

mammals of southern africa

mammals of southern africa are among the most diverse and fascinating wildlife groups on the continent. From the iconic African elephant to elusive small mammals like the rock hyrax, southern Africa's mammalian fauna offers an unrivaled opportunity for nature lovers and researchers alike. This article explores the rich biodiversity, unique habitats, conservation challenges, and the ecological roles of mammals in southern Africa. Discover which regions are home to specific species, the differences between large and small mammals, and how these animals interact with their environment. You will also learn about endangered species, conservation efforts, and the importance of mammals to local ecosystems. Whether you're curious about the famous big cats, want to understand lesser-known mammals, or are interested in wildlife tourism, this comprehensive guide will provide valuable insights into the mammals of southern Africa.

- Overview of Mammals in Southern Africa
- Main Habitats and Regions
- Large Mammals: Icons of Southern Africa
- Small and Lesser-Known Mammals
- Endangered Mammals and Conservation Efforts
- Ecological Roles and Economic Importance
- Wildlife Tourism and Mammal Watching

Overview of Mammals in Southern Africa

Southern Africa boasts one of the most impressive arrays of mammalian species in the world. The region includes countries such as South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Swaziland, each offering unique habitats for mammals. With over 300 recorded species, the mammals of southern Africa range from charismatic megafauna to elusive nocturnal creatures. The variety of climates and ecosystems—spanning savannas, deserts, forests, and wetlands—has contributed to this exceptional diversity. Mammals play crucial roles in maintaining ecological balance, from grazing and seed dispersal to predation and nutrient cycling. Their presence supports local biodiversity and underpins the health of entire ecosystems.

Main Habitats and Regions

The habitats of southern Africa are as diverse as its mammalian inhabitants. Understanding the main regions and their unique environments is essential for appreciating the distribution and adaptation of mammals across the subcontinent.

Savannas and Grasslands

Savannas and grasslands, particularly in the Kruger National Park and the Okavango Delta, are home to some of the most iconic mammals of southern Africa. These open landscapes support large herbivores and their predators.

- African elephants
- Lions

- Buffalo
- Giraffes
- Impala

Deserts and Semi-Arid Areas

The Namib and Kalahari deserts offer challenging conditions for mammals, yet many species have adapted to survive in sparse and arid environments. Specialized mammals found here include:

- Gemsbok (oryx)
- Meerkats
- Bat-eared foxes
- Black-backed jackals

Forests and Woodlands

Southern Africa's forests and woodlands, found primarily in Mozambique and parts of South Africa, harbor a range of mammals that thrive in dense vegetation.

- Leopards

- Blue duikers
- Samango monkeys
- Bushbabies

Large Mammals: Icons of Southern Africa

Large mammals are the hallmark of southern African wildlife, drawing travelers and conservationists from around the globe. These species are not only significant for tourism but also play vital ecological roles.

The Big Five Mammals

The "Big Five" mammals are perhaps the most recognized wildlife group in southern Africa. They include:

1. African elephant
2. Lion
3. Leopard
4. Rhinoceros (black and white)
5. Cape buffalo

These mammals are celebrated for their majesty and power, and their conservation is a top priority due to threats such as poaching and habitat loss.

Other Notable Large Mammals

Beyond the Big Five, southern Africa is home to several other impressive large mammals:

- Giraffe
- Hippopotamus
- Zebra
- Wildebeest
- Cheetah

These species contribute to the dynamic landscapes and food webs of the region, each fulfilling unique ecological functions.

Small and Lesser-Known Mammals

While large mammals capture much attention, the smaller mammals of southern Africa are equally remarkable. These creatures are often overlooked but play critical roles in their environments.

Rodents and Insectivores

Rodents, shrews, and moles are abundant throughout southern Africa. They serve as prey for many carnivores and help aerate soils through their burrowing activities.

Bats

Bats are essential pollinators and insect controllers in southern African ecosystems. With over 60 species present, they occupy a variety of niches, from fruit bats to insectivorous bats.

Unique Small Mammals

- Rock hyrax
- Aardvark
- Pangolin
- Springhare
- Striped polecat

These species display fascinating adaptations, from armored scales in pangolins to powerful digging claws in aardvarks.

