GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS

PORINI CAMPS MAMMALS GUIDE

by Rustom Framjee

PORINI CAMPS

www.porini.com

FOREWORD

I would like to thank Rustom Framjee for his work in producing this guide to the mammal species that have been seen on wildlife viewing drives from our Porini Camps and Nairobi Tented Camp.

At Gamewatchers Safaris & Porini Camps we are committed to supporting the conservation of Kenya's remaining wildlife habitat and animal species. Over the past twenty years we have been involved in working with local communities living alongside the national parks and reserves, to restore the wildlife habitat by setting aside large areas as Conservancies where the animals can live in safety in their own space without any human settlements and where visitor numbers are restricted. As a result, the conservancies are now teeming with a huge diversity of wildlife species and the grass and vegetation have regenerated, allowing large numbers of herbivores to be present which in turn attracts the predators including all the big cats.

This guide highlights the wide variety of animals that are present in addition to the well-known "Big Five" that are so often the main focus of attention. Many of the less well-known species can be fascinating to observe and this guide will help to identify them and to provide information about them for anyone planning to stay at our camps.

Visit www.porini.com to find out more

Jake Grieves-Cook
Founder of Gamewatchers Safaris
Nairobi, Kenya

PREFACE

This mammal guide provides some interesting facts about the mammals that are seen by guests staying at Porini Camps. In addition, there are many species of birds and reptiles which are listed separately from this guide.

Many visitors are surprised at the wealth of wildlife and how close you can get to the animals without disturbing them. Because the camps operate on a low tourist density basis (one tent per 700 acres) the wildlife is not ‘crowded’ by many vehicles and you can see them in a natural state - hunting, socialising, playing, giving birth and fighting to defend their territories. Some are more difficult to see than others, and some can only be seen when you go on a night drive. All Porini camps are unfenced and located in game rich areas and you will see much wildlife even in and around the camps.

The Maasai guides who accompany you on all game drives and walks are very well trained and qualified professional guides. They are passionate and enthusiastic about their land and its wildlife and really want to show you as much as they can. They have a wealth of knowledge and you are encouraged to ask them more about what you see. They know many of the animals individually and can tell you stories about them. If you are particularly interested in something, let them know and they will try to help you see it.

While some facts and figures are from some of the references listed, the bulk of information in this guide has come from the knowledge of guides and camp staff. I encourage you to ask questions and listen carefully, as the truly astonishing amount of information they hold goes beyond what I could fit into a guide.

Enjoy your safari!

Rustom Framjee

IMAGE CREDITS

Rustom Framjee: Spotted Hyena, African Wild dog, Banded Mongoose, Maasai Giraffe, Cheetah, Bohor Reedbuck, Scrub hare, Common Eland, Coke's Hartebeest, Southern Tree Hyrax, Bushbuck, Black backed Jackal, Lion, Serval cat, African Elephant

Nirmalya Banerjee: Side Striped Jackal, Impala, Reticulated Giraffe, East African Springhare, Klipspringer, Lesser Kudu, Caracal

Jake Grieves-Cook: African Golden Wolf, Bat-eared fox, Kirk's Dik-dik, Sykes Monkey, Black Rhinoceros, Warthog

Matt Caldwell: Greater Galago, Rock Hyrax, Common Waterbuck, Striped Hyena

Alan Dahl: Thomson's Gazelle, Grant's Gazelle, Gerenuk, Suni

Niels Mogensen: Aardwolf

Samson So: African Wild Cat, Common Genet, Lesser Bushbaby

Jimmy Lemara: Aardvark

Phil Edwards: Yellow Baboon, East African Civet

Ol Pejeta Conservancy: Northern White Rhinoceros

Jeffrey Wu: Southern White Rhinoceros

Mo Scanlan: Ground Squirrel, Fringe-eared Oryx

Vicki Cooper: Steinbok

Julie Roggow: Chimpanzee

Senka Gavrilovic: Oribi

Gareth Jones: Mountain Reedbuck

****Magnus Manske:*** Honey Badger

****MC Schaeffer:*** White tailed Mongoose

****Drew Avery:*** Crested Porcupine

****Martin Grimm:*** Oche Bush Squirrel

****Jacob Cutts:*** Jackson's Hartebeest

****Yathin S. Krishnapp:*** Slender Mongoose

*****Photographer Unknown:*** Common Duiker, African Hedgehog, Marsh Mongoose, Zorilla

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For species with a camera icon we are looking for an alternate image. If you have one, please send an e-mail to rachel@gamewatchers.com

BADGES & ABBREVIATIONS

This species is classified as endangered according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

This species holds a record (official or unofficial)

This species is rarely seen by visitors and sightings of it are considered lucky due to its behaviour or low population density

SC Selenkay Conservancy

NC Naboisho Conservancy

OKC Ol Kinyei Conservancy

OPC Ol Pejeta Conservancy

NNP Nairobi National Park

OMC Olare Motorogi Conservancy

SPECIES

BIG CATS
1. Lion
2. Leopard
3. Cheetah

FELIDS
4. Caracal
5. Serval Cat
6. African Wild Cat

HYENAS
7. Spotted Hyena
8. Striped Hyena
9. Aardwolf

JACKALS AND OTHER CANIDS
10. Black/Silver Backed Jackal
11. African Golden Wolf
12. Side Striped Jackal
13. African Wild dog
14. Bat Eared Fox

MONGOOSES AND MUSTELIDS
15. Banded Mongoose
16. Dwarf Mongoose
17. Marsh Mongoose
18. Slender Mongoose
19. White Tailed Mongoose
20. Common Genet
21. East African Civet
22. Zorilla or Striped Polecat
23. Ratel or Honey Badger

ANTELOPE
24. Common Wildebeest
25. Topi
26. Thomson's Gazelle
27. Grant's Gazelle
28. Impala
29. Bushbuck
30. Bohor Reedbuck
31. Chanler's Mountain Reedbuck
32. Common Eland
33. Common Waterbuck
34. Defassa Waterbuck
35. Lesser Kudu
36. Coke's Hartbeest
37. Jackson's Hartbeest
38. Common Duiker
39. Kirk's Dik Dik
40. Suni
41. Klipspringer
42. Gerunek or Wallers Gazelle
43. Steinbok
44. East-African Oryx
45. Oribi

LARGE MAMMALS
46. Elephants
47. Cape Buffalo
48. Hippopotamus
49. Black Rhinoceros
50. Southern White Rhinoceros
51. Northern White Rhinoceros
52. Maasai Giraffe
53. Reticulated Giraffe
54. Common or Burchell's zebra
55. Grevy's zebra

SMALL MAMMALS
56. Aardvark
57. Warthog
58. African hedgehog
59. Crested porcupine
60. East African Spring hare
61. Scrub hare
62. Rock hyrax
63. Tree hyrax
64. Ground squirrel
65. Ochre Bush Squirrel

PRIMATES
66. Olive Baboon
67. Yellow Baboon
68. Vervet Monkey
69. Sykes's/Blue Monkey
70. Patas Monkey
71. Large Eared Greater Galago or Greater Bushbaby
72. Senegal Galago or Lesser Bushbaby
73. Common Chimpanzee

BIG FIVE!

LION

Panthera leo

Swahili Name: Simba
Maasai Name: Olng'atuny, Olouwaru

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

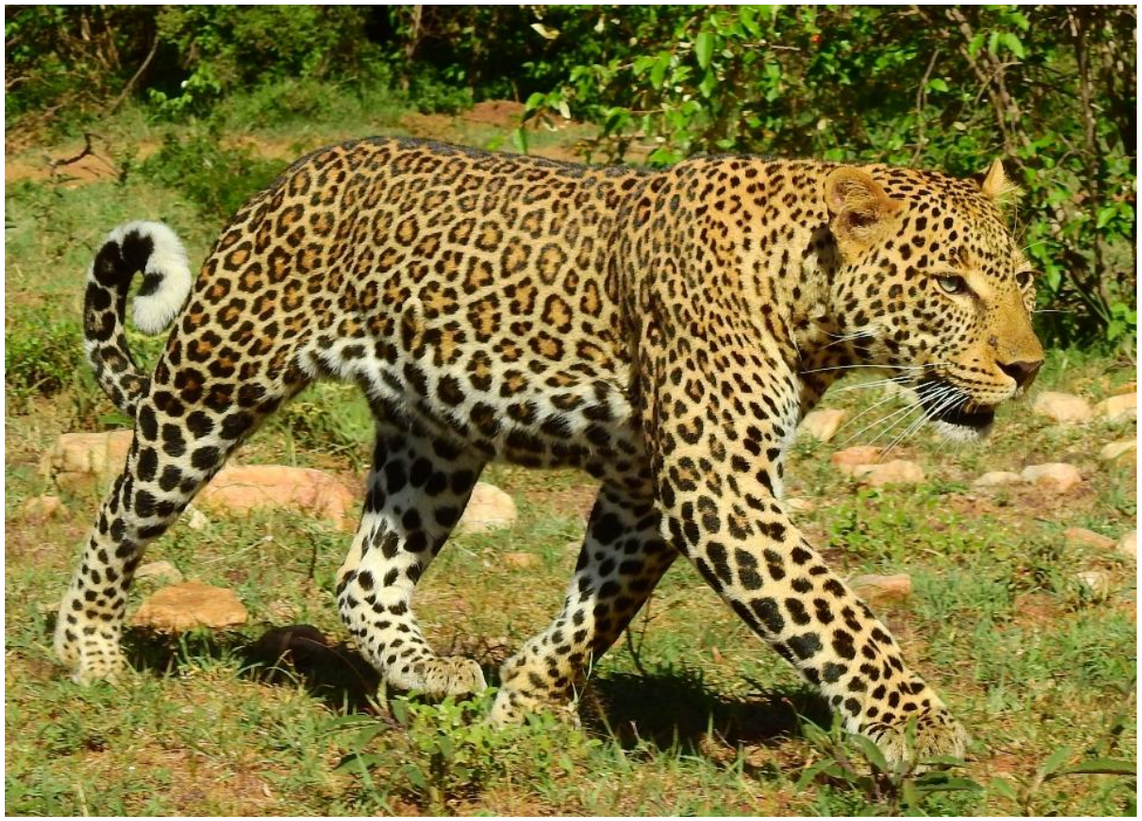
- **Lifespan:** 15 to 20 years
- **Weight:** Males 190 to 225 kg (420 to 500 lb), Females 110 to 135 kg (250 to 300 lb)
- **Height:** 1 to 1.2 m (3ft 4in to 4ft)
- **Length:** 1.5 to 2m (5ft to 7ft)
- **Gestation:** 3 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 4 (cases of up to 6)
- **Habits:** Lions live in large groups called prides. The females in the pride are usually related and they are the primary hunters. Males will assist with large prey, though they mainly focus their efforts on defending their territories from other males. Males are very territorial and the main cause of male deaths is as a result of fights and being displaced from the security of the pride. They sleep for many hours in a day and are active only when hunting. Young males are made to leave the pride to prevent leadership challenges and inbreeding!
- **Food:** Opportunistic carnivorous feeders and will take any prey that they can catch and overpower. Although they are apex predators they often scavenge and steal kills from other predators.
- **Reproduction:** Cubs are born blind usually away from the rest of the pride. Their eyes do not open until roughly a week after birth. Lionesses often synchronise birthing and share parenting duties with cubs suckling from any of the nursing females. This allows pride cubs to be of equal age and size which increases survival rates.
- **Did you know?** If new males take over a pride they will typically try to kill all the cubs. Your guides know most of the lions family history and can tell you exciting stories of pride wars!

BIG FIVE!

LEOPARD

Panthera pardus

Swahili Name: Chui
Maasai Name: Olkinyia lasho



Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 12 to 15 years
- **Weight:** Males 50 to 80 kg (110 to 180lb), Females 35 to 55 kg (70 to 120lb)
- **Height:** 60 to 70cm (2ft to 2ft 4in)
- **Length:** 1.2 to 1.8m (3ft 10in to 5ft 10in)
- **Gestation:** 3 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 4
- **Habits:** Mostly nocturnal and solitary, leopards are excellent at camouflaging themselves and stay close to areas with trees.
- **Food:** Highly adaptable on account of prey availability, leopards stalk, usually at night, and kill their prey before carrying it into a tree where it will be out of reach of lions and hyenas, if it is too large for them to consume immediately on the ground.
- **Reproduction:** Cubs usually remain hidden for the first two months of their lives, and will rely on their mother's milk during this time. Once they begin to venture out they will start to eat meat and are weaned at 3 months.
- **Did you know?** Pound for pound they are the strongest of African big cats. If you hear a noise around the camp at night, like someone sawing wood, it's probably a leopard. There are probably as many or more leopards in the conservancies as there are cheetahs, however leopards are more difficult to see as they are shy. More recently, the leopards around Porini Lion have got much more used to people and sightings are very regular. When a leopard is not hunting, it can walk through herds of herbivores without disturbing them as it raises its tail over its body to expose the white underside which the prey species see as unthreatening behaviour.

CHEETAH

Acinonyx jubatus

Swahili Name: Duma
Maasai Name: Olowuara keri

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

Lifespan: 10 years

Weight: Males 41 to 57 kg (90 to 125lb), Females 36 to 45 kg (80 to 100lb)

Height: 70 to 80cm (2ft 4in to 2ft 8in)

Length: 1.2 to 1.4m (4ft to 4ft 8in)

Gestation: 3 months

Number of young: 2 to 4 (cases of up to 6)

RECORD HOLDER
FASTEST

Habits: Cheetah like to find high vantage points from where they can see potential prey and predators. Males are often social, and brothers will stay together and hunt together whilst females generally live on their own unless they have young cubs.

Food: Cheetah usually eat small to medium size antelopes as well as young wildebeest. They stalk prey and break into a fast sprint which uses lots of energy and only has a 50% success rate. They knock or trip their prey and suffocate it with a strong jaw hold on the neck. They eat hurriedly as they are often chased off their kills by larger predators.

