

Table S1. Examples of social, semi-fossorial, herbivorous mammals from grassland ecosystems around the world, along with their conservation status and the major threats affecting their populations. Also shown are examples of their vertebrate habitat associates, predators, and associated species that are known to have declined with their decline. These are non-exhaustive species lists. Conservation status is based on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List (LC = Least Concern, NT = Near Threatened, VU = Vulnerable, EN = Endangered). Where known, major predators are indicated with an asterisk.

ORDER Species	Current conservation status	Major threats	Vertebrate Habitat associates	Predators	Associated species in decline	Refs
<b>DIPROTODONTIA</b> (marsupials)						
<i>Bettongia lesueur</i> (boodie or burrowing bettong)	NT; Listed as Extinct by Australian government; once widespread across Australian mainland, now occurs in only 6-8 locations; natural populations are stable and reintroduced populations are increasing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduced predators</li> <li>2. Overgrazing by cattle and rabbits</li> <li>3. Introduced rats, mice, and rabbits</li> <li>4. Poisoning and shooting</li> <li>5. Drought and climate extremes</li> </ol>	REPTILIA <i>Eremiascincus richardsonii</i> (broad-banded sand swimmer) <i>Nephrurus milli</i> (barking gecko) <i>Pseudechis australis</i> (mulga snakes) <i>Tilqua rugosa</i> (sleepy lizard) <i>Varanus gouldii</i> (sand goanna) MAMMALIA Tachyglossidae spp. (Echidnas)	REPTILIA Native island predators: <i>Varanus</i> spp. (monitor lizards) AVES Native island predators: <i>Aquila audax</i> (wedge-tailed eagle) <i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i> (sea eagle) MAMMALIA Introduced: <i>Felis catus</i> (feral cat) <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (red fox)		(1-5)
<i>Lasiorhinus latifrons</i> (southern hairy-nosed wombat)	LC; population trend unknown; once common, populations are now highly fragmented; listed as Endangered by Australian government in NSW part of its	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conversion of native habitat to agriculture</li> <li>2. Competition with livestock and introduced rabbits for forage</li> <li>3. Sarcoptic mange, which can kill 80-</li> </ol>				(4;6;7)

range  
90% of infected animals  
4. Drought

**LAGOMORPHA**  
(placentals)

<i>Ochotona curzoniae</i> (plateau pika)	LC; populations are declining	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Large-scale poisoning to reduce competition with livestock</li> <li>2. Habitat degradation and loss</li> </ol>	<p>AMPHIBIA <i>Bufo raddei</i> (Mongolian toad) <i>Nanorana pleskei</i> (plateau frog)</p> <p>REPTILIA <i>Eremias multiocellata</i> (multi-ocellated racerunner lizard) <i>Phrynocephalus vlangalii</i> (Ching Hai toadhead agama lizard)</p> <p>AVES <i>Montifringilla adamsi</i>, <i>M. blanfordi</i>, <i>M. davidiana</i>, <i>M. ruficollis</i>, <i>M. tacazanowski</i> (snowfinches) <i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i> (Hume's ground jay)</p>	<p>AVES <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (golden eagle) <i>Athene noctua</i> (little owl) <i>Buteo hemilasius</i> (upland buzzard) <i>Falco cherrug</i> (saker falcon) <i>Milvus lineatus</i> (black-eared kite)</p> <p>MAMMALIA <i>Canis lupus</i> (gray wolf) <i>Mustela altaica</i> (mountain weasel) <i>Mustela eversmanni</i> (steppe polecat) <i>Otocolobus manul</i> (Pallas's cat) <i>Uncia uncia</i> (snow leopard) <i>Ursus arctos</i> (brown bear) <i>Vulpes ferrilata</i> (Tibetan fox) <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (red fox)</p>	<p>Where plateau pikas have been poisoned upland buzzards saker falcons, brown bears, Pallas's cats, Tibetan foxes, and steppe polecats, have all but disappeared. Mountain weasels are declining overall due to poisoning of its main prey (pikas). Populations of steppe polecat also are linked to pika population abundance.</p>	(8-13)
<i>Ochotona daurica</i> (daurian pikas)	LC; population trend unknown	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Large-scale poisoning to reduce competition with</li> </ol>	<p>AVES <i>Montifringilla davidiana</i> (Pere David's snow</p>	<p>AVES <i>Aquila nipalensis</i> (steppe eagle) <i>Buteo hemilasius</i></p>		(11;14;15)

livestock

finch)  
*Oenanthe isabellina*  
(Isabelline wheatear)

