



The Mammals of Tarangire National Park

Tarangire National Park is a very good place for mammal watching. The varied habitat types means the park has a high diversity of mammal species, including some, such as Gerenuk and Lesser kudu, which are not found in other national parks in Tanzania. The number of species you see depends upon the timing of your visit. Tarangire is a migratory park, and during the rains the majority of the large ungulates leave the park, dispersing eastwards to the Simanjiro plains, or northwards towards Lakes Manyara and Natron. When the standing water in these dispersal areas dries up, the large herds of ungulates return to Tarangire and remain there for the duration of the dry season. The best time to see large concentrations of mammals is from July to mid November, with September and October probably being the optimal months. While there are fewer large mammals around in the wet season (December-May), it can still be an interesting time to visit – only then are you likely to see the large breeding herds of several hundred elephants.

Below is a list of the larger mammals of the park, together with a brief description of where they might be seen. For a complete mammal list, inclusive of bats and rodents, see the [Tarangire Mammal List](#) below.

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PRIMATES

Small eared galago *Otolemur garnettii*

Common in Sangaiwe forest, though its nocturnal habits mean it is seldom seen.

Senegal bushbaby *Galago senegalensis*

Common in the south of the park - can occasionally be seen at night in the trees around Swala camp.

Olive baboon *Papio anubis*

Common throughout the north of Park. A large troop can often be seen in the vicinity of the second river loop, where they use the borassus palms as a safe sleeping site.

Yellow Baboon *Papio cynocephalus*

Rare vagrant. There are records of a single male in 1998 and a single female in 1999.

Vervet monkey *Allenopithecus nigroviridis*

Common throughout the park, and frequently seen at lodges and the picnic site.

CARNIVORES

Black backed jackal *Canis mesomelas*

Numbers of this species dropped dramatically in the mid 1990's probably because of a disease outbreak. Since 2000 numbers have rebounded and it is now once again common in Tarangire.

Bat eared fox *Otocyon megalotis*

Suffered large disease related decline in 1995. Numbers only started to increase in 2000, and can now be seen in Lemiyon and near Gursi swamp.

Common genet *Genetta genetta*

Very common in Tarangire. Can be regularly seen at the Tarangire Safari Lodge in the evenings.

Large spotted genet *Genetta tigrina*

Uncommon. Has occasionally been seen at the Tarangire Safari Lodge.

Civet *Viverra civetta*

Common in north of park, though nocturnal habits mean it is seldom seen.

Egyptian mongoose *Herpestes ichneumon*

Uncommon in Tarangire though can occasionally be seen in the open grasslands of Lemiyon.

White tailed mongoose *Ichneumia albicauda*

Very common nocturnal mammal, found throughout the park.

Marsh mongoose *Atilax paludinosus*

Rare in Tarangire – most frequently seen in vicinity of Gursi and Silale swamps.

Banded mongoose *Mungos mungo*

Common throughout the park.

Slender mongoose *Herpestes sanguineus*

Common throughout the park. Often seen by Englehardt bridge.

Dwarf mongoose *Helogale parvula*

Common throughout the park. There is a colony in the car park of the Tarangire Safari Lodge.

Zorilla *Ictonyx striatus*

Rare – there are very few records for this species in Tarangire.

Honey badger *Mellivora capensis*

Common nocturnal mammal – can often be seen at Tarangire Safari Lodge in the evenings.

Striped hyeana *Hyeana hyeana*

Uncommon nocturnal animal – more often seen in south of the park.

Spotted hyeana *Crocuta crocuta*

The density of spotted hyeana in Tarangire is low, possibly because of the high density of lions, and they are seen infrequently during the day.

Aardwolf *Proteles cristatus*

Rare – there are few sightings for the park.

Wild dog *Lycaon pictus*

Wild dog are resident on village land to the east of Tarangire, and will occasionally move through the park for short periods. Sightings of wild dog are rare in the north, though more frequent in the vicinity of Loiboserit ranger post in the south-east.

Lion *Panthera leo*

Very common throughout the park; often seen along the main Tarangire river and Silale swamp.

Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*

Generally uncommon in Tarangire - more often seen in the southern half of the park.

Leopard *Panthera pardus*

Leopards are common in Tarangire and are found throughout the park. The best time to see them is the long dry season from July to mid November, when they can often be found resting in trees along the main river roads.

