

# SCIMITAR-HORNED ORYX



*Oryx dammah*

## STATUS

- Critically endangered. Their horns make them attractive to trophy hunters.

## ORIGIN

- Formerly they lived over much of northern Africa.
- The Scimitar-horned oryx was on the brink of extinction by the mid 1980s.

## HABITAT

- Scimitar horned oryx live in arid semi-desert lands around the Sahara Desert. They have never penetrated into the true desert.
- They can survive without water if succulent vegetation is available.

## SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Breeding herds of approximately a dozen were normal in the wild, but they could contain up to sixty animals.
- Bachelor groups exist.
- Scimitar-horned oryx are extremely nomadic, wandering great distances in search of grazing.
- Herds would join together when grazing was plentiful, numbering in the thousands.

## DESCRIPTION

- Scimitar-horned oryx are a large, heavy, pale coloured antelope.
- Their horns are long and curved, like a scimitar sword or curved sword, up to one metre in length. Both males and females have horns

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- Without captive breeding programs they would be extinct.