Impala (*Aepyceros melampus*)

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

Impala are medium-sized antelopes, with long necks and long, evenly developed limbs. Their coat is short and glossy reddish-brown in color with white hair inside the ears, over each eye, on the chin, upper throat, under parts, and buttocks. Black markings include ear tips, forehead patch, and three vertical lines on rump.

**Fun Facts**

1. Impala are able to jump 3 meters (10 feet) in the air to clear bushes and other obstacles in their path.They are also fast runners, able to leap distances of up to 10 meters (33 feet).
2. Impala is a Zulu name.

**Habitat**

Impalas are found at grassland and woodland edges, usually close to the water.

**Diet**

Young grass shoots in the wet season; herbs and shrubs at other times.

**Predators**

Lions, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, hunting dogs, humans

**Behavior**

Impala are active night and day, alternating resting and grazing, and drinking at least once a day. Females and young form herds of 50 to 100 individuals that have a home range of about 2 to 6 [square?] kilometers. Sexually mature males form territories that vary in size from 0.2 to 0.9 square kilometers. These territories are marked with urine and feces. Males will attempt to keep female herds within their territory and defend them against intruding males. They use their long, spiral horns to challenge each other.

**Breeding**

After a gestation period of 6.5 months, female impala give birth to one calf. Young wean for four to six months. Females reach sexual maturity at 1 year and males reach sexual maturity at 1.5 years.

**Size**

Total length: 1.28-1.42 m

Height: 70-93 cm

**Weight**

40-76 kg

**Life Span:** Up to 12 years

**Gestation Period:** 6.5 months

**Average number of offspring:** 1 calf