Reproduction: They are born with greyish silver fur (mantle) on their back which transforms to the normal adult coat as they age. This allows them to be camouflaged and some believe it also gives them the appearance of a honey badger. Only 5% of cheetah newborns survive to independent adulthood

Other Info: The fastest mammal in the world, Cheetah are capable of speeds in excess of 100 kmh (62 mph). Experts at bringing down antelopes, their unmatched speed comes at the cost of a lightweight body. This means that they are often chased off their kills by lions, leopards and hyenas. Easily differentiated with leopards by their lighter builds and circular spots as opposed to the semi circular rosettes of a leopard.

Did you know? Cheetahs lack the ability to retract / cover their claws, resulting in footprints like that of a canine and making them the only cats in the animal kingdom not to be able to do so. During high speed maneuvers, a cheetah uses its tail as a form of rudder.

CARACAL

Felis caracal

Swahili Name: Simba mangu
Maasai Name: Eseperua

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

RARE

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 10 years
- **Weight:** Males 10 to 18 kg (22 to 40lb), Females 8 to 12 kg (18 to 26lb)
- **Height:** 40 to 50cm (1ft 4in to 1ft 8in)
- **Length:** 55 to 90cm (1ft 10in to 3ft)
- **Gestation:** 2 to 2 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1 to 4
- **Habits:** Mostly nocturnal and quite secretive they are difficult to spot. Caracals are solitary and will only be seen together as a mother with cubs or a breeding pair. The largest of the small cats they stalk and often run down their prey and occasionally kill antelope as large as an impala. There are many theorises about their noticeable ear tufts and it is thought that these are twitched to communicate with fellow caracals.
- **Food:** Caracals eat rodents, other small mammals and birds, They jump up to two metres into the air to catch birds in flight. In periods of drought, Caracals are able to survive on water content obtained through their prey.
- **Reproduction:** Kittens are almost fully blind when born and are able to see perfectly after 10 days. They leave the den after one month and are weaned after ten. Sexual maturity is reached at approximately 1 year old at which stage the cubs will leave the mother.

SERVAL CAT

Felis serval

Swahili Name: Mondo
Maasai Name: Eseperua

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 10 years
- **Weight:** Males 10 to 16 kg (22 to 35lb), Females 8 to 12 kg (18 to 26lb)
- **Height:** 55 to 60cm (1ft 10in to 2ft)
- **Length:** 65cm to 1m (2ft 2in to 3ft 2in)
- **Gestation:** 2 to 2 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 4

RECORD HOLDER
RELATIVE LEG LENGTH

- **Habits:** Nocturnal and solitary, servals are territorial with ranges up to 20km^2 for females, and 30km^2 for males. Like big cats they mark their territory. The serval's large ears allow it to hear small mammals and to locate prey.
- **Food:** Servals are carnivorous with a preference for rodents but they are also opportunistic and will sometimes consume insects, birds, fish and small mammals.
- **Reproduction:** Kittens are vulnerable when born, blind, and hence females give birth in sheltered areas such as abandoned burrows and dens. They are able to eat solids after approximately a month and will begin to hunt independently aged 6 months. They become sexually mature after leaving their mother, at around 1 year old.
- **Did you know?** Relative to the size of its body, the serval has the longest legs of all cats which allow it to move at great speed (50mph / 80kmh) and jump up to 3 metres vertically. When one considers that this represents jumping up to 5 times its own height, it is really quite impressive! It can also hear prey, even when they are moving underground.

AFRICAN WILD CAT

Felis lybica

Swahili Name: Paka pori
Maasai Name: Empaka entim

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, OKC and OMC.

RARE

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 10 years
- **Weight:** Males 3 to 6 kg (7 to 13lb), Females 2 to 4.5 kg (4 ½ to 10lb)
- **Height:** 30 to 35cm (12 to 14in)
- **Length:** 50 to 60cm (1ft 10in to 2ft 1in)
- **Gestation:** 2 months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 4
- **Habits:** Normally nocturnal but have occasionally active during cool days. Usually terrestrial but are good climbers and will climb trees to evade predators.
- **Food:** Their diet is comprised mainly of small rodents but they are opportunistic feeders and will eat anything from insects to birds. They usually hunt in the characteristic manner of a small cat, stalking prey and then catching it with one pounce.
- **Reproduction:** Kittens are usually born between September and March and are extremely vulnerable, with their eyes being closed for the first two weeks. For this reason, the mother keeps them in thick bush or the holes of other animals and carries them to a new location every few days. Kittens stay with their mother for up to half a year at which point they are fertile to have kittens of their own.

SPOTTED HYENA

Crocuta crocuta

Swahili Name: Fisi madoa
Maasai Name: Olngojine

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 57 to 64 kg (125 to 140lb), Females 64 to 75 kg (140 to 165lb)
- **Height:** 80 to 90cm (2ft 8in to 2ft 11in)
- **Length:** 1.2 to 1.7m (4ft to 5ft 6in)
- **Gestation:** 3 ½ to 4 months
- **Number of young:** 2 (cases of up to 4)

RECORD HOLDER
STRONGEST JAWS

- **Habits:** Spotted Hyenas live in large groups called clans, with females being dominant over males. They can communicate over great distances through high pitched noises which are inaudible to the human ear.
- **Food:** Contrary to popular misconception spotted hyenas do not only scavenge on carrion. Unlike striped hyenas, they are primarily predators. Very little of their prey goes to waste- strong jaws enable them to crunch through the bones of all but the largest herbivores such as elephants.
- **Reproduction:** Females do not actually have a typical mammalian vagina, instead having what can be described as a ‘pseudo-penis’ that prevents forced copulation by males. Interestingly, the more dominant females’ bodies provide the developing pups with hormones that will ensure a stronger physical strength during their lifetimes. Cubs are born with their eyes open and are born aggressive, often attacking and killing their siblings before they are one month old. They begin to learn to hunt when 8 months old and will join in on clan hunts once they are 12 months old.
- **Did you know?** The more common of the two hyenas, spotted hyenas have the strongest jaws in the animal kingdom. They are also known as laughing hyenas due to the noises that they make.

STRIPED HYENA

Hyaena

Swahili Name: Fisi miraba
Maasai Name: Nesompori

Location: OKC, NC and OMC.

RARE

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** 30 to 50 kg (66 to 110lb)
- **Height:** 65 to 77cm (2ft 2in to 2ft 7in)
- **Length:** 1.2m (4ft)
- **Gestation:** 3 months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 4 (cases of 6)
- **Habits:** Primarily nocturnal, striped hyenas are not particularly territorial and usually live either own their own or in pairs. Despite sharing territory, males will scent mark their own patrol parts using a paste secreted from their anal gland. They are smaller than spotted hyenas and behave submissively towards them, allowing them to take their food.
- **Food:** Predominantly scavengers as their smaller size does not allow them to bring down prey easily. However they are opportunistic predators and if the opportunity presents itself they will eat anything they are able to kill.
- **Reproduction:** Cubs are born, blind, in a den and their eyes open when they are nearly 10 days old. One month from birth they begin to eat solid food and they are weaned at four months old. They venture out from the den for foraging trips at six months old and are sexually mature when they are between 2 and 3 months old.

AARDWOLF

Proteles cristata

Swahili Name: Fisi ya Nkole or Fisi Mdogo
Maasai Name: Nemelil

Location: SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

RARE

- **Lifespan:** Insufficient data – up to 20 years in captivity
- **Weight:** approximately 7 to 10 kilograms (15 to 22 lb)
- **Height:** 40 to 50 centimetres (16 to 20 in)
- **Length:** 55 to 80 centimetres (22 to 31 in) long, excluding its bushy tail, which is about 20 to 30 centimetres (7.9 to 11.8 in) long,
- **Gestation**: 3 months
- **Number of young** 2 to 5
- **Habits:**The name means earth wolf in Afrikaans and they spend most of the day underground in their dens emerging at night to feed. They are shy and when seen they are usually seen on their own. In fact they are monogamous living in breeding pairs with their young. Both sexes have anal glands with which they mark their territory leaving black smears on rock and tufts of grass. They are generally quite timid and when threatened they puff up their manes and also use these glands to emit a foul stench.
- **Food:** Unlike other canines they do not hunt large prey and feed exclusively on harvester termites found in the open savannah. They use their broad sticky tongue to lick up termites from the surface as unlike other termite eaters they do not dig food their food. A single aardwolf can consume up to 300,000 termites in one night.
- **Reproduction:** Although generally regarded as monogamous dominant males will mate with females in territories where there is a weaker male. The cubs are born in the dens which are changed regularly the cubs remain in the den for about 3 to 4 months foraging near the den after about nine weeks and venturing further afield after about 12 weeks. Males guard the den for up to six hours a night when the female is away hunting

BLACK/SILVER-BACKED JACKAL

Canis mesomelas

Swahili Name: Bweha Mgongo Mweusi
Maasai Name: Orbarie

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 6 to 10 years
- **Weight:** 6 to 13.5 kg (14 to 30lb)
- **Height:** 40 to 45cm (1ft 4in to 1ft 6in)
- **Length:** 70 to 80cm (2ft 4in to 2ft 8in)
- **Gestation:** 2 months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 8
- **Habits:** Black-backed (sometimes known as silver-backed) jackals are monogamous and mate for life. Sometimes small packs are formed and these are usually made up of a pair and their adult offspring. They are often seen sneaking up to a big cat kill to grab a morsel. They have excellent hearing and scent of smell and are quick to locate kills.
- **Food:** Omnivorous and opportunistic, jackals can be found scavenging carcasses as well as hunting a variety of prey.
- **Reproduction:** Young are born blind in a den and their eyes open when they are approximately 10 days old. Their mother will change the location of their den to reduce chances of them being found by predators. During this time they both suckle and eat regurgitated food. They will leave the den within a month and gain their recognisable black and silver back as they age, being fully formed when they are two years old.

AFRICAN GOLDEN WOLF

Canis anthus

Swahili Name: Bweha wa mbuga
Maasai Name: Orbarie

Location: OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 10 years
- **Weight:** 7 to 14 kg (15 to 30lb)
- **Height:** 40 to 50cm (1ft 4in to 1ft 6in)
- **Length:** 75 to 80cm (2ft 6in to 2ft 8in)
- **Gestation:** 2 months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 8
- **Habits:** Golden wolves are monogamous. They are less territorial than black-backs and may sometimes be seen in larger family groups.
- **Food:** Omnivorous foragers and opportunistic predators, they will eat a variety of small to large mammals. During the wildebeest calving season, the afterbirth is considered to be a delicacy.
- **Reproduction:** Pups are born blind and vulnerable and as a result are born and spend the first few weeks of their life underground. Their eyes open when they are 10 days old and they eat regurgitated food and are weaned when they are four months old.
- **Did you know?** The African Golden Wolf used to be known as the Golden backed Jackal (*Canis anthus*) native to Eurasia, until it was re-classified in 2015.

SIDE-STRIPED JACKAL

Canis adustus

Swahili Name: Bweha Miraba
Maasai Name: Orbarie

Location: SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 10 years
- **Weight:** 7 to 13 kg (15 to 29lb)
- **Height:** 40 to 45cm (1ft 4in to 1ft 6in)
- **Length:** 70 to 80cm (2ft 2in to 2ft 8in)
- **Gestation:** 2 months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 6
- **Habits**: Nocturnal and tend to be solitary or seen in pairs, although they are sometimes found in small family groups. Mated pairs of jackals are territorial and are known to mark and defend the boundaries of their territory. They are noisy and their yipping calls are recognised and responded to only by family members. When alarmed they scream.
- **Food**: Omnivore eats mainly small mammals but will also eat invertebrates fruit and carrion. The diet changes according to the seasons and they focus on invertebrates in the wet season and mammals in the dry season.
- **Reproduction**: they mate for live and are monogamous. Pups continue to suckled and feed on regurgitated food until they are about 2 months. Dispersal take place after 11 months
- **Did you know?** They are more closely related to wolves than are any other species of jackal.

AFRICAN WILD DOG or HUNTING DOG

Lycaon pictus

Swahili Name: Mbwa mwitu
Maasai Name: Osuyiani

Location: OPC, SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

RARE

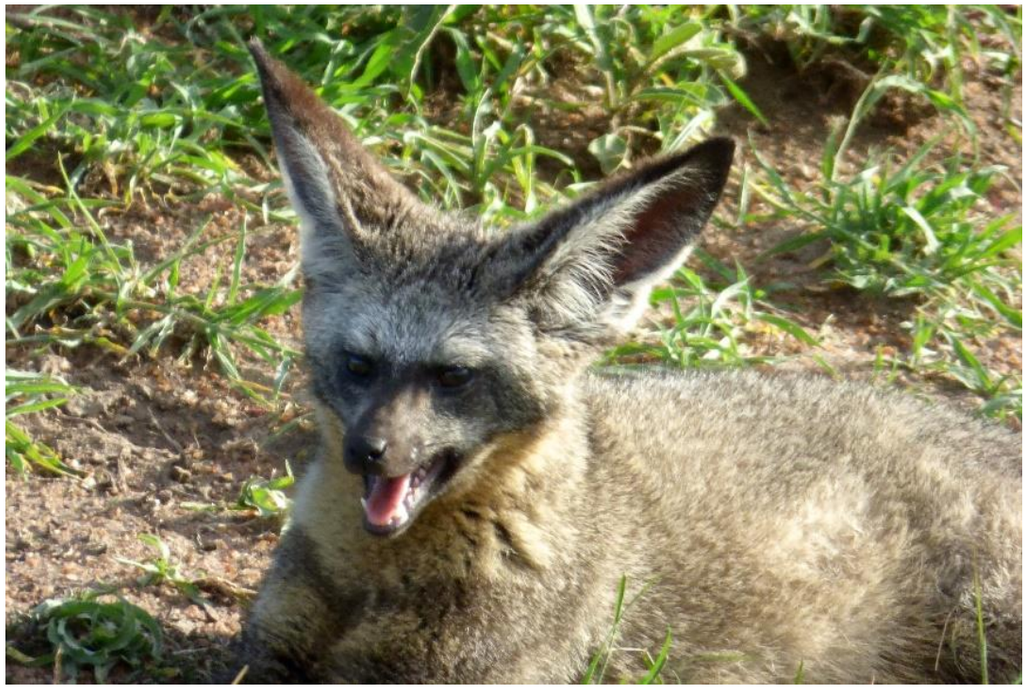
- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Weight:** 18 to 27 kg (40 to 60lb)
- **Height:** 60 to 75cm (2ft to 2ft 6in)
- **Length:** 75cm to 1.1m (2ft 6in to 3ft 7in)
- **Gestation:** 2 ¼ to 2 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 5 to 12 (can go up to 19)
- **Habits:** Wild dogs are social creatures and live in packs of 6 to50 with an established social hierarchy. However within this hierarchy there is little aggression and the environment is harmonious and playful. They are territorial and have huge ranges which they patrol as a pack.
- **Food:** They are highly efficient hunters with a 80% hunt / kill ratio. Medium sized antelopes are the favoured prey but they are known to take prey of all sizes including ostrich, giraffes, buffalo and eland. Attacks are coordinated and the spoils of the kill are shared evenly among the pack with individuals regurgitating food for adults, as well as young, that remain in the den.
- **Reproduction:** Pups are weaned when they are 10 to 11 weeks old and leave the den soon after. By the time they are one year old they are able to kill small prey and can be considered proficient hunters once they are over a year old.
- **Did you know?** Once sexual maturity is reached, males stay within the pack whilst females migrate to find and join new packs. Wild dog markings are as unique as their fingerprints- no two wild dog patterns are the same.

