Mammalwatching in Garamba National Park
Democratic Republic of Congo

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Introduction

As a master student I am currently based in Garamba National Park to collect the data for my thesis on the local Kordofan giraffe population, a subspecies of the Northern giraffe (G. camelopardalis antiquorum), all this through my university in Czech republic (Czech University of life Sciences) and with help of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) and its partners.

I am here for nearly a year now and apart for the research I’ve been trying to focus myself on getting a thorough understanding of what’s flying, creeping and running around in the park – I will stick to mammals in this report.

As I’ve been living here it’s difficult to give a day-to-day itinerary or even to give a breakdown of places to visit in the surrounding. The park’s management, a joint venture of Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) and African Parks (AP) is making a huge progress in terms of securing and developing the area but real hotspots for naturalists haven’t been established yet – for now species are to be found in equal densities everywhere in the park.

Therefore it makes sense that I limit myself to giving a breakdown of the species that I’ve seen so far and what more species could be expected based on historical records.

All photos and observations can also be found on: https://observation.org/user/view/40842

Location and Vegetation

Other than what most people think, the DRC is not only forest – Garamba, lying in DRC’s north eastern corner on the border with South Sudan, is actually mostly savannah and being a part of the sudano-guinean savannah belt. The peripheries of the park consist of much denser vegetation – forests home to Bongo’s and Chimpanzees.
2. Typical sparsely wooded savannah habitat in Garamba National Park

3. The more densely forested peripheries – home to bongo and chimpanzees

**Visiting possibilities**

Garamba has had its fair part of violence in the last 15 years, but the management is making huge progress and hoping to soon start accepting tourists with whom the uniqueness of the place can be shared. Check [https://www.african-parks.org/the-parks/garamba/visit-the-park](https://www.african-parks.org/the-parks/garamba/visit-the-park) for the last official news on possibilities to visit.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observed species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Lelwel Hartebeest</td>
<td><em>Alcelaphus buselaphus lelwel</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Blue duiker</td>
<td><em>Cephalophus monticola aequatorialis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Red-flanked duiker</td>
<td><em>Cephalophus rufilatus rubidior</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 <strong>Yellow-backed duiker</strong></td>
<td><em>Cephalophus silvicutor</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 <strong>Northern Giraffe</strong></td>
<td><em>Giraffa camelopardalis antiquorum</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Hippopotamus</td>
<td><em>Hippopotamus amphibious</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 <strong>Roan antelope</strong></td>
<td><em>Hippotragus equinus bakeri</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 <strong>Giant Forest hog</strong></td>
<td><em>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Waterbuck</td>
<td><em>Kobus ellipsyprimnus defassa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Kob</td>
<td><em>Kobus kob thomasi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 <strong>Oribi</strong></td>
<td><em>Ourebia ourebi</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Common warthog</td>
<td><em>Phacochoerus africanus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Bohor reedbuck</td>
<td><em>Redunca reducra cottoni</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 <strong>Bush duiker</strong></td>
<td><em>Sylvicapra grimmia roosevelti</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 <strong>African buffalo</strong></td>
<td><em>Syncerus caffer caffer</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 <strong>Bushbuck</strong></td>
<td><em>Tragelaphus scriptus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 <strong>Sitatunga</strong></td>
<td><em>Tragelaphus spekei gratus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 <strong>Marsh mongoose</strong></td>
<td><em>Atilax paludinosus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 <strong>Black-legged mongoose</strong></td>
<td><em>Bdeogale nigripes</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 <strong>Side-striped jackal</strong></td>
<td><em>Canis adustus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 <strong>African Palm civet</strong></td>
<td><em>Nandinia binotata</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 <strong>Spotted hyaena</strong></td>
<td><em>Crocuta crocuta</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 <strong>Pousargues’s mongoose</strong></td>
<td><em>Dologale dybowskyi</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Probably not uncommon but only a few observations as they have a very secretive lifestyle. The observations were only some of a handful of observations of this species in the last 50 years. Published article: http://nebula.wsimg.com/30b832300e2842a12b99724a1fc7c220?AccessKeyId=35E369A09ED705622D78&disposition=0&alloworigin=1

24 **Serval cat** Felis serval
   Common but rarely seen.

25 **Blotched genet** Genetta tigrina aequatorialis
   Common.

26 **Ichneumon (Egyptian) mongoose** Herpestes Ichneumon
   Rarely seen, mostly camera trap.

