

# Sitatunga ... not your average swamp creature!



## MEASUREMENTS

**Length:** 4-5.5 feet

**Height:** 2.5-4 feet  
at shoulder

**Weight:** 80-260 lbs



Wetlands



Africa

IUCN  
LEAST  
CONCERN

<120,000  
in the wild

## Why exhibit sitatunga?

- Take advantage of existing exhibits with marshy features, or areas with soft, wet substrate that are tough to build on: sitatunga are superbly adapted for soggy terrain.
- Highlight the imperiled status of the world's wetlands with this eye-catching swamp species, and link habitat issues with priority amphibian conservation.
- Use these sexually-dimorphic antelope to add twice the variety to mixed-species exhibits. They tend to be mild-mannered and mix well with a variety of other species!
- Show how hoofed mammals can adapt to an aquatic existence: the sitatunga's long hooves provide support on soft ground and floating vegetation. They are also excellent swimmers!
- Interpret their shaggy, oily, water-repellent coats, and pursue sponsorships from jacket companies.

## Get involved with stewardship!

Gabon Biodiversity Program (through SCBI)

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/ccs/gabon-program>

## Care and Husbandry

**YELLOW SSP:** 31.58.2 (91) in 9 AZA (+2 non-AZA) institutions (2019)

**Species coordinator:** Gil Myers, Smithsonian National Zoo

[myersg@si.edu](mailto:myersg@si.edu) ; 202-633-4189

**Social nature:** Usually solitary in the wild, but often housed as a harem group in zoos. All-female herds and bachelor herds (mixed ages) also successful.

**Mixed species:** A passive species. Mixes well with many antelope; also giraffe, white rhino, storks, cranes, hornbills, vultures, and waterfowl. Recent attempts to mix with gorillas and guenons, and hippos have shown promise. Hybridization risks with other spiral-horned antelope.

**Housing:** Tolerant of both heat and cold. Shelter with supplemental heat and heavy bedding needed below 32°F (ideal indoor temperature range is 50-60°F). Adequate water and sufficient shade required in hot climates.

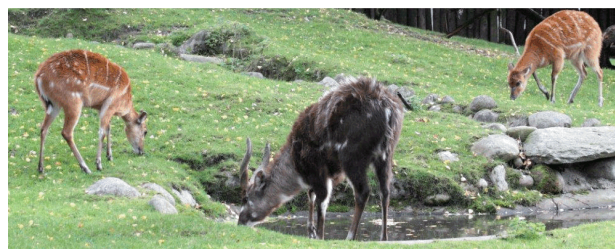
**Medical notes:** Generally free of illnesses. Excessively long hooves can compromise mobility on firm terrain. Watch for lumpy jaw. Sitatunga typically handle anesthesia and intensive treatments well.

**Special requirements:** Pools, ponds, or mud wallows are important to keep pasterns and hooves moist, and to provide behavioural enrichment.

**Keeper resources:** Straight-forward species to clean, feed and water.

Please contact the TAG for full husbandry guidelines.

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



Photos by J. Beilby, B. Huffman, G. Myers, and KEEPER & panpaniscus@zoochat.com.

Published November 2019.