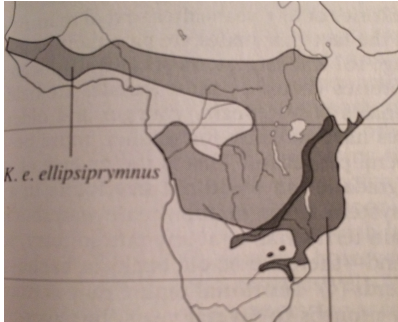


Waterbuck

Kobus ellipsiprymnus



Range: Sub-Saharan Africa

Size: : 127 cm (30-48 in)

: 119 cm(36 in)

Weight : :200-300kg

(440-660 lbs)

:160-200kg

(352-440lbs)

Horns: 40 inches males only

Habitat: grasslands near water

Estrus: 24 hours

Estrus cycle: n/a

Gestation : 20 weeks

Litter: 1

Weaning: 16-20 weeks

Sexual maturity: 36 months

Lifestyle: Terrestrial

Activity: Diurnal

Social: 1 male multi-female herd

Breeding: polygynous

Movement :generally sedentary

Food: medium to short grass

IUCN: Least Concern

Subspecies : 2

Longevity: captive: 24 yrs

Wild: n/a

Order: Artiodactyla Family: Bovidae

There are two subspecies of the Waterbuck separated by the Rift Valley. To the east lives the common waterbuck (*K. e. ellipsiprymnus*) which is identified by a white elliptical rump ring. To the west is the *defassa* subspecies which has a white rump patch. Throughout its range the waterbuck is always near water. Suitable habitat for the species must include open grassland, cover and abundant water. This leads to very patchy distribution.

Waterbucks are grazers feeding on grasses. Although It does not feed on aquatic plants it is very dependent on water. In addition to drinking large amounts of water the waterbuck will flee into the water to escape predators as it is an excellent swimmer.

The social structure consists of a single male multi-female herd. Males leave the natal herd as their horns emerge, 3-4 months. The young males will form bachelor groups of 2-5 individuals.

The populations of both subspecies are declining. The main threat is habitat destruction. Poaching is also threatening the species.