

DISTRIBUTION



# SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL

*Bucorvus leadbeateri*

Southern Ground Hornbills live in groups of up to 8 individuals usually with one dominant pair and several 'helper' males. Some females prefer a solitary life and will move away from the group to live on their own. Ground Hornbills are thought to be the only adult bird that plays.

Hornbills are known for 'walling up their mate' when incubating eggs leaving just a small hole for food to be dropped through, Ground Hornbills are the only hornbill species not to do this.

When sexually mature a male's throat is all red, the centre of the female's throat is dark blue.



Above: Oboe, hatched in 1996, is a great favourite at the zoo was the first successfully hand-reared Ground Hornbill in Europe!

FACTS & FIGURES	
Where found	Southern Central Africa
Habitat	Woodland, savannah and open grassland although they prefer moist habitats
Diet	Carnivorous, small reptiles, mammals, insects etc.
Average weight	3 to 6.5 kg
Number of eggs	1-2 (The second chick will always die of starvation)
Incubation	About 40 days
Lifespan	Up to about 50 years (one of the longest living birds)

International Union for Conservation of Nature RED LIST  
for the Southern Ground Hornbill



**THE RISK OF EXTINCTION FOR THIS SPECIES HAS RECENTLY BEEN UPGRADED FROM LEAST CONCERN TO VULNERABLE IUCN RED LIST**