

# Southern Ground Hornbill Information Sheet

Scientific: *Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Afrikaans: Bromvoel Shangaan: Rhanzane Zulu: iNgududu Ndebele: iSingise

As a field guide you are in the fortunate position to be out in the savannah more than most and so are in a prime position to help us learn more about these birds and also share their magic with your guests.

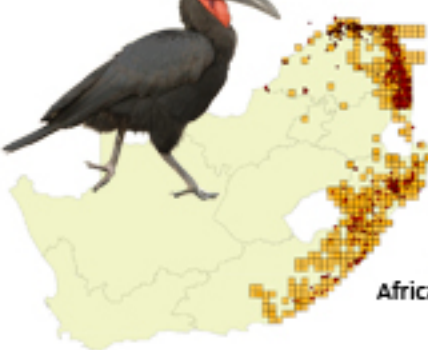
## CONSERVATION STATUS:

**Endangered** in South Africa and **Vulnerable** in the rest of their range.

**SA POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 1500 individuals = about 400 family groups.

## MAJOR THREATS:

- lead poisoning from bullet fragment in hunting offal;
- agricultural pesticides used incorrectly or maliciously (e.g. Temek);
- land management that leads to bush encroachment or under-grazing;
- electrocution on transformer boxes;
- persecution for breaking windows (territorial behaviour - their reflection is an 'enemy')

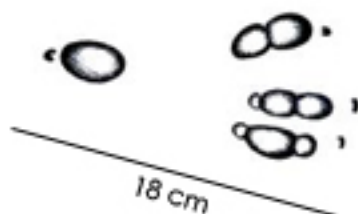


## DISTRIBUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Map showing the drastic decline over the past 20 years:

- the population in the early 80's to late 90's (SABAP 1, Natal and Transvaal Atlas data)
- the population over the past decade (SABAP 2 & MGHP data)

African range



## FAST FACTS:

**NEST:** hollow in a tall tree or earth bank or on a cliff ledge.

**FOOD:** Faunivorous (snakes, scorpions, chameleons, insects, lizards).

**WATER:** They do not drink but will hunt for food near water.

**TERRITORY:** Each family group needs between 50 - 250 km<sup>2</sup> depending on habitat type.

**GROUP:** Between two and nine birds but only the alpha pair breed, the rests just help.

**EGG INCUBATION:** About 42 days.

**CLUTCH SIZE:** 1-3 (2 average). Only one chick ever survives to fledging.

**BREEDING SEASON:** After the first big rains (November - March).



This is a Sabi Sands and Mabula Ground Hornbill Project Initiative

