Description
All races are similar in appearance, medium-sized, shoulders higher than rump, head long and pointed, as are narrow ears. Tail very short-haired at the base and much of under surface, with longish dark brown to black hairs on outer surface. Both sexes carry horns, but those of cows more slender. Horns of red, western and Lelwel approximate a U- or V-shape; those of Tora, Swayne’s and Coke’s are more slender, less dramatically back-swept and with tips spread further apart.
Western dull sandy-brown; Swayne’s and Coke’s are deep red-brown to fawn, dark patches on upper legs with pale rump; Lelwel’s reddish brown; Coke’s sandy-fawn, no markings; Tora also uniform in colour.

Distribution
Red totally isolated in south, Coke’s only on Tanzanian/Kenyan border, western from Senegal to south-west CAR, Lelwel’s Chad and CAR to extreme north-west Tanzania, Coke’s only Kenya and Tanzania, Tora and Swayne’s possibly only survive in Ethiopia. Red hunttable in major range states, Coke’s in Tanzania, Lelwel’s Ethiopia and CAR, western in those countries within range that offer trophy hunting.

Conservation standing
By far most abundant is the red with more than 100,000 animals, western >25,000, Lelwel >18,000, Coke’s about 28,000. Both the Tora and Swayne’s number only in the hundreds.

Habitat
Open savanna and wooded grassland.

Behaviour
All quite similar, living in herds of up to 20 individuals, but may gather in hundreds and even thousands seasonally, smaller herds retaining their integrity. In arid areas may undertake migrations to new grazing. Adult bulls are territorial and try to retain harem herds for mating with receptive cows. Bachelor herds circulate outside the territories of established bulls. Mainly day active, but do feed at night as well.

Food
Mainly grazers, but do feed from herbaceous plants.

Shot placement
Right front, 100 mm (3.9"") Right back, 96 mm (3.8"")

Rifles and Ammunition
Suggested Calibre: .264 - .308.
Bullet: Expanding bullet designed for penetration.
Sights: Medium-range variable scope.
Hunting Conditions: Expect medium to longer shots in open country.
Hartebeest

Bull and cow red hartebeest "mock" fighting

Coke’s hartebeest, or Kongoni, is an East African form

Coke’s hartebeest has distinctive horns

Red hartebeest cow has slender horns

Red hartebeest bull has more robust horns