27 **White tailed mongoose** Ichneumon albicauda
   Common. Interestingly only melanistic animals are observed. Never has a normally collared animal been seen.

28 **Ratel (Honey badger)** Mellivora capensis
   Uncommon.

29 **Lion** Panthera leo
   Common.

30 **Leopard** Panthera pardus
   Common but rarely seen.

31 **Yellow-winged bat** Lavia frons
   Common.

32 **Dwarf epauletted fruit bat** Micropteropus pusillus
   Common.

33 **Tomb bat** Taphozous sudani
   Common.

34 **Uganda grass-hare** Poelagus marjorita
   Common.

35 **Lesser elephant shrew** Elephantulus sp.
   Common.

36 **Tree pangolin** Phataginus tricuspis
   Uncommon. Extremely difficult to find. Only observation I did was a living confiscated animal.

37 **Tantalus monkey** Cercopithecus aethiops tantalus
   Common.

38 **De Brazza's monkey** Cercopithecus neglectus
   Common.

39 **Patas monkey** Cercopithecus patas pyrrhonotus
   Uncommon.

40 **Guereza colobus** Colobus guereza occidentalis
   Common.

41 **Chimpanzee** Pan troglodytes schweinfurthi
   Uncommon. Only in the outermost and densest forests in the peripheries.

42 **Olive baboon** Papio Anubis
   Common.

43 **Forest elephant** Loxodonta cyclotis
   The park is believed to have hybrids between savannah and forest elephant. I've never seen the genetic evidence of this, nor have I experience with forest elephants but will add some photos so you can give me your opinion.

44 **Savannah elephant** Loxodota africana
Idem Forest elephant.

45  Giant pouchled rat  
    Uncommon.  
    Cricetomys gambianus

46  Gambian sun squirrel  
    Uncommon.  
    Heliosciurus gambianus

47  Red-legged sun squirrel  
    Uncommon.  
    Heliosciurus rufobrachium

48  Boehm’s bush squirrel  
    Common.  
    Paraxerus boehmi

49  Crested porcupine  
    Common.  
    Hystrix cristata

50  Multimammate rat  
    Common.  
    Mastomys coucha

51  Aardvark  
    Orycteropus afer
    Low densities and a very elusive mammal to see but probably fairly good numbers in the park.

