Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*)

**Conservation Status:** Least Concern

The greater kudu is a large antelope that can be identified by the 6 to 10 thin, pale stripes against its tan to gray-brown body. They have a distinct white band across their face between the eyes. Males have long, spiral horns that can reach over a meter in length. Both sexes have a crest of hair that runs along the middle of the back and forms a mane. Females are noticeably smaller than the males.

**Fun Facts**

* 1. Kudus are capable of jumping as high as seven feet to escape predators.
  2. Kudus are great kickers. In fact, kudus are capable of breaking a wild dog’s or jackal’s neck with a single kick.

**Habitat**

Scrub woodlands

**Diet**

The kudu is a browser and feeds on a range of foliage, herbs, vines, fruits, flowers, and grass. Their long legs and neck help it to reach foliage that other animals can’t get to.

**Predators**

Leopards, lions, spotted hyenas

**Behavior**

The greater kudu is a sociable animal, living in herds of up to 25 females and their offspring. The larger males roam more widely and form loose bachelor groups, generally only joining female herds during the mating season. During the breeding season, the necks of the mature males will swell and aggression between males becomes more common. When males compete, they will stand with their mane erect in an attempt to appear bigger. These displays can develop into fights, with males locking their horns around the body of their opponent. In some instances the locked horns may become stuck and both males will die. When a threat is present, males will slowly sneak away, but when faced directly with potential danger they will flee rapidly.

**Breeding**

After a gestation period of nine months, a single calf is born. Breeding is seasonal in southern Africa, with most births in February and March.

**Size**

Length: 1.9-2.5 m

Height: 1-1.5 m (3'4''-5')

**Weight**

120-315 kg

**Life Span:** 7-8 years

**Gestation Period:** 9 months

**Average number of offspring:** 1