Wild cat *Felis libyca*

Common though their nocturnal habits mean they are seldom seen.

Serval *Felis serval*

Uncommon in Tarangire– most frequently seen around Silale and Gursi swamps.

Caracal *Felis caracal*

Rare – there are few records for this species in Tarangire.

ELEPHANT

Savanna elephant *Loxodonta africana*

Abundant throughout park. There are approximately 2500 elephants in Tarangire and their numbers are increasing rapidly. From February to May it is possible to see large breeding herds of up to 500 elephants.

ODD-TOED UNGULATES

Burchell's zebra *Equus burchelli*

Very common in dry season when they can be seen in large numbers throughout the park.

Black rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis*

Formerly common, now extinct in Tarangire. Last seen in 1986.

EVEN-TOED UNGULATES

African buffalo *Syncerus caffer*

Large herds of several hundred buffalo can be seen throughout the park in the dry season.

Hippopotamus *Hippopotamus amphibius*

Vagrant - there are currently no hippopotamus in Tarangire.

Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus*

Common throughout the park.

Bushpig *Potamochoerus porcus*

Uncommon - only recorded from Sangaiwe hills where their nocturnal habits mean they are rarely seen.

Masai giraffe *Giraffa camelopardis tippelskirchi*

Common throughout the park in the Acacia microphyll woodlands.

Cape eland *Taurotragus oryx*

Small numbers can be seen throughout the park in the dry season. Numbers have fallen sharply in the past decade.

Greater kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros*

Uncommon. Best sighting opportunities are at the southern end of Sangaiwe hills, on the road around Gursi swamp, and on the boundary road leading south to Chubi ranger post.

Lesser kudu *Tragelaphus imberbis*

Rare in the north of the park, though relatively common south of Kuro. Can occasionally be seen in the lake Burungi area.

Bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*

Uncommon - disappeared from much of the park in the mid 1990's, though numbers are now increasing. Most often seen in the riverine vegetation west of the Tarangire Safari Lodge.

Fringe eared oryx *Oryx beisa callotis*

Oryx are becoming increasingly uncommon in Tarangire due to over-hunting outside the park. In the dry months they can often be seen in the open plains below Gursi hill, and occasionally in the Lake Burungi area.

Common waterbuck *Kobus ellipsiprymnus ellipsiprymnus*

Common particularly around Tarangire Safari Lodge and Kuro ranger post.

Bohor reedbuck *Redunca redunca*

Commonly seen in the dry season along the Tarangire river and in Silale swamp. There is often a pair in the vicinity of the Englehardt bridge.

Mountain reebuck *Redunca fulvorufula*

Vagrant – known only from a few records at Boundary hill in 1994.

Coke's hartbeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii*

Common in the dry season.

Blue wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus*

Common in the dry season when they return to the park. Large herds can be seen north of the Tarangire Safari Lodge.

Gerenuk *Litocranius walleri*

Previously common around Mkungunero in very south of the park, but numbers appear to have declined greatly in the past 10 years. Can occasionally be seen on the road to Loboiseret ranger post.

Grant's gazelle *Gazella granti*

Can be seen in small numbers throughout the park.

Impala *Aepyceros melampus*

Common throughout the park at all times of the year.

Thompson's gazelle *Gazella thomsoni*

Vagrant - only found in very northern tip of Tarangire.

Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus*

Uncommon – can be seen on Tarangire hill and the surrounding rocky outcrops.

Kirks DikDik *Rhynchotragus kirki*

Abundant throughout the park.

Steenbuck *Raphicerus campestris*

Common on ridges and open grassland areas.

Grey duiker *Sylvicapra grimmia*

Rare - occasionally seen in deciduous vegetation on the ridges.

HYRAX (DASSIE)

Bush hyrax *Heterohyrax brucei*

Colonies can be found in rocky outcrops throughout park. One large colony can easily be seen on the rocky slope just south of Englehardt bridge.

Southern tree hyrax *Dendrohyrax arboreus*

Common in trees along main river and side tributaries. Nocturnal habits means it is more frequently heard than seen.

INSECTIVORES

African hedgehog *Atelerix albiventris*

Rare - only a few records for the park.

RODENTS

Huet's bush squirrel *Paraxerus ochraceus*

Common throughout the park, and often seen around lodges and campsites.

