

KAMMANASSIE CAPE MOUNTAIN ZEBRA

Custodianship Voluntary Undertaking and Best Practise Guidelines



Cape mountain zebra (CMZ) were once distributed from the Roggeveld and Cedarberg ranges in the Western Cape to the Amatolas in the Eastern Cape. By the 1950s, there were less than 80 of these animals left as a result of hunting, habitat loss and competition by livestock for grazing. However, CMZ persisted in three genetically distinct subpopulations: Cradock, Kammanassie and Gamkaberg. Thanks to public and private conservation efforts, there are now about 3 000 CMZ. The historical genetic bottleneck and isolation of populations from each other are causes for one of the biggest threats: inbreeding.

SEVENTY YEARS AGO CMZ WERE ALMOST EXTINCT



The Kammanassie subpopulation contains **one-third** of all CMZ genetic diversity

The Kammanassie subpopulation is incredibly important, because it contains one-third of all CMZ genetic diversity. Kammanassie World Heritage Site, although essential for the survival of these unique animals, cannot meet all of their habitat requirements. Despite their name, CMZ need more than mountains for survival. **For centuries, CMZ have roamed freely in the Kammanassie mountain catchment area and surrounding lowland areas - this has been key to their survival.**

Note that CMZ are relatives of, but genetically very different from plains (Burchell's) zebra and Hartmann's zebra.

Who do the CMZ belong to?

CMZ are listed as **Endangered** wild animals in schedule 1 of the Nature Conservation Ordinance (Ordinance 19 of 1974).

A PERMIT is therefore required to hunt, catch, be in possession of, import, export, sell, buy or donate these animals.

CapeNature, as the provincial conservation entity, is the official guardian of these animals in the Western Cape. However, 80% of the Kammanassie CMZ occur on private land. **CapeNature therefore relies on these landowners to participate in conserving and reducing the threats to these unique animals.**

80% of the Kammanassie CMZ OCCUR ON PRIVATE LAND

What do the CMZ require to THRIVE?



The freedom to move seasonally between the mountains and low-lying areas.



A mixed diet, which includes high quality food in the form of grass. At times, grass in the mountains becomes scarce so CMZ move onto the flats, where they sometimes target old lands or lucerne fields.



Daily access to clean drinking water. Springs in the mountain dry up from time to time and access to water in low-lying areas is then critical for CMZ survival.



A safe environment, where they are not acci-

dentally snared in damaged fence lines, illegally hunted or trapped in camps without food and water.



To be part of a herd. CMZ are social animals with strong bonds between herd members and especially between the dominant stallion and mare. Separation of the breeding pair reduces the number of foals born. CMZ foals suckle from their mothers for 10 months, and youngsters remain with their birth herds for almost two years. Prematurely separating youngsters from their herds reduces their chance of survival.



A pure gene pool. CMZ can breed with donkeys, horses and other types of zebra, which leads to genetic contamination.



BEST PRACTISE GUIDELINES:

What you can do to help conserve the unique Kammanassie CMZ

- **Leave strategic gates open** to allow movement of the herds.
- **Allow CMZ safe access to drinking water and food where possible.** Fence off fields thoroughly if you need to keep CMZ out.
- **Do not enclose or separate any CMZ from their herds** or from the main Kammanassie subpopulation.
- **Remove any old wire or other material that can entangle or injure CMZ** and other wildlife.
- **Remove any snares** that you spot in the veld.
- **Don't allow types of zebra, or donkeys or horses, to roam freely**, where they can breed with Kammanassie CMZ.
- **Report any CMZ observations to CapeNature** (see below for contact details) and if possible, **email photographs** of animals to CapeNature to contribute to our Kammanassie CMZ database.
- **Inform CapeNature if you are aware of any risks to CMZ** in your area, so that swift action can be taken to safeguard the CMZ.

VOLUNTARY UNDERTAKING:

I, _____ Signature: _____

hereby undertake to support the conservation of the unique Kammanassie CMZ by implementing the best practise guidelines listed above.

Address: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Other conservation interests: _____