



# Animal species of South Africa

# Springbuck

- South African Springbuck are gazelle-like;
- They share the striped faces and bands on the thighs and flanks.
- The upper part is cinnamon-fawn with a black or brown horizontal band on the flanks.
- The underparts and head are white, but there are two brown streaks from the crown down to the mouth that conceal the protuberant eyes.
- The Springbuck are also known for the white dorsal crest which is hidden beneath two long folds of scent-secreting skin along the lower spine.
- Both rams and ewes carry heavily ridged horns that hook inwards at the points.
- Springbucks are grazers and browsers but avoid mountainous areas, dense woodlands and areas with high grasses which impair their ability to see.



You get the Common Springbuck, the white, black and copper Springbuck – also known as the 'Springbuck slam'

*White Springbuck*



*Black Springbuck*



*Copper Springbuck*



# Blesbuck

- Blesbucks are grazers preferring short grasses and are thus essentially plains dwellers.
- They also do well in mixed woodland with short sour grasses.
- The blesbuck characteristically nod the head when they are nervous or joyful or when the territorial rams 'stot' in front of the ewes.
- Blesbuck depend largely on their eyesight to detect danger. When they are threatened they mill around in one place before running away.

You get the Common Blesbuck, white and golden Blesbuck, known as the 'Blesbuck slam'.



*Common Blesbuck*



*Golden Blesbuck*



*White Blesbuck*

# Bontebok



- Bontebok are similar to Blesbok.
- The rump and lower legs of the bontebok are white as if it is wearing socks, whereas the Blesbok has a much smaller whitish patch around the base of the tail only and the white on the legs is restricted to the insides.
- The underside of the bontebok also has more white than the blesbuck.
- The Bontebok has a purplish gloss when the sun reflects off its hide; the blesbuck does not have this gloss.
- The horns of the Bontebok is black and the blesbuck rams are between grey and fawn.

# Impala

- The Impala is a graceful antelope with a beautiful sleek coat that is rich reddish-brown.
- The flanks are somewhat lighter and the belly is white.
- There are two vertical black lines on the Rump.
- Impala are known for their remarkable athleticism; their leaping ability is legendary.
- Impala are mixed feeders, i.e. they browse and graze, enabling them to do well in a variety of habitats.
- Impala are gregarious and make bachelor herds and separate breeding herds.



You get the Common Impala, Black and White Flank Impala – also known as the 'Impala slam'



# Wildebeest

- Blue Wildebeest is a stocky, thick-necked antelope with a black muzzle, mane and tail.
  - The base colour of the Blue Wildebeest' body is dark grey tinged with reddish-brown in some races.
  - It has long black hair down the throat.
  - The vertical darker stripes between the neck and rib cage are clearly visible.
  - The Black Wildebeest are distinguished from Blue wildebeest by their white tails, a stiff mane, long bristles on the muzzle and horns that bend down forward and then upward, whereas the blue wildebeest horns grow sideways before turning up.
  - The Black wildebeest is often called 'the clown of the field' because of its wild leaps, running in circles and snorting.
  - The Golden wildebeest has a blond mane and tail, even the hooves are a golden colour.
  - The King's wildebeest has a white tail like the black wildebeest, a blond mane like the golden wildebeest and body colour and horns like the blue wildebeest.
  - All wildebeest are grazers of short grasses.
- You get the Blue Wildebeest, Black, Golden and Kings Wildebeest – also known as the

'Wildebeest slam'



# Reedbuck

- Common Reedbuck are found in reeds and tall grasses. Open plains without cover and thickets are avoided.
- They are mainly nocturnal but may be active during the day.
- The colour of the Common Reedbuck vary from grey-brown to light yellow-brown.
- The underparts, underside of the tail, chin and throat are white, and the legs sometimes have a black stripe. Some have a bare grey patch below each ear known as the subauricular gland – the function of the gland is not clear.



