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NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	<b>&lt; VULNERABLE &gt;</b>	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	NT	<b>VU</b>	EN	CR	EW	EX



Geographical range

## Amazing Species: Arabian Oryx

The **Arabian Oryx**, *Oryx leucoryx*, is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Once widespread across the Arabian Peninsula, the Arabian Oryx became extinct in the wild in 1972. However, reintroduction programmes have successfully returned this desert antelope to parts of Israel, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and UAE.

Although long hunted for its meat and skin, the Arabian Oryx was only decimated in the wild after the Second World War, due to the increased availability of guns and transport, and an increased demand for sport hunting. Unfortunately, some reintroduced populations are still under threat from poaching and from illegal live capture for sale to private collections. Drought and overgrazing by domestic livestock have also degraded the habitat of this species.

The successful reintroduction of the Arabian Oryx into the wild has been achieved through widespread captive breeding programmes. Almost all the released animals occur in protected areas, and this species is covered by protective legislation in the countries in which it occurs. The Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi is funding further reintroductions of the Arabian Oryx, which now numbers around 1,000 individuals in the wild.

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