(upland buzzard)  
*Bubo bubo*  
(eagle owl)  
*Falco cherrug*  
(saker falcon)  
MAMMALIA  
*Mustela eversmanni*  
(steppe polecat)  
*Otocolobus manul*  
(Pallas's cat)  
*Vulpes corsac*  
(corsac fox)

**RODENTIA**

(placentals)

*Cynomys gunnisoni*  
(Gunnison's prairie dog)

LC; > 95% decline;  
populations are  
decreasing

1. Sylvatic plague
2. Poisoning
3. Habitat loss  
(from both  
desertification  
and urban  
development)
4. Shooting

REPTILIA  
*Crotalus viridis*  
(prairie rattlesnake)  
*Holbrookia maculata*  
(lesser earless lizard)  
*Sistrurus catenatus*  
(massasauga)  
AVES  
*Athene cunicularia*  
(burrowing owl)  
*Charadrius montanus*  
(mountain plover)  
MAMMALIA  
*Dipodomys spectabilis*  
(banner-tailed kangaroo rat)  
*Mustela nigripes*  
(black-footed ferret)  
*Xerospermophilus spilosoma*  
(spotted ground squirrel)  
*Vulpes macrotis*  
(kit fox)

REPTILIA  
*Crotalus viridis*  
(prairie rattlesnake)  
AVES  
*Aquila chrysaetos*  
(golden eagle)  
*Buteo regalis*  
(Ferruginous hawk)  
*Buteo swainsoni*  
(Swainson's hawk)  
MAMMALIA  
*Canis latrans*  
(Coyote)  
*Mustela nigripes*  
(black-footed ferret)  
*Taxidea taxus*  
(American badger)  
*Vulpes macrotis*  
(kit fox)

AVES (16-22)  
*Athene cunicularia*  
(burrowing owl)  
*Buteo regalis*  
(ferruginous hawk)  
*Charadrius montanus*  
(mountain plover)  
MAMMALIA  
*Mustela nigripes*  
(black-footed ferret)  
*Vulpes macrotis*  
(kit fox)

<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i> (black-tailed prairie dog)	LC; 98% decline; populations are decreasing	1. Sylvatic plague	AMPHIBIA	REPTILIA	AVES	(17;23-33;34, A. D. Davidson pers obs)
		2. Poisoning	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i> (barred tiger salamander)	<i>Crotalus viridis</i> (prairie rattlesnake)	AVES <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (burrowing owl)	
		3. Habitat loss (from both desertification and urban development)	<i>Bufo cognatus</i> (great plains toad) <i>Bufo woodhousii</i> (woodhouse's toad)	AVES <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (golden eagle ) <i>Buteo regalis</i> (ferruginous hawk)	<i>Buteo regalis</i> (ferruginous hawk) <i>Charadrius</i> <i>montanus</i> (mountain plover)	
		4. Shooting	<i>Scaphiopus</i> <i>bombifrons</i> (plains spadefoot toad)	MAMMALIA <i>Canis latrans</i> (coyote) <i>Lynx rufus</i> (bobcat) <i>Mustela nigripes</i> (black-footed ferret)	MAMMALIA <i>Mustela nigripes</i> (black-footed ferret) <i>Vulpes macrotis</i> (kit fox) <i>Vulpes velox</i> (swift fox)	
		REPTILIA <i>Crotalus viridis</i> (prairie rattlesnake) <i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i> (Texas horned lizard) <i>Sistrurus catenatus</i> (massasauga) <i>Terrapene ornata</i> (ornate box turtles) <i>Thamnophis radix</i> (western plains garter snake)	MAMMALIA <i>Canis latrans</i> (coyote) <i>Lynx rufus</i> (bobcat) <i>Mustela nigripes</i> (black-footed ferret) <i>Taxidea taxus</i> (American badger) <i>Vulpes macrotis</i> (kit fox) <i>Vulpes velox</i> (swift fox)	AVES <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (burrowing owl) <i>Charadrius montanus</i> (mountain plover) <i>Charadrius vociferous</i> (killdeer) <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> (horned lark) <i>Numenius americanus</i> (long-billed curlew) <i>Sturnella</i> spp. (meadowlark)		
		AVES <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (burrowing owl) <i>Charadrius montanus</i> (mountain plover) <i>Charadrius vociferous</i> (killdeer) <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> (horned lark) <i>Numenius americanus</i> (long-billed curlew) <i>Sturnella</i> spp. (meadowlark)	MAMMALIA <i>Bison bison</i>			

