

# Gemsbok

## *Oryx gazella*



Range: Botswana, Namibia,  
South Africa Zimbabwe

Size: ♂: 95-105 cm (37-41 in)

♀: 90-100 cm(35-39in)

Weight ♂:92-108kg(203-238lbs)

♀:56-70kg(123-154 lbs)

Horns: 83 cm (33 in)

Habitat: semi arid grassland

Estrus: several days

Estrus cycle: postpartum

Gestation : 30-34 weeks

Litter: 1

Weaning: 16-20 weeks

Sexual maturity: 19 months

Lifestyle: Terrestrial

Activity: Diurnal

Social:multi-female herd 2-4  
adults males solitary

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

The Gemsbok is a striking animal with its straight horns which can reach a length of 33 inches. Previously there were three subspecies but the two eastern subspecies are now placed in a different species and the gemsbok is a monotypic species. It is found only in the southwestern part of Africa in or near the Kalahari desert.

Like other desert dwelling antelopes the gemsbok has a variety of adaptations for living in such a hot and arid environment. It has the ability to let its temperature increase and has a highly concentrated urine and extracts moisture from its feces.

The gemsbok is widespread and has a relatively stable population. The IUCN lists the species as Least Concern. However this antelope is favorite for hunters and habitat loss is also a concern.