

## **Appendix 10 Conservation status categories used to classify reptile, amphibian and mammal fauna in Namibia**

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Because detailed population data are unavailable for most species, Namibia is so far generally unable to apply the recent IUCN red data categories (ref. 338 in Chapter 2), which rely on accurate population estimates.

- EXTINCT** Taxa definitely not located in the wild in Namibia during the past 50 years, and supported by reasonable evidence that the species is no longer locally extant. Reintroductions from non-Namibian populations do not negate this status.
- ENDANGERED** Taxa in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating. Included are taxa whose numbers have been reduced to a critical level or whose habitats have been so reduced that they are deemed to be in immediate danger of extinction.
- VULNERABLE** Taxa believed likely to move into the ENDANGERED category in the future if present causal factors continue operating. Included are taxa of which all or most of the populations are decreasing due to overexploitation, intensive destruction of habitat or other environmental disturbance: taxa with local populations which have been depleted; those whose ultimate security is not assured; and taxa with populations that are still abundant but under threat throughout their range.
- RARE** Taxa with small populations not thought to be presently ENDANGERED or VULNERABLE, but potentially at risk. These species can be thinly scattered over an extensive range in Namibia. They may be species which are seldom recorded but may be more common than supposed, although there is some indication that their numbers are low. Also includes taxa which have a restricted geographical range in Namibia, have an intermediate endemicity (26% - 74% of global population in Namibia), and may be locally abundant. Since the taxon's overall range is limited, it may not be SECURE.
- INDETERMINATE** Taxa known to be ENDANGERED, VULNERABLE, or RARE but for which insufficient information is currently available to assign them to the appropriate category.
- INSUFFICIENTLY KNOWN** Taxa suspected but not known to belong to any of the above categories, because of poor information.
- SECURE** No special threat status. Taxa with no known local conservation problems, and no reason to believe that the conservation status of the taxa will change. A decline in status would, however indicate a deterioration of the Namibian environment.
- ENDEMIC** Restricted to, or found almost exclusively in Namibia. This category states a national obligation to conserve the taxon. No conservation problems are implied. Endemic in the context of amphibians, reptiles and mammals includes all taxa with 75% or more of the entire taxon's population residing in Namibia. In the case of most smaller terrestrial vertebrates, estimates are based on proportions of geographic range/required habitat.
- PERIPHERAL** Taxa with a limited distribution in Namibia (25% or less), whose main distribution falls outside the nation's boundaries. In addition, the Namibian population could be threatened and the status should be monitored. Namibia is not the sole guardian, but declines reflect a deterioration of the local environment affecting the taxon's conservation status. Includes taxa with limited overall distributions (therefore VULNERABLE), taxa with specific (and vulnerable) habitat requirements, and taxa of international concern (e.g. cetaceans & marine turtles). Often used as an additional suffix to a threatened category. Does not include VAGRANTS, individuals of mobile species, for which Namibia has minimal responsibility.
- STATUS PROVISIONAL (SP)** Qualifier suffix attached to conservation status categories, indicating inadequate information on the taxon's systematic and/or biogeographical status. Further information would probably change the species' conservation status ranking, and is given in brackets (e.g. taxonomy).
- NOT YET RECORDED** Taxa not yet recorded from Namibia, but because of known habitat/ distribution and environmental factors, can reasonably be expected to occur. No conservation status ranking is implied in this definition. However, most taxa would probably be initially classified as 'PERIPHERAL' or 'RARE.' The expected conservation status is sometimes appended to this category. This category implies the qualifier suffix SP (STATUS PROVISIONAL).
- NOT YET CONFIRMED TO OCCUR** Taxa previously recorded, but which need confirming.

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– Compiled by Mike Griffin