**Basic Information: Social mongooses**

**Names: Banded mongoose, meerkat, suricate, dwarf mongoose**

**Identification pointers:** long, slender bodies; small ears; forward facing eyes; pointed faces; **Dwarf mongoose:** very small size; fuzzy-looking dark grey to dark brown fur; **Meerkat:** pale, straw-coloured fur with irregular blotchy stripes across the back; blunt nose; stand in distinctive upright posture; **Banded mongoose:** Relatively large size, dark grey fur with 10-12 distinct black stripes across the back.

**Can be confused with:** Other mongooses

**Activity period:** Diurnal

**Dwarf mongoose**

**Length:** 30-40cm **Height:** 7-10cm **Weight:** 200-500g

**Meerkat**

**Length:** 45-55cm **Height:** 15cm **Weight:** 600-1000g

**Banded mongoose**

**Length:** 45-65cm **Height:** 20cm **Weight:** 1-1.6kg

**Gestation period:** ±2 months

**Lifespan:** ±10

**Diet:** Mainly insects and other invertebrates, but will eat reptiles, amphibians, birds, eggs and carrion.

**Predators:** Birds of prey, carnivores larger than the African wildcat, and large snakes.

**Preferred habitat: Dwarf mongooses** prefer open savannah and woodland, **meerkats** occur mostly in dry, open semi desert and **Banded mongoose** has a wide habitat tolerance from deserts to rain forests.

**Red List status:** Least Concern

**Population:** Stable

**Threats:** There are no major threats to these species, habitat loss is probably their greatest threat.