

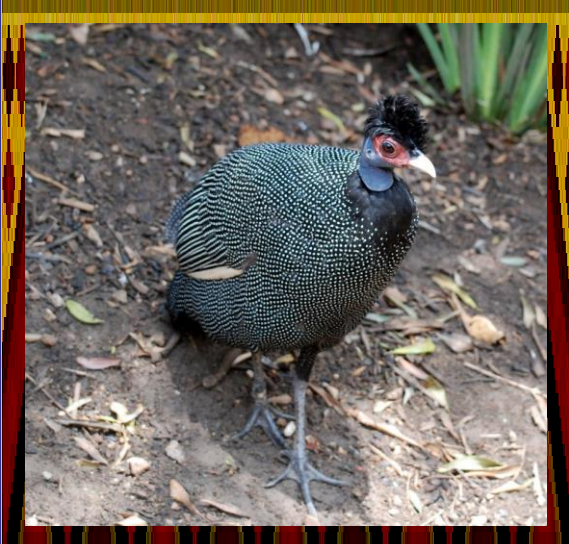
# Crested Guineafowl

*Cuttera edouardi*

Less well-known than the Helmeted Guineafowl, the Crested Guineafowl is a very attractive bird with its unruly crest of curly black feathers.

There are 5 subspecies of Crested Guineafowl found in Africa. They vary according to differences in face colour, extent of crest and folds of skin around face. The ones we have on display are the South African subspecies which had its most Southerly population in the Havaan Forest in Umhlanga. We have some of the descendants of these birds which is fortunate since the original birds were hunted for food and are now locally extinct.

They live in Forest Edges, Secondary and Gallery Forests and sometimes enter Primary Forest. Their nest is a scrape in the ground with a sparse lining of dead leaves and grass, usually well hidden under a bush. Breeding success is thought to be poor in general as few young birds are seen in the wild.



**Lifespan:** 20 Years  
**Weight:** 721 - 1573 g  
**Size:** 46 - 56 cm  
**Breeding Season:** Varies according to area  
**Incubation Period:** 23 Days  
**Number of Chicks:** 4 - 5  
**Diet:** Omnivorous. Seeds, Fruits, Berries, Insects, Spiders, Snails, Leaves, Roots and Bulbs  
**Problems They Face:** Habitat destruction, trapping for food.  
**Conservation Status:** Not Globally Threatened