

## SAVING THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED ANTELOPE

By A. H. Ali and Jacob R. Goheen

The hirola is the world's most endangered antelope. In 2010, and along with a team representing the Hirola Management Committee, the Kenya Wildlife Service, and the Northern Rangelands Trust, research was initiated to understand why this species has declined, and what might be done to prevent hirola from going extinct. Our research focuses on hirola population dynamics, habitat use, and the effects of land-use change in eastern Kenya for hirola. This information will be used to guide future management and conservation strategies with our partners.

The success of our work centers on close collaboration with Somali pastoralists, whose involvement is absolutely key to the long-term conservation of this species. Unlike many globally endangered species, the hirola's range occurs entirely outside of national parks and other formally-protected areas. This means that their chances of long-term survival hinge on our ability to educate and instill tolerance in Somali pastoralists whose livestock co-occur with hirola, so a major part of our work centers on education and outreach to local communities in the hopes of conserving this unique species.



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**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Mr. Ali is a PhD student at the University of Wyoming and has been working on wildlife conservation in eastern Kenya for the last six years. Mr. Hussein is a member of the University of Wyoming's Program in Ecology, where he is carrying out his dissertation work on the conservation of hirola in Ijara, Kenya.

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