

Habitat Preference and Social Composition of Antelopes in Arid Region of Kachchh, Gujarat, India

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(Accepted December 05, 2014)

ABSTRACT

The habitat preference and social composition of the two antelope namely; chinkara and blue bull were studied. Study was conducted in arid part of Kachchh district, Gujarat. Line transect method applied to assess the population and distribution of the antelopes. It was found that 15.53% of individuals of blue bull were single or in pairs 68.93% in groups, while in chinkara 6.06% of individuals were solitary, 12.12% in pair and 81.82% in groups. The overall mean group size of blue bull in the study area was 2.43 ± 1.55 , while in chinkara it was 2.55 ± 1.61 . In conclusion, the abundance and density of these antelope had decreased and the social composition including group size and age-sex ratio was different in the arid part of kachchh in relation to existing population of these antelope in other parts of their natural distribution.

Key words: antelope; blue bull; chinkara; habitat preference; arid region; Kachchh.