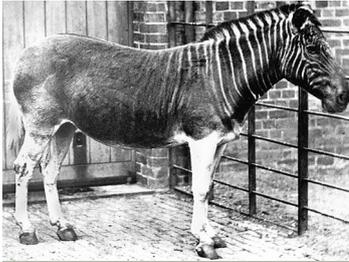


# PREVENTING HYBRIDIZATION OF CAPE MOUNTAIN ZEBRA



Cape mountain zebra

There are three types of zebra in the Western Cape but only one, the **Cape mountain zebra** (CMZ, *Equus zebra zebra*), occurs here naturally.

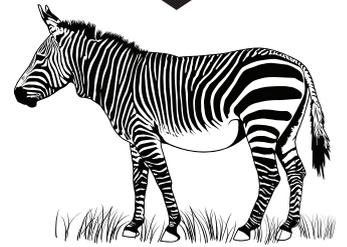


The **quagga**, *Equus quagga quagga, a subspecies of the plains zebra, used to occur in the Western Cape but is now extinct.*

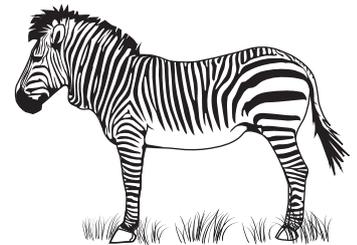
**Hartmann's zebra** (*Equus zebra hartmannae*) and **plains zebra** (*Equus quagga burchelli*) were introduced into the province. Some of these animals escaped from their points of introduction and now roam freely across the landscape.

Both plains and Hartmann's zebra can mate with CMZ. Foals resulting from a CMZ-Hartmann's cross will probably be fertile, resulting in contamination of both the CMZ and Hartmann's gene pools. Although CMZ-plains foals will likely be infertile, such crosses are wasted reproductive opportunities for both species. Zebra can also interbreed with donkeys and horses.

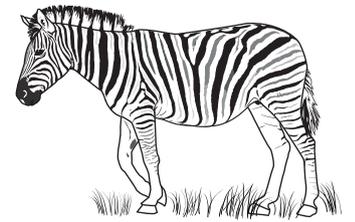
## CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



Cape mountain zebra



Hartmann's zebra



Plains zebra



Trail camera image of a cross between a wild horse and a Hartmann's zebra (Namibia)

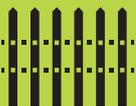


Horse-CMZ hybrid, Bredasdorp area

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP



If you keep zebra on your property or want to introduce zebra, **please make sure that you have a permit** from CapeNature to do so. Find out from CapeNature if you need to register your property with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development as a zebra destination in terms of the African Horse Sickness regulations.



**Maintain your fences** so that your zebra cannot come into contact with other types of zebra, or donkeys or horses.



**Familiarize yourself with the differences between the different zebra types**, using this pamphlet as a guide (see *overleaf*). But note that although some hybrids look obviously different from CMZ, not all hybrids can be distinguished on the basis of physical features – sometimes, a genetic test is necessary. We don't yet know what a CMZ-Hartmann's hybrid looks like.



If you spot a zebra of unknown origin on your property, or if you suspect there is a hybrid zebra, please **inform CapeNature** and, if possible, provide photographs of the animal.



**CapeNature**

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CMZ	Hartmann's	Plains	CMZ-Plains cross
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SIZE			
Small (about 2/3 the weight of the other zebra types)	Large	Large	Large (but could be variable)

### HEAD AND NECK

MANE BETWEEN EARS			
			
Short and doesn't extend onto forehead	Long and extends onto forehead	Long and woolly, and extends onto forehead	Intermediate, longer than CMZ (but could be variable)
INNER EAR BLACK OUTLINE			
Yes	No	No	No (but could be variable)
MUZZLE COLOUR			
Reddish-brown	Reddish-brown	Blackish-brown	Reddish-brown (but could be variable)
DEWLAP			
Yes, especially stallions	Prominent	No	Sometimes

### STRIPES

UNDER BELLY			
			
No	No	Yes	Yes (but could be variable)
SHADOW STRIPES			
No 	Some animals 	Yes 	Yes (but could be variable) 
RUMP STRIPES			
Black stripes wider than white	White stripes wider than black	White stripes wider than black	Relative width of stripes could be variable
RUMP CHEVRON			
Yes 	Yes 	No 	No (but could be variable) 
LEGS			
Prominent stripes right around the leg down to the hoof 	Prominent stripes right around the leg down to the hoof 	Stripes not prominent; mostly on outside of the leg; fade away towards the hoof 	Stripes mostly on outside of the leg; fade away towards the hoof (but could be variable) 