

Slender Horned Gazelle

Scientific Name: *Gazella leptoceros leptoceros*

Class: Mammalia

Order: Artiodactyla

Family: Bovidae



A medium-sized gazelle, with the average adult height about 30 inches, and weighing 60 pounds. The horns are approximately 16 inches in length. These are the palest in coloration of all gazelles. General coloration is an extremely pale sandy-fawn, with a faint brownish band along the lower flank. A median band on the blaze and cheeks is a darker sandy color, with a facial white stripe from above the eye to the muzzle. The horns are long and almost straight in both males and females, and are strongly ringed. They curve slightly backwards, sometimes diverging widely. The female's horns are less curved. The hooves are slightly enlarged for walking on soft sand. The ears are very large. Slender-horned Gazelles are generally found in groups of 10 to 30 females and their young. Males are found either in small groups, or as

solitary individuals. Lone adult males establish territories, and have temporary control over females that enter their territories. Slender-horned Gazelles are classed as Endangered.

Range

Africa: central Algeria to Egypt

Habitat

Desert, open bushland, from sea level to 19,000 feet

Gestation

150 to 203 days

Litter

1

Behavior

Slender-horned Gazelles are generally found in groups of 10 to 30 females and their young. Males are found either in small groups, or as solitary individuals. Lone adult males establish territories and have temporary control over females that enter their territories. Herbivorous grazers or browsers, they obtain most of their water from the plants they consume. They are strongly nomadic, their broad hooves enabling them to traverse deep sand dunes.

Reproduction

Reproduction is seasonal. Males establish territories in August and September, mating with groups of females that move through. The gestation period is 156 to 169 days. Births are in January or February, with normally a single offspring. Sexual maturity is attained in the second breeding season.

Wild Diet

Herbivorous: grazer or browser (leaves & berries of desert plants)