



BONGO

Boocercus euryceros

SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The bongo stands about four feet tall and can vary between six and eight feet in length.

WEIGHT

The bongo is a considerably large antelope, averaging between 520 and 880 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The bongo's diet is primarily composed of various leaves, bamboo, and grasses.

HABITAT

The bongo prefers a dense, jungle-like habitat. They may be found at altitudes as high as 12,800 feet.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The bongo is found in select regions of central Africa, including the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Ghana.

FUN FACT

There is an African superstition that if you eat or touch a bongo, you will have symptoms similar to an epileptic seizure. For this reason, bongos are virtually untouched by people in their native range.



The bongo is a large, extremely beautiful, and elusive antelope. In fact, little concrete evidence about bongo populations and natural history exist, simply because it is such a difficult animal for scientists to study. The bongo is the only spiral-horned antelope in which both the male and female have horns. These typically solitary animals are nocturnal. When fleeing from a predator, the bongo will lay its horns back behind its neck to avoid getting them tangled in the dense forest vegetation that it prefers to inhabit.

