

**Indian Gaur** (*Bos gaurus gaurus*)

This typical wild cattle lives in tropical forests with scattered herds in India and a few surviving population in Myanmar, Westren Malaysia and Indo-China. The natural predators for this animal are tiger, some times leopard and wild dogs. The population is threatened by human interruption in the habitat such as hunting for meat, and habitat destruction. They feed on grass, herbs, shoots and fruits of bushes and trees. Life span is about 30 years. With its huge head, deep massive body, and sturdy limbs the Gaur is the embodiment of vigor and strength. A newly born calf is a light golden yellow coloured animal, which soon changes to fawn, then to light brown, so to coffee or reddish brown, the colour of young bulls and cows and old bulls are jet black, their bodies almost hairless. Horns measures about 80 cm in length for male and arched to the side & upwards; flattened at the base. Cows have smaller, less sturdy horns.

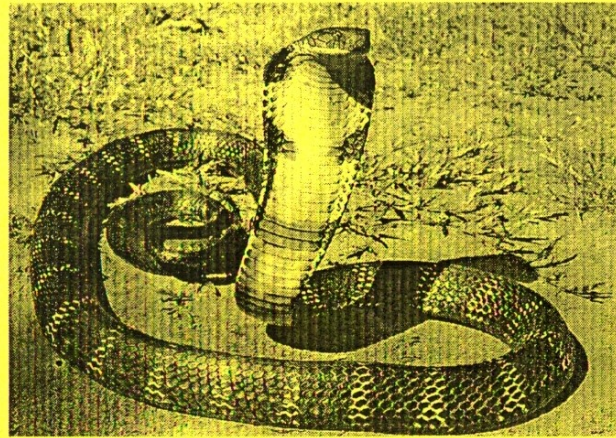


**REGIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, MYSURU**

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Visiting Hours : 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (Tuesday to Sunday)

**King Cobra** (*Ophiophagus hannah*)

The king cobra is the longest venomous snake in the world, found predominantly in forests from India through Southeast Asia to the Philippines and Indonesia. Average life span of a king cobra in the wild is 20 years.

King cobras are shy and retreating, aggressive only if provoked. When confronted, they can raise up to one-third of their bodies straight off the ground and spread their hood and still move forward to attack.

Their presence is important for healthy ecosystems as they are predators as well as prey for other species.

**Conservation Status**

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species designated the snake as vulnerable. In India, king cobras are placed under Schedule II of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (as amended) and a person guilty of killing the snake can be imprisoned for up to 6 years.



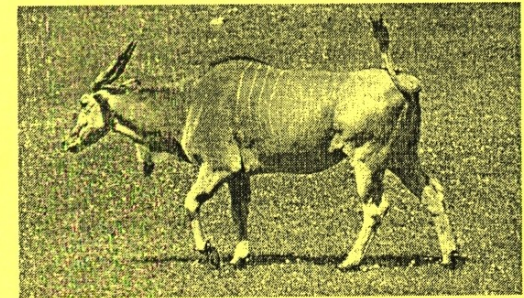
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**Common Eland** (*Taurotragus oryx*)

The common eland (*Taurotragus oryx*) is an antelope species native to southern and eastern Africa and belongs to the family bovidae and subfamily bovinæ. Eland formerly occurred throughout the savannah woodlands of eastern and southern Africa, extending into high-altitude grasslands and the arid savannas and scrublands of the Kalahari and Karoo in southern Africa is now found approximately in one-third of Africa.. The animals use open plains, savannahs, and lightly wooded areas and avoid thick forests though they do occur in grassland with good herb cover. The common eland can be identified by its tan coloured coat with spiral horns that are characteristic of its tribe, Tragelaphini. Both sexes of *T. oryx* have spiralled horns, but horns of males are shorter, thicker, and have tighter, more pronounced spirals. All eland have a black spot on the posterior upper region of the forelegs, along with a dark dorsal stripe running down the dorsum.



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