide habitat tolerance, occurring in fairly open scrubby country, fynbos and even forest in the south-eastern Cape (Cavallini 2013). It needs cover for protection so avoids completely open areas and is never far from dense bushes or rocky outcrops (Do Linh San *et al.* 2016). Knowing this habitat preference, and

judging from the few records of its occurrence in Namibia, it might occur more widely in dwarf shrub vegetation of the Succulent Karoo and Nama Karoo.

POPULATION ESTIMATE AND TREND

No estimate of the population in Namibia has been attempted. The latest IUCN assessment considers the population to be stable (Do Linh San & Cavallini 2015).

ECOLOGY

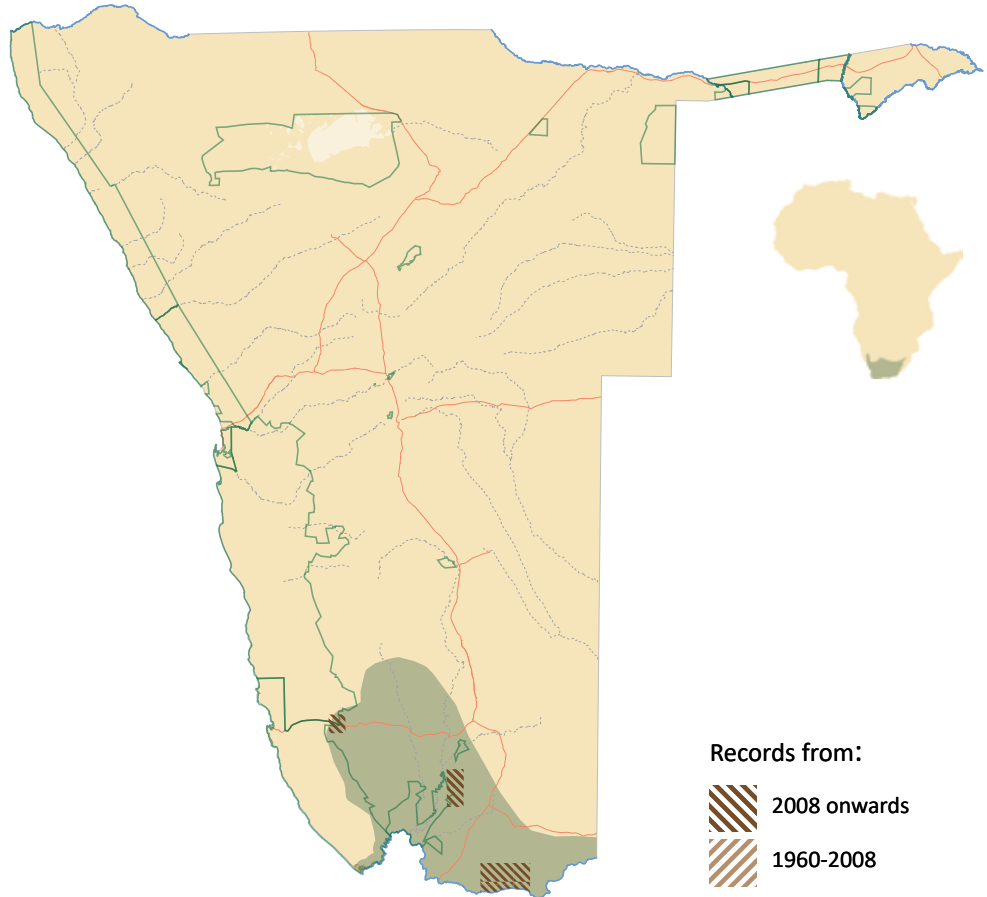
The small grey mongoose preys mainly on insects and rodents, although the diet may include other invertebrates, birds, reptiles and carrion or refuse; the relative percentage of rodent and insect prey differs according to habitat (Cavallini & Nel 1990b). It prefers bushy, rather than open, habitat (Cavallini & Nel 1990a).

Home ranges overlap between and within sexes; it is mostly solitary but is occasionally seen in pairs or family groups (Cavallini & Nel 1990a).

Distribution records of small grey mongoose, and present estimated area of distribution in Namibia.

Inset: African distribution of small grey mongoose according to IUCN (Do Linh San & Cavallini 2015).

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



THREATS

No major threats are identified.

CONSERVATION STATUS

Least Concern in Namibia where it has only a limited range in the south. Across the rest of its range in South Africa and Lesotho it is common, there are no major threats, and it is present in a number of protected areas in its range (Do Linh San & Cavallini 2015, Do Linh San *et al.* 2016).

ACTIONS

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



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Reviewer: Chris Stuart and Mathilde Stuart

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