

The IUCN Species Survival Commission

2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

A Global Species Assessment

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**IUCN – The World Conservation Union
2004**

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This publication has been made possible by funding from the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs (DgCid – Direction générale de la Coopération internationale et du Développement) and the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation.

Published by: IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.



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Citation: Baillie, J.E.M., Hilton-Taylor, C. and Stuart, S.N. (Editors) 2004. *2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. A Global Species Assessment*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK. xxiv + 191 pp.

ISBN: 2-8317-0826-5

Cover design: McHale Ward Associates, Ware, UK

Cover photos: © Robert Puschendorf, Anthony G. Miller, Dai G. Herbert, John E. Randall, Jack Jeffrey Photography and Troy Inman (see inside back cover for details).

Layout by: McHale Ward Associates, Ware, UK

Produced by: IUCN Publications Services Unit, Cambridge, UK

Printed by: Thanet Press Limited, Margate, UK

Available from: IUCN Publications Services Unit
219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK
Tel: +44 1223 277894. Fax: +44 1223 277175
E-mail: info@books.iucn.org
www.iucn.org/bookstore

A catalogue of IUCN publications is also available

The text of this book is printed on Fineblade Smooth 115gsm made from low-chlorine pulp

Southern White Rhinoceros

The Southern White Rhinoceros *Ceratotherium simum simum*, which had been fairly widespread throughout Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa early in the nineteenth century, had by the turn of the twentieth century been reduced to two relict populations on the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border and in Umfolozi Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The former became extinct, leaving the small population of 20-50 rhinos in Umfolozi Game Reserve, which was proclaimed in 1897, as the only ones left in the world. Afforded protection, numbers increased, and the population expanded into the adjoining Hluhluwe Game Reserve, and by 1960 there were at least 700 animals, possibly more as game counts in those days normally underestimated numbers. Within a year it had become both possible and necessary to capture animals for translocation to other reserves within their former range,

and hence the Natal Parks Board's "Operation Rhino" was launched. Over the next 30 or so years, more than 4,500 white rhinos were moved out of the Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park and other reserves in KwaZulu-Natal. Many have been donated to conservation authorities in especially Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique, and since 1986 more than 1,000 have been sold, mainly by auction to the private sector. By 2002, the numbers of free-ranging southern white rhinos in Africa had increased to over 11,500 distributed between 250 populations in seven countries, of which about 11,000 were in South Africa. The Southern White Rhino is now listed as Near Threatened on the *IUCN Red List*. A quarter of Africa's Southern White Rhino population is privately owned, and it is an important contributor to the economic viability of the wildlife industry.



Photo: © Craig Hilton-Taylor.

Photo 8.10
Southern White Rhinoceros
*Ceratotherium simum
simum* (Near Threatened).

Based on information provided by Martin Brooks, IUCN/SSC African Rhino Specialist Group

distribution maps of species with the 2004 *World Database on Protected Areas*, correspond to 13% of all species and 19.9% of all threatened species analysed. The number of gap species doubles if only protected areas of reasonable size (>1,000 ha) and of stricter conservation classifications (IUCN Protected Area Categories I-IV; IUCN 1994b) are considered (Table 8.2). It is noteworthy that the information on whether or not each amphibian species occurs in a protected area, provided by the Global Amphibian Assessment experts, indicates that a higher fraction of

amphibians (33% of all species, 39% of all threatened species) are identified as gap species than by the methodology outlined by Rodrigues *et al.* (2004) (see Table 8.2 and Appendix 2h). Irrespective of the exact numbers, these results demonstrate that the global network of protected areas is still far from completed in terms of coverage of species, and even less so for the coverage of threatened species. The gap species are mainly concentrated in regions of high endemism in the world's tropical forests, particularly in montane regions and islands (Figure 8.7).

Family	Number of species	Number threatened species	% threatened species	p-value	p-value class
Phyllostomidae	149	30	20.134	0.1386	>0.05
Physeteridae	1	1	100.000	0.2427	>0.05
Pitheciidae	39	10	25.641	0.4821	>0.05
Platanistidae	1	1	100.000	0.2427	>0.05
Pongidae	2	2	100.000	0.0589	>0.05
Pontoporiidae	1	0	0.000	0.7573	>0.05
Potoroidae	11	6	54.545	0.0299	<0.05
Procaviidae	7	3	42.857	0.2287	>0.05
Procyonidae	19	8	42.105	0.0667	>0.05
Pseudocheiridae	17	3	17.647	0.3792	>0.05
Pteropodidae	171	69	40.351	0.0000	<0.001
Rhinocerotidae	5	4	80.000	0.0140	<0.05
Rhinolophidae	72	17	23.611	0.5120	>0.05
Rhinopomatidae	4	1	25.000	0.6712	>0.05
Sciuridae	273	33	12.088	0.0000	<0.001
Solenodontidae	3	3	100.000	0.0143	<0.05
Soricidae	320	85	26.563	0.1861	>0.05
Suidae	14	5	35.714	0.2375	>0.05
Tachyglossidae	2	1	50.000	0.4266	>0.05
Talpidae	42	10	23.810	0.5558	>0.05
Tapiridae	4	4	100.000	0.0035	<0.01
Tarsiidae	7	0	0.000	0.1428	>0.05
Tarsipedidae	1	0	0.000	0.7573	>0.05
Tayassuidae	3	1	33.333	0.5657	>0.05
Tenrecidae	24	10	41.667	0.0456	<0.05
Thryonomyidae	2	0	0.000	0.5734	>0.05
Thylacinidae	1	1	100.000	0.2427	>0.05
Thyropteridae	3	1	33.333	0.5657	>0.05
Tragulidae	4	0	0.000	0.3288	>0.05
Trichechidae	3	3	100.000	0.0143	<0.05
Tupaiaidae	19	6	31.579	0.3051	>0.05
Ursidae	8	4	50.000	0.1040	>0.05
Vespertilionidae	367	80	21.798	0.1477	>0.05
Viverridae	34	9	26.471	0.4471	>0.05
Vombatidae	3	1	33.333	0.5657	>0.05
Ziphiidae	19	0	0.000	0.0051	<0.01