Unstriped ground squirrel *Xerus rutilus*

Common in the north of the park.

Crested Porcupine *Hystrix cristata*

Common throughout the park, though nocturnal habits mean it is seldom seen.

HARES & RABBITS

Hare *Lepus capensis* or *Lepus saxatilis*

Hares are common throughout Tarangire and can be seen around Tarangire Safari Lodge at night. It is likely that both species co-exist in the park.

Red rock rabbit *Pronolagus rupestris*

Known only from Sangaiwe hills, though possibly occurs on other rocky outcrops in the park.

AARDVARK

Aardvark *Orycteropus afer*

Nocturnal habits means it is very seldom seen. Large number of burrows in south of park means it is probably common in that area.

PANGOLIN

Pangolin *Manis temminckii*

A combination of nocturnal habits and general rarity means this species is very seldom seen.

Mammal list (including bats and rodents) of Tarangire National Park

April 2004

| Common Name | Latin Name | STATUS (v=vagrant) | | | | Mammals commonly seen during a 2 day trip in the dry season |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|------|---------|---|
| | | Common | Uncommon | Rare | Unknown | |
| Aardvark | <i>Orycteropus afer</i> | | | • | | |
| African hedgehog | <i>Atelerix albiventris</i> | | | • | | |
| White-toothed shrew | <i>Crocidura hildegardeae</i> | | | | • | |
| White-toothed shrew | <i>Crocidura hirta</i> | | | | • | |
| White-toothed shrew | <i>Crocidura jacksoni</i> | | | | • | |
| White-toothed shrew | <i>Crocidura nana</i> | | | | • | |
| Epauletted fruit bat | <i>Eponomorphus labiatus</i> | • | | | | |
| Slit faced bat | <i>Nycteris macrotis</i> | • | | | | |
| Tomb bat | <i>Taphozous sp.</i> | • | | | | |
| Yellow winged bat | <i>Lavia frons</i> | | • | | | |
| Heart-nosed bat | <i>Cardioderma cor</i> | • | | | | |
| Horseshoe bat | <i>Rhinolophus sp.</i> | • | | | | |
| Serotine | <i>Eptesicus somalicus</i> | • | | | | |
| Evening bat | <i>Scotoecus hirundo</i> | | | | • | |
| House bat | <i>Scotophilus viridis</i> | | | | • | |
| Huet's bush squirrel | <i>Paraxerus ochraceus</i> | • | | | | • |
| Unstriped ground squirrel | <i>Xerus rutilus</i> | • | | | | • |
| Gerbil | <i>Gerbillus pusillus</i> | | | | • | |
| Tatera gerbil | <i>Tatera robusta</i> | | | | • | |
| Climbing mouse | <i>Dendromus mystacalis</i> | | | | • | |
| Spiny mouse | <i>Acomys wilsoni</i> | | | | • | |
| Unstriped grass rat | <i>Arvicanthis nairobae</i> | • | | | | |
| Unstriped grass rat | <i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i> | | | | • | |
| Zebra mouse | <i>Lemniscomys rosalia</i> | | | | • | |
| Bush rat | <i>Aethomys chrysophilus</i> | | | | • | |
| Multimammate rat | <i>Mastomys natalensis</i> | | | | • | |
| Multimammate rat | <i>Mastomys pernanus</i> | | | | • | |
| Black rat | <i>Rattus rattus</i> | | | | • | |
| Pygmy mouse | <i>Mus minutoides</i> | | | | • | |
| Acacia rat | <i>Thallomys paedulus</i> | | | | • | |
| African doormouse | <i>Graphirius parvus</i> | • | | | | |
| Porcupine | <i>Hystrix cristata</i> | • | | | | |
| Cape hare | <i>Lepus capensis</i> | • | | | | |
| Red rock rabbit | <i>Pronolagus rupestris</i> | | | • | | |
| Spring Hare | <i>Pedetes capensis</i> | | • | | | |
| Senegal galago | <i>Galago senegalensis</i> | • | | | | |
| Small eared galago | <i>Otolemur garnettii</i> | | • | | | |
| Olive baboon | <i>Papio anubis</i> | • | | | | • |
| Yellow Baboon | <i>Papio cynocephalus</i> | | | v | | |
| Vervet monkey | <i>Allenopithecus nigroviridis</i> | • | | | | • |

