Common Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*)

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

The common eland is the world’s largest antelope. It has a cowlike body with a massive neck and large shoulders. Common elands have a smooth coat that is yellowish-brown or tan in color and may have white vertical stripes running along the body. They have a long, thin tail that ends in a black tuft. Their ears are small and narrow and their horns are nearly straight, with one or two tight twists.

**Fun Facts**

1. The common eland is the world’s largest antelope species as well as the slowest. It tops out at a speed of 40 km/h (or 25 mph) and quickly tires.
2. The common eland is an accomplished high jumper, easily clearing 2 m.

**Habitat**

Common elands are found in grasslands, mountains, subdeserts, acacia savanna, and miombo woodland areas. They avoid deserts, forests, and swamps.

**Diet**

The common eland is a mixed feeder. They feed on grass and other vegetation near the ground during the rainy season and on leaves, shoots, or fruits of taller vegetation during the dry season.

**Predators**

Lions, spotted hyenas

**Behavior**

The common eland is one of the most nomadic antelopes; females have home ranges of up to 500 square km. The social organization of the eland is somewhat different from that of other antelopes. The older the males, the more solitary they become, while younger animals may form small groups.

**Breeding**

The common eland breeds year-round. After a gestation period of nine months, females will give birth to a single calf. Females with young calves come together in nursery groups. After the young are weaned at about three months, the mothers rejoin the female herds, and the calves remain together in the nursery group. Juveniles usually remain in the nursery group until they are almost two years old.

**Size**

Length: 2-3.4 m

Height:1.25-1.83 m

**Weight**

317-942 kg

**Life Span:** 15-20 years

**Gestation Period:** 9 months

**Average number of offspring:** 1