

Scimitar-horned oryx

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS
ANTELOPE AND
GIRAFFE TAG

... EXTINCT in the wild, but not gone for good!

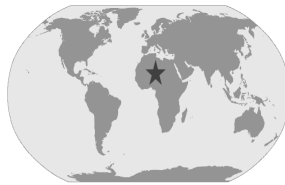


MEASUREMENTS

Length: 5.5 feet
Height: 3.5 feet
at shoulder
Weight: to 440 lbs



Desert



(North Africa)

IUCN
EXTINCT IN
THE WILD
CITES I

None remain
in the wild

Why exhibit scimitar-horned oryx?

- Connect visitors with a powerful, living example of extinction: in 1998, this antelope was declared *Extinct in the Wild*, the result of overhunting and the destruction of fragile desert grasslands. It survives only thanks to *ex situ* programs.
- Contribute to ongoing efforts repatriating this species to its former range, and spread the word that oryx born in AZA zoos are currently living in reserves in North Africa!
- Participate in a global species management program, which includes a novel gene-based approach to maintain critical population diversity.
- Present an active exhibit even in hot weather! The herd hierarchy of this desert-adapted antelope is reinforced with frequent social interactions.

Get involved with stewardship

Sahara Conservation Fund
www.saharaconservation.org

Care and Husbandry

YELLOW SSP: 65.163 (228) in 19 AZA institutions (2019)
Species coordinator: RoxAnna Breitigan, The Living Desert
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Social nature: Usually maintained as a harem group with one male and multiple females. Males are highly aggressive toward each other.

Mixed species: Space is key for mixing this species. Successfully housed with many ungulates, including Grevy's and common zebras, camels, giraffe, kudu, and gazelles, as well as ostrich, cranes, storks, and vultures. Hybridization risk with other oryx and addax.

Housing: A hardy species, well-adapted to hot, dry environments but also tolerant of cold. Supplemental heat required below freezing.

Medical notes: Few health challenges. Injuries may occur as a result of conflict between animals. Parasite control recommended.

Special requirements: Institutions are recommended to house two breeding males (individually), and must be able to hold onto surplus male offspring for at least two years following maturity.

Keeper resources: Low intensity husbandry. Long horns and bold demeanor increase keeper risk; shifting is recommended during servicing. A squeeze or drop chute system helps with management.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by B. Huffman. Published November 2019.