**Basic Information: Honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*)**

**Names: honey badger, ratel**

**Identification pointers:** black underparts and legs, silver-grey fur on top including head and tail; legs very short, body stickily built; tail is very short.

**Can be confused with:** striped weasel and striped polecats, but much larger than both

**Activity period:** mostly nocturnal, sometime active in early morning, late afternoon.

**Length:** 90-100cm **Height:** 30cm **Weight:**  8-14kg

**Gestation period:** ±6 months

**Lifespan:** ±20 years

**Diet:** a variety of small prey including snakes, rodents, invertebrates, and many others. Also known for breaking over bee hives and eating the honey comb and bee larvae.

**Predators:** Leopards, lions

**Preferred habitat:** Found in just about every habitat from the Cape to India except the driest deserts

**Red List status:** Least concern

**Population:** decreasing

**Threats:** persecuted by beekeepers and small livestock farmers; body parts used in traditional medicine to endow the taker with bravery and tenacity.