Endangered Mammals and Conservation Efforts

Conservation of mammals in southern Africa is a critical concern due to poaching, habitat fragmentation, and climate change. Many species are threatened or endangered and require coordinated protection efforts.

Key Endangered Species

- Black rhinoceros
- Pangolin
- African wild dog
- Cheetah
- Riverine rabbit

Conservation Strategies

Efforts to protect mammals include anti-poaching patrols, habitat restoration, wildlife corridors, and community-based conservation. Protected areas like national parks and transfrontier conservation areas have proven effective in safeguarding mammalian diversity. Research, education, and sustainable tourism also play important roles in long-term conservation.

Ecological Roles and Economic Importance

Mammals are central to the ecological health of southern Africa's landscapes. Herbivores shape vegetation structure, while predators regulate prey populations and maintain balance. Small mammals contribute to nutrient cycling and soil health. Economically, mammals attract millions of tourists annually, supporting local economies and creating jobs in wildlife management, research, and conservation.

Ecological Functions of Mammals

- Seed dispersal and pollination by bats and primates
- Pest control and soil improvement by rodents and insectivores
- Population regulation by large carnivores
- Maintenance of grasslands by grazers

Wildlife Tourism and Mammal Watching

Wildlife tourism centered on the mammals of southern Africa is a major industry. Safaris, guided walks, and photographic expeditions allow visitors to experience the region's diverse mammalian fauna firsthand. Popular destinations include Kruger National Park, Etosha National Park, and the Okavango Delta. Sustainable tourism practices help fund conservation projects and raise awareness about the importance of preserving these species for future generations.

Best Practices for Mammal Watching

- Respect wildlife and maintain a safe distance
- Choose eco-friendly tour operators
- Support local conservation initiatives
- Learn about species behavior and habitats
- Participate in citizen science projects

Engaging in responsible mammal watching helps ensure that southern Africa's remarkable wildlife remains protected and appreciated for years to come.

Trending Questions & Answers about Mammals of Southern Africa

Q: What are the most famous mammals found in southern Africa?

A: The most famous mammals of southern Africa include the African elephant, lion, leopard, rhinoceros, and Cape buffalo, collectively known as the "Big Five."

Q: Which habitats support the greatest diversity of mammals in

southern Africa?

A: Savannas and grasslands support a high diversity of mammals, but forests, deserts, and wetlands also host unique species adapted to those environments.

Q: What are some endangered mammals in southern Africa?

A: Key endangered mammals include the black rhinoceros, African wild dog, pangolin, cheetah, and riverine rabbit.

Q: How do small mammals contribute to southern African ecosystems?

A: Small mammals such as rodents, bats, and insectivores aid in soil aeration, pest control, seed dispersal, and pollination, supporting ecosystem health.

Q: What are the economic benefits of wildlife tourism focused on mammals?

A: Wildlife tourism generates significant revenue for southern African countries, creates jobs, and funds conservation initiatives that protect mammalian biodiversity.

Q: Which national parks are best for viewing large mammals?

A: Kruger National Park, Etosha National Park, and the Okavango Delta are top destinations for observing large mammals in their natural habitats.

Q: What conservation strategies are used to protect mammals in

southern Africa?

A: Conservation strategies include anti-poaching patrols, habitat restoration, establishment of wildlife corridors, community engagement, and education programs.

Q: Are there any unique mammals only found in southern Africa?

A: Some mammals, such as the riverine rabbit and certain subspecies of antelope, are endemic to southern Africa and found nowhere else.

Q: How can tourists help with mammal conservation in southern Africa?

A: Tourists can help by choosing sustainable tour operators, respecting wildlife, supporting local conservation projects, and participating in citizen science initiatives.

Q: What is the ecological role of predators like lions and leopards?

A: Predators such as lions and leopards regulate prey populations, prevent overgrazing, and maintain the ecological balance within their habitats.

