



Wild Globe Travel Consultancy

Tailored Wildlife, Wilderness and Adventure Travel Across the Globe.

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UGANDA

Date - June 2013

Duration - 22 Days

Destinations

Entebbe - Kidepo Valley National Park - Murchison Falls National Park - Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary - Semliki Wildlife Reserve - Semliki National Park - Kibale National Park - Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary - Queen Elizabeth National Park - Kyambura Gorge - Lake Mburo National Park

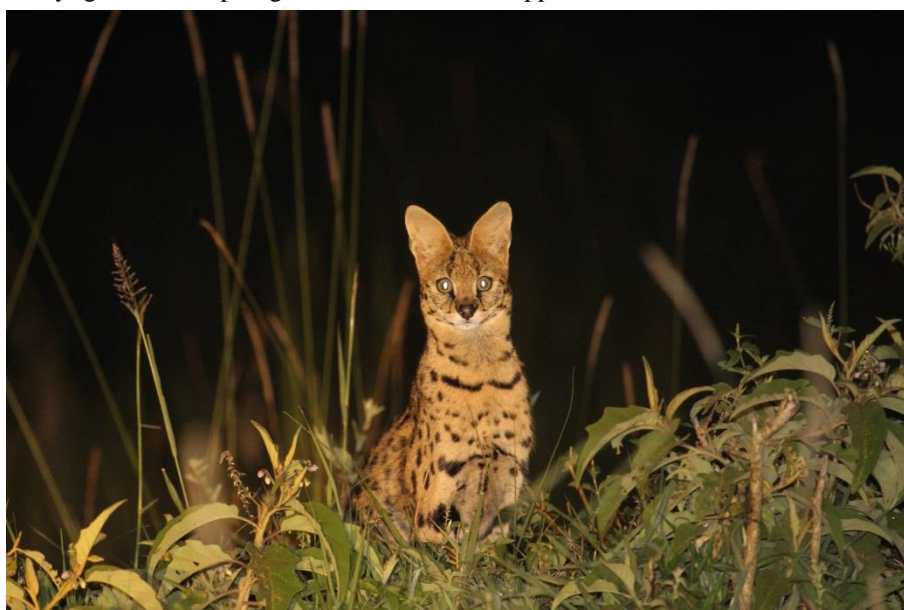
Trip Overview

Prior to the many years of unrest, Uganda was always considered the premier safari destination in East Africa and on this trip I intended to prove that it could be again, as the wildlife is recovering incredibly well in the majority of areas and the combination of a great traditional safari and the opportunity of intimate encounters with gorillas and chimpanzees, is simply too good to resist as far as I am concerned. I also wanted to try a new local operator and guide, as my current contact largely focuses on gorilla safaris and I am going to need a company with extensive knowledge of the entire country. My first destination was Kidepo Valley National Park in the extreme north, bordering the recently established South Sudan. I had not visited Kidepo for a number of years, but it was always one

of my favourite reserves and I was aware that certain species occur here that cannot be found in the rest of Uganda. I knew therefore, that in order to provide a first class safari, it was essential that I include this park and that it at least had the potential to deliver a great wildlife experience for visitors. Cheetah, caracal, bat-eared fox, striped hyena, aardwolf, klipspringer and greater kudu are some of the animals found only here, but for me the key was cheetah, as I could barely contemplate arranging a safari that did not provide a reasonable opportunity of seeing these graceful and delicate cats. Having spoken at length with the local guides, and based on my own experience over four days, I believe that the chances of observing cheetah here are good, as the guides were realistic enough to inform me that you would probably need three days to be sure and I personally saw the same individual two days in a row. The second of those sightings



was actually an outstanding one, although we quickly realised that we had missed one of the greatest sights in Africa by no more than a minute or two, a cheetah running at full speed. It began when we noticed a large number of topi and oribi frantically foot stomping and alarm calling and made the rather obvious decision to stop the vehicle and begin scanning the immediate vicinity. After several minutes we were rewarded with the revealing flick of a tail in the long grass and proceeded to slowly approach a cheetah that had just killed an oribi. Obviously exhausted after a long pursuit, this was no stealthy ambush, the cheetah was lying next to the body in order to recover before starting to feed. We had missed the chase by a matter of minutes, but had still been extremely lucky and spent the next hour and a half watching the hungry cheetah make short work of much of the unfortunate antelope before finding shade under a tree and promptly falling asleep. I smiled when I saw the ubiquitous black-backed jackals arrive at the carcass, but strangely, they were the only pair I encountered on the entire trip. Cat sightings in general appear to be good at Kidepo, as I saw several lions and a serval and was informed that leopards are spotted with reasonable regularity and caracals maybe as often as fortnightly on average, which is fairly respectable for such an elusive animal. Indeed, other guests at my lodge had been fortunate enough to see a caracal two days before I arrived. My serval encounter was at night and was very special, as the distinctive small cat was so engrossed hunting, it totally ignored our spotlight and allowed us to approach within five or six metres. Productive nocturnal drives were a feature of my



