**Basic Information: Caracal (*Caracal caracal)***

**Common names:** caracal, desert lynx

**Identification pointers:** russet-red coat; pointed black ears with black tufts at the tips; short, powerful legs; hind legs higher than front legs, short tail; face has prominent black and white markings; sexes similar

**Can be confused with:** serval, African golden cat

**Activity period:** Nocturnal

**Length:** 70-110cm **Height:** 40-45cm **Weight:** 7-19kg

**Gestation period:** ±2.5 months

**Diet:** small to medium sized vertebrates: rodents and hares, birds, reptiles from snakes to monitor lizards, small antelope up to the size of a bushbuck, livestock

**Predators:** leopards, lions, hyaenas

**Preferred habitat:** wide habitat tolerance, savannah woodland and grassland, semi-desert scrubland

**Red List status:** Least concern

**Population:** Unknown

**Threats:** No major threats, subject to persecution for livestock killings, habitat destruction a greater risk in Central, West and North Africa