From left top in clockwise direction: Lions, Northern giraffe (Kordofan subspecies), Sitatunga (young male) and Roan antelope (adult male).
From left top in clockwise direction: Hybrid Elephant?, Red-flanked duiker, Palm civet, melanistic White-tailed mongoose, Pousargues' mongoose, Bushbuck
### Species of historical species list that haven’t been observed yet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Red river hog</td>
<td>Potamochoerus porcus</td>
<td>Uncommon but very difficult to see due to their elusive lifestyle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Giant eland (Derby’s eland)</td>
<td>Taurotragus derbianus gigas</td>
<td>Believed to be extinct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bongo</td>
<td>Tragelrhys euryceros euryceros</td>
<td>Only to be found in the thickest forests in the park, this in combination with its elusive lifestyle makes it difficult to spot one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>African clawless otter</td>
<td>Aonyx capensis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>African civet</td>
<td>Civettictis civetta</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Golden cat</td>
<td>Felis aurata</td>
<td>One day...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Wild cat</td>
<td>Felis sylvester rubida</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Slender mongoose</td>
<td>Herpestes sanguinea</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Spot-necked otter</td>
<td>Lutra maculicollis</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Wild dog</td>
<td>Lycaon pictus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Banded mongoose</td>
<td>Mungos mungos</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Straw-coloured fruit bat</td>
<td>Eidolon helvum</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Singing fruit bat</td>
<td>Epomops frangueti</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Serotine bat</td>
<td>Eptesicus garambae</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Serotine bat</td>
<td>Eptesicus minutus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Serotine bat</td>
<td>Eptesicus rendalli</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Butterfly bat</td>
<td>Glaucnyncteris alboguttata</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Leaf-nosed bat</td>
<td>Hipposideros abae</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Leaf-nosed bat</td>
<td>Hipposideros beatus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Leaf-nosed bat</td>
<td>Hipposideros caffer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Leaf-nosed bat</td>
<td>Hipposideros cyclops</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Leaf-nosed bat</td>
<td>Hipposideros nanus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Moloney’s flat-headed bat</td>
<td>Mimetillus moloneyi</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Collared fruit bat</td>
<td>Myonycteris wroughtoni</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Chauve-souris à queue bifurquée</td>
<td>Nycteris arge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Slit-faced Bat</td>
<td>Nycteris grandis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Slit-faced Bat</td>
<td>Nycteris hispida</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Slit-faced Bat</td>
<td>Nycteris luteola</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Slit-faced Bat</td>
<td>Nycteris nana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Slit-faced Bat</td>
<td>Nycteris thebaica</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Nyctinomus</td>
<td>ansorgei</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Giant Mastiff Bat</td>
<td>Otomops martiensseni</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Pipistrelles</td>
<td>Pipistrellus culex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pipistrelles *Pipistrellus nanus*
Horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus abae*
Horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus alcyone*
Horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus landeri*
Rousette bat *Rousettus sp*
Evening bat *Scoteinus schleifenii (albiventer)*
House bat *Scotophilus nigrita*
Guano bat *Tadarida (Mops) midas*
Guano bat *Tadarida condylura*
Guano bat *Tadarida faradjius*
Guano bat *Tadarida major*
Guano bat *Tadarida pumila*
Guano bat *Tadarida trevori*
Tomb bat *Taphozous mauritianus*
Tomb bat *Taphozous nudiVentris*
Black-necked rock hyrax *Procavia johnstoni*
African hedgehog *Atelerix albiventris*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura b. planiceps*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura b. tephrogaster*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura boydi*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura caliginea*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura f. sururae*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura hildegardae*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura jacksoni*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura littoralis*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura luna garambae*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura nanilla*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura pasha*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura roosevelti*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura suajhelae*
White-toothed Shrew *Crocidura turba nilotica*
**Giant otter shrew** *Potamogale velox*
Climbing shrew *Sylvisorex granti*
Climbing shrew *Sylvisorex megalura*
Cape hare *Lepus capensis*
Scrub hare *Lepus saxatilis*
Chequered elephant shrew *Rhynchocyon cirnei*
**White rhinoceros** *Ceratotherium simum cottoni*

*Extinct for more than 10 years now…*

**Giant pangolin** *Smutsia gigantean*
*Should be around, difficult to spot*

**Agile mangabey** *Cercocebus agilis*
Red-tailed monkey *Cercopithecus ascanius*
Dent's monkey *Cercopithecus mona denti*
Demidoff's galago *Galago demidoff anomurus*
Senegal galago *Galago senegalensis senegalensis*
Central African red colobus *Piliocolobus oustaleti oustaleti*
Bush rat *Aethomys hindei*
**Lord Derby's anomalure** *Anomalurus derbianus*
*Extremely secretive, only to be found in the dense forests*
Unstriped grass rat *Arvicanthis niloticus*
**Brush-tailed porcupine** *Atherurus africanus*
*Shouldn't be too difficult. Need to spend more time in the dense forests.*
Shaggy swamp rat *Dasymys incomtus*
Climbing mice *Dendromus mesomelas*
Climbing mice *Dendromus messorius*
Climbing mice *Dendromus mystacalis*
Striped ground squirrel *Euxerus erythropus*
Common blesmol *Fukomys ochraceocinereus*
Thoma's rope squirrel *Funisciurus anerythrus*
African dormice *Graphiurus lorraineus*
Zebra mice *Lemniscomys macculus*
Zebra mice *Lemniscomys striatus*
Brush-furred mice *Lophuromys sikapusi*
Long-footed rat *Malacomys sp.*
Pygmy mouse *Mus minutoides*
Common mice *Mus sorella*
Gray-bellied pygmy mouse *Mus triton*
Mill rat *Mylomys dybowski*
Rusty-nosed rat *Oenomys hypoxanthus*
Groove-toothed rat *Otomys tropicalis*
Jackson's praomys, Jackson's soft-furred mouse *Praomy jacksoni*
African giant squirrel *Protoxerus stangeri*
Fat mice *Steatomys opimus.*
Savannah cane-rat *Thryonomis gregorianus*
Marsh cane-rat *Thryonomis swinderianus*
Uranomys mouse *Uranomys ruddi*
From left top in clockwise direction: Black-legged mongoose, Yellow-backed duiker, Leopard, Ugandan grass-hare, Aardvark, Giant forest hog