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Mammals of Southern Africa: A Diverse and Thriving Fauna

Southern Africa boasts an incredible array of mammals, a testament to the region's diverse ecosystems, from arid deserts to lush savannas and verdant forests. This comprehensive guide delves into the fascinating world of mammals of Southern Africa, exploring their incredible diversity, adaptations, and the conservation challenges they face. We'll journey through various habitats, encountering iconic species and lesser-known creatures, providing you with a rich understanding of this vibrant part of the animal kingdom. Prepare to be amazed by the sheer variety and beauty of the mammalian life found in this remarkable region.

Exploring the Big Five and Beyond: Iconic Southern African Mammals

When people think of Southern African wildlife, the "Big Five" – lion, elephant, rhino, leopard, and buffalo – immediately spring to mind. These magnificent creatures are indeed emblematic of the region's biodiversity, each possessing unique characteristics and playing crucial roles within their respective ecosystems.

Lions (*Panthera leo*): Social apex predators, lions are known for their impressive manes (males) and cooperative hunting strategies. Their populations, while significant in some areas, face ongoing threats from habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict.

African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*): The largest land mammals on Earth, African elephants are keystone species, shaping their environments through their feeding habits and creating vital water sources. Poaching remains a significant threat to their survival.

Rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum* & *Diceros bicornis*): Southern Africa is home to both white and black rhinoceroses, both critically endangered due to poaching for their horns. Conservation efforts are crucial for their continued existence.

Leopards (*Panthera pardus*): Highly adaptable and elusive predators, leopards are skilled climbers and often hunt at night. Their secretive nature makes them challenging to study, but their populations are vulnerable to habitat fragmentation and human encroachment.

African Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*): Massive and powerful herbivores, African buffalo are known for their unpredictable nature and the potential danger they pose. They play a significant role in maintaining the health of grasslands and savannas.

Beyond the Big Five, Southern Africa is teeming with an extraordinary array of other mammals, showcasing the region's remarkable biodiversity.

Beyond the Big Five: A Diverse Array of Mammalian Life

Southern Africa's mammalian fauna extends far beyond the iconic Big Five. Diverse habitats support a fascinating range of species:

Smaller Carnivores and Primates:

Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*): The world's fastest land animal, cheetahs are vulnerable to habitat loss and human conflict.

Wild Dogs (*Lycaon pictus*): Highly social and cooperative hunters, African wild dogs are critically endangered due to habitat loss and disease.

Baboons (*Papio* spp.): Intelligent and adaptable primates, baboons are widespread across Southern Africa.

Bushbabies (*Galagidae*): Nocturnal primates with large eyes, bushbabies are fascinating to observe in their natural habitat.

Herbivores and Ungulates:

Giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*): Tall and elegant herbivores, giraffes are a striking sight on the African savanna.

Zebras (*Equus quagga*): Strikingly patterned equids, zebras are highly social and graze in herds.

Antelopes (various species): Southern Africa boasts an incredible variety of antelope species, each with unique adaptations to its environment. Examples include impalas, wildebeest, springboks, and kudus.

Marine Mammals:

Southern Right Whales (*Eubalaena australis*): These majestic whales migrate to Southern African coasts to breed and calve.

Dolphins and Seals (various species): The coastal waters of Southern Africa support a rich diversity of marine mammals.

Conservation Challenges and the Future of Southern African Mammals

The survival of many Southern African mammals faces significant challenges. Habitat loss due to agriculture, urbanization, and mining continues to fragment crucial ecosystems. Poaching remains a major threat, particularly for elephants and rhinos. Climate change, with its associated droughts and altered rainfall patterns, adds another layer of complexity.

Effective conservation strategies are critical to ensuring the long-term survival of these magnificent creatures. These include strengthening anti-poaching efforts, protecting and expanding protected areas, promoting sustainable land management practices, and fostering community involvement in conservation initiatives. International collaboration and funding are essential to address the transboundary nature of many of these challenges.

Conclusion

The mammals of Southern Africa represent a treasure trove of biodiversity, encompassing iconic species and a rich array of lesser-known creatures. Understanding the threats they face and actively participating in conservation efforts is crucial for preserving this incredible wildlife heritage for future generations. From the majestic elephants to the elusive leopards, each species plays a vital role in the intricate tapestry of Southern African ecosystems. Let us strive to protect these wonders of the natural world and ensure their continued flourishing.

