

Scimitar Horned Oryx

Oryx dammah



Range: Extinct in wild

Size: ♂: 100cm (39 in)

♀: 100 cm (39in)

Weight ♂:140-210kg

(310-460lbs)

♀:91-140 kg

(201-309 lbs)

Horns: 1.2 m (4 ft)

Habitat: Desert semi-desert

Estrus: n/a

Estrus cycle: postpartum

Gestation : 36 weeks

Litter: 1

Weaning: 14 weeks

Sexual maturity: 18 months

Lifestyle: Terrestrial

Activity: Diurnal

Social:mixed sex herds

Breeding: polygynous

Movement :generally sedentary

Food: leaves fruit pods of
succulents

IUCN: Least Concern

Subspecies : 2

Longevity: captive: 18 yrs

Wild: n/a

Order: Artiodactyla Family: Bovidae

Once native to the Sahara Desert the Scimitar-horned oryx is now extinct in the wild. One of the most highly adapted antelopes for life in the extreme conditions this species could be found widespread throughout North Africa. It is now restricted to fenced protected areas in Tunisia, Morocco and Senegal. Captive breeding programs have been successful and a reintroduction program is in progress.

The Scimitar-horned oryx once roamed the semi-desert areas found adjacent to the Sahara desert in mixed sex herds led by a dominant male. Herds would combine during migration where up to one thousand individuals were observed. This antelope has many adaptations to survive in the hot arid environment. It has the ability to allow its temperature to rise to 115 degree Fahrenheit before perspiring. This allows for conservation of water along with its highly concentrated urine.

In 1988 the Scimitar-horned oryx was declared extinct in the wild. The last wild populations were found in Chad and Niger. Over hunting and climate change were the leading factors in the demise of this beautiful antelope. Today there are

over 5000 individuals are held in captivity with 1500 of them in a managed breeding program.