

# Bongo ... fashionista of the forest!



## MEASUREMENTS

**Length:** 6-8 feet

**Height:** 3.5-4.5 feet  
at shoulder

**Weight:** 450-900 lbs



Rainforest



Central Africa

IUCN  
CRITICALLY  
ENDANGERED

<100 in  
the wild

## Why exhibit bongos?

- Grab the attention of visitors with these large, boldly-colored antelope patterned with handsome white stripes and a striking face mask.
- Get involved with the critically endangered mountain bongo (the subspecies managed within AZA), and boost holding capacity while linking your zoo with ongoing *in situ* conservation work.
- Share a conservation success story with your guests: AZA facilities have repatriated zoo-born bongo to a reserve on Mount Kenya in order to reestablish a wild population there.
- Surprise your visitors by including the bongo as an example of camouflage! Their bright coloration hides them from jungle predators: leopards can't distinguish between red bongos and green plants!
- Provide a cornerstone for African forest exhibits with this large, eye-catching antelope that mixes well with many other species.

## Stewardship Opportunities

International Bongo Foundation

<http://www.internationalbongofoundation.org/>

## Care and Husbandry

**YELLOW SSP:** 44.90 (134) in 36 AZA institutions (2019)

**Species coordinator:** Ron Surratt, Fort Worth Zoo

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**Social nature:** Usually housed in groups with a single male and several females. Single-sex groups of either sex have also been successful. Do not house multiple adult males with females (aggression).

**Mixed species:** Large and small hoofstock (including red river hogs and duikers), numerous birds, medium-sized primates, and even bat-eared foxes. Hybridization risk with other spiral-horned antelope.

**Housing:** A large, powerful antelope that jumps well. Bongo prefer shaded exhibits and often seek out moist ground on which to rest. Provide visual barriers. Supplemental heat/shelter required below 35°F.

**Medical notes:** Be aware of frequent false-positive TB test readings. Several fatal abomasal impaction cases have been reported.

**Special requirements:** Calves are particularly prone to splaying: birthing stalls should have 2+ inches of sand to provide sufficient traction.

**Keeper resources:** Generally calm, tractable animals with simple husbandry. They can be chute/target trained easily.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

<http://www.azaungulates.org/>