(American bison)  
*Lepus californicus*  
 (black-tailed  
 jackrabbits)  
*Mephitis mephitis*  
 (striped skunks)  
*Mustela nigripes*  
 (black-footed ferret)  
*Onychomys*  
*leucogaster*  
 (grasshopper mice)  
*Xerospermophilus*  
*spilosoma*  
 (spotted ground  
 squirrel)  
*Ictidomys*  
*tridecemlineatus*  
 (13-lined ground  
 squirrel)  
*Sylvilagus audubonii*  
 (desert cottontail  
 rabbit)  
*Sylvilagus floridanus*  
 (eastern cottontail  
 rabbit)  
*Vulpes macrotis*  
 (kit fox)  
*Vulpes velox*  
 (swift fox)

*Dolichotis patagonum*  
 (Patagonian mara)

NT; declining at a  
 rate ca. 30% over  
 ten years

1. Habitat  
 destruction
2. Hunting for their  
 skins
3. Competition  
 with introduced  
*Lepus europaeus*  
 (European hare)

AVES

*Buteo polyosoma*  
 (variable hawk)  
*Stephanoaetus*  
*coronatus*  
 (crowned eagle)

MAMMALIA

*Lycalopex culpaeus*  
 (culpeo fox)\*  
*Lycalopex griseus*

(35-39)

				(South American gray fox) <i>Galictis cuja</i> (lesser grison) <i>Leopardus pajeros</i> (pampas cat) <i>Puma concolor</i> (mountain lion)*		
<i>Lagostomus maximus</i> (plains vizcacha)	LC; Declined from most of its former habitat.  *It has disappeared from most of the pampas because of conversion to agriculture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eradication programs</li> <li>2. Hunted commercially for meat and fur</li> <li>3. Conversion of Las Pampas to agriculture</li> </ol>	<p>AVES <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (burrowing owl) <i>Geositta cunicularia</i> (miner) <i>Notiochelidon cyanoleuca</i> (blue-and-white swallow) MAMMALIA <i>Dolichotis patagonum</i> (Patagonian mara)</p>	<p>AVES <i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i><sup>#</sup> (black-chested buzzard-eagle) MAMMALIA <i>Galictis cuja</i> (lesser grison) <i>Leopardus geoffroyi</i> (Geoffroy's cat) <i>Leopardus pajeros</i> (pampas cat) <i>Lycalopex gymnocercus</i> (pampas fox) <i>Puma concolor</i> (mountain lion)*</p>	AVES <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (burrowing owl)	(40-43;44 #A. Sosa and •L. Branch pers. com. 2011)
<i>Marmota baibacina</i> (gray marmots)	LC; unknown population trend	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unsustainable hunting for food and medicinal use</li> <li>2. Possible habitat degradation from livestock overgrazing</li> </ol>		<p>AVES Large raptors MAMMALIA <i>Canis lupus</i> (gray wolf) <i>Mustela eversmanni</i> (steppe polecat) <i>Otocolobus manul</i> (Pallas's cat) <i>Vulpes</i> spp. (foxes)</p>		(45)
<i>Marmota bobak</i>	LC; Declined	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No current,</li> </ol>		AVES		(46;47)

(bobak or steppe marmot)

extensively throughout its former range due to extensive hunting and habitat loss to agriculture in 20<sup>th</sup> century

major threats, but illegal hunting continues

Accipitridae spp.  
(kites)  
*Aquila chrysaetos*  
(golden eagle)  
*Aquila heliaca*  
(imperial eagle)  
*Aquila nipalensis*  
(steppe eagle)  
*Circus* spp.  
(harriers)  
MAMMALIA  
*Canis lupus*  
(gray wolf)  
*Canis lupus familiaris*  
(stray dog)  
*Vulpes* spp.  
(foxes)

*Marmota himalayana*  
(Himalayan marmot)