ENDANGERED

BAT-EARED FOX

Otocyon megalotis

Swahili Name: Bweha masigio
Maasai Name: Esiro



Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 10 years
- **Weight:** 3 to 5 kg (7 to 11lb)
- **Height:** 30cm (1ft)
- **Length:** 60 to 70cm (2ft to 2ft 3in)
- **Gestation:** 2 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 5
- **Habits:** Nocturnal. They mate for life but sometimes with multiple females who will share a den. There is some gender role reversal within the species as males are very involved in the rearing of the cubs and are largely responsible for their up-bringing as females tend to stay away from the den to feed in order to be able to provide milk to the cubs.
- **Food:** The diet is comprised mostly of termites which the foxes hear using their large ears. If no termites are present, other insects will be eaten as well as small mammals.
- **Reproduction:** There is some gender role reversal within the species as males are very involved in the rearing of the cubs and are largely responsible for their up-bringing as females tend to stay away from the den to feed in order to be able to provide milk to the cubs.

BANDED MONGOOSE

Mungos mungo

Swahili Name: Kicheche or Nguchiro miraba
Maasai Name: Enkishireni

Location: OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** 1 to 1.75 kg (2 ½ to 4lb)
- **Height:** 18cm (7in)
- **Length:** 33 to 41cm (1ft 1in to 1ft 4in)
- **Gestation:** 2 months
- **Number of young:** 4 (but cases of up to 6)
- **Habits:** very gregarious and live in groups up to 40 in number. They sleep together in a communal den moving between dens every few They are diurnal and are often seen foraging in open ground and will run for cover if there is a perceived threat. However they are territorial and very aggressive with other groups. Mongoose pups remain underground for the first 3 to 4 weeks of life. And are guarded male 'babysitters', when the rest of group is out foraging.
- **Food:** They are opportunistic feeders foraging for many hours a day and will eat invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians and other small mammals. They will also steal eggs from ground nesting birds. They often collaborate to kill large snakes.
- **Reproduction:** Unlike many other species of group mammals, all the females of the group breed at the same time. The group has a few dominant 'guarding' males that father the young although females are known to mate with males from a rival group in the midst of a fight.

DWARF MONGOOSE

Helogale parvula

Swahili Name: Kitafe
Maasai Name: Esimincha

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** 300 to 350g (10 ½ to 12 ½ oz)
- **Height:** 7.5cm (3in)
- **Length:** 22 to 25cm (9 to 10in)
- **Gestation: 7** weeks
- **Number of young:** 2 to 4 (but cases of up to 6)
- **Habits:** Diurnal and social, dwarf mongoose live in large family groups with an established hierarchy within each sex. They are nomadic, moving around on a regular basis and sharing territory with other groups. They mark theirs usually small home range with secretions from their anal and cheek glands. There are usually several dens on their home range which they will run to if they perceive that they are in danger.
- **Food:** Dwarf mongoose consume mostly insects as well as small snakes, birds and rodents.
- **Reproduction:** The dominant female of the group will give birth to between 2 and 4 litters per year. The subordinate females will then assist with the rearing of her offspring and will only become pregnant themselves if conditions for young are ideal. Young are kept below ground for up to a month, with one or two individuals staying behind with them. Subordinate females within the group will also produce milk for the young whilst all group members will forage for them. Once they are 10 weeks old they begin to hunt and seek food for themselves.

MARSH MONGOOSE

Atilax paludinosus

Swahili Name:
Maasai Name:

Location: NNP

- **Lifespan:** Up to 17 years
- **Weight:** 2.5 to 3 kg (5.5 to 6.6 lb)
- **Length:** Approximately 50cm body length (20 in) with a 33 to 50 cm (13 to 20 in) tail.
- **Gestation:** 9 to 11 weeks
- **Number of young:** 2 to 3
- **Habits:** Usually found in wetland areas, they generally rest during the hotter part of the day, being most active in the early morning and evenings.
- **Food:** Opportunistic omnivores, their diet comprises what is available in their locality, including frogs, crabs, rodents, fish, insects, eggs, fruits, berries and seeds.
- **Reproduction:** Breeding occurs twice each year, during the wet and dry seasons.
- **Did you know?** Marsh mongooses are excellent swimmers, diving below the surface for up to 15 seconds, earning them the name ‘Water Mongoose’ in some regions.

SLENDER MONGOOSE

Herpestes sanguineus

Swahili Name: Nguchiro
Maasai Name: Enkishireni Orkidongoy

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 525 to 800g (18 ½ to 28oz), Females 375 to 550g (13 to 19oz)
- **Height:** 11cm (4 ½ in)
- **Length:** 29 to 34cm (1ft to 1ft 2in)
- **Gestation:** 2 months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 4
- **Habits:** Usually diurnal, its lighter size makes it better at climbing trees than other mongoose and the use this ability to hunt birds. Known to share dens with other species of mongoose particularly those that are nocturnal
- **Food:** Although omnivorous, slender mongooses have a largely carnivorous diet comprised mainly of insects. However they are known to also eat rodents birds and lizards. They are also skilled at killing and eating snakes but this behaviour is not as common as one is led to believe due to the high risk involved.
- **Reproduction:** Females are largely responsible for the upbringing of their young who are born blind and reliant on their mother's milk. Their eyes are open by 3 weeks and when they are one month old they leave the den and begin to eat solid food. They are weaned when they are approximately 2 months old and are able to live independently by the time they are 10 weeks old.
- **Also see other mongoose species.**

WHITE-TAILED MONGOOSE

Ichneumia albicauda

Swahili Name: Kicheche mkia nyeupe; Kimburu
Maasai Name: Olpilis

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, OKC and OMC.

RARE

- **Lifespan:** Up to 10 years in captivity
- **Weight:** 2.9 to 4.2 kg (6.4 to 9.3 lb)
- **Height:** 30cm
- **Length:** 53 to 71 cm (Head and body) 40 to (tail)
- **Gestation:** 2 months
- **Number of young:** 1-3
- **Habits:** Nocturnal, territorial and solitary only coming together to mate. They are vocal and bark. When alarmed they use their anal glands to secrete a noxious smell
- **Food:** The White-Tailed Mongoose's diet consists mainly of insects and occasionally fruits and small vertebrate mammals as well as eggs. It is a skilled hunter and will eat whatever it can kill.
- **Reproduction:** Birthing happens during the wet season and young live in a burrow at first. They begin to forage independently just before they are weaned, at 9 months. Once they are a year old they live fully independently and will be ready to leave the maternal range.
- **Did you know?** White tails are the largest of all mongooses. They can be vocal, with a bark usually heard during the mating season.

RECORD HOLDER
LARGEST MONGOOSE

COMMON GENET

Genetta genetta

Swahili Name: Kanu
Maasai Name: Empuus keri

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan**: up to 13 years
- **Weight**: c 4.5 lb (2 kg)
- **Height**:
- **Length**: 80 to 105 cm
- **Gestation**: 7 to 8 weeks (some references say 10 weeks)
- **Number of young**: 1 to 4
- **Habits**: Nocturnal and usually solitary, Excellent climbers and very agile they are the only viverine that can stand on its hid feet. Found wherever there is where there is suitable prey it avoids open habitats. Easily tameable they are kept as exotic pets in some parts of the world.
- **Food**: Omnivores, will eat fruit and hunt small mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles.
- **Reproduction:** kittens weight only 3 ounces ant birth and their eyes remain closed for the first ten days
- **Did you know?** Although called a cat they are more closely related to mongoose

EAST AFRICAN CIVET

Civettictis civetta

Swahili Name: Fungo
Maasai Name: Orpilis keri

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Weight:** 8 to 20 kg (18 to 44 lb)
- **Height:** 25 to 40cm (1ft 2in to 1ft 4in)
- **Length:** 70 to 85cm (2ft 4in to 2ft 10in)
- **Gestation:** 2 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1 to 4
- **Habits:** Nocturnal and solitary. When threatened, it is capable of producing a surprisingly deep coughing growl and puffs up its fur and body to nearly double in apparent size.
- **Food:** Omnivorous, eats anything from fruit and insects to small mammals
- **Reproduction:** When born, each kitten has its own teat on its mother and depends on this supply of milk for the first six months after birth. When they are two months old, they are able to feed on their own.
- **Did you know?** The fluid that is secreted from the cat's perennial gland can be processed into many perfumes and some are kept in captivity for their 'civet' which is an ingredient in many high street perfumes such as Chanel Nº 5!

ZORILLA or STRIPED POLECAT

Ictonyx striatus

Swahili Name: Kichehe
Maasai Name: Orpilis Lolchala

Location: OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 4 to 5 years
- **Weight:** 0.6 kg (1.3 lb) to 1.3 kg (2.9 lb)
- **Height:** 10 to 15 cm (3.9 to 5.9 in)
- **Length:** 60 to 70 cm (24 to 28 in)
- **Gestation:** 1 month
- **Number of young:** 1 to 5
- **Habits:** Nocturnal and territorial. Territory is marked with its faeces and scent glands. Normally solitary and when seen in groups this is usually associated with breeding. This is reputed to be the smelliest animal and uses skunk like defensive behaviour and will spray a noxious fluid.
- **Food:** Carnivore – eats rodents, snakes, birds, amphibians, and insects.
- **Reproduction:** Kittens completely vulnerable and are born blind, deaf, and naked.
- **Did you know?** The Guinness Book of Animal Records claims a smelly zorilla once kept nine lions at bay while it was scavenging their kill.

RECORD HOLDER
SMELLIEST

RATEL /HONEY BADGER

Mellivora capenis

Swahili Name: Nyegere
Maasai Name: Enkowuaru oo naishi

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

RARE

- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Weight:** 8 to 14 kg (17 to 30lb)
- **Height:** 25cm (10in)
- **Length:** 71cm (2ft 4in)
- **Gestation:** 6 to 7 months
- **Number of young:** 2 (but can go up to 4)

RECORD HOLDER
MOST FEARLESS

- **Habits:** Honey badgers, also known as a 'ratel' are solitary and usually nocturnal. Males are territorial and will patrol and mark their territory each night.
- **Food:** Honey badgers are opportunistic and omnivorous and will hunt a variety of prey. As the name suggests they will invade bee hives and eat honey and bee larvae contained within. They are relentless and fearless and will dig, climb and swim to find food.
- **Reproduction:** Unlike adults, cubs are extremely vulnerable and are born blind and hairless. Its eyes open after two months and its mother will move it between dens every few days. After 3 months it will begin to accompany its mother out of the den but will stay with her for over 12 months as it learns the various hunting techniques that make ratels such a fearless predator.
- **Did you know?** The Guinness Book of World Records list the honey badger as the most fearless animal in the world and it is easy to see why. They attack venomous snakes such as mambas and cobras and are somewhat immune to snake venom. Their hides are loose over a quarter of an inch thick and are will resist most teeth as well as machete blows. They are so aggressive and defensive that they can stand their ground against leopards and lions and it is believed that they may attack large predators by tearing into their scrotums.

COMMON WILDEBEEST OR GNU

Connochaetes taurinus

Swahili Name: Nyumbu
Maasai Name: Oingat

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 185 to 230 kg (400 to 500lb), Females 150 to 180 kg (330 to 400lb)
- **Height:** 1.2 to 1.4m (3ft 11in to 4ft 7in)
- **Length:** 1.7 to 2.4m (5ft 8 to 7ft 10in)
- **Gestation:** 8 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Wildebeest are the backbone of the 'Great Migration', the world's largest gathering and travelling of land mammals and are therefore sociable as well as migratory. Whilst males do establish dominance within herds through jousting and snorting, they live gregariously and their herd size can range from tens to thousands of individuals.
- **Food:** Wildebeest are grazers with a preference for short grass.
- **Reproduction:** Calves are born in the middle of the herd where they are visible but also well defended. Approximately 85% of calves are born within a fortnight which provides safety in numbers as each individual calf is less of a target. Wildebeest calves are able to stand and run within an hour to enable them to stay close to their mothers. They begin to graze within two weeks and will be weaned by four months. They will stay with their mothers till she has her next calf.

