

Oribi (Ourebia ourebi) –

Xhosa: Ola

Facts on Oribi:

Not necessarily water dependent, except in times of extreme drought or captivity. They enjoy open grasslands and wetlands. Preferred habitat consists of a mosaic of short green grass for grazing and tall grass patches for shelter & protection. They are highly selective of grasses from 80 to 150m tall. The diet consists of 90% grass, 10% broad-leaved forbs & they also eat flowers, bulbs and rootstock.

Sensitive to habitat disturbance & frequent burning of grassland. They are shy antelope & do not tolerate competition or presence of concentration of larger herbivores however short duration rotational grazing with cattle has a positive spin off. In many cases the incorrect competition between the oribi and other herds of plains games can also effect the survival of the Oribi.

Oribi are found solitarily, in pairs or small family groups. The males defend a territory of 6-10ha with one or two females (mother & daughter). This is scent-marked by pre-orbital glands on stems of grass and dung heaps. The range of an Oribi group cover from 24 to 60 ha & it may overlap those of other families by a small margin, depending of the source of food available. The recommended stocking density is around 4 to 8 ha per animal. In the wild population growth is 15-18% expected. On Kasouga farm this is approximately 30 -40% because of grazing system and predator management.

While running it can be seen jumping into the air holding its head and shoulders higher than the rest of the body. The jump allows the Oribi to scan the area ahead. It rarely runs further than 200 meters before stopping, turning & facing the area behind it. If not pursued it will usually lie down. They have a peculiar gait and when alarmed utter a sharp whistle.

Predation from Caracal & Black Back jackal will influence populations. Furthermore, agricultural practices including small or netted camps, competition from domestic animals and feral dogs or poaching will affect the populations.



Oribi on Kasouga Farm:

On average Kasouga Farm has approximately 140 oribi co-habiting with cattle and other game species. Since 1993 it has relocated 162 Oribi. Mixed farming with cattle has definitely proven a success story on the Farm.

In South Africa 97% of Oribi are found on privately owned farmland and only 3% on game reserves.

Acknowledgement to the initial conservation of the Oribi in the Eastern Cape must go to:

Messrs: Peter Coetzee, Mr. Don Long & Mr. Alan Stephenson, the Conservation section of Dias Divisional Council, sadly disbanded in 1996. Also to Karen van Tylingen (Kirkman) & Glynnis Humphrey during their thesis at NMMU & Rhodes Universities on Kasouga Farm & Roundhill Farm.



Pérez *et al.* 2012



1. Is the population under threat?
2. Have threatening factors been removed/controlled?
3. Are relocations the best tool to use?
4. Are risks for the target species acceptable?
5. Are risks for other species/ecosystem acceptable?
6. Effects of the relocation acceptable to local people?
7. Does the project maximize the likelihood of establishing a viable population?
8. Does the project include clear goals and monitoring?
9. Do enough economic and human resources exist?
10. Do scientific, governmental & stakeholder groups support the relocation?

Points that were overlooked at many of the sites:

- Have threatening factors been removed or controlled?
- Are risks for the target species acceptable?
- Does the project maximize the likelihood of establishing a viable population?
- Does the project include clear goals and monitoring?
- Do enough economic and human resources exist?



Small Groups of oribi in isolated pockets need to be managed. To understand when it is time to take the old oribi male out
When selling 2 pairs of oribi, should there be 2 young males, / 2 adult males / 1 mature and 1 young.?
how many females can one male have?
should we be selling 3 females and 2 males?

	Mass-kg	Height 2 shoulder	Gestation	longevity		Avg Horns Rowland Ward	Conceal young	Birth interval
Oribi	11-17kg 8-20kg	To 60	210 days- 7mths	13 yrs	Grazer	10cm 19,05cm	3-4mths	7-9mths
Bushbuck	40-77kg 30-36kg	69-94cm	180 days - 6mths	11yrs	Grazer browser	26cm 38.10- 51.44cm	2-3 weeks	8-9 mths
Grey Duiker	15-21kg 17-25kg	60cm	210 days- 7mths	10 yrs	Grazer- Browser	11cm 11.4 - 18.1cm	1-3 weeks	7-8 mths
Blue Duiker	3,8-5,5kg 4,6-7,3kg	30-35cm	180 days- 6mths	6-8 yrs	Browser	3cm 4.45 -7.3cm	2-3 weeks	6.5-8 mths
Bontebok	64kg 59kg	83-99cm	240 days- 8mths	11yrs	Grazer	38cm 42,55cm		12 months
Impala	47-82kg 32-52kg	84-90cm	6.5mths	12yrs	Grazer- Browser	50cm 60-80,96cm	3-5 days	12-16 mths

Interesting Books: Game Ranch Management & Intensive wildlife Production in SA : J du P Bothma & JG du Toit