



# Southern Ground Hornbill

*Bucorvus leadbeateri*



The Southern Ground Hornbill is found in Savannah Grasslands, Woodlands to adjoining forests in Southern Africa.

The Southern Ground Hornbill is the only Hornbill species in the world that has been successfully released back into the wild. The Umgeni River Bird Park has contributed to this program by donating 11 chicks bred here at the park to the Ground Hornbill Project for raising and release into the wild.

At the beginning of 2013 their conservation status was upgraded from Vulnerable to Endangered in South Africa, and there is a chance that this may be increased to Critically Endangered in the next few years. There are only an estimated 120 breeding pairs left in South Africa! You are currently looking at a bird which is more endangered than Rhino in South Africa, and yet most people are not aware of this.

To learn more about the project working to save these magnificent birds in our country, or to help financially, please go to [www.ground-hornbill.org.za](http://www.ground-hornbill.org.za) and see how you can make a difference.



**Lifespan:** 50 Years

**Weight:** 4-6 kg

**Wingspan:** 1.7m

**Breeding Season:** Spring

**Incubation Period:** 38 - 40 Days

**Number of Chicks:** 2 - Only 1 may survive

**Diet:** Omnivorous - Small mammals, reptiles, birds, insects, tortoises & Fruit

**Problems They Face:** Habitat destruction, poisoning, persecution by farmers.

**Population Estimate:** Less than 1500

**Conservation Status:** Endangered