stay, not just at Kidepo, but in general across the entire country. Side-striped jackals and white-tailed mongooses were particularly prevalent here and I also had good views of large-spotted genet, crested porcupine and African savannah hare. Large numbers of lions were viewed by day and night and I was fortunate enough to also find greater kudu and klipspringer while at Kidepo, as they would not be encountered elsewhere. In all I recorded 30 different mammal species during my brief stay, including a hugely impressive herd of over a thousand buffalo and a far smaller, but equally stirring herd of eland. Elephants are seasonal to some degree, but I still saw a couple on the day I departed and they are easy to see elsewhere in Uganda in any case. Considering the habitats to be visited, the trip was always likely to be a good one for primates and the patas monkeys observed at Kidepo were the first of thirteen primates seen during the course of the tour. Most of the antelope species are thriving, defassa waterbuck, hartebeest, bohor reedbuck and oribi all occur in high numbers, and it is lovely to see giraffe doing well again after being poached almost to extinction by the early 1990s. A wide variety of birds and reptiles are equally well represented and I enjoyed a great sighting of a spitting cobra, swaying at the side of the road with its hood raised, in addition to a juvenile python and the usual collection of colourful agamas and skinks. Although I had chartered a private flight from Entebbe to Kidepo, I decided to drive to Murchison Falls National Park, as I had heard a lot about the controversial oil exploration from various local contacts, particularly regarding the constant convoys of heavy trucks which access the drilling sites from the eastern entrance. I experienced this first hand and can only agree that sitting behind several huge construction vehicles for over an hour, is really no way to arrive at what was always one of the most evocative national parks in Africa. As I had not visited the reserve for a while, I cannot comment with any authority regarding the impact on the



wildlife, but all of the guides that I spoke to informed me that large numbers of animals had retreated further into the park and were no longer being seen as easily or as regularly in some areas. This made sense, as clearly some of the game driving circuits have been severely compromised and it is inconceivable that there will be no impact given the considerable disturbance in the Pakuba area and the fact that Murchison Falls is not a particularly large park. That said, there are still parts of the reserve where you can totally escape any indication of the disruption and only time will tell if the companies involved act as ethically as their initial assurances guarantee or whether another of the world's great wildlife destinations is lost forever. For now at least, Murchison Falls remains well worth visiting and I enjoyed a highly productive three days and a number of excellent encounters, predominantly at night. Uganda kob, a particularly handsome antelope and one of three kob subspecies, were plentiful, as were the elephants, including an adventurous individual that ventured into the grounds of my hotel and began eating the plants. Relatively few lions were seen during the day, the most notable being one hanging high in a tree, but at night the number increased dramatically and on three nocturnal drives I also encountered two different leopards. African civets were my biggest surprise, as these animals are generally scarce and yet at



Murchison Falls I saw at least eight, three within about fifteen minutes of each other on one evening drive. Side-striped jackals and white-tailed mongooses were almost as common at night as at Kidepo and new species included spotted hyena, common genet, bunyoro rabbit and verreaux's eagle owl. Given its location, the park sits on Lake Albert and is divided by the Victoria Nile, the



birdlife in general is spectacular and saddle-billed storks, grey crowned cranes, herons, egrets and kingfishers were just a few of dozens of varieties observed over the course of my stay. Dazzling bee-eaters constantly flitter in and out of their nests on the riverbanks and fish eagles stand guard over their territory every couple of hundred metres along the river. Many of the birds are viewed from the water and one of the boat tours takes you to the base of Murchison Falls, although it does not approach close enough for great pictures and to truly appreciate the tremendous power of so much water being forced through the narrow gorge, you have to visit the falls from the top, either on a day excursion or when exiting the park. The second boat tour is ostensibly to look for shoebill, but they are not consistently seen here and this was not the destination that I

