Common Reedbuck (*Redunca arundinum*)

**Conservation Status:** Least concern

The common reedbuck is the largest reedbuck. They can be identified by the distinctive dark lines that run down the front of each foreleg and the lower hind legs. Their color varies, but they are generally unpatterned, with their face, head, torso, and outer sides of the legs a shade of gray-brown. They do have white around their eyes, inside of their ears, on their chin, throat, belly, and the underside of their bushy tail. Males can easily be distinguished from females by their forward-curving horns.

**Fun Facts**

1. A young reedbuck will remain among the dense grass cover in which it was born for the first two months of its life. During this period, the mother will not stay around but instead visit the young for just 10 to 30 minutes each day.

**Habitat**

Common reedbucks prefer habitats with tall grasses near water.

**Diet**

Common reedbucks are predominantly grazers, but they will eat herbs and foliage of woody plants during the dry season. They get most of their water from foraging and dew.

**Predators**

Lions, leopards, spotted hyenas, wild dogs, crocodiles

**Behavior**

Common reedbucks form monogamous pairs. Males defend their territories by standing in an upright posture, running at conspecifics with high bounds (known as stotting), and producing whistling alarm calls. Alarm calls are also a response to predators. During the dry season, common reedbucks form temporary herds that can include up to seven females, their young, and one male.

**Breeding**

The common reedbuck breeds year-round. Females give birth to a single offspring after a gestation period of about 7.5 months. Females reach sexual maturity in their second year of life, at which point they leave their parents’ territory.

**Size**

Length: 1.34-1.67 m

Height: 83-98 cm

**Weight:** 39-80 kg

**Life Span:** Up to16

**Gestation Period:** 7.5 months

**Average number of offspring:** 1