

HARTMANN'S MOUNTAIN ZEBRA

Equus zebra hartmannae



At the Racine Zoo:

You can meet: Obi and Promise

They can be found: In the Land of the Giants

Quick Facts:

Conservation Status: Vulnerable

Lifespan: 20 years in the wild; 30 years in zoos

Adult Size: Shoulder height of ~4-5ft

Diet in the wild: Grass, leaves, and shrubs

Diet in the zoo: Grain and hay

Habitat: Arid mountainous areas

Range: South West Africa into extreme southwest Angola



Mammal

Threats:

Historically, a big threat to the Hartmann's mountain zebra was over-hunting for their skins. This trend has mostly declined, though there is still a market for zebra skin in Namibia. Luckily, populations of this zebra are being carefully monitored so that harvest does not affect the population size.

Fun Facts:

Hartmann's Mountain Zebra is white with black to deep brown stripes. Look at the characteristic stripes on its rump. They make a "grid iron" pattern of lines gradually getting smaller. At high temperatures, the zebras' stripes act as camouflage, helping them blend into the "waviness" of the air. Stripes also help zebras stay safe from predators by making it hard to tell where one zebra ends and another one starts!

Mountain zebra are crepuscular, meaning that they are most active at dusk and dawn. They can be found grazing and resting during daylight hours. Their night vision is thought to be as good as an owl's!

These animals form small herds, generally containing one adult stallion and 1-5 mares with young. Stallions come and go every few years, but mares stay with the herd for life. Foals are born at 55 pounds and are up and walking within hours of birth!

Hard and pointed hooves make these zebras good climbers.

Conservation Messages:

Hartmann's Mountain Zebras have increased their range using man-made water sources. Help wildlife in your neighborhood by creating a backyard habitat!