

Impact of Climate Change on Aardvarks

A recent study from Oregon State University highlights the **vulnerability of Aardvarks** (*Orycteropus afer*) in sub-Saharan Africa (south of the Sahara Desert) to the impacts of climate change.

- Study reveals a concerning trend as increasingly dry landscapes isolate aardvarks, making them susceptible to rapid climate warming.
 - Aridification (a gradual process of a region becoming drier) impacts their distribution and movement, with long-term droughts becoming more likely, particularly in the <u>Horn</u> of Africa.
- The Aardvark, a **nocturnal mammal native to Africa**, belongs to the **Tubulidentata order** and is the sole living species within this group.
 - Aardvarks are burrowing mammals found across the southern two-thirds of Africa, primarily in savannah and semiarid areas.
 - They are essential to the ecosystem as they feed on termites, which can damage humanbuilt structures, and their burrows provide crucial habitat for numerous other species.
 - The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Least Concern.



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