TOPI

Damaliscus lunatus

Swahili Name: Nyamera
Maasai name: Olkinya Nkosua

Location: OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Ma to es 120 to 14 to kg (265 to 300lb), Females 110 to 120 kg (240 to 265lb)
- **Height:** 1.2m (3ft 10in)
- **Length:** 1.8m (6ft)
- **Gestation:** 8 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Topi are gregarious and live in herds of 15 to 20. Although sometimes these herds can be much larger. Their complex social structure is linked to the distribution of food. In some areas, topi have large territories within a home range, occupied throughout the year by a male and a small breeding herd of females. The home range is guarded by both males and the females In other areas, female topi move across the territories of many different males. In this social system, the male's territory is small and unoccupied throughout the year. Each male has his "stomping ground and can be observed standing for long periods on a prominent place. They are known to be one of the fastest antelope and can reach speeds up to 70 km/hr (43 mph)
- **Food:** Topi are grazers with a preference for green grass. If the grass is fresh they can go without access to water. They graze mainly in the early morning and evening.
- **Reproduction:** Females come into oestrous for only one day of the year. To ensure that they conceive females try to mate with more than one male and will aggressively disrupt mating between their favourite males and other females. The birthing season is usually between October and December. The young calf stays with its mother for a year or until a new calf is born.

THOMSON'S GAZELLE

Gazella thomsonii

Swahili Name: Swala tomi
Maasai Name: Enkopera

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Weight:** Males 20 to 29 kg (44 to 64lb), Females 15 to 22 kg (33 to 48lb)
- **Height:** 60 to 70cm (2ft to 2ft 3in)
- **Length:** 90cm to 1.1m (2ft 11in to 3ft 7in)
- **Gestation:** 5 ½ to 6 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Whilst females are sociable and stay in non-hierarchial herds of up to 50, males are territorial and when mature will try to dominate a herd of females. Young males will form bachelor pools and stay together near the outskirts of larger herds.
- **Food:** 'Tommies' are grazers and have a preference for short grasses.
- **Reproduction:** Tommies usually breed every 6 months and the newborn fawn will remain hidden in long grass by its mother for at least two months, only revealing itself for short periods to suckle. The pair will then join a herd and the fawn will begin to eat solid food, although weaning does not occur at this stage. They usually stay together till they are yearlings at which point males are driven away and females are reaching sexual maturity.

GRANT'S GAZELLE

Gazella granti

Swahili Name: Swala granti
Maasai Name: Enkoiborr siadi

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 60 to 75 kg (130 to 165lb), Females 40 to 50 kg (90 to 110lb)
- **Height:** 80 to 90cm (2ft 7in to 3ft)
- **Length:** 1 to 1.4m (3ft 3in to 4ft 7in)
- **Gestation:** 6 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Males are territorial and when young will fight to establish dominance and lead a herd. However as they age, instead of fighting they will perform a display ritual to assert dominance.
- **Food:** Grant's Gazelles both graze and browse but they are predominantly browsers and obtain most of their moisture through the leaves and grasses that they eat.
- **Reproduction:** Once born, the fawn will lie hidden in long grass for about two weeks. The mother will memorise the spot and then return there up to 5 times a day to allow the fawn to suckle. Weaning takes place at 6 months and will join a herd soon after as sexual maturity occurs at 18 months.
- **Did you know?** Some people may find it difficult to tell the difference between the 'Tommy' (see previous page) and a 'Grant's'. Key differences include a white rump extending over onto the lower back of the Grant's whereas for the 'Tommy' it ends at the base of the tail. Grant's are larger and have a lighter coat. Ask your guide for further details.

IMPALA

Aepyceros melampus

Swahili Name: Swala pala
Maasai Name: Entarakuet

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 50 to 80 kg (110 to 175lb), Females 40 to 55 kg (90 to 120lb)
- **Height:** 80 to 90cm (2ft 7in to 2ft 11in)
- **Length:** 1.3 to 1.6m (4ft 3in to 5ft 3in)
- **Gestation:** 6 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Impala are diurnal and are usually found in herds of bachelors or herds led by one dominant male with a harem of females. The male will guard the harem jealously but his reign is usually short lived during the exhausting mating season. As they are prey for most of the apex predators they are very alert. Relying on this and their agility and speed. They run at speeds faster than 60km/h. and can leap up to 10m in length and 3m in height.
- **Food:** The impala is an adaptable forager switching between grazing and browsing in different seasons or habitats. This adaptability means that unlike other antelopes the impala does not need to migrate long distances. When water is scarce they can survive on the moisture in succulent vegetation.
- **Reproduction:** The breeding season, known as the rut, begins toward the end of the wet season in May. From March The males begin preparations for mating in March with increased hormone production, genital growth and darkening of the coat. Birthing usually happens at mid day when predators are least active. Fawn are hidden for a few days or sometimes more before returning to a nursery group joining its mother to nurse or when predators are near.
- **Did you know?** Your guides will use the behaviour of impala and other antelope to help them find predators. These alert prey species will use alarm calls and will stare at a predator.

BUSHBUCK

Tragelaphus scriptus

Swahili Name: Pongo
Maasai Name: Olpua

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 40 to 70 kg (90 to 155lb), Females 25 to 50 kg (55 to 110lb)
- **Height:** 65 to 95cm (2ft 2in to 3ft 1in)
- **Length:** 1.1 to 1.5m (3ft 7in to 4ft 11in)
- **Gestation:** 6 to 6 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Bushbuck are solitary and somewhat nocturnal. As the name suggests, they live in areas with dense vegetation which enables them to conceal themselves and complements their diet well.
- **Food:** Browsers, bushbuck eat small shrubs and eat slowly, selecting their food carefully before eating it.
- **Reproduction:** Females will leave their young hidden and will visit it periodically during the day to allow it to suckle and eat its dung so as not to leave a scent for potential predators. The fawn will not venture out with the mother until it is 3 to 4 months old.
- **Did you know?** Staying at Porini Mara Camp? Look out for the bushbuck that use the foliage around the camp for cover from predators.

  Bushbuck and baboons have an interesting relationship. You will often find them together as the baboons' alarm calls warn of approaching predators and they drop food from the trees which are a delicacy for bushbuck. However the downside is that baboons will sometimes grab and eat bushbuck fawns at random!

BOHOR REEDBUCK

Redunca redunca

Swahili Name: Tohe ndope
Maasai Name: Enkuluo

Location: NNP, SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Weight:** Males 45 to 60 kg (100 to 130lb), Females 35 to 45 kg (75 to 100lb)
- **Height:** 75 to 85cm (2ft 4in to 2ft 9in)
- **Length:** 1.2 to 1.4m (3ft 11in to 4ft 7in)
- **Gestation:** 7 to 7 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Mostly nocturnal although active in the early evenings. Usually found in reed beds near water but they do not usually enter deeper water and graze on marginal vegetation in shallow water. They are usually seen alone or in small breeding groups. This is a shy antelope and remains hidden for most of the day when alarmed they emit a sharp high-pitched whistle and gallop away.
- **Food:** Grazers that mostly eat young, fresh grass. They need to be close to a water source.
- **Reproduction:** The reedbuck breeds through the year. The female gives birth in the deep cover of dense and tall grass and the infant remains hidden for the next two months. The mother makes short visits for just 10 to 30 minutes each day to nurse it.

CHANLERS MOUNTAIN REEDBUCK

Redunca fulvorufula chanleri

Swahili Name: Tohe ndope
Maasai Name: Enkuluo

Location: NNP

- **Lifespan:** Up to 18 years in captivity
- **Weight:** 30 kg (66lb)
- **Height:** 75 cm (30in)
- **Length:** 1.2 to 1.4m (3ft 11in to 4ft 7in)
- **Gestation:** 8 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Usually found in herds of around 5 individuals, with a single male governing females and their young. Younger males are initially tolerated but will be evicted by the dominant male as they reach sexual maturity. At this stage they usually gather in bachelor groups before attempting to take over a herd.
- **Food:** Grazers that mostly eat in the mornings and early evenings. They need to be close to a water source.
- **Reproduction:** Sexual maturity generally occurs at 12 months, with the dominant male mating with all the females in the herd. Females usually produce one offspring every 9 to 14 months.

COMMON ELAND

Taurotragus oryx

Swahili Name: Pofu
Maasai Name: Osirua

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 15 to 20 years
- **Weight:** Males 500 to 900 kg (1,100 to 1,980lb), Females 330 to 500 kg (725 to 2,100lb)
- **Height:** 1.4 to 1.8m (4ft 7in to 5ft 11in)
- **Length:** 2.4 to 3.4m (7ft 10in to 11ft 2in)
- **Gestation:** 8 ½ to 9 months
- **Number of young:** 1

RECORD HOLDER
LARGEST ANTELOPE

- **Habits:** Nomadic and diurnal though more active during dusk and dawn. Females and young tend to form their own groups and travel more extensively than males who become more solitary as they age. Previously quite shy they are becoming more trusting of humans. As male Elands grow older, their coat darkens to a charcoal / grey colour. Males are also recognisable by their prominent dewlaps.
- **Food:** Although they are often seen grazing, it is believed that Eland are usually browsers preferring to eat leaves from small shrubs and bushes.
- **Reproduction:** Mating usually occurs during the rainy season. Young are born in a solitary environment and the mother will her the calf for the first two weeks after which it will join a nursery group. After two years, the calf will join a normal herd.
- **Did you know:** Eland are the slowest and largest of the planet's antelopes. There is some debate as whether they are antelopes at all as some scientists believe they have greater genetic similarities with bovines – notice their cow like tails.
Listen carefully when watching Eland. Hear that click? The heavy weight of the Eland on its cloven hooves cause them to splay out when the foot is put down. As a result, when its lifted for the next step, the two halves of the hoof snap together with a loud click.
If you see some Eland on the move, have your camera ready! They may surprise you with a magnificent leap up to 3 metres high, despite their heavy weight and large size.

COMMON WATERBUCK

Kobus ellipsiprymnus

Swahili Name: Kuru
Maasai Name: Olmoingo

Location: NNP and SC

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 200 to 250 kg (440 to 580lb), Females 160 to 200 kg (350 to 440lb)
- **Height:** 1.1 to 1.3m (3ft 7in to 4ft 3in)
- **Length:** 1.8 to 2.2m (6ft to 7ft 3in)
- **Gestation:** 8 ½ to 9 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Waterbuck are quiet and calm antelope. They are territorial to some extent and generally stay in the same area all year round.
- **Food:** Predominantly grazers but will browse certain types of vegetation. Whilst they are grazers they are still selective- they eat the different grasses that grow near water courses and as such do not have to compete with other antelope for feeding areas.
- **Reproduction:** Once born, young waterbuck are kept hidden in dense vegetation for the first 2 to 4 weeks and suckled a few times each day by their mothers. She also cleans the calf with her tongue in an attempt to reduce its scent to potential predators. Weaning occurs at approximately 7 months.

DEFASSA WATERBUCK

Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa

Swahili Name: Kuru
Maasai Name: Olmoingo

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 200 to 250 kg (440 to 580lb), Females 160 to 200 kg (350 to 440lb)
- **Height:** 1.1 to 1.3m (3ft 7in to 4ft 3in)
- **Length:** 1.8 to 2.2m (6ft to 7ft 3in)
- **Gestation:** 8 ½ to 9 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Same as common waterbuck
- **Food:** Same as common waterbuck
- **Reproduction:** Same as common waterbuck, with which they have been known to interbreed.
- **Did you know?** The key difference between the Defassa and Common Waterbucks is the white pattern on the rump. The Defassa waterbuck has patches either side of the rump whereas the common waterbuck has a ring encircling the rump.

LESSER KUDU

Tragelaphus imberbis

Swahili Name: Tandala Ndogo
Maasai Name: Emaalo

Location: SC

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 15 years
- **Weight:** Males typically weigh 92 to 108 kg (203 to 238 lb) and females 56 to 70 kg (123 to 154 lb)
- **Height:** Males 95 to 105 cm (37 to 41 in) Females 90 to 100 cm (35 to 39 in)
- **Length:** 110 to 140 cm (43 to 55 in)
- **Gestation:** 8 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:**A shy antelope which is primarily nocturnal and retreats into shelter at dawn. Will stand motionless if it sees something that is threatening. The alarm call is a sharp bark often confused with a bushbuck. They are found in dry thorn brush in both mixed or single sex groups usually of 2 to 5 individuals.. No apparent hierarchy in the herds unlike many other antelope there is no territorial behaviour.
- **Food:** A browser that mostly eats leaves, herbs and twigs, sometimes grasses and fruit. In the dry season succulents are eaten for their liquid content.
- **Reproduction:** Calves are born throughout the year. The calf is concealed away from its mother who returns mainly in the evening to allow suckling. The mother and calf communicate through low bleats .

COKE'S HARTEBEEST

Alcelaphus buselaphus cokei

Swahili Name: Kongoni
Maasai Name: Olkondi

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 150 kg (330lb), Females 120 kg (265lb)
- **Height:** 1.2m (3ft 11in)
- **Length:** 2.1m (7ft)
- **Gestation:** 8 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** For the most part, Coke's hartebeest are relatively immobile within a range unless forced to move due to a lack of food or water. Males are highly territorial and can often be seen on top of small mounds (much like Topi) keeping guard for intruders. Generally confrontation between males does not result in physical altercations but relies instead on extended displays and posturing.
- **Food:** Grazers with little preference for a particular food, hartebeest adapt to any environment where vegetation is freely available.
- **Reproduction:** Interestingly Hartebeest do not associate with their own generation as much as they do with their own offspring and parents. Females give birth away from the rest of the herd, leaving the calf hidden in bushes for approximately two weeks in order for it to suckle.
- **Did you know?** Hartebeest do not have the name because their horns look like a heart but it is actually an Afrikaans derived word meaning 'Deer beast' from the 17th century.

