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Antelopes are among the best-known animals of the deserts of North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. These species have adapted to some of the most extreme desert environments in the world and they have always been celebrated for their grace and beauty in the art and poetry of the region. Although well-known in a general sense, close similarity between some of the smaller species of North Africa and Arabia has led to confusion. This fact sheet provides a summary of the species that occur naturally in each region.

In total, 11 species of antelopes occur: five in the Arabian Peninsula and six in North Africa (see Table below). The largest antelopes of both

regions, the Arabian Oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) in Arabia and the Scimitar-horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*) of North Africa, are distinctive and well known.

The smaller gazelle species are similar in appearance and they occupy similar habitats in each region. Due to the shared history and language, some gazelles have the same common names. Despite this, it is important to note that these are in fact all different species and that no species occurs in both these regions.

Reem is the name given to the gazelles inhabiting dunes and sandy deserts, but the two types of gazelle called 'Reem' are different: Arabian Sand Gazelle (*Gazella marica*) across the Arabian Peninsula and Slender-horned Gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*) in North Africa, from Egypt to Algeria.

Idmi or *edmi* is applied to species occurring mainly in mountains and hilly areas: Cuvier's or Atlas Gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*) in the Maghreb and two species in the Arabian Peninsula. Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*) occurs across most of the peninsula and Mountain Gazelle (*Gazella gazella*) in the far north. Until recently the latter two were regarded as the same species, but are now split. In the United Arab

Arabian Peninsula

English name	Scientific name	Arabic name
Arabian Sand Gazelle	<i>Gazella marica</i>	Reem
Arabian / Mountain Gazelle	<i>Gazella arabica</i> , <i>Gazella gazella</i>	Idmi, Dumani
Saudi Gazelle	<i>Gazella saudiya</i>	Afri
Arabian Oryx	<i>Oryx leucoryx</i>	Al Maha

North Africa

English name	Scientific name	Arabic name
Slender-horned Gazelle	<i>Gazella leptoceros</i>	Reem, Ghazal abiad
Cuvier's Gazelle	<i>Gazella cuvieri</i>	Edmi
Dorcas Gazelle	<i>Gazella dorcas</i>	Ghazal, Afri
Scimitar-horned Oryx	<i>Oryx dammah</i>	Wach, Begar al Ouach
Addax	<i>Addax nasomaculatus</i>	Akash, Beggar al Ouach
Dama Gazelle	<i>Nanger dama</i>	Addra, Mhorr

