ADDAX

Addax nasomaculatus

STATUS

- Addax are Critically Endangered: they are now virtually extinct in the wild. Their main threat is uncontrolled hunting by trophy hunters.

ORIGIN

- Once Addax were abundant around and in the margins of the Sahara Desert. Droughts in the 1980s forced them from their desert retreats and exposed them to uncontrolled hunting.

HABITAT

- Addax once ranged throughout the savannah and arid lands of North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

DESCRIPTION

- Addax have a 'screw horn' of about one metre in length.
- Addax are closely related to the oryx group of antelope.
- The height is about 1.7 m and Addax weigh up to 125 kgs.
- Addax have black skin under the light coat which protects them from UV rays. The head is white with brown and black patches forming a cross over the nose.
- They are the most desert adapted of all antelope species. Adaptations to desert living include:

  Splayed hooves to run through the sand more easily.

  Body temperature can rise without ill effects – don't pant or sweat.

  Light colouration to reflect sunlight (white in summer, grey in winter).

  Can survive without drinking additional water.

  Body water is gained from dew, vegetation and "respiration water".

SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

- Addax live in small groups led by a male.
- They have acute senses and are easily frightened.