JACKSONS HARTEBEEST

Alcelaphus buselaphus jacksoni

Swahili Name: Kongoni
Maasai Name: Olkondi

Location: OPC

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 182 kg (400lb), Females 155 kg (340lb)
- **Height:** 1.3m (4ft 4in)
- **Length:** 2.1m (7ft)
- **Gestation:** 8 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** A fast runner, capable of reaching speeds reaching speeds of 70 kph. Males guard their territories and broken horns and wounds are often seen. Can be seen standing on termite mounds like Topi.
- **Food:** An opportunistic grazer.
- **Reproduction:** Mates through the year although peak breeding is dependant on the availability of food.

COMMON DUIKER

Sylvicapra grimmia

Swahili Name: Paa
Maasai Name: Empanas

Location: NNP, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 11 years
- **Weight:** Males 15 to 21 KG (33 to 46 lb), Females 17 to 25 KG (37 to 55 lb)
- **Height:** Males 5.5m (18ft), Females 4.9m (16ft)
- **Length:** 50cm (20 in)
- **Gestation:** 3 to 6 months
- **Number of young:** 1 (rare cases of twins)
- **Habits:** Usually both diurnal and nocturnal. Both genders are very territorial, especially within their sexes but males and females will share territory but will only come together to mate.
- **Food:** Herbivorous browsers but also known to eat small mammals and birds as well as insects and even carrion. A lot of their hydration comes through their varied diet and as a result can go for days without drinking water.
- **Reproduction:** Although usually monogamous, in some cases males have been known to mate with more than one female. Females give birth in dense vegetation and hides the young at first although they are able to run within a day of being born. Young are fully grown by7 months and are females are ready to give birth when they are 1 year old.
- **Other info**: This is one of the few mammals with sexual dimorphism such that the female of the species is larger and heavier than the male. They can easily be confused with a dik-dik.

KIRK'S DIK DIK

Madoqua kirkii

Swahili Name: Dikidiki
Maasai Name: Eronko

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Weight:** 4.5 to 5.5 kg (10 to 12lb)
- **Height:** 25 to 40cm (1ft 2in to 1ft4in)
- **Length:** 56cm (1ft 10 in)
- **Gestation:** 6 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Monogamous, dik diks mate for life. Their disproportionately large ears and eyes allow them to be aware of predators before they are seen as they prefer to hide rather than run. They mark the boundaries of their range with small dung heaps and with secretions from their preorbital glands.
- **Food:** Dik-diks are browsers and obtain moisture from the vegetation that they eat to the extent that they do not need water.
- **Reproduction:** Young are born and then hidden in dense vegetation or inside bushes for the first two to three weeks after which they may stay with their parents until they are so large that it is difficult to recognise which is the juvenile. They are weaned when they are three to four months old.
- **Did you know?** Unlike most species of antelope, the males are smaller and lighter than females. They are so small that they are fair game for most predators, including birds of prey! They are the smallest of Kenya's antelope.

SUNI

Neotragus moschatus

Swahili Name: Paa
Maasai Name: Esuni

Location: NNP

- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Weight:** 4.5 to 5.5 kg (10 to 12lb)
- **Height:** 30 to 43cm (1ft to 17 in)
- **Length:** 57 to 62cm (22 to 24 in)
- **Gestation:** 6 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Suni are generally nocturnal. Males (identified by their short, black, ridged horns) are highly territorial and release a odourous secretions from the preorbital glands near their eyes. This is a method of communication and marking territory, delineating territorial boundaries to other males.
- **Food:** Suni are browsers, eating a variety of fruits, flowers and leaves as well as certain fungi.
- **Reproduction:** Sexual maturity is reached at six months old, with females giving birth to one calf weighing just under a kilo. Calves are kept hidden whilst mothers feed until they are weaned at the age of two months.
- **Did you know?** Like dik-dik, Suni obtain much of their moisture from their food, and therefore rarely drink water.

KLIPSPRINGER

Oreotragus oreotragus

Swahili Name: Mbuzi mawe
Maasai Name: Enkine Oosoito

Location: OPC, OKC, NC and OMC.

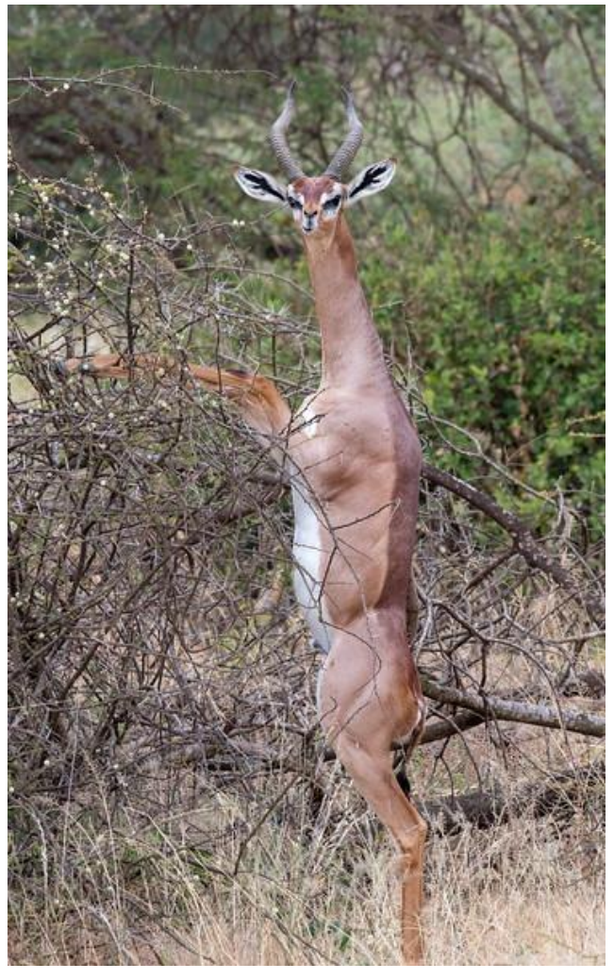
RARE

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 10 kg (22lb), Females 13 kg (29lb)
- **Height:** 50 to 55cm (1ft 8 in to 1ft 10in
- **Length:** 80cm to 1m (2ft 8in to 3ft 3in)
- **Gestation:** 7 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Klipsringers are monogamous and mate for life but may occasionally come together into a small groups. There is invariably a sentinel or watcher looking out for the group. The agility of these antelope is remarkable and they seem to leap up vertical rock faces. They launch themselves off rocks and land on footholds smaller than a fist.
- **Food:** Klipspringers are browsers and since they usually live on high and rocky areas with limited water, they obtain much of their water through moisture in the plants that they eat.
- **Reproduction:** Like many antelopes, young are hidden in dense vegetation for the first 3 months and the mother will return periodically during the day to allow them to suckle.
- **Did you know?** Klipsringers stand on the tips of their hooves to allow them to be nimble for climbing steep rock faces. Whilst driving in the conservancies, keep an eye on the tops of the rocky hills and outcrops Although shy animals, there is a chance you will spy the silhouette of a Klipsringer near the very top.

GERENUK or WALLER'S GAZELLE

Litocranius walleri

Swahili Name: Swala twiga
Maasai Name: Enanchat



Location: SC

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 12 years
- **Weight:** Males 45 kg (100lb), Females 33 kg (75lb)
- **Height:** 85cm to 1m (2ft 9in to 3ft 5in)
- **Length:** 1.5 to 1.6m (4ft 10in to 5ft 2in)
- **Gestation:** 6 ½ to 7 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Males are territorial and sometimes solitary but females are sociable and will gather in small groups. This solitary behaviour a atypical of other gazelles. Ashy antelope that tends to rely on staying motionless under cover when it is disturbed.
- **Food:** Using their long necks to their advantage, gerenuks will browse from tall shrubs and small trees, usually standing on their hind legs in order to reach even higher. They avoid eating grass.
- **Reproduction:** Females give birth in isolation and the fawn will remain hidden in long grass for the first three weeks of its life. She will return to suckle it and eat its waste so as not to attract predators.
- **Did you know?** The Gerenuk is considered to be very humble and are known to behave in a particularly kind manner toward their own species.

STEINBOK

Raphicerus campestris

Swahili Name: Tondoro or Funo
Maasai Name: Olpanas

Location: OPC

- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Weight:** 11 kg (24lb)
- **Height:** 50 to 55cm (1ft 8in to 1ft 10in)
- **Length:** 80cm (2ft 7in)
- **Gestation:** 5 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Solitary and usually diurnal. Despite being solitary, a pair will share territory and through scent marking will be aware of each other's presence and will know when to come together to mate.
- **Food:** Steinbok are browsers and will only eat grass if there are no short shrubs available. They receive all the water that they need from their diet which means they do not need to run the risk of exposing themselves at rivers and waterholes.
- **Reproduction:** Like many antelope, when a Steinbok fawn is born its mother will keep it hidden in long grass for 2 weeks before it is weaned at 3 months. Sexual maturity occurs at approximately 7 months for females and 9 months for males.

EAST-AFRICAN ORYX

Oryx beisa

Swahili Name: Choroa
Maasai Name: Emaalo

Location: OPC and SC

- **Lifespan:** 18 to 20 years
- **Weight:** Males 167 to 209 kg (368 to 461 lb), Females 116 to 188 kg (256 to 414 lb)
- **Height:** 10 to 120 cm (43 to 47 in) tall at the shoulder
- **Length:** 53 to 170 cm (60 to 67 in)
- **Gestation:** 9 months
- **Number of young**: 1
- **Habits:** Found mostly in semi arid grasslands and acacia woods. Unlike other antelopes, non territorial males are found in the same herds as females.. However more dominant males do exhibit signs of being territorial and mark their areas with dung deposits. The herds are usually about 10 to 40 adults although sometimes they can be seen in very large numbers.
- **Food:** Predominantly grazers but will browse during the dry season. Succulent plants are favored which means that they can go for up to a month without drinking.
- **Reproduction:** They breed throughout the year and females move away for the herd to give birth, hiding the infant for the first three weeks after which they return to the herd. They are able to breed again almost immediately.
- **Did you know?** There are two subspecies of East-African Oryx – the common beisa oryx (*Oryx beisa beisa*) found in the dry and arid lands north of the Tana River, and the fringe-eared oryx (*Oryx beisa callotis*, pictured) found south of the Tana River in southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania. You can tell them apart from the black tufts on the tips of the fringe-eared oryx's ears.

ORIBI

Ourebia ourebi

Swahili Name: Taya
Maasai Name: Enkoilin

Location: OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 years
- **Weight:** 14 to 16 kg (30 to 35lb)
- **Height:** 60 cm (2ft)
- **Length:** 95 cm to 1.1m (3ft 1 in to 3ft 5 in)
- **Gestation:** 6 to 7 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Oribi are sometimes found on their own but may also exist in small groups with one male and a few females. They are well camouflaged and stay still when they spot a predator and only attempt to flee if it is within a few metres.
- **Food:** Oribi prefer to graze but will browse on young shoots during the dry season when grass is dry and plants contain more moisture.
- **Reproduction:** Young are hidden in young grass for the first 8 to 10 weeks of their life with the mother returning periodically to allow her fawn to suckle. They are weaned at 5 months

BIG FIVE!

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

Loxodonta africana

Swahili Name: Ndovu or Tembo
Maasai Name: Oltome

Location: OPC, SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

Lifespan: 60 years

Weight: Males 5,000 to 6,000 kg (11,000 to 13,300lb), Females 2,750 to 3,250 kg (6,050 to 7,150lb)

Height: 2.7 to 3.2m (9ft to 10ft 6in)

Length: 5 to 7.5 m (16ft 4in to 24ft 6in)

Gestation: 22 months (this is the longest amongst mammals)

Number of young: 1 (rare incidents of twins)

Habits: highly social animals that live in large herds. Their intelligence is comparable to apes and dolphins, elephant are capable of many emotions including joy, grief and anxiety. The matriarchs lead herds and pass on their knowledge to other family members. It is thought that it is possible to see if an elephant is right or left handed by the difference in wear and tear on tusks

Food: Elephants are browsers and grazers. They often pull down trees and some consider this destructive but they are a key stone species to develop different habitats. They open up thickets and create grasslands as well as dig waterholes. Adults eat as much as 150 kg (330 lb) of vegetation and 40 L (11 US gal) of water in a day..

Reproduction: Can breed at any time when the conditions re correct . After the long gestation the birthing intervals are about 4 to 5 years.

Did you know: African Elephants are the world's largest land mammals. It was thought that elephants walk fast but don't run. Research now shows that suggested that when at speed the front legs walk while their hind legs run in a form of trot. They are largest of the land mammals,

RECORD HOLDER

LARGEST LAND MAMMAL

BIG FIVE!

CAPE BUFFALO

Syncerus caffer

Swahili Name: Mbogo or Nyati
Maasai Name: Olarro

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 15 to 20 years
- **Weight:** Males 500 to 800 kg (1,100 to 1,760lb), Females 550 kg (1,210lb)
- **Height:** 1.4 to 1.6m (4ft 8in to 5ft 4in)
- **Length:** 1.8 to 2.5m (6ft to 8ft 3in)
- **Gestation:** 11 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Although more mature males may have to compete with younger males during mating periods, the combined size and strength of the herd with young males present creates a less vulnerable herd. Therefore mature males tolerate the presence of competitors to allow which leads to large herds. Their formidable horns with the plate like shield of bone or 'boss' is used for defense and sparring with one another.

  Hierarchical society with a single dominant bull. Buffalo exhibit many forms of social behaviour such as protecting the young and weak with a defensive circle around them and even rescuing herd members that are being attacked by predators. Additionally, decisions over which direction to move are taken by mature females in a democratic manner- they are not led by a single matriarch.
- **Food:** Preference for grazing but may also browse woody vegetation. Like all bovines, buffalo have four stomach chambers.
- **Reproduction:** Cows usually reach birthing age at around 5 years and hide their newborns in vegetation for the first few weeks before moving to the central area of the herd where they are safer from predators.
- **Did you know?** Despite being indifferent and aggressive to many other species, Buffaloes allow ox-pecker birds to eat parasites in their hide and even inside their nostrils.