LC; unknown population trend, but considered common

Major threats restricted to South Asia range:  
1. hunting for food and medicinal use  
2. Domestic predators  
3. Habitat disturbance  
4. Overgrazing by livestock

AVES  
*Aquila chrysaetos*  
(golden eagle)  
*Gypaetus barbatus*  
(bearded vulture)  
MAMMALIA  
*Canis lupus*  
(gray wolf)  
*Panthera uncia*  
(snow leopard)  
*Ursus arctos*  
(brown bear)

(48-51)

*Marmota sibirica*  
(Siberian marmot)

EN; in decline; Mongolian populations have declined by 70% over a ten year period in the 1990's; population is thought to have declined even

1. Illegal hunting for skins  
2. Plague epizootics  
MAMMALIA  
Erinaceinae spp.  
(hedgehogs)  
Mustelidae spp.  
(mustelids)  
*Ochotona* spp.  
(pikas)  
*Otocolobus manul*  
(Pallas's cat)

AVES  
many raptors, such as buzzards  
MAMMALIA  
many carnivorous mammals, including  
*Canis lupus*  
(gray wolf)  
*Uncia uncia*

MAMMALIA  
Concern for den habitat for Pallas's cats with marmot decline

(52-58)

	further; Russian populations are rare and declining		Sciuridae spp. (ground squirrels) <i>Vulpes corsac</i> (corsac fox) <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> (red fox)	(snow leopard) <i>Ursus arctos</i> (brown bear)	
<i>Octodon degus</i> (Degu)	LC; considered common and abundant; population trend unknown	No major threats, but exotic parasite is reducing reproductive success	MAMMALIA <i>Abrocoma bennettii</i> (chinchilla rat)	REPTILIA <i>Philodryas chamissonis</i> (long-tailed snake) AVES <i>Athene cunicularia</i> (burrowing owl) <i>Buteo polyosoma</i> (variable hawk) <i>Elanus leucurus</i> (white-tailed kite) <i>Falco sparverius</i> (American kestrel) <i>Geranoaetus melanoleucus</i> (black-chested eagle)* <i>Parabuteo unicinctus</i> (Harris's hawk)* <i>Tyto alba</i> (barn owl) MAMMALIA <i>Lycalopex culpaeus</i> (culpeo fox)	(59-63)
<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i> (California ground squirrel)	LC; stable	No major threats	REPTILIA Snakes AVES In general, raptors and ground nesting and ground-gleaning grassland birds (Lenihan 2007), including <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	REPTILIA <i>Crotalus</i> spp. (rattlesnakes) <i>Pituophis catenifer</i> (gopher snake) AVES <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (golden eagle) <i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Playing an important role in Burrowing owl recovery <a href="http://blogs.sandiegozoo.org/2011/09/21/owls-closer-than-you-think/">http://blogs.sandiegozoo.org/2011/09/21/owls-closer-than-you-think/</a>



(burrowing owl)	(red-tailed hawk)
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (northern
<i>actia</i>	harrier)
(California horned lark)	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>
<i>Euphagus</i>	(prairie falcon)
<i>cynocephalus</i>	MAMMALIA
(Brewer's blackbird)	<i>Canis latrans</i>
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	(coyote)
(American kestrel)	<i>Lynx rufus</i>
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	(bobcat)
(loggerhead shrike)	<i>Mustela frenata</i>
<i>Passerculus</i>	(long-tailed weasel)
<i>sandwichensis</i>	<i>Puma concolor</i>
(savannah sparrow)	(mountain lion)
MAMMALIA	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>
<i>Canis latrans</i>	(badger)
(coyote)	<i>Urocyon</i>
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	<i>cinereoargenteus</i>
(deer mouse)	(gray fox)
<i>Sylvilagus</i> spp.	<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>
(cottontail rabbits)	(San Joaquin kit fox)
<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	
(badger)	
<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	
(San Joaquin kit fox)	

*Otomys sloggetti*  
(ice rat)

LC; apparent large,  
stable population

No major threats

*Buteo rufofuscus*  
(jackal buzzard)

*Pedetes capensis*  
(springhare)

LC; unknown  
population trend

No major threats;  
but large numbers  
are hunted for food  
and research is  
needed on  
sustainable harvest  
levels

