

FACT SHEET: THE 2025 REGIONAL MAMMAL RED LIST OF SOUTH AFRICA, ESWATINI AND LESOTHO

Species common name	Scientific name	Order	2016 Red List Status	2025 Red List Status	Status Change	Endemism	Photograph	Photo credit	Reasons for change
African Straw-colored Fruit Bat	<i>Eidolon helvum</i>	Chiroptera	Least Concern	Near Threatened	Uplisted	Non-endemic		Merlin Tuttle	<1,000 mature individuals and the impact of emerging threats (wind turbines and climate change).
Damara Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus damarensis</i>	Chiroptera	Least Concern	Vulnerable	Uplisted	Non-endemic		Ara Monadjem	Suspected population reduction by 30% due to mining activities, renewable energy development, and climate change.
Dent's Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus denti</i>	Chiroptera	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	Uplisted	Non-endemic		Ara Monadjem	<1,000 mature individuals and the population is threatened by renewable energy development and closure of old mines.
Large-eared Free-tailed bat	<i>Otomops martiensseni</i>	Chiroptera	Least Concern	Near Threatened	Uplisted	Non-endemic		Merlin Tuttle	<1,000 mature individuals and the impact of climate change and wind turbines.
*Lesueur's Hairy Bat	<i>Cistugus lesueuri</i>	Chiroptera	Least Concern	Vulnerable	Uplisted	Endemic		Trevor Morgan	A declining number of mature individuals and emerging threats (renewable energy development) projected to affect AOO.
Thick-tailed Bushbaby	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>	Primates	Least Concern	Near Threatened	Uplisted	Non-endemic		L. Pozzi	Ongoing loss and degradation of its habitat. Two rapidly increasing threats are from the building of linear infrastructure and killings by domestic dogs.
African Shaggy Rat	<i>Dasymys incomitus</i>	Rodentia	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	Uplisted	Endemic		P Dawson & N Pillay	Population declines due to land transformation and climate change.
*Laminate Vlei Rat	<i>Otomys laminatus</i>	Rodentia	Near Threatened	Vulnerable	Uplisted	Endemic	No image		<1,000 mature individuals; a limited area of available habitat <2,000 km ² AOO and ongoing and projected decline in habitat due to agricultural expansion, human settlement sprawl, mining, overgrazing and climate change.
Namaqua Dune Mole-rat	<i>Bathyergus janetta</i>	Rodentia	Least Concern	Endangered	Uplisted	Non-endemic		H Lutermann	Ongoing loss and degradation of its habitat. Two rapidly increasing threats are from the building of linear infrastructure and killings by domestic dogs.
Woosnam's Desert Rat	<i>Zelotomys woosnami</i>	Rodentia	Least Concern	Near Threatened	Uplisted	Non-endemic	No image		Declining habitat due to construction of solar farms, mining, and climate change.
Aardvark	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>	Tubilendenta	Least Concern	Near Threatened	Uplisted	Non-endemic		Nora Weyer	A population reduction is inferred based on a decline in its overall distribution and habitat quality due to climate change & climate-change related droughts that have impacted insect prey availability.
Roan Antelope	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	Artiodactyla	Endangered	Vulnerable	Downlisted	Non-endemic		Cliff & Suretha Dorse	The minimum confirmed wild mature population within the natural range has increased from less than 250 individuals to less than 1,000 individuals.
Southern Elephant Seal	<i>Mirounga leonina</i>	Carnivora	Near Threatened	Least Concern	Downlisted	Non-endemic		Charles Kinsey	Over the past four generations (1986-2023), the population has increased by approximately 29%, demonstrating a positive trajectory after decades of decline.
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra	<i>Equus zebra hartmannae</i>	Perissodactyla	Vulnerable	Near Threatened	Downlisted	Non-endemic		Cliff & Suretha Dorse	Genuine increase in population numbers.

*poorly or not protected species