HIPPOPOTAMUS

Hippopotamus amphibius

Swahili Name: Kiboko
Maasai Name: Olmakau

Location: NNP, OPC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 35 years
- **Weight:** Males 1,500 to 3,000 kg (3,300 to 6,600lb), Females 1,000 to 2,000 kg (2,200 to 4,400lb)
- **Height:** 1.4 to 1.6m (4ft 5in to 5ft 3in)
- **Length:** 3 to 3.7m (10 to 12ft)
- **Gestation:** 8 months
- **Number of young:** 1

RECORD HOLDER

MOST HUMAN DEATHS

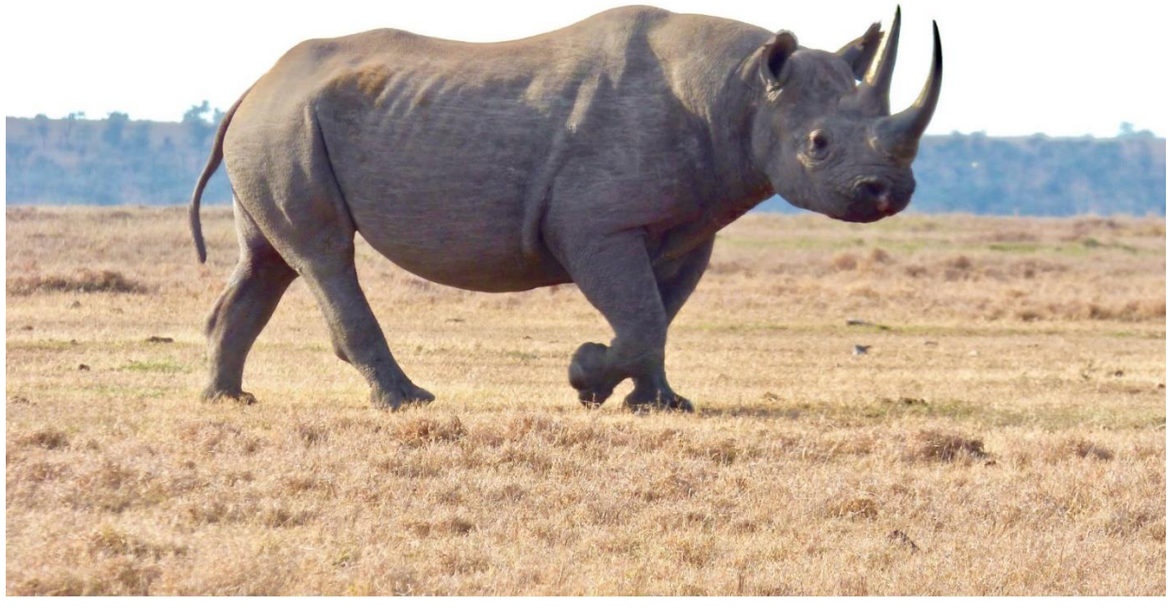
- **Habits:** Usually partially submerged during daylight hours to avoid sunburn and dehydration. Adults are capable of remaining submerged for up to five minutes and males are known to be very territorial. Hippos use defined pathways between water and their feeding areas, mostly after dark. They account for more human deaths than any other mammal in Africa
- **Food:** The large incisors are used only for fighting and do not facilitate feeding in any way as they mostly graze in short pastures although on occasion they have been known to feed on the flesh of dead animals, although this is very rare.
- **Reproduction:** Birthing peaks during the rains and along with dolphins and whales, hippos are some of the only mammals to mate in water. Cows usually give birth in shallow water or on land and calves stay separately with their mothers away from the herd for between 1 to 6 weeks. Calves can suckle on water as well as on land and begin to graze at 5 months, being weaned when closer to a year old.

BIG FIVE!

BLACK RHINOCEROS

Diceros bicornis

Swahili Name: Kifaru
Maasai Name: Emuny



Location: NNP, OPC

- **Lifespan:** 30 to to 40 years
- **Weight:** 900 to 1,400 kg (2,000 to 3,080lb)
- **Height:** 1.6 to 1.7m (5ft 6in to 5ft 8in)
- **Length:** 3.2 to 3.4m (10ft 6in to 11ft)
- **Gestation:** 15 to 16 months
- **Number of young:** 1

RARE

- **Habits:** Depending on their habitat, black rhinos are usually solitary and territorial but can sometimes be social. Territorial range is approximately 4 to 4.7 km for males and 6 to 7.5 km for females. They have sensitive skin and therefore spend most of the day in the shade, feeding mostly in the mornings and evenings.
- **Food:** Black rhinos are browsers, usually eating woody plants with their strong teeth. This is unlike white rhinos which usually graze on grass.
- **Reproduction:** Females reach sexual maturity at 3.5 to 4 years old, giving birth in a solitary area. Weaning usually occurs at around 2 months but calves have been known to continue suckling for up to a year. Calves stay with their mothers for 2 to 4 years before being rejected when the females is ready to reproduce again.
- **Did you know:** Black rhinos have arguably inferior parenting skills to white rhinos, with their calves walking behind them where they are more vulnerable. This is unlike white rhinos, whose calves walk in front. They have poor eyesight and compensate for this with an excellent sense of smell and hearing. Whilst some cultures believe that rhino horn is a form of medicine it is simply matted hair and is biologically similar to a human fingernail.

ENDANGERED

SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS

Ceratotherium simum

Swahili Name: Kifaru
Maasai Name: Emuny

Location: NNP, OPC

ENDANGERED

RARE

- **Lifespan:** 30 to 40 years
- **Weight:** Males 2,000 to 2,300 kg (4,400 to 5,060lb), Females 1,500 kg (3,300lb)
- **Height:** 1.65 to 1.8m (5ft 6in to 6ft)
- **Length:** 3.4 to 3.8m (11 to 12ft)
- **Gestation:** 16 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Unlike black rhinos, they are usually gregarious, sometimes being in group of up to 14, though mostly female. Males' territory is usually 1 to 3 square km with females being 6 to 20, although these figures depend on their habitat.
- **Food:** White rhinos are grazers and have a preference for short grasses.
- **Reproduction:** Females are read to mate at 6 to 7 years of age and when doing so, may stay together for up to 20 days. Calves are born vulnerable and with poor sight and stay close to their mothers. They eat their first solid food when they are about two months old and but may continue to suckle during their second year. Calves usually stay with their mothers till they are chased away when she is about to give birth to their current calf, which is usually after 2 to 3 years.
- **Did you know?** One of the key visual differences between the black and white rhinos is the mouth. As the black rhino is a browser, it has a drooping upper lip that is used to hook leaves whereas the white rhino's wider and square mouth is suited to grazing.

NORTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS

Ceratotherium simum cottoni

Swahili Name: Kifaru
Maasai Name: Emuny

RARE

RECORD HOLDER

RAREST

- **All facts are same as Southern White Rhinocerous**

- **Did you know?** This is one of the rarest of species. There are only two in Kenya. These individuals were flown from Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic to Kenya's Ol Pejeta Conservancy in December 2009. The last surviving male, named Sudan, died in Ol Pejeta Conservancy in 2018.

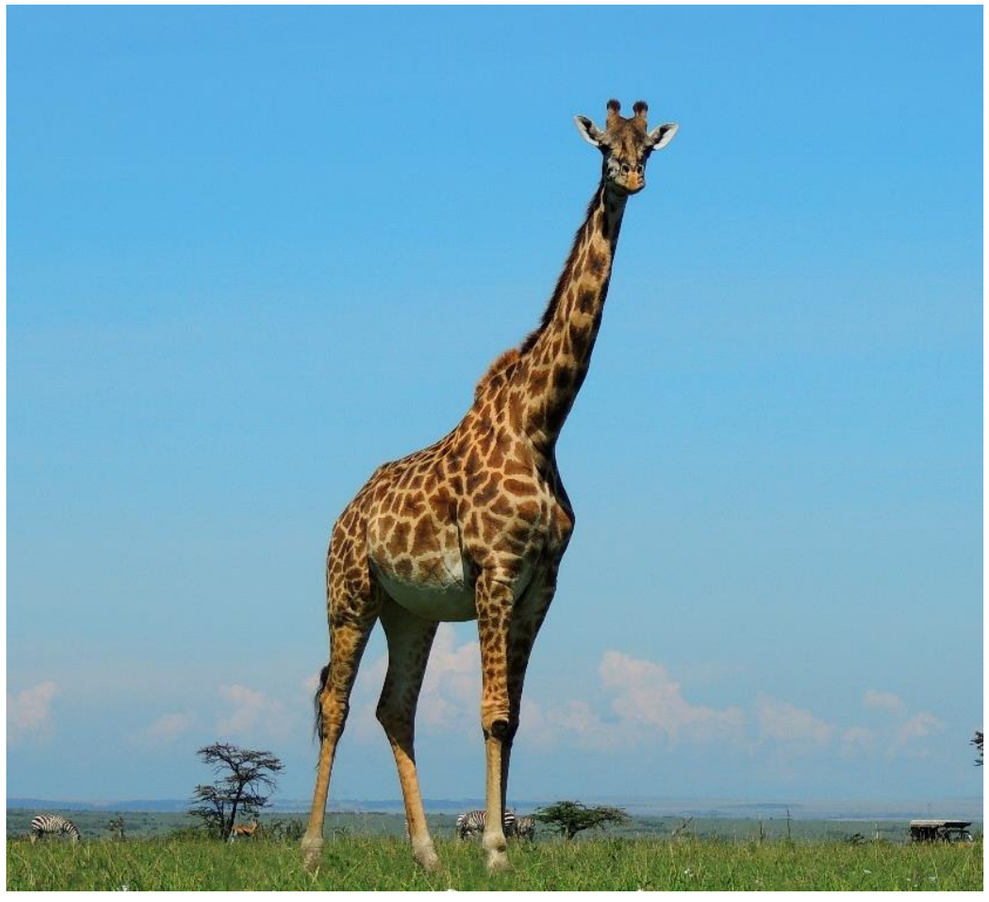
Location: OPC

ENDANGERED

MAASAI GIRAFFE

Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi

Swahili Name: Twiga
Maasai Name: Olmeut



Location: NNP, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 20 to 28 years
- **Weight:** Males 1,100 kg (2,400lb), Females 700 kg (1,500lb)
- **Height:** Males 5.5m (18ft), Females 4.9m (16ft)
- **Length:** 2.5 to 3.7m (8ft 2in to 12ft 2 in)
- **Gestation:**14 to 15 months
- **Number of young:** 1 (rare cases of twins)
- **Habits:** Usually calm and serene creatures, males establish dominance through fighting rituals known as 'necking'. When defending themselves against predators, they have a highly effective back-kick which has been known to disable and even kill lions.
- **Food:** Giraffes have long and tough tongues that are able to wrap around the thorny acacias and succulent tips of trees that are unreachable for most other herbivores. However, the ease of reaching up high makes getting their heads to ground level, such as for drinking, hard work. They accomplish this by splaying their legs wide and leaning, not bending, their necks forward till their head is able to touch the ground.
- **Reproduction:** Female giraffes give birth whilst standing and do so whilst isolated from the herd (for a few days), often returning to the same place to give birth numerous times. Giraffes grow for the first 7 to 10 years of their lives.
- **Did you know?** The kick of a giraffe can disable and even kill a lion!

RETICULATED GIRAFFE

Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata

Swahili Name: Twiga
Maasai Name: Olmeut

Location: OPC

- **Lifespan:** 20 to 28 years
- **Weight:** Males 1,100 kg (2,400lb), Females 700 kg (1,500lb)
- **Height:** Males 5.5m (18ft), Females 4.9m (16ft)
- **Length:** 2.5 to 3.7m (8ft 2in to 12ft 2 in)
- **Gestation:**14 to 15 months
- **Number of young:** 1 (rare cases of twins)
- **Habits:** Usually calm and serene creatures, males establish dominance through fighting rituals known as ‘necking’. When defending themselves against predators, they have a highly effective back-kick which has been known to disable and even kill lions.
- **Food:** Giraffes have long and tough tongues that are able to wrap around the thorny acacias and succulent tips of trees that are unreachable for most other herbivores. However, the ease of reaching up high makes getting their heads to ground level, such as for drinking, hard work. They accomplish this by splaying their legs wide and leaning, not bending, their necks forward till their head is able to touch the ground.
- **Reproduction:** Female giraffes give birth whilst standing and do so whilst isolated from the herd (for a few days), often returning to the same place to give birth numerous times. Giraffes grow for the first 7 to 10 years of their lives.
- **Did you know?** The giraffe is one of the few animals which has two collective nouns. The plural of giraffes standing is a tower and the plural of giraffes on the move is a journey.
A giraffe’s head is 7 to 10 feet above their heart which calls for a cartoid artery over 6 feet long. In addition to this, in order to prevent, ‘headrush’ when raising their heads from drinking, giraffes have unique valves and arteries in its blood vessels to control blood flow to the brain.

COMMON or BURCHELLS ZEBRA

Equus burchelli

Swahili Name: Punda milia
Maasai Name: Oloitiko

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 15 to 20 years
- **Weight:** Males 230 to 330 kg (500 to 725lb), Females 200 to 300 kg (440 to 660lb)
- **Height:** 1.2 to 1.4m (3ft 11in to 4ft 7in)
- **Length:** 1.9 to 2.4m (6ft 3in to 7ft 10in)
- **Gestation:** 1 year
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** The common zebra is extremely social and forms harems of mares, and their young led by a stallion There are also bachelor groups. Groups often come together to form large herds but the groups continue to stay intact. . Zebras keep watch for predators and bark or snort when they see a predator. They often mingle with wildebeest and migrate with them. Predators need to be careful when they hunt zebra as they have a fearsome kick.
- **Food:** Zebras are primarily grazers and feed on different grasses, preferring young, fresh growth where available. They also browse on leaves and shoots and can be found in woodland.
- **Reproduction:** Only one foal is born every twelve months. with the peaks season being the rains. Foal are nursed for up to one year. In common with other plains game baby zebras are able to, run from danger, and soon after they are born. Mothers are protective and keep other zebras away from her foal, Approximately 50% of the foals do not survive into adulthood
- **Did you know?** Each animal's stripes are as unique as fingerprints. There are many theories why they have stripes. Ranging from a form of camouflage as the stripes make it difficult for predators to identify a single animal from a running herd More recent research seems to focus on the stripes being a deterrent for biting flies.