- The Mountain Reedbuck requires unique habitat: uneven terrain consisting of hills, mountains and rocks with medium to long grasses.
- Mountain Reedbucks are smaller and have a greyish, woolly coat.
- The underside is white and tail bushy.
- The subauricular gland is a black granular patch under the ear. It diffuses scents to mark territory.



# Fallow Deer

- Fallow deer is a medium sized deer with more colour variations than any other.
- Fallow deers are grazers and browsers.
- Male fallow deer have antlers which is palmated with a number of points on the rear edge. Only the males have antlers which they shed annually.



# Lechwe



- Lechwe is between the kob and Waterbuck in terms of size.
- They have black markings on the front of the legs but the underparts are white.
- The males carry the lyre-shaped horns, which are ringed for most of the length, rising up and back and finally vertical to the smooth tips.
- Lechwe prefer shallow floodplains and wet areas between marshes.

# Waterbuck

- Waterbuck is a large, robust, shaggy animal.
- The inside of the ears are white, the muzzle is white and there is a white ring around the nose and a white line above the eye.
- It has a conspicuous white ring encircling a dark rump.
- The shaggy brown-grey coat emits a smelly, oily secretion.
- The waterbuck is a grazer and are water Dependent and thus are almost always found near water.



# Red Hartebeest

- The Red Hartebeest is a bright red-brown with a dark patch on the forehead and an equally dark blaze on the face.
- They are grazers with a long, narrow skull that enable them to feed selectively on tall grass swards.
- They are independent of water but will drink when water is available.



# Nyala

- Nyalas are a mixed feeder and only the bulls carry horns – shallow upward-curving spirals.
- The bulls have a distinct white chevron between the eyes and there are two or three white spots on the cheeks and white spots on the upper hind legs.
- The orange of the lower legs is in sharp contrast to the dark grey-brown on the upper legs and body.
- They prefer woodlands and thickets and dense riverine bush.



# Eland

- Eland are the largest of all antelopes.
- Both sexes carry horns.
- The horns of the bulls are larger and wider.
- They are mixed feeders.
- The eland is a highly nomadic animal and extremely shy.





# Sable

- The sable is slightly smaller than the Roan.
- The sable has a glistening coat, white underparts, bristly mane and magnificent scimitar-like ringed horns.
- They are mainly grazers, preferring grasses of medium height.



# Roan



- Roan are large antelope standing about 5 feet high at the shoulder.
- The shape of the horn is similar to that of the sable but is shorter.
- It is second in size to the Eland.
- They prefer open savannah woodlands with medium to tall, sweet grasses.

# Tsessebe

- The tsessebe has a dark reddish-brown with a purplish gloss coat with an almost black long and narrow face.
- The heavily ringed horns are wide and curving backwards and then to the inside and slightly forward.
- Tsessebe are grazers



# Kudu

- The kudu is a large, elegant antelope with long slender legs.
- The colour of the pelage is greyish-brown to rufous with the neck usually more grey than the rest of the body.
- Only the bulls carry the characteristic long, spiralling horns.
- Expect to find them in thickets or bush, large enough to provide cover.
- They have a reputation as the 'grey ghosts' because they melt away into the shadows and foliage.



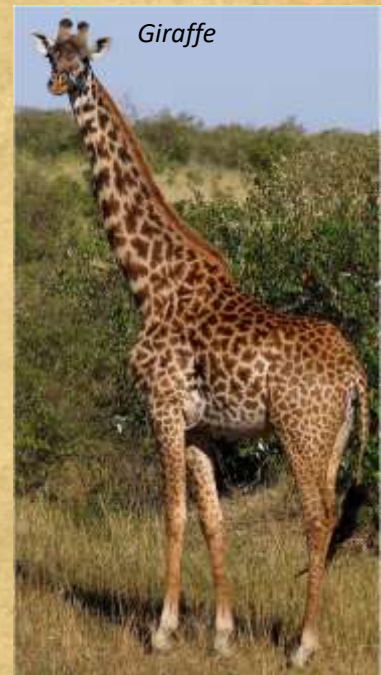
# Bushbuck



- The bushbuck is the smallest of the spiral horned antelope.
- They have white markings on the face and ears, white patches above the hooves and a white underside to the tail.
- They are elusive and shy and prefer thickets close to water

# Giraffe

- The giraffe is the tallest living animal and can stand up to 5.9m tall.
- Male giraffes have thicker ossicones (horns) and very little hair to bald on top.
- Giraffe feed of leaves.
- They don't need a lot of sleep
- The older the bull, the darker the fur.



