**Basic Information: Plains zebra (Equus burchellii)**

**Names: plains zebra, common zebra, Burchell’s zebra, painted zebra**

**Identification pointers:** large, horse-like appearance; black and white stripe pattern on the coat; black stripes separated by brown “shadow stripe”, distinguishing this from other zebra species; stripes connect on the belly; no dewlap of loose skin on throat.

**Can be confused with:** Cape and Hartmann’s mountain zebras

**Activity period:** mainly diurnal but will move and feed at night

**Length**: 2.2-2.4m **Height:** 1.2.-1.4m **Weight:** 280-350kg

**Gestation period:** ±12.5 months

**Lifespan:** ±18-20 years

**Diet:** bulk grazers. Have the ability to survive on very low quality grass but prefer medium length green grass.

**Predators:** Lions, hyaenas, leopards, wild dog

**Preferred habitat:** Open habitats such as grasslands, sparse woodlands, and savannahs, but will also be found in rocky, mountainous areas. Require good water sources.

**Red List status:** least convern

**Population:** Stable

**Threats:** No major threats to the species as a whole, but over-hunting and habitat loss and degradation are causing local population declines. Barriers such as fences, roads, agricultural land and human settlements threaten to halt their migratory pathways, which may result in major population declines.