



CONSERVATION FACT SHEET

Aardvark (Tubulidentata)

Species (1):		Red List status (2016)
<i>Orycteropus afer</i>	aardvark	Least Concern

Main threats and pressures:	Habitat loss due to agriculture and settlement, including deforestation in certain parts of Africa such as the DRC.
	Application of pesticides in agriculture may affect the aardvark's food resource (ants & termites).
	Human-wildlife conflict (killed by farmers as a perceived nuisance, due to damage to fields).
	Exploitation for meat in some countries (e.g. DRC, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia).

Main conservation and research action required		
Main Actions	Details/Locations	Estimated cost (US\$) 2016 - 2020
Develop standardized monitoring protocols for aardvark to track population trends over time and produce more data for Red List assessments.	Develop and test monitoring protocols (e.g. tagging methods and equipment, camera trapping in target areas, a cellphone app to report sightings)	US\$ 30,000
Conduct surveys to determine distribution and abundance, combined with a genetic study to facilitate a taxonomic revision and to verify species diversity.	Range wide, but survey priorities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central DRC (e.g. Lomami NP) • Senegal • Karoo and/or Kalahari (to gain understanding of the impact of climate change on aardvark populations living at the edge of the species distribution) • East and Southern Africa (as test regions for the App and its use by tourists) Conduct genetic analyses in Central DRC (e.g. Lomami NP) Train personnel to capture and analyse data.	US\$ 45,000/year (PhD) US\$ 30,000 US\$ 70,000/year (Postdoctoral researcher) US\$ 30,000 (research assistant to gather and manage the data) US\$ 45,000/year (PhD) US\$ 10,000

Study to establish the level and impact of bushmeat hunting on aardvark populations.	Working with colleagues in Benin, DRC and Ghana, survey bushmeat markets and estimate level of aardvark meat trade	US\$ 10,000 (primarily for transport costs)
Outreach programme to raise awareness of the importance of the aardvark to African ecosystems as an “environmental engineer” and its emblematic role as an African flagship species.	Create an aardvark taskforce and education pack that could be used in schools and community groups (including school materials, cellphone app, etc). Range wide, but priorities include West and Central Africa where settlement and aardvark distribution are the most at risk of overlapping.	US\$ 20,000

Compiler and contact for more information:

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