**Basic Information: Porcupine (*Hystrix africaeaustralis*)**

**Names: crested porcupine, cape porcupine**

**Identification pointers:** Unmistakeable, entire body covered with long, sharp, black and white quills.

**Can be confused with:** the southern African hedgehog, which is much smaller

**Activity period:** Nocturnal

**Length:** 75-100cm **Height:** 50-70cm **Weight:** 10-24kg

**Gestation period:** ±3 months

**Lifespan:** ±25-30 years

**Diet:** Plant material, especially bark, roots, tubers and bulbs, and fallen fruit.

**Predators:** Only occasionally eaten by experienced leopards.

**Preferred habitat:** Wide habitat tolerance, including semi-desert, scrubland, savannah and light woodland.

**Red List status:** Least concern

**Population:** Stable

**Threats:** No major threats, can live in human altered habitats and in close proximity to human habitation. Can damage crops, in particular root crops, and is sometimes considered an agricultural pest.