| Common Name | Latin Name | STATUS (v=vagrant) | | | | Mammals commonly seen during a 2 day trip in the dry season |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------|----------|------|---------|---|
| | | Common | Uncommon | Rare | Unknown | |
| Pangolin | <i>Manis temminckii</i> | | | • | | |
| Black backed jackal | <i>Canis mesomelas</i> | • | | | | • |
| Bat eared fox | <i>Otocyon megalotis</i> | | • | | | |
| Common genet | <i>Genetta genetta</i> | • | | | | |
| Large spotted genet | <i>Genetta tigrina</i> | | • | | | |
| Civet | <i>Viverra civetta</i> | • | | | | |
| Egyptian mongoose | <i>Herpestes ichneumon</i> | | • | | | |
| White tailed mongoose | <i>Ichneumia albicauda</i> | • | | | | |
| Marsh mongoose | <i>Atilax paludinosus</i> | | | • | | |
| Banded mongoose | <i>Mungos mungo</i> | • | | | | • |
| Slender mongoose | <i>Herpestes sanguineus</i> | • | | | | • |
| Dwarf mongoose | <i>Helogale parvula</i> | • | | | | • |
| Zorilla | <i>Ictonyx striatus</i> | | | • | | |
| Honey badger | <i>Mellivora capensis</i> | • | | | | |
| Striped hyeana | <i>Hyeana hyeana</i> | | • | | | |
| Spotted hyeana | <i>Crocuta crocuta</i> | • | | | | |
| Aardwolf | <i>Proteles cristatus</i> | | | • | | |
| Wild dog | <i>Lycaon pictus</i> | | | • | | |
| Lion | <i>Panthera leo</i> | • | | | | • |
| Cheetah | <i>Acinonyx jubatus</i> | | • | | | |
| Leopard | <i>Panthera pardus</i> | • | | | | • |
| Wild cat | <i>Felis libyca</i> | • | | | | |
| Serval | <i>Felis serval</i> | | • | | | |
| Caracal | <i>Felis caracal</i> | | | • | | |
| Burchell's zebra | <i>Equus burchelli</i> | • | | | | • |
| Black rhinoceros | <i>Diceros bicornis</i> | | | | Extinct | |
| Savanna elephant | <i>Loxodonta africana</i> | • | | | | • |
| Hippopotamus | <i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i> | | | v | | |
| Warthog | <i>Phacochoerus africanus</i> | • | | | | • |
| Bushpig | <i>Potamochoerus porcus</i> | | • | | | |
| Masai giraffe | <i>Giraffa camelopardis tippelskirchi</i> | • | | | | • |
| Cape eland | <i>Taurotragus oryx</i> | • | | | | • |
| Greater kudu | <i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i> | | • | | | |
| Lesser kudu | <i>Tragelaphus imberbis</i> | | • | | | |
| Bushbuck | <i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i> | | • | | | |
| Roan antelope | <i>Hippotragus equinus</i> | | | | Extinct | |
| Fringe eared oryx | <i>Oryx beisa callotis</i> | | • | | | |
| Common waterbuck | <i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i> | • | | | | • |
| Bohor reedbuck | <i>Redunca redunca</i> | • | | | | • |
| Mountain reebuck | <i>Redunca fulvorufula</i> | | | • | | |
| Blue wildebeest | <i>Connochaetes taurinus</i> | • | | | | • |

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|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|------|---------|---|
| | | Common | Uncommon | Rare | Unknown | |
| Coke's hartbeest | <i>Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii</i> | • | | | | • |
| African buffalo | <i>Syncerus caffer</i> | • | | | | • |
| Gerenuk | <i>Litocranius walleri</i> | | • | | | |
| Grant's gazelle | <i>Gazella granti</i> | • | | | | • |
| Impala | <i>Aepyceros melampus</i> | • | | | | • |
| Thompson's gazelle | <i>Gazella thomsoni</i> | | • | | | |
| Kirks DikDik | <i>Rhynchotragus kirki</i> | • | | | | • |
| Steenbuck | <i>Raphicerus campestris</i> | • | | | | • |
| Grey duiker | <i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i> | | | • | | |
| Klipspringer | <i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i> | | • | | | |
| Bush hyrax | <i>Heterohyrax brucei</i> | • | | | | • |
| Southern tree hyrax | <i>Dendrohyrax arboreus</i> | • | | | | |