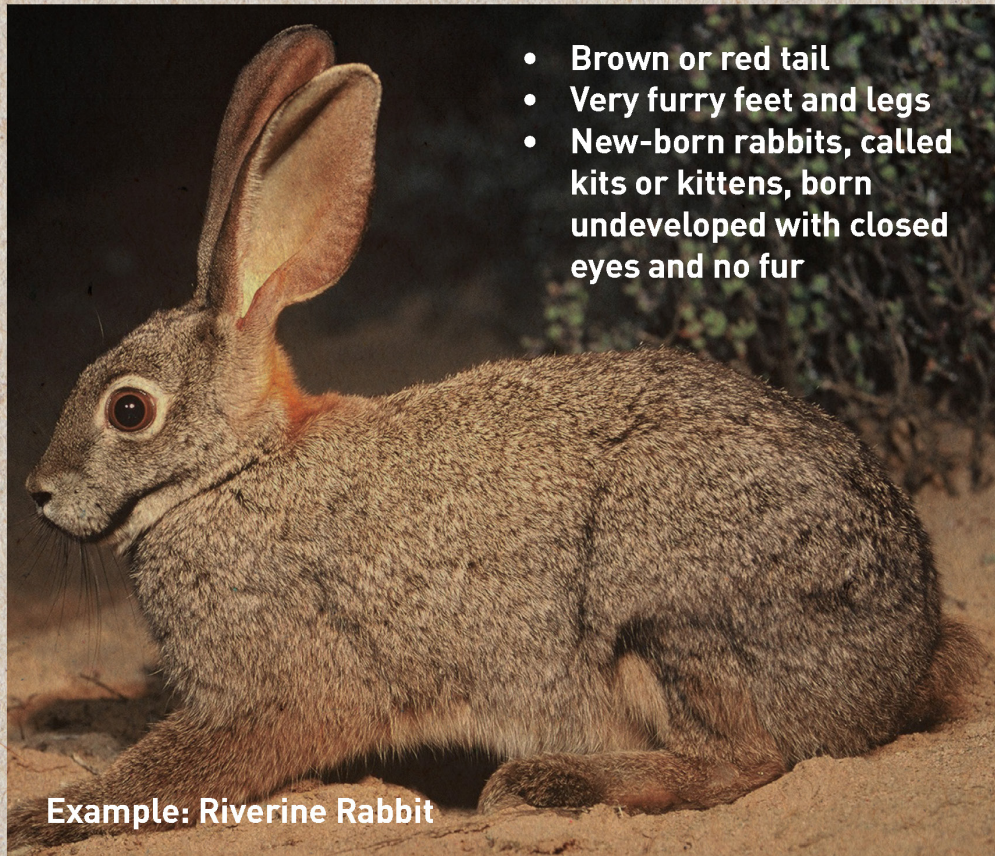


RABBITS & HARES

OF SOUTH AFRICAN DRYLANDS



Example: Riverine Rabbit

- Brown or red tail
- Very furry feet and legs
- New-born rabbits, called kits or kittens, born undeveloped with closed eyes and no fur



Example: Cape Hare

- Black and white tail
- Short fur on legs and feet
- New born hares called leverets, born fully furred with their eyes open

Hewitt's Red Rock Rabbit
Pronolagus saundersiae

- Also called Red rock hares
- One of four species in SA
- Red tail and legs
- Short legs and ears

LC

CR

Riverine Rabbit
Bunolagus monticularis

- Black cheek stripe
- Big scooped ears
- Brown tail
- Furry hind legs

LC

Cape Hare
Lepus capensis

- Brown colour fur
- White and brown underparts
- Similar size to Riverine Rabbit

LC

Scrub Hare
Lepus saxatilis

- Gizzled grey colour
- The largest of the hare species in South Africa
- All white belly

CR

Riverine Rabbits are threatened by:

- Habitat destruction, fragmentation and poor land management (such as overgrazing of habitat)
- Mining and other unsustainable developments
- Illegal trapping of wildlife
- Illegal hunting with dogs
- Lack of knowledge and misidentification of species

What can you do?

- Implement sustainable land management practices on your property, for example using good grazing practices
- Oppose unsustainable development in your area
- Make sure you don't have any illegal traps on your property
- Manage dogs to prevent them from hunting wildlife
- Learn to distinguish between the different rabbit and hare species
- **REPORT SIGHTINGS OF RIVERINE RABBITS TO THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST (ewt@ewt.org.za)**

IUCN Red List categories **LC** Least Concern **CR** Critically Endangered