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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN LC	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

Species of the Day: South African Geranium

The **South African Geranium**, *Pelargonium sidoides*, locally called Umckaloabo, has a provisional assessment of 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. It is a member of the Geranium family and is an aromatic perennial herb endemic to South Africa and Lesotho, where it is widely distributed in open grasslands.

Pelargonium species have long been used in local traditional remedies for colic, dysentery, and other abdominal ailments. Recently, the South African Geranium has come under severe harvest pressure in order to satisfy the growing international market for the plant's underground branches. These are used in commercially produced remedies to treat bronchitis and other respiratory tract infections. This species is also threatened by overgrazing and poor management of rangelands.

There is no current legal protection, monitoring, or management system in place for the South African Geranium. However, the two range state governments have collaborated with TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa, and an industry partner, to implement the sustainable commercial collection of this species in Lesotho.

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