**Basic Information: Aardwolf (*Proteles cristatus*)**

**Animal: Aardwolf**

**Identification pointers:** Sexes look alike; hyaena-like appearance; mane of long hair on neck and back; tawny coloured coat with vertical black stripes; black feet, tail and muzzle.

**Confused with:** jackals, brown hyaena

**Activity period:** Active at night and early morning

**Can be confused with:** brown hyaena, spotted hyaena – aardwolf is much smaller than the other hyaena species.

**Length:** 80-100cm **Height:** 50cm **Weight:** 6-11kg

**Gestation period:** ±2 months

**Lifespan:** ±8-10 years

**Diet:** Nastute harvester termites

**Predators:** Larger carnivores, martial eagles, pythons

**Preferred habitat:** Preference for open habitats where there are healthy populations of harvester termites available.

**Red List status:** Least concern

**Population:** stable

**Threats:** Road collisions, habitat loss, mistakenly killed by farmers as vermin, despite not being capable of killing livestock.