



Kobus ellipsiprymnus

STATUS

- Lower risk, conservation dependant.
- The population is decreasing in some areas due to uncontrolled poaching and human encroachment on their land. Elsewhere, especially in the larger conservation parks, they are still abundant.
- There are estimated to be 150,000 Waterbuck in Africa.
- Their main predators are lions, hyena, and leopard.

ORIGIN

- Waterbuck come from south-eastern Africa with some also found along East Africa to Southern Somalia.

HABITAT

- Waterbuck are usually found in grassland areas near water, with reed beds, tall grass, and sometimes adjacent woodlands.

DESCRIPTION

- They are large strong antelopes, weighing up to 270kg. The males are slightly heavier than the females.
- The adults are about 1.3m high at shoulder.
- Their coat is often rough, shaggy and normally grey-brown in colour. It has a strong musky scent. The males tend to be darker than the females.
- Only male Waterbuck have the long heavily ridged and slightly curved horns.
- They have a white ring encircling the rump, a white collar on the throat and white eyebrow stripes.
- Waterbuck mostly eat grass (grazers), though occasionally they eat from branches (browse).
- Generally a single calf weighing about 13kg is born after a gestation period of 280 days.



SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Waterbuck are gregarious, living in small groups of 5 to 10, but sometimes as many as 30 animals.
- Young bulls (from the age of about 2 years) form bachelor herds. Cows and calves form nursery herds.
- Mature bulls are territorial with nursery herds moving through their range.
- Other adult bulls may live on the fringes and may manage to mate with some females.
- Waterbuck have a life span of up to 14 years.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Waterbuck need to stay near water to drink every day or two.
- If threatened they will swim out to deep water, very often infested with crocodiles, who sometimes eat them.
- As Waterbuck get older, their meat develops an unpleasant flavour. Predators will hunt other species if they have the option.