

Sable antelope ... the definition of regal!

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
ANTELOPE AND
GIRAFFE TAG



MEASUREMENTS

Length: 6.5 feet

Height: 4.5 feet
at shoulder

Weight: 350-500 lbs



Open woodland



Southeast Africa

IUCN
LEAST
CONCERN

~75,000
in the wild

Why exhibit sable antelope?

- Catch your visitors' attention with these large and stately antelope with striking colors, impressive horns, and unexpected horse-like manes.
- Challenge the perception that antelope are meek prey species. Few predators will take on a herd of sable due to their no-nonsense attitude and formidable fighting abilities.
- Raise awareness of the conservation issues facing the critically endangered giant sable in Angola by using SSP sable as a proxy, and get involved by supporting the conservation program for this *in situ* focus subspecies.
- Participate in ongoing research investigating the genetic management and modelling of small and large herds for a TAG sustainability initiative.
- Interpret age- and sex-related color changes as adorable tan sable calves grow into reddish-brown adult females or jet-black ("sable") males.

Stewardship Opportunities

Giant sable (TAG *in situ* focus species) program

<http://angolafieldgroup.com/palanca-negra/>

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 38.90.1 (129) in 12 AZA (+2 non-AZA) institutions (2018)

Species coordinator: Jill Piltz, Disney's Animal Kingdom

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Social nature: Herd living. Females maintain a strong hierarchy and will harass new individuals relentlessly. Bachelor herds have been successful in large enclosures in the absence of nearby females.

Mixed species: A large, dominant species, often housed separately. In very large exhibits, sable have been housed with a variety of hoofstock.

Housing: Hardy; can be exhibited in freezing temperatures if provided with heated indoor housing overnight. Bumper bars and secondary barriers are needed to prevent fence damage from horn-butting.

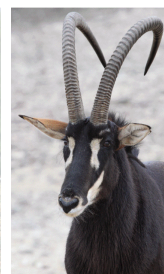
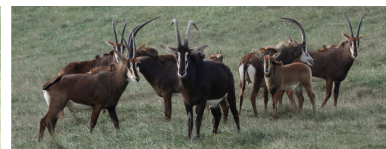
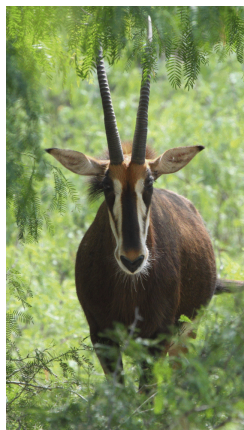
Medical notes: Generally healthy. Susceptible to common hoofstock parasites and diseases.

Special requirements: Appropriate space is needed to establish a herd territory with enough flight distance from other species, zoo staff, and guests to minimize stress and resulting aggressive behaviors.

Keeper resources: Protected contact is a must for these large, powerful, and territorial animals. Compact fecal pellet piles make cleaning easy.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B.Huffman. Published June 2019.