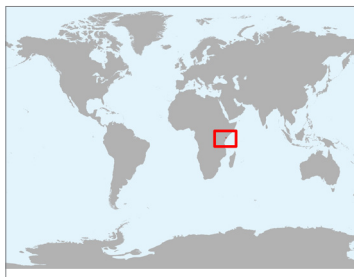




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Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Hirola

**Hirola**, *Beatragus hunteri*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Found only in north-east Kenya and Tsavo East National Park, Hirola is one of the rarest and most threatened African antelope on Earth and its extinction would mean not only the loss of a species, but also the loss of an entire ancient antelope group.

Numbers of Hirola have recently drastically declined, with the remaining wild population believed to be only 400 to 600 individuals. Threats have been attributed to rinderpest disease, predation, poaching for game meat and habitat loss. Competition for grazing and water with domestic cattle in an increasing livestock market economy and severe drought has also contributed to the devastation of Hirola populations.

There are no Hirola in captivity since attempts to breed in zoos failed totally. There have been two relocations of the species, outside their natural range, to Tsavo East National Park in 1963 and 1979. The Ishaqbini Hirola sanctuary is the first breeding programme for the species within their natural distribution. The species has legal protection in Kenya since 1977, although the legislation against wildlife crimes is weak and unsuccessful.

**Knowledge**  
**Experts**  
**Action**  
**Get Involved**



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.