GREVY'S ZEBRA

Equus grevyi

Swahili Name: Kangaja
Maasai Name: Oloitiko

Location: OPC

RARE

- **Lifespan:** 15 to 20 years
- **Weight:** Males 300 to 400 kg (660 to 880lb), Females 270 to 330 kg (595 to 725lb)
- **Height:** 1.45 to 1.5m (4ft 9in to 5ft)
- **Length:** 2.55m (8ft 4in)
- **Gestation:** 12 to 13 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Can survive in semi to arid habitats, going without water for up to 5 days unless lactating. They are known to dig to their own waterholes and then defend them.
- **Food:** Normally grazers
- **Reproduction**: Mating usually takes place in the early part of the rainy season . Males have large testicles and can ejaculate enough semen to replace the sperm of other males! Foals will usually not drink water for the first 3 months, being weaned at between 8 to 10 months
- **Did you know?** Grevy's Zebras are the largest of the equids. The question often asked is are they black with white stripes or white with black stripes? Despite having a white belly, evolutionary evidence shows that the white stripes are areas of decreased pigment on an otherwise dark body.

ENDANGERED

AARDVARK

Orycteropus afer

Swahili Name: Mhanga
Maasai Name: Enaishiri dama

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, OKC and OMC.

RARE

- **Lifespan:** 18 years
- **Weight:** 50 to 82 kg (110 to 180 lb)
- **Height:** 60 centimetres (24 in) tall at the shoulder,
- **Length:** Head and body, 43 to 53 in (109 to 135 cm); Tail, 21 to 26 in (53 to 66 cm)
- **Gestation:** 7 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits**: Nocturnal emerging from underground burrows to use strong claws to did for termites. When threatened it will quickly dig a burrow if its own is not nearby. Like other burrow dwelling animals it emerges in a rush to prevent ambush from predators. Old aardvark burrows are often used by other animals that do not have the same ability to dig them. These are life saving bolt holes during fires
- **Food**: The aardvark is a formivore feeding almost exclusively on ants and termites. , The have a symbiotic relationship with the aardvark cucumber, the cucumber is eaten and the defected seeds germinate easily in the dug up soil.
- **Reproduction**: Pairs come together only to breed . The cub is born in the burrow and is able to accompany its mother after only two weeks, and is weaned by 16 weeks.
- **Did you know?** The aardvark can dig faster than five men with shovels!

AFRICAN HEDGEHOG

Atelerix albiventris

Swahili Name: Nungunungu
Maasai Name: Enjolis

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 2 to 3 years
- **Weight:** 0.4 to 1.1 kg (14 to 39 oz)
- **Length:** 13 to 30 cm (5 – 12 inches)
- **Gestation:** 30 to 40 days
- **Number of young:** 2 - 10
- **Habits**: Nocturnal and solitary, African hedgehogs may aestivate (summer hibernate) during dry periods, when food is scarce. Although generally seen at ground level, they are able to climb and swim. When threatened, hedgehogs erect the spines on their back and curl into a ball. Unlike a porcupine's quills, hedgehogs do not release their spines into the skin of a predator.
- **Food**: Hedgehogs eat a variety of small insects, spiders and snails and even small vertebrates.
- **Reproduction**: Sexual maturity occurs at 2 to 3 months years old, with mating generally occurring during the rain season when they are one year old, leading to one litter per year. Males vocalise during courtship. Young are born with soft spines which develop in the ensuing hours / days. They are born blind, gaining sight after 2 weeks.
- **Did you know?** Despite their small size, hedgehogs cover miles in a night, on the hunt for food.

WARTHOG

Phacochoerus aethiopicus

Swahili Name: Ngiri
Maasai Name: Olbittir

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 10 years
- **Weight:** Males 60 to 100 kg (130 to 220lb), Females 45 to 70 kg (100 to 150lb)
- **Height:** 60 to 75cm (2ft to 2ft 5 in)
- **Length:** 1.15 to 1.5m (3ft 9in to 4ft 11in)
- **Gestation:** 5 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 2 to 4 (rarely 6 to 8)
- **Habits:** Diurnal. Live in family groups made up of one male, one female and the offspring of multiple litters. Very good at digging using their forefeet and will often dig their own burrows, which the females give birth in and will house the young for 6 to 7 weeks. When they need to warthogs can run at speeds of up to 30 miles (48 kilometers) an hour. They can go without water for long periods of time (several weeks) but when there is water present they are often seen wallowing in waterholes and mudpits.
- **Food:** Mainly short grasses, but will also eat roots, tubers and leaves, particularly during the dry seasons.
- **Reproduction:** The end of the long rains marks the beginning of rainy season with high records of births taking place during the short rains of September and October
- **Did you know?** They back into their burrows so that their tusks are facing any threat. Their warts act as pads to protect males when they are “fighting “ other males.

CRESTED PORCUPINE

Hystrix cristata

Swahili Name: Nungunungu
Maasai Name: Oiyai

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 15 to 20 years
- **Weight:** 12 to 25 kg (26 to 55lb)
- **Height:** 25cm (10in)
- **Length:** 70 to 85cm (2ft 4in to 2ft 10in)
- **Gestation:** 2 months
- **Number of young:** 2 (but can go up to 4)
- **Habits:** Nocturnal and monogamous, porcupines are often seen together. They live in burrows, either self to dug or succeeded from other animals. When threatened they raise their quills. They charge backward and stab with the stronger, shorter quills. These attacks can cause serious and sometimes fatal injuries to large predators.
- **Food:** Despite having a mostly herbivorous diet, they are omnivores and will occasionally eat insects or carrion.
- **Reproduction:** Porcupettes are born blind with soft bristles covering their body which will harden to become the sharp spines that porcupines are famous for.
- **Did you know?** As the quills on a porcupine face backwards, when the need arises, they make a reverse charge, stabbing enemies with its quills. These attacks are highly painful and dangerous and the attacks have killed not only big cats but also humans.
They also collect bones during their nightly wanders and bring these back to store in their burrow, possibly to gain calcium and sharpen their teeth.

EAST AFRICAN SPRINGHARE

Pedetes surdaster

Swahili Name: Kamendegere
Maasai Name: Enkipuldiany

Location: SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 6 years
- **Weight:** 2.7 to 3.6 kg (6 to 8 lb)
- **Length:** 17 inches
- **Gestation:** 2 to 3 months
- **Number of young**: 1
- **Habits:** Nocturnal, spending the day underground in burrows. A pair of spring hares may have several burrows, each with a number of entrances. Whilst foraging the spring hare moves like a rabbit on all fours and when alarmed it bounds towards its burrow like a kangaroo. They are known to exit their burrow with a large leap and this is believed to be to protect themselves from predators that may be waiting for them to emerge.
- **Food:** Mainly a herbivore eating bulbs roots and grasses but insects are also consumed.
- **Reproduction:** Like other rodents, the female can give birth several times a year. The young remain in the burrow for up to six weeks until they are weaned.
- **Did you know?** The spring hare is neither a kangaroo nor a hare – it is actually a rodent!

SCRUB HARE

Lepus saxatilis

Swahili Name: Sungura
Maasai Name: Enkitejo

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 5 years
- **Weight:** 1.5 to 4.5 kg (3.3 to 10 lb)
- **Length:** 45 to 65 cm (18 to 26 in)
- **Gestation:** 6 weeks
- **Number of young:** 1 to 3 young
- **Habits:** Nocturnal and starts foraging at dusk and continues throughout the night preferring scrub or savanna woodland with grass cover. Usually solitary but seen in group a when a female is with courting males or her offspring. During the day they conceal themselves in depressions under bushes and grass. When alarmed they remain motionless until the threat is close and then bound away relying on their speed to escape.
- **Food:** Prefers green grass but will eat the leaves and stems of dry grass.
- **Reproduction:** Breeds throughout the year. The leverets are born with all of their hair and their eyes open. Parental care, is usually limited to a single suckling period during the night**.**
- **Did you know?** Leverets being born at an advanced state of development is one of the characteristics that distinguish hares from rabbit where the young are born with their eyes closed and no fur.

ROCK HYRAX

Procavia johnstoni

Swahili Name: Pimbi
Masai Name: Endeer

Location: NNP, SC, OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 5 to 10 years
- **Weight:** 2 to 5 kg (4 ½ to 11lb)
- **Height:** 20 to 25cm (8 to 10in)
- **Length:** 35 to 57cm (14 to 23in)
- **Gestation:** 7 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1 to 4
- **Habits:** diurnal and can be seen sunning themselves on rocks. Colonies of up to 50 group together in rock and boulder crevices . Naturally shy they can be easily tamed and although alert for predators they relax in the proximity of humans.
- **Food:** omnivores that feed on on grasses, herbage, leaves, fruit, insects, lizards and birds' eggs.
- **Reproduction:** the young are well developed and can run about a few hours after birth. A group will often have a nursery for the young.
- **Did you know?** The closest genetic relatives of the rock hyrax is the elephant

SOUTHERN TREE HYRAX

Dendrohrax arboreus

Swahili Name: Perere
Maasai Name: Enkijujur

Location: NNP, OKC, NC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 5 to 10 years
- **Weight:** 2 to 4.5 kg (4 ½ to 10lb)
- **Height:** 25 to 30cm (10 to 12in)
- **Length:** 35 to 55cm (14 to 22in)
- **Gestation:** 7 months
- **Number of young:** 1 to 2 (with rare incidents of 3)
- **Habits**: Usually solitary and nocturnal. Adept climbers they are invariably seen in trees they move awkwardly on the ground and are vulnerable to predators. The den is built in tree hole or in the branches. Although they look very similar to rock hydrax their behaviour and habits are quite different
- **Food:** Tree vegetation and fruit
- **Reproduction**: Prior to mating the female produces a cinnamon smelling secretion from the dorsal gland Young are born in the den and are well developed at birth.

GROUND SQUIRREL

Xerus rutilus

Swahili Name: Kidiri
Maasai Name: Karbobo

Location: OPC and SC

- **Lifespan:** 6 years
- **Weight:** 0.65 kg (1.4lb)
- **Length:** 21cm (8 ½ in)
- **Gestation:** 6 ½ weeks
- **Number of young:** 2 to 4
- **Habits:** Diurnal and terrestrial. They are not particularly territorial and live in large groups with multiple groups overlapping within the same territory.
- **Food:** They essentially feed on anything that will fit in their mouths including, but not limited to seeds, fruit, birds eggs and insects.
- **Reproduction:** The young are born underground and weaned after 6 to 7 weeks. There are one to three babies per litter.
- **Did you know:** Juveniles are referred to as pups and kittens which are derived from canines and felines respectively. However adults follow the patterns of deer – a female being a doe and the male being the ‘buck’. A ground squirrel group is called a 'dray or scurry’.
- **Note:** In Kenya there are 2 species of Ground Squirrel - the unstriped ground squirrel (*Xerus rutilus*) shown opposite as well as the striped ground squirrel (*Xerus erythropus*) which is virtually identical apart from the presence of a white stripe running down each flank.

OCHRE BUSH SQUIRREL

Paraxerus ochraceus

Swahili Name: Kidiri
Maasai Name: Karbobo

Location: NNP

- **Lifespan:** 2 to 3 years
- **Weight:** Under 200g (3.5 oz.)
- **Length:** 35cm (14 in) including tail
- **Gestation:** 2 months
- **Number of young:** 1 to 3
- **Habits:** The Ochre Bush squirrel lives in trees and is very alert and active. They are found in areas of forest or woodland and prefer trees with natural holes in them for use as a shelter and a place in which to raise young. They are most active, out and about during the daytime, spending most of their time in trees, on branches and between leaves where they can stay out of the strong sunlight in the heat of the day. They mostly forage for food during this time, but keep a careful lookout for any predator. They are skilled at detecting threats, such as snakes, birds of prey and leopards, and are noted for their incessant loud chattering alarm calls.
- **Food:** Their main food source is also found within trees: seeds, nuts and berries. The Ochre Bush squirrel is largely herbivorous, but also feeds on insects as most rodents do. When eating, they use their forefeet to handle food.
- **Reproduction:** A breeding pair gives birth to pups which become sexually mature at between 6 and 9 months old, when they are evicted by the breeding pair.
- **Did you know?** Whilst staying at Nairobi Tented Camp, look (and listen!) for Bush squirrels in the trees around the tents.

OLIVE BABOON

Papio anubis

Swahili Name: Nyani
Maasai Name: Oyekeny

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 20 years
- **Weight:** Males 27 to 45 kg (60 to 100lb), Females 14 to 20 kg (30 to 44lb)
- **Height:** 50 to 70cm (1ft 8in to 2ft 4in)
- **Length:** 60 to 70cm (2ft to 2ft 5in)
- **Gestation:** 6 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Troops are made up of a majority of females and their young, and a few males. The size of troops varies, with most being comprised of 10 to 40 individuals although troops as big as 150 have been recorded. Males and females may form non-sexual friendships with males protecting the females' young and in the future may mate and rear their offspring together.
- **Food:** Baboons are truly omnivorous, foraging and searching a great variety of terrain for food. They will look in trees and on the ground as well as underground. They will seize any opportunity and if the opportunity presents itself they will try to eat anything including leopard cubs, gazelles, birds and scorpions.
- **Reproduction:** Females may decide to mate with multiple males but males discourage this behaviour and instead try to guard their females. Newborns are born weak and vulnerable and have to be carried and held by adults. When they are about one week old they are able to cling to their mothers. At two weeks of age they begin to move around on their own for short periods of time. Juvenile females may also care for the young of other adult females and it is believed that this is to prepare them for their own future infants and to give them the experience they need to give their young the greatest chances of survival.