# Oryx/Gemsbuck

- The overall body colour of the oryx is pale fawn-grey.
- The face is distinctly marked in black and white.
- They are grazers but will also browse when grazing is scarce.
- The forelegs are black above the knee.
- The hind legs are black in front and white behind.



- The body colour of the golden oryx is the same as the oryx.
- The markings on the face is yellowish gold and white versus the distinct black and white of the oryx.
- The tail is yellowish gold versus the black tail of the oryx.



# Zebra

- The Burchells Zebra has fading stripes on the legs
- The Burchells Zebra has stripes on the belly



*Burchells Zebra*

- The Mountain Zebra has stripes on the legs
- The Mountain Zebra has a white belly



*Mountain Zebra*

# Steenbuck

- The steenbuck resemble oribi in size and appearance.
- There is a white ring around the eyes and the ears are very large.
- The rams carry smooth, straight, parallel horns.
- They require short to medium sweet palatable grasses.



# Common Duiker

*Common Duiker*



- The duiker has long legs and large ears, with a dark line down the nose.
- The ram is slightly smaller than the ewe.
- They are browsers.
- They are the only antelope with a carnivore dimension and occasionally eat small birds, reptiles and even rodents.

# Klipspringer

- The klipspringer is a unique little antelope; it's peculiar hoof formation and the texture of its hair differentiate it from all the other antelopes.
- The hooves are cylindrical and blunt at the tips so that the animal can walk on the tips.
- The hair has a coarse, brittle structure and does not lie flat and has a yellowish-brown colour.
- They are found in rocky mountains and hills.

*Klipspringer*



# Warthog

- The warthog is a tough, sturdy animal.
- The common warthog is a wild member of the pig family found in grassland, savanna, and woodland
- Their average life span is 15 years.
- The males and females are distinguished by disproportionately large heads and “warts” — thick protective pads that appear on both sides of the head.
- Their large tusks are unusual: the two upper tusks emerge from the sides of the snout to form a semicircle; the lower tusks, at the base of the uppers, are worn to a sharp-cutting edge.
- Sparse bristles cover their body, and longer bristles form a mane from the top of the head down the spine to the middle of the back.
- Their long tail ends with a tuft of bristles.
- Warthogs characteristically carry their tails upright when they run, the tuft waving like a tiny flag.



# Bushpig



- The bushpig is also a member of the pig family.
- The hoofs are broader than those of the warthog's, and the dew claws usually mark clearly in the spoor.
- Its broader hooves are better adapted to the type of terrain where it usually feeds.
- They make continued use of the same routes to feeding areas.
- They are nocturnal and can be very dangerous, as they use their sharp tusks when threatened.
- They feed on a range of foods from roots and seeds to insects, eggs and carrion.
- Bushpigs are renowned for their crop raiding abilities.

# Jackal

- The black-backed jackal is a fox-like animal with a reddish brown to tan coat and a black saddle that extends from the shoulders to the base of the tail.
- The black-backed jackal has a wide array of food sources, feeding on small to medium-sized animals.
- Because they are very smart, they're mentioned in many African folktales where they're known as tricksters.



*Black-backed jackal*

# Ostrich



*Ostrich*

- Ostriches are the largest flightless living species of bird and largest living dinosaur.
- It lays the largest eggs of any living bird.
- It is distinctive in its appearance, with a long neck and legs, and can run for a long time.
- The feathers of adult males are black with white primaries and a white tail.
- Females and young males are grayish-brown and white.
- The head and neck of both male and female ostriches is nearly bare, with a thin layer of down.