FAQs

1. What is the best time of year to visit Southern Africa to see mammals? The dry season (generally May to October) is generally considered the best time for wildlife viewing, as animals congregate around remaining water sources.
2. Are there any safe ways to interact with wildlife in Southern Africa? Always maintain a safe distance from wildlife and follow the guidelines provided by your tour operator or park authorities. Never feed or approach animals.
3. What are some organizations working to protect Southern African mammals? Many organizations, including WWF, IUCN, and various national parks, are actively involved in conservation efforts.
4. How can I contribute to the conservation of Southern African mammals? Supporting reputable conservation organizations, choosing eco-friendly tourism options, and advocating for stronger environmental policies are all effective ways to help.
5. Which national parks in Southern Africa offer the best opportunities for mammal viewing? Kruger National Park (South Africa), Etosha National Park (Namibia), and Chobe National Park (Botswana) are renowned for their abundant and diverse mammal populations.

mammals of southern africa: *Smithers' Mammals of Southern Africa* Peter Apps, 1996 Based on Reay Smithers' original work *Land Mammals of Southern Africa*, this revised and expanded field guide to Southern African mammals is intended for the general reader as well as the wildlife enthusiast.

mammals of southern africa: *The Mammals of the Southern African Sub-region* J. D. Skinner, Christian T. Chimimba, 2005-11-15 This comprehensive volume covers all mammals that occur

naturally on the African mainland south of the Cunene and Zambezi rivers, and also in the subregion's coastal waters. Extensively revised and updated for the new edition, it now includes the latest data from mammal research in southern Africa along with the radical taxonomic changes across all levels of mammalian classification. Containing contributions from specialists on each mammalian order, each species description has been reviewed by a range of independent and internationally recognised authorities. Along with the latest taxonomic information, the distribution maps and illustrations have been updated and redrawn, several new colour plates have been added, and the whole design has been enhanced to aid access to key information. This is the most comprehensive and up-to-date survey of southern-African mammals and forms an essential reference for zoologists, evolutionary biologists and anyone wanting an overview of the region's wildlife.

mammals of southern africa: The Complete Book of Southern African Mammals , 1997

mammals of southern africa: **Stuarts' Field Guide to Mammals of Southern Africa** Chris Stuart, Mathilde Stuart, 2015-03-27 Greater southern Africa has a wealth of mammal species, almost 400 – all of which are covered in this fully updated, comprehensive field guide. Now expanded to include species found in Angola, Zambia and Malawi, it has also been extensively revised to include:

- the most recent research and taxonomy
- revised distribution maps and many new images
- colour-coded grouping of families
- spoor and size icons
- skull photographs, grouped for easy comparison
- detailed descriptions of each species, offering insight into key identification characters, typical behaviour, preferred habitat, food choice, reproduction and longevity.

mammals of southern africa: Pocket Guide Mammals of Southern Africa Chris Stuart, 2011-08-26 Southern Africa is home to a wealth of mammal species, occupying a great diversity of habitats. This easy-to-use, compact book is the perfect pocket identification guide to mammals of the region. It covers - in surprising detail - some 120 mammals, from the smallest (bats, sengis and shrews) to the largest, such as elephant, lion and rhinoceros, as well as marine species, such as seals, dolphins and whales. Authoritative and colourfully illustrated, this guide offers concise information on key ID pointers, similar species, habitat, behaviour, diet, reproduction, longevity, calls, occurrence and measurements. Clear images of each animal, distribution maps, silhouettes indicating size relative to humans and illustrations of tracks and droppings make this a must-have book for tourists and nature-lovers alike.

mammals of southern africa: Mammals of Southern Africa and Their Tracks & Signs Lee Gutteridge, Louis Liebenberg, 2013 Tracking is a much-loved yet difficult subject that attracts at least some of the attention of almost every bush-goer who ventures into the wild places of southern Africa. The ability to accurately read difficult, partial, or little-seen signs left in the soil or sand is rare and largely the domain of professionals. However, by making use of this comprehensive guide, anyone who applies him- or herself can begin to decipher these natural hieroglyphs etched on the ground. In this volume, highly accurate sketches of animal tracks are combined with a wide selection of extremely varied photographs that provide an all-round impression of the signs the animals may leave behind. This field guide to mammal tracks and signs also serves as an ID guide to the mammals of southern Africa as full color photographs of each animal are included.

