



# SITATUNGA

*Tragelaphus spekei*

## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

The sitatunga stands between two and four feet tall at the shoulder and reaches lengths between three and a half to five feet.

### WEIGHT

The average sitatunga will weigh between 90 and 260 pounds.

### FOOD HABITS

The sitatunga's feeding preference is freshly sprouted reed tips, but they will also eat aquatic grasses.

### HABITAT

The sitatunga is only found in dense and extensive reed beds of *Papyrus*, *Phragmites* and *Typha*.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The sitatunga is generally located in central and western Africa.

### FUN FACT

Because their preferred habitat is dense, observations are understandably rare and intermittent, even though the species is fairly common.



Spending most of its time among boggy papyrus beds in swamps, the sitatunga's elongated hoofs and flexible toe joints are excellent adaptations to prevent them from sinking into soft ground. The sitatunga is an excellent swimmer, and when threatened, it will flee into deep water. They have been known to submerge themselves completely underwater, with only their nostrils above the waterline. Pathways are sometimes forged through the reeds, which are often used by hunters to set snares. While sitatunga are both nocturnal and diurnal, they are most active at dawn and dusk, and may move onto marshy land at night. Males have a loud, barking vocalization.

