**Basic Information: Gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*)**

**Names: Gemsbok, oryx, East African Oryx**

**Identification pointers:** distinct black and white facial pattern; black and white markings along neck, belly and legs; long, straight, sharp horns; thick neck; horse-like tail; males and females similar, males slightly larger

**Can be confused with:** Roan, eland

**Activity period:** Early morning, late afternoon and night, rest in the heat of the day

**Length:** 190-240cm **Height:** 120cm **Weight:** 210-240kg

**Gestation period:** ±9 months

**Lifespan:** ±25 years

**Diet:** Mostly grass but will eat leaves, pods, fruits such as tsamma melons, roots, tubers and bulbs

**Predators:** Lions and hyaenas, young taken by cheetah, wild dog and leopard

**Preferred habitat:** Arid and semi-arid grasslands, scrubland and bushland

**Red List status:** Southern Africa: Least concern; East Arica: Near Threatened

**Population:** Stable in Southern Africa, decreasing East Africa

**Threats:** Hunting and poaching for meat, skins and horns, encroachment by livestock farmers and herders