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mammals of southern africa: **Smithers Mammals of Southern Africa** Peter Apps, Reay H.N. Smithers, 2012-04-05 This popular and authoritative field guide to the mammals of southern Africa has been fully revised and updated to include the latest research, while remaining accessible and compact for use in the field. Detailed accounts of over 220 land and nine marine mammal

species are discussed in depth, with full species descriptions detailing physical characteristics, habitat, diet, life history, behaviour, field signs and conservation status. Beautiful, accurate illustrations depict each species, and there are up-to-date distribution maps, spoor patterns, symbols showing conservation status, time of activity, and whether the animal occurs only in the subregion. As an extra aid to identification, line drawings show the relative sizes of similar mammals, drawn to a common scale. Smithers' numbers make for easy cross-referencing to the first and third editions of *Mammals of the Southern African Subregion*. Written in non-technical language and with a fresh design, this field guide classic will appeal to general readers, wildlife enthusiasts and professional guides, as well as to students and specialists in the field.

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mammals of southern africa: *Pocket Guide to Mammals of East Africa* Chris Stuart, 2013-08-22 East Africa comprises a range of habitats that provide living space for more than 360 diverse species of mammal. These vary in size from the massive elephant to the tiniest bats, shrews and mice. This compact guide covers all of the common and some of the less common mammal species of the region. For each species it offers: • key identification features, behaviour, diet, breeding biology, occurrence and size • clear, full-colour photographs • track illustrations • silhouettes to indicate size relative to human figure • distribution map A section on droppings/dung of many of the animals, as well as that of relative tracks, conclude the book. Compact and easy-to-use, this is the ideal companion both for regulars and visitors to the region.

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mammals of southern africa: *Mammals of Southern Africa* Jonathan Kingdon, 2007-10 An A5 laminated fold-out field guide featuring all the larger mammals and many of the smaller mammals found in Southern Africa.

mammals of southern africa: *Mammals of Africa* Jonathan Kingdon, David Happold, Thomas Butynski, Michael Hoffmann, Meredith Happold, Jan Kalina, 2013-05-23 *Mammals of Africa (MoA)* is a series of six volumes which describes, in detail, every currently recognized species of African land mammal. This is the first time that such extensive coverage has ever been attempted, and the volumes incorporate the very latest information and detailed discussion of the morphology, distribution, biology and evolution (including reference to fossil and molecular data) of Africa's

mammals. With 1,160 species and 16 orders, Africa has the greatest diversity and abundance of mammals in the world. The reasons for this and the mechanisms behind their evolution are given special attention in the series. Each volume follows the same format, with detailed profiles of every species and higher taxa. The series includes some 660 colour illustrations by Jonathan Kingdon and his many drawings highlight details of morphology and behaviour of the species concerned. Diagrams, schematic details and line drawings of skulls and jaws are by Jonathan Kingdon and Meredith Happold. Every species also includes a detailed distribution map. Extensive references alert readers to more detailed information. Volume I: Introductory Chapters and Afrotheria (352 pages) Volume II: Primates (560 pages) Volume III: Rodents, Hares and Rabbits (784 pages) Volume IV: Hedgehogs, Shrews and Bats (800 pages) Volume V: Carnivores, Pangolins, Equids and Rhinoceroses (560 pages) Volume VI: Pigs, Hippopotamuses, Chevrotain, Giraffes, Deer and Bovids (704 pages)

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mammals of southern africa: Field Guide to Mammals of Southern Africa Chris Stuart, Tilde Stuart, 2007 Southern Africa has a wealth of mammal species, a total of 337 - all of which are covered in this fully revised comprehensive field guide. While the term 'African mammals' conjures up the more celebrated species of elephant, lion, buffalo, leopard and rhino, it is in fact the smaller animals - shrews, genets, suricates and bats - that comprise the bulk of the region's mammal species. And, often overlooked but included here too is the diversity of marine mammals - seals, whales and dolphins - that are found in our oceans. This new edition of Field Guide to Mammals of Southern Africa has been extensively revised to include the most recent research in line with new findings and new taxonomy. Up-to-date information, revised distribution maps and new images (where available) have been combined in a modern, full-color layout. Color-coding has been introduced according family groupings and spoor and size icons are included for quick reference with each mammal entry. Another new feature is the inclusion of skulls, grouped at the back of the book for easy comparison. In addition to detailed descriptions of each species, the text offers insight into key identification characters, typical behavior, preferred habitat, food choice and reproduction.