20 mammals, 3 birds,  
6 reptiles use their  
burrows;  
AVES  
*Myrmecocichla*  
*formicivora*  
(ant-eating chat)  
MAMMALIA  
Herpestidae spp.  
(mongoose spp.)  
*Ictonyx striatus*

REPTILIA  
*Bitis arietans*  
(puff adder)  
*Dendroaspis polylepis*  
(black mamba)  
*Python sebae*  
(African rock python)  
*Varanus* sp.  
(monitor lizard)  
AVES  
*Bubo lacteus*

(66;67)

(striped polecat)	(giant eagle owl)*
<i>Manis temminckii</i>	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
(ground pangolin)	(martial eagle)
<i>Vulpes chama</i>	MAMMALIA
(Cape fox)	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>
Rodentia	(cheetah)*
(small rodents)	<i>Canis adustus</i>
	(sidestriped jackal)
	<i>Canis lupus familiaris</i>
	(domestic dog)*
	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
	(black-backed jackal)*
	<i>Caracal caracal</i>
	(caracal)*
	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
	(spotted hyena)
	<i>Felis silvestris lybica</i>
	(African wild cat)*
	<i>Galerella pulverulenta</i>
	(Cape gray mongoose)
	<i>Genetta spp.</i>
	(genet)
	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
	(humans)*
	<i>Hyaena brunnea</i>
	(brown hyena)*
	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>
	(serval)*
	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>
	(African wild dog)
	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>
	(honey badger)
	<i>Panthera leo</i>
	(lion)
	<i>Panthera pardus</i>
	(leopard)*

<i>Spermophilus citellus</i> (European ground squirrel)	VU; declining across its range at rates thought to be more than 30% over the last 10 years	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Loss of steppe-grassland habitat</li> <li>2. Hunting for food (though a lesser threat)</li> </ol>	<i>Mustela eversmanni</i> (steppe polecat)*	
<i>Spermophilus parryii</i> (Arctic ground squirrel)	LC; considered common; unknown population trend; some subpopulations are of conservation concern	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unsustainable hunting for skins</li> <li>2. Possible habitat degradation from livestock overgrazing</li> <li>3. drought</li> </ol>	<p>AVES</p> <p><i>Falco rusticolus</i> (gyrfalcon)</p> <p><i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (golden eagle)</p> <p><i>Bubo scandiacus</i> (snowy owl)</p> <p><i>Buteo lagopus</i> (rough-legged hawk)</p> <p><i>Falco peregrinus</i> (peregrine falcon)</p> <p>MAMMALIA</p> <p><i>Canis lupus</i> (gray wolf)</p> <p><i>Gulo gulo</i> (wolverine)</p> <p><i>Mustela erminea</i> (ermine)</p> <p><i>Ursus arctos</i> (brown bear)</p> <p><i>Vulpes</i> spp. (foxes)</p>	(71)
<i>Urocitellus undulatus</i> (long-tailed ground squirrel)	LC; stable;	Hunting for international sale of skins, but has ceased and is no longer seen as a threat	<p>AVES</p> <p><i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> (golden eagle)</p> <p><i>Aquila heliaca</i> (Eastern Imperial eagle)</p> <p><i>Aquila rapax</i> (tawny eagle)</p> <p><i>Falco cherrug</i> (saker falcon)</p>	(72;73 and refs therein;74;75)

		MAMMALIA <i>Canis lupus</i> (gray wolf) <i>Mustela altaica</i> (mountain weasel) <i>Mustela eversmannii</i> (steppe polecat) <i>Otocolobus manul</i> (Pallas's cat) <i>Uncia uncia</i> (snow leopard) <i>Vulpes corsac</i> (corsac fox)	
<i>Xerus inauris</i> (Cape ground squirrel)	7 species of small mammals, two reptiles, and two amphibians use their burrows, including, MAMMALIA <i>Suricata suricatta</i> (meerkat) <i>Cynictis penicillata</i> (yellow mongoose)	REPTILIA <i>Bitis arietans</i> (puff adder) <i>Naja nivea</i> (cape cobra) <i>Varanus exanthematicus</i> (savanna monitor) MAMMALIA <i>Canis mesomelas</i> (black-backed jackal) <i>Caracal caracal</i> (caracal) <i>Panthera pardus</i> (leopard)	(76;77)

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