**Basic Information: Sable antelope (*Hippotragus niger*)**

**Names: Sable antelope, giant sable antelope**

**Identification pointers:** Striking looking antelope; distinctive dark brown to black coat, white belly; face a conspicuous black and white mask; extremely long, ridged horns that curve backwards; females smaller than males with brown coat and smaller horns.

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

**Activity period:** Mostly early morning and late afternoon

**Length:** 2.1-2.3m **Height:** 1.3-1.4m **Weight:** 180-270kg

**Gestation period:** ±9 months

**Lifespan:** ±16-18 years

**Diet:** Fussy eaters, preferring long grass, but will switch to browse when necessary.

**Predators:** Lions, spotted hyaena, leopards and wild dogs.

**Preferred habitat:** they are “edge species”, preferring mixed grassland and woodlands with dense stands of long grass. They avoid dense woodland or short grasslands

**Red List status:** Least concern

**Population:** Stable

**Threats:** Sable have disappeared from much of their former range because of habitat loss and poaching for meat. They are stable in other parts of their range, and are popular with sport hunters,