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mammals of southern africa: The Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals Jonathan Kingdon, 2020-09-17 The essential mammal guide to take on safari, covering every African land mammal. Originally published in 2004, the Kingdon Pocket Guide to African Mammals quickly became the field guide of choice to take on African safaris. Its compact format makes it ideal for use in the field, while its coverage is the most comprehensive currently possible in this format. Adapted from the Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals, the greatly condensed text focuses on essential information such as identification and distribution, while the author's superb illustrations have been rearranged into an easy-to-use plate format and placed opposite the text. Complex and more obscure groups like the bats and certain rodent families are summarised by genera. Over 500 maps plot the distribution of all larger species, and for smaller mammals the maps show distribution by genus. This is a completely revised second edition of this popular guide. The information and taxonomy have been updated to follow the newly published second edition of the Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals (2015), and this new edition of the pocket guide contains several new species and illustrations. The maps have been completely replaced and there are now 200 more maps than in the

original edition.

mammals of southern africa: The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals Jonathan Kingdon, 2019-12-12 This is the definitive field guide to African Mammals, fully revised and updated following the publication of the groundbreaking Mammals of Africa (2013). Jonathan Kingdon, one of the world's foremost authorities on African mammals, has both written and illustrated this landmark field guide. The unique combination of his extensive field experience and artistic talent has produced a stunning work that sets new standards. The concise text provides full information on identification, distribution, ecology, relationships and conservation status, with introductory profiles that summarise the characteristics of each mammal group. All known species of African land mammal are covered, with coverage of several of the more complex groups of small mammals simplified by reference to genera. Classification has been fully updated and this new edition includes many newly recognised species. With over 780 colour illustrations, numerous line drawings and more than 520 maps, this book will be an essential companion to anyone visiting Africa or with an interest in the mammals of the continent.

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mammals of southern africa: Mammals of South America, Volume 2 Alfred L. Gardner, James L. Patton, 2007 The vast terrain between Panama and Tierra del Fuego contains some of the world's richest mammalian fauna, but until now it has lacked a comprehensive systematic reference to the identification, distribution, and taxonomy of its mammals. The first such book of its kind, *Mammals of South America* both summarizes existing information and encourages further research of the mammals indigenous to the region. It includes identification keys and brief descriptions of each order, family, and genus. Species accounts include taxonomic descriptions, synonymies, keys to identification, distributions with maps and a gazetteer of marginal localities, lists of recognized subspecies, brief summaries of natural history information, and discussions of issues related to taxonomic interpretations.

mammals of southern africa: *The Behavior Guide to African Mammals* Richard Estes, 1991 A work of tremendous scope. . . . Amateur naturalists and tourists to the parks of Africa and finally professionals will find this a stimulating, well-documented summary.--John F. Eisenberg, Florida Museum of Natural History We have seen in the field how very helpful and informative *The Behavior Guide* is. Our knowledgeable safari guides turned often to their prized and already well-thumbed copies, and we continue to refer to ours now that we are back home.--Douglas F. Williamson, Jr., National Council, World Wildlife Fund, U.S. A fascinating, perceptive, and enjoyable travel companion heightens the pleasure of being afield. *The Behavior Guide to African Mammals* is that ideal companion. Lucid, accurate, and marvelously illustrated, the book is a basic reference for anyone interested in natural history.--George B. Schaller, author of *The Serengeti Lion* and *The Deer and the Tiger* A remarkable review of what is known about the larger African mammals.--A.R.E. Sinclair, The Ecology Group, University of British Columbia