YELLOW BABOON

Papio cynocephalus

Swahili Name: Nyani
Maasai Name: Oyekeny

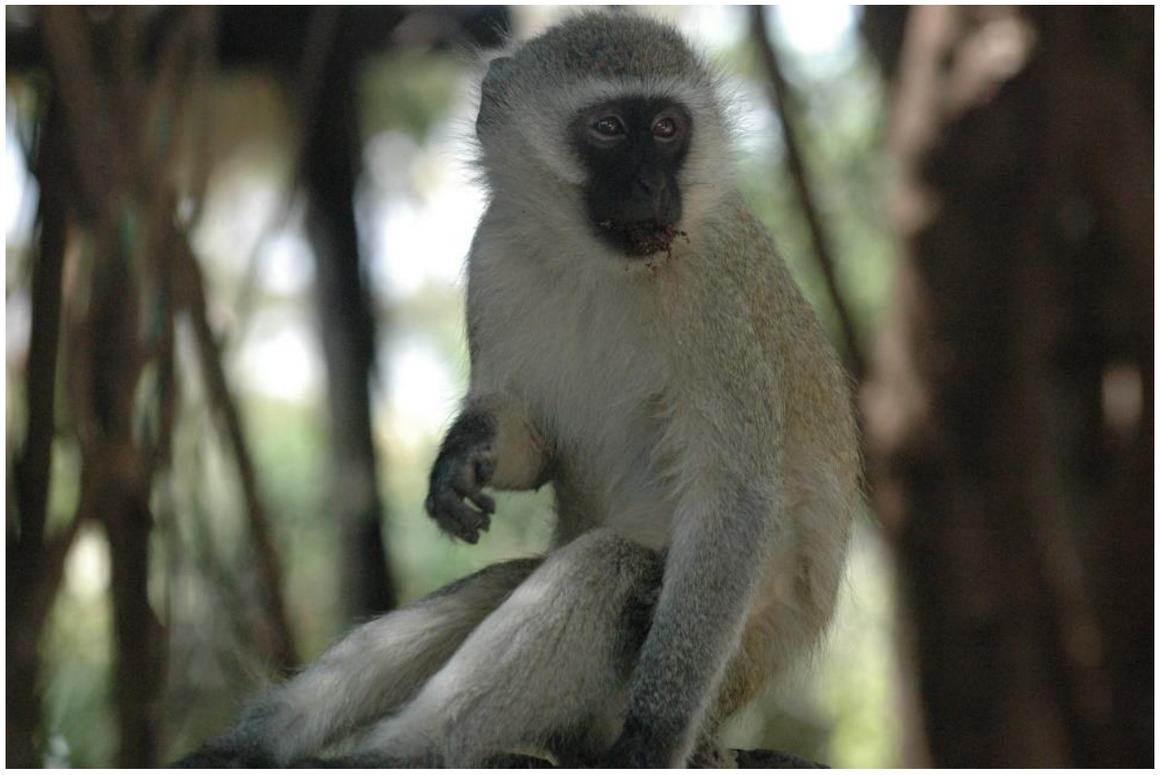
Location: SC

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 20 years
- **Weight:** Males 27 to 40 kg (60 to 88lb), Females 14 to 17 kg (30 to 37lb)
- **Height:** 60 to 80cm (2ft to 2ft 5in)
- **Length:** 60 to 70cm (2ft to 2ft 5in)
- **Gestation:** 6 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Diurnal with a social structure similar to that of Olive baboons.
- **Food:** Feeding habits are similar to those of Olive baboons.
- **Reproduction:** Females reproduce consistently until up to 40 years old, giving birth approximately every two years once they have become fertile.
- **Other information:** The word cyanocephalus literally translates to ‘dog-head’ in reference to the elongated muzzle of the species. Like the name suggests, they have yellow fur covering their bodies, apart from their white chests. Male baboons may pick up infants when approaching other males in order to appear less threatening and to demonstrate that it has no intention of conflict.
- **Also see Olive Baboon**

VERVET MONKEY

Gercopithecus aethiops

Swahili Name: Tumbili
Maasai Name: Enayok Kutuk



Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 10 to 15 years
- **Weight:** Males 5.5 to 9 kg (12 to 20lb), Females 3 to 4 kg (6 ½ to 9lb)
- **Length:** 45 to 50cm (1ft 6in to 1ft 8in)
- **Gestation:** 6 to 6 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Seen both in the trees and on the ground they usually have a lookout on a vantage point. Vervet alarm calls are unique to each predator but the human ear does not distinguish between them. They live in hierarchical groups and are this can cause aggressive behaviour between individuals and gang fights as well as strong alliances and altruistic behaviour such as a literal demonstration of the idiom, "You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours"
- **Food:** Vervets are mostly vegetarian but will also eat birds eggs, insects, birds and sometimes small rodents or hares.
- **Reproduction:** At birth, the mother eats the afterbirth and then allows the newborn to cling to its stomach for the first week of its life. Infants are cared for by the mother and sometimes the mother's siblings and play with other infants in the troop. The weaning process begins at 4 months and is usually complete at one year of age.
- **Did you know?** If you have anything edible in your tent and there are vervets near by, ensure you have zipped your tent up securely as they are quite likely to open the zips and raid your larder!

SYKES'S/BLUE MONKEY

Cercopithecus albogularis

Swahili Name: Tumbili
Maasai Name: Olkoroe

- **Lifespan:** 20 years
- **Weight:** Males 8 kg (18 lb) , females 4kg (9lb)
- **Length:** 50 to 65cm (20 to 26 in) excluding tail
- **Gestation:** 5 months
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** A female-bonded society with one male with a troop of up to 40 females.
- **Food:** Mostly folivores, eating fruits, insects and leaves. Occasionally eats vertebrates.
- **Reproduction:** Females generally give birth approximately every two years. As a result of their social structure, females mate with only one male whilst males mate with multiple females. Juvenile females assist adults with parenting duties which
- **Did you know?** The Sykes Monkey found in Kenya is a sub-species of the Blue Monkey. Sometimes found together with Red-tailed monkeys, they also interact with Colobus monkeys which they may be seen grooming. The other monkey species are relaxed in the presence of Sykes monkeys as they tend to be more alert and are good sentinels.

Location: NNP

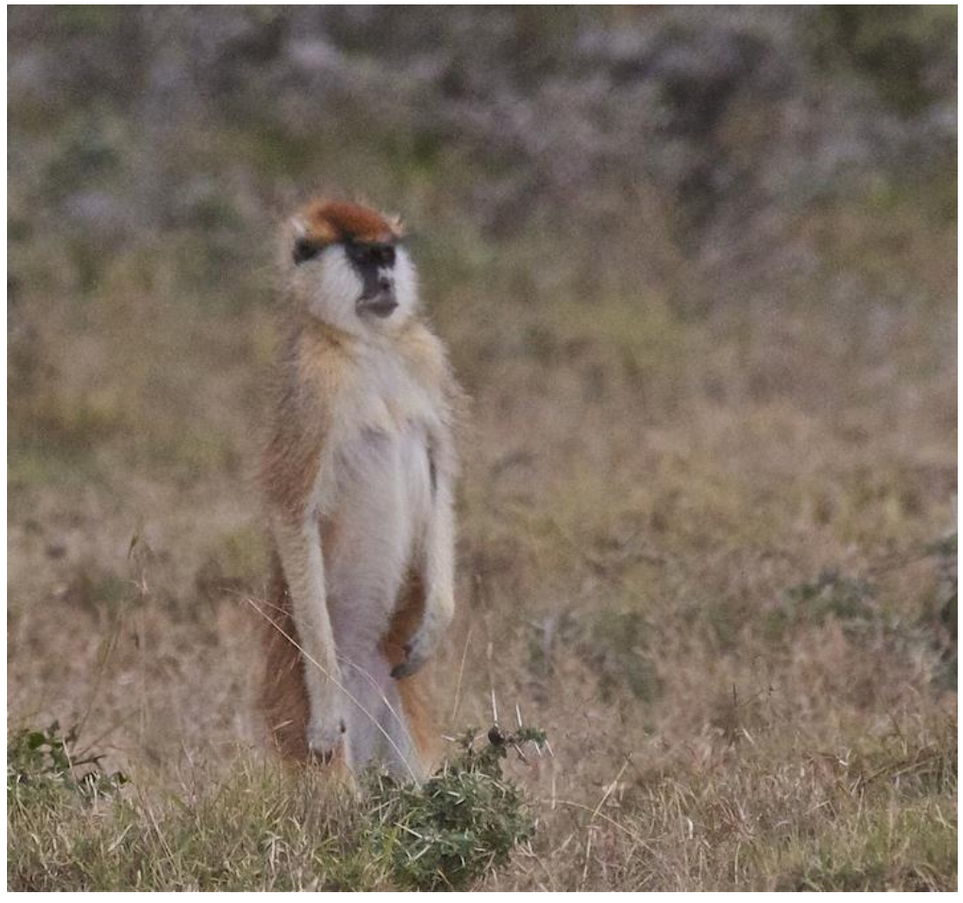
PATAS MONKEY

Erythrocebus patas

RECORD HOLDER

FASTEST PRIMATE

Swahili Name: Tumbili ngedere
Maasai Name: Enorkutuk



Location: OPC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 20 years
- **Weight**: Male weight: 7 to 13 kg Female weight: 4 to 7 kg
- **Height**: Shoulder height: 50 to 60 cm
- **Length:** Head to body length: 60 to 90cm, Tail length: 50 to 75cm
- **Gestation:** 24 weeks
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** Groups typically consist of between 30 and 60 females and one male (outside of breeding season). Other males may form groups or live individually and will move towards a female troop at the onset of breeding season (between June and September)
- **Food:** Patas monkeys eat a variety of insects and plant matter and will also eat small vertebrates and birds' eggs.
- **Reproduction:** Females give birth annually to a single infant which will cling to its mother and gradually begin to move on its own as it ages. However when threatened it will still cling to its mother to take advantage of her superior speed. When mature, males will usually separate from their mothers to join an all male troop.
- **Did you know?** Patas monkeys are the fastest primates in the world (nearly 90 kph). There is great sexual variation with males being twice the size as females with large beard-like manes.

LARGE EARED GREATER GALAGO or GREATER BUSHBABY

Otolemur crassicaudatus

Swahili Name: Komba mkubwa
Maasai Name: Kima Ongu

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 10 years
- **Weight:** 1 to 1.5 kg (2 to 3lb)
- **Length:** 30 to 45cm (1ft to 1ft 6in)
- **Gestation:** 4 to 4 ½ months
- **Number of young:** 1 to 2
- **Habits:** Nocturnal and arboreal, bushbabies leap from tree to tree as they travel through the night, foraging and patrolling their territory. They are usually solitary but may have overlapping territories and are sometimes seen together.
- **Food:** Bushbabies enjoy fruit and insects as well as the gum of acacia trees.
- **Reproduction:** Once born, a young bushbaby is left unattended whilst its mother forages for food. The young will drink her milk and stay with her until they reach reproductive age of approximately two years.
- **Did you know?** Bushbabies eyes are their giveaway, easily seen reflecting light at night. Do not make the mistake of mistaking a giraffe for a bush baby in a tree!
If you've spent the night in the bush you'll be familiar with the screeching call of the bushbaby. These are used as a form of communication and each call has a specific meaning.

SENEGAL GALAGO or LESSER BUSHBABY

Galago senegalenis

Swahili Name: Kombo Kidogo
Maasai Name: Kima Ongu

Location: NNP, OPC, SC, NC, OKC and OMC.

- **Lifespan:** 8 to 10 years
- **Weight:** 150 to 200g (6 to 8oz)
- **Length:** 15 to 20cm (6 to 8in)
- **Gestation:** 4 months
- **Number of young:** 1 to 2
- **Habits:**Nocturnal and arboreal, bushbabies leap from tree to tree as they travel through the night, foraging and patrolling their territory. They are usually solitary but may have overlapping territories and are sometimes seen together. Very vocal and emit a loud scream which is meant to be the source of their name.
- **Food:** Bushbabies enjoy fruit and insects as well as the gum of acacia trees.
- **Reproduction:** Polygynous breeders. Bushbaies reproduce twice a year **.**Once born, a young bushbaby is left unattended whilst its mother forages for food. The young will suckle and stay with her until they reach reproductive age of approximately two years. Lesser bushbaby young will live in small nests in the hollows and notches of trees and these areas may be shared with adults during the day.
- **Also see Greater Galago**

COMMON CHIMPANZEE

Pan troglodytes

Swahili Name: Sokwe mtu
Maasai Name: Nareoruk

Location: OPC

- **Lifespan:** 40 to 50 years
- **Weight:** Males 34 to 70 kg (75 to 154 lb), Females 26 to 50 kg (57 to 110 lb)
- **Height:** 1 to 1.7m (40 to 67 in)
- **Gestation:** 230 days
- **Number of young:** 1
- **Habits:** highly intelligent and social animals with complex community structures and hierarchy. They are one of the few animals to use tools as fly swats, probes for termites and to crack nuts. They construct night nests by lacing together branches – these are made comfortable by lining them with soft leaves and twigs.
- **Food:** Omnivores feeding mainly on fruit. Will also eat leaves, flowers, seeds and insects. Meat is a delicacy for chimps and groups will cooperate to hunt monkeys
- **Reproduction:** mate at any time when the females are receptive. The mother carries the baby and this dependency continues for some years. The average interbirth intervals include 3 to 6 years
- **Did you know?** During your stay at Porini Rhino Camp in the OPC, you can visit the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary - the only place in Kenya where this highly endangered and remarkably intelligent species can be seen!

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