# Honey badger

- The honey badger is also known as the 'Ratel'.
- Honey badgers are built for battle, not speed.
- They have powerful 1.5 inch long claws and teeth strong enough to crack a tortoise shell.



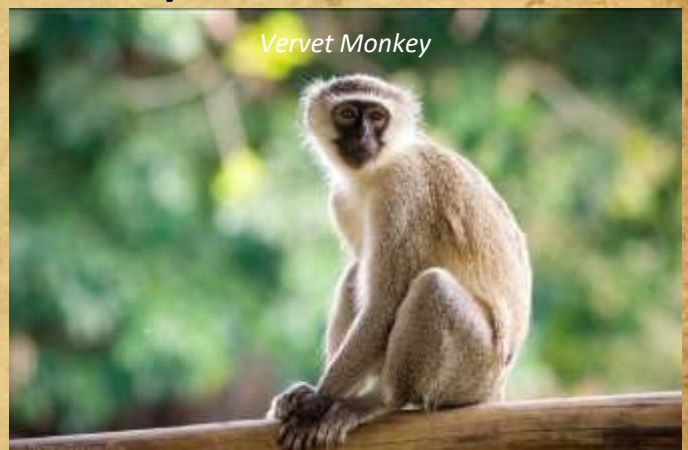
# Baboon



- Baboons are the worlds largest monkey.
- Unlike monkeys, baboons stay on the ground much of the time.
- They do sleep, eat and keep watch in trees.
- They eat a wide variety of meats and plants.

# Vervet Monkey

- The vervet is a small black-faced monkey.
- They have long arms and legs.
- They are rarely found more than 450m from trees.





# Serval

- The serval is a wild cat native to Africa.
- They have tawny black-spotted coats with long necks.
- They have long necks and big ears



# Genet

- Genets are slender cat-like animals with a long body and long ringed tail.
- All genet species have a dark stripe along the spine



# Civet

- A civet is a small, lean cat.
- They have short, dense fur that is a greyish colour with black spots arranged in rows along their bodies.



# Caracal

- The caracal is characterised by a robust build, long legs, a short face, long tufted ears and long canine teeth.
- Caracals are strictly carnivorous. They prey primarily on birds, rodents and small antelopes.



# Hyena

- The spotted hyena has a black spotty fur pattern on brown fur.
- They are also known as the laughing hyena.



*Spotted Hyena*

- The brown hyena is smaller and hairier than the spotted hyena.
- They have shaggy hair with lighter fur around the neck and a short bushy tail.
- They have stripes on their front and hind legs.



*Brown Hyena*

# Crocodile

- Crocodiles are large semiaquatic reptiles.
- They have powerful jaws with many conical teeth and short legs with clawed webbed toes.
- The tail is long and massive and the skin is thick and plated.



# Hippo



- Apart from elephants and rhinos, the hippo is the largest land mammal.
- It has a bulky body on stumpy legs, an enormous head, short tail and 4 toes on each foot.

# Elephant

- The elephant is the largest mammal on earth.
- Male elephant heads are broader between the eyes and forehead.
- Female elephants tend to have a more steep angle on the forehead, giving them a blockier forehead.



# Buffalo

- Cape buffalo's curved horns add to the stature of an already imposing animal.
- In large adult males the horns meet in the middle of the head and are joined by a hard shield called a 'boss'.
- Old bulls are also referred to as 'Dugga bulls'.



# Lion



- The lion is the second largest cat in the world.
- Unlike other cats, lions are very social animals.

# Leopard

- The leopard has a creamy yellow, buff grey, orange, tawny-brown and dark rufous-brown fur.
- It is covered with densely packed rosettes, each a cluster of small spots around a unspotted centre that is slightly darker than the body.
- They are graceful and powerful animals.