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mammals of southern africa: *Animals of Kruger National Park* Keith Barnes, 2016-10-18 This compact and stunningly illustrated field guide is an essential companion for any safari in South Africa's Kruger National Park--one of the largest, most iconic, and most visited conservation areas in Africa. Featuring a unique attractive layout and more than 200 color photographs that show animals in a variety of poses, the guide covers all of the park's most frequently seen mammals, reptiles, and frogs. The authoritative and accessible text provides more information about identification, habitat, behavior, biology, and conservation than most competing guides. Written by South Africa native Keith Barnes, an experienced naturalist, wildlife guide, and author, the guide covers 57 mammals, 17 reptiles, and 8 frogs. In addition to Kruger's famous Big-5 of elephants, leopards, lions, rhinoceroses, and buffalos, the guide also includes lesser-known animals such as the charismatic Wild Dog, smaller cats like the Serval and Caracal, and odd nocturnal denizens like the Cape Porcupine and Springhare. Text and photos work seamlessly to enhance the user's understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the animals of this incredible region, which is home to South Africa's most important populations of megafauna. * An essential all-in-one Kruger safari companion* Perfect for new and experienced safari-goers alike* Small, portable format ideal for field use* Unique attractive layout with more than 200 stunning color photographs* Photos show animals in a variety

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mammals of southern africa: Beat about the Bush Trevor Carnaby, 2006 Filling the gap between basic mammal guides and extensive academic texts, this resource answers everyday questions about mammals in an understandable fashion that will appeal to tourists, bush enthusiasts, and field guides. Addressing everything from how an elephant's trunk works to why the blue whale is not a fish, this question-and-answer guide includes more than 700 color photographs and a detailed section on tracks and signs, making it a must-have for anyone wanting to know about the mammals of the bush region.

mammals of southern africa: The Living Deserts of Southern Africa Barry Lovegrove, 2022-02 Divided into ten chapters, *The Living Deserts of Southern Africa* details the biology of desert plants (biggest desert biodiversity hotspot in the world) and animals and discusses their conservation and future threats.

mammals of southern africa: Game Drive Heinrich Van den Berg, 2013-09 Offers a visual record of all the mammals that may be seen on travels in Southern Africa. This large format, deluxe book is a visual record of all the mammals that may be seen on travels in Southern Africa and filled with the most stunning images that only the lens of the Van den Bergs can bring. However, while the main emphasis is on visual representation, species information is still important, and offered in bite sized snippets.

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mammals of southern africa: *The Mammals of the Southern African Sub-region* J. D. Skinner, Christian T. Chimimba, 2005-11-15 This third, extensively revised edition of *The Mammals of the Southern African Subregion* contains detailed descriptions of all mammals that occur naturally on the African mainland south of the Cunene and Zambezi rivers, together with all mammals indigenous to the subregion's coastal waters. The rapid accumulation of new information resulting from mammal research in southern Africa, together with radical taxonomic changes across all levels of mammalian classification, have necessitated this new edition, which presents the best and latest data accurately in one comprehensive volume for use not only by scientists but also by an increasingly wide audience of general readers with an interest in the natural history of southern Africa. J. D. Skinner and C. T. Chimimba have revised, expanded and updated the text in a major project overseen by an editorial committee constituted by the Mammal Research Institute at the University of Pretoria. Specialists on each mammalian order have served as subeditors, and a range of independent and internationally recognised authorities have reviewed every species description. In this edition all the distribution maps and many of the illustrations of mammal prints have been updated and redrawn, several new colour plates have been added, and the whole design of this definitive reference work has been enhanced to ensure easy access to information.--BOOK JACKET.

mammals of southern africa: Rodents of Sub-Saharan Africa Ara Monadjem, Peter J. Taylor, Christiane Denys, Fenton P.D. Cotterill, 2015-02-17 This comprehensive handbook covers all the rodents occurring in Southern, Central, East and West Africa, south of the Sahara. Genus and species accounts include diagnostic descriptions, systematics and taxonomy, biogeographical environment, fossil species, photographs of skull and mandible, illustrations of molar dentition, photographs of live animals, distribution maps and tables of standard museum measurements.

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