



Z.P.G.A. "Cubs Club" Newsletter

January 2022 edition
A focus on Eland



Welcome to the Z.P.G.A. Cubs Club

The cow-like eland is the world's largest antelope. However, it has the endurance to maintain a trot indefinitely and can jump a 1.5 meter (4 feet) fence from a standstill.

Both males and females have horns that spiral tightly, though female horns tend to be longer and thinner. Usually fawn or tawny-colored, they turn gray or bluish-gray as they get older; the oldest animals become almost black. A tuft of black hair grows out of the male's prominent dewlap, the loose fold of skin that hangs down from the neck. Adult males also have a mat of hair on the forehead that grows longer and denser as the animal ages.



Ethics are everything!



- **SCIENTIFIC NAME - TRAGELAPHUS ORYX**
- **WEIGHT - 590 TO 997 KILOGRAMS (1,300 TO 2,200 POUNDS)**
- **SIZE**
 - **MALE: 2 TO 3 METERS IN LENGTH (7 TO 11 FEET)**
 - **FEMALE: 1 TO 3 METERS IN LENGTH (6 TO 9 FEET)**
 - **BOTH: ABOUT 2 METERS AT THE SHOULDER (6.5 FEET)**
- **LIFE SPAN - 15 - 20 YEARS**
- **HABITAT - OPEN PLAINS, SUB-DESERT, SAVANNA, AND WOODLANDS**
- **DIET - HERBIVOROUS**
- **GESTATION - ABOUT 9 MONTHS**
- **PREDATORS - HUMANS, LIONS, AND AFRICAN HUNTING DOGS**

So what are the challenges facing the Eland?

Illegal hunting

Their rich milk, tasty meat, and useful hides have made them popular ranch animals and hunting targets. Their meat is highly prized, especially by illegal hunters, because each animal provides a large quantity of meat. The world's largest antelope is becoming widely domesticated in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Kenya, due to their high yield of nutritious 'long life' antibacterial milk, which also has much higher protein content and milk fat than cow's milk. However, only one attempt to domesticate these antelopes has been successful due to the high food supplemental costs, confining them at night, and herding them during the day.

Human and livestock expansion destroy eland habitats.

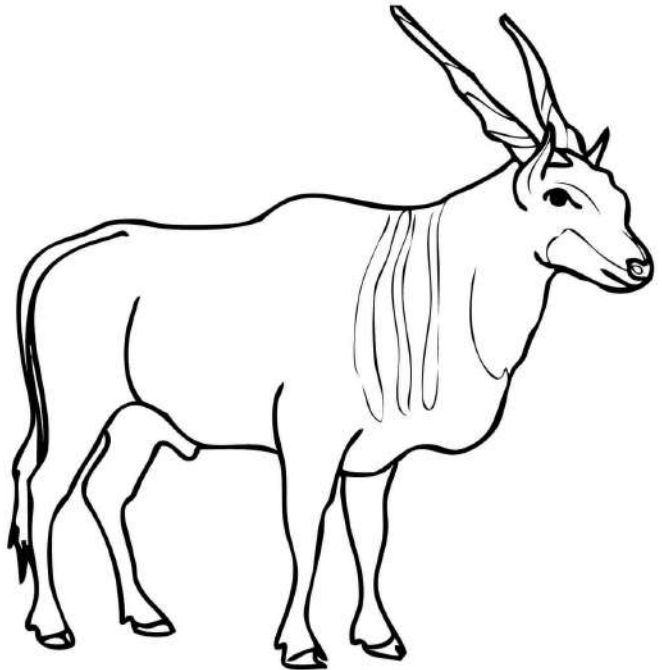


As human populations are growing and expanding settlements and agriculture, they are encroaching on elands living spaces and destroying habitats and food sources. They have been eliminated from more than 50 percent of their historic range due to human encroachment, and since the 1970s their population decreased dramatically because of civil wars and its aftermath in countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, Angola, and Mozambique.



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Elands prefer a vegetarian diet

They browse more than they graze, feeding in areas where shrubs and bushes provide the leaves they prefer and using their horns to bring twigs and branches into reach. They also consume certain fruits, large bulbs, and tuberous roots. Water is consumed voraciously when it is available, but they can go with minimal to no water during the dry season.

Older males tend to be more solitary.

The social organization of the eland is somewhat different from that of other antelopes. The older male is more solitary, while younger animals may form small groups. Males are also more sedentary than females, who may travel widely, especially during the dry season. Females and young are found in loosely cohesive groups. Calves spend a lot of time grooming and licking each other, developing bonds even stronger than those of calf with its mother.

Forest Animals



forest deer bear fox
owl raccoon squirrel
rabbit skunk wolf porcupine





So, last time we spoke about littering and explained that it was important not to litter. What did you do to clean up around your home or school?

This is Chinotimba Pre-School T/A Silver Spring Pre-School in Victoria Falls. They did an amazing job and picked up rubbish around their school. WELL DONE BOYS AND GIRLS!