expected to find them at. I had other much better chances as the tour progressed and at Murchison I was just happy to watch the huge crocodiles and hundreds of wallowing hippos. I would have liked to have spent time within the Budongo Forest and tried the chimpanzee treks there, but time did not permit and I will have to research that area on my next trip. My next destination, Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary, was selected for two reasons. Firstly, as with the cheetahs, I cannot tolerate the thought of arranging a safari in either southern or East Africa that does not include the possibility of at least searching for rhinos. Unfortunately this is getting far more difficult in several countries and I do everything that I can on each trip to ensure that rhinos can be seen, as it is utterly dispiriting not to even be able to look for creatures that have roamed these lands so majestically for thousands of years. However, the main reason for visiting was to support what I consider to be a hugely significant conservation initiative, as the last rhino was believed to have been killed in Uganda in 1982 and they remained extinct locally until four white rhinos were translocated to Ziwa from Kenya in 2005. To the great joy of everyone involved in the project, they have since bred successfully and Uganda once again has a population of wild rhinos, albeit a tiny and immensely fragile one. The hope is that the animals at Ziwa will continue to thrive and that one day it will be possible to return these gentle beasts to parks and reserves across the country. Given that they receive constant surveillance, the rhinos at Ziwa are not difficult to find and can be observed in a vehicle or on foot. In truth, the experience is not quite the same as just chancing upon one in the bush, but the animals are living in totally natural conditions and of course their guards are necessary at a time when the slaughter of these innocent creatures continues unchecked. I made two highly rewarding trips to see the rhinos at Ziwa and instead of feeling disappointed that they were so easy to locate, I was elated to see these animals back in Uganda after such a long absence. The reserve is also a good one for a few other smaller species and during my brief stay I saw common duiker, oribi, bushbuck, vervet monkey, banded mongoose, common genet and even a shoebill, as the camp arranges canoe trips in conjunction with the local community and I decided to take one on the morning of my departure. I very rarely spend time looking for specific

birds, despite the fact that I generally enjoy watching them, but the shoebill is one of the few exceptions and if any bird deserves the reputation of being an 'honorary mammal', it is certainly this prehistoric looking creature. I also had an ulterior motive on this occasion, as sitatunga are sometimes seen in the same area of swamp as the shoebill and I thought that I would combine the two. I should have known the bird would prevail, as I spent about half an hour wading through the swamp with water up to my waist to photograph the shoebill, but the closest I got to the antelope were its tracks. From Ziwa I moved on to Semliki Wildlife Reserve, which is adjacent to the national park of the same name in the foothills of the gorgeous Rwenzori Mountains. I knew before I even arrived that I did not have sufficient time to do Semliki justice and



that my visit was more about making a note of the areas that I wanted to explore further when I returned. As it was, I had arranged a boat tour on Lake Albert to look for shoebill, as this is where I have seen them previously and knew my chances were good, and a chimpanzee trek, as there are a few opportunities to see chimpanzees on foot in Uganda and I wanted to establish which offered the best possibility of success for guests. The chimp trek was promising, as it was due to take place with one of two academics working in the area and I have had some memorable experiences with scientists and researchers over the years. You normally find that

researchers come in one of two categories on these occasions, as there are those who love to share their work and from whom you learn an enormous amount, whilst the others view you as a total distraction and really only agree to spend time with you in order to continue to raise funds for their project. Sadly, the one at Semliki was very much in the latter category and I eventually decided to leave her and explore the forest on my own. Neither of us saw chimpanzees, but I at least had the consolation of spending time photographing guereza colobus and red-tailed monkey without feeling that I was intruding. The boat tour to see the shoebills was far more successful and, thanks to the skill of the local guide, I was able to get to within about 20 metres of this extraordinary looking bird and take some nice pictures. I also got some shots of probably the largest monitor lizards I have ever seen and had a lot of fun with a family of Pousargues' mongooses, which spent each afternoon invading the dining hall and scampering around the grounds of my lodge. The game drives were not quite as productive, although I did see a few elephants, another python, red-legged sun squirrels and several Uganda kob, as well as common and large-spotted genets at night. Apart from visiting a couple of the numerous magnificent Rift Valley crater lakes that litter the area, that was all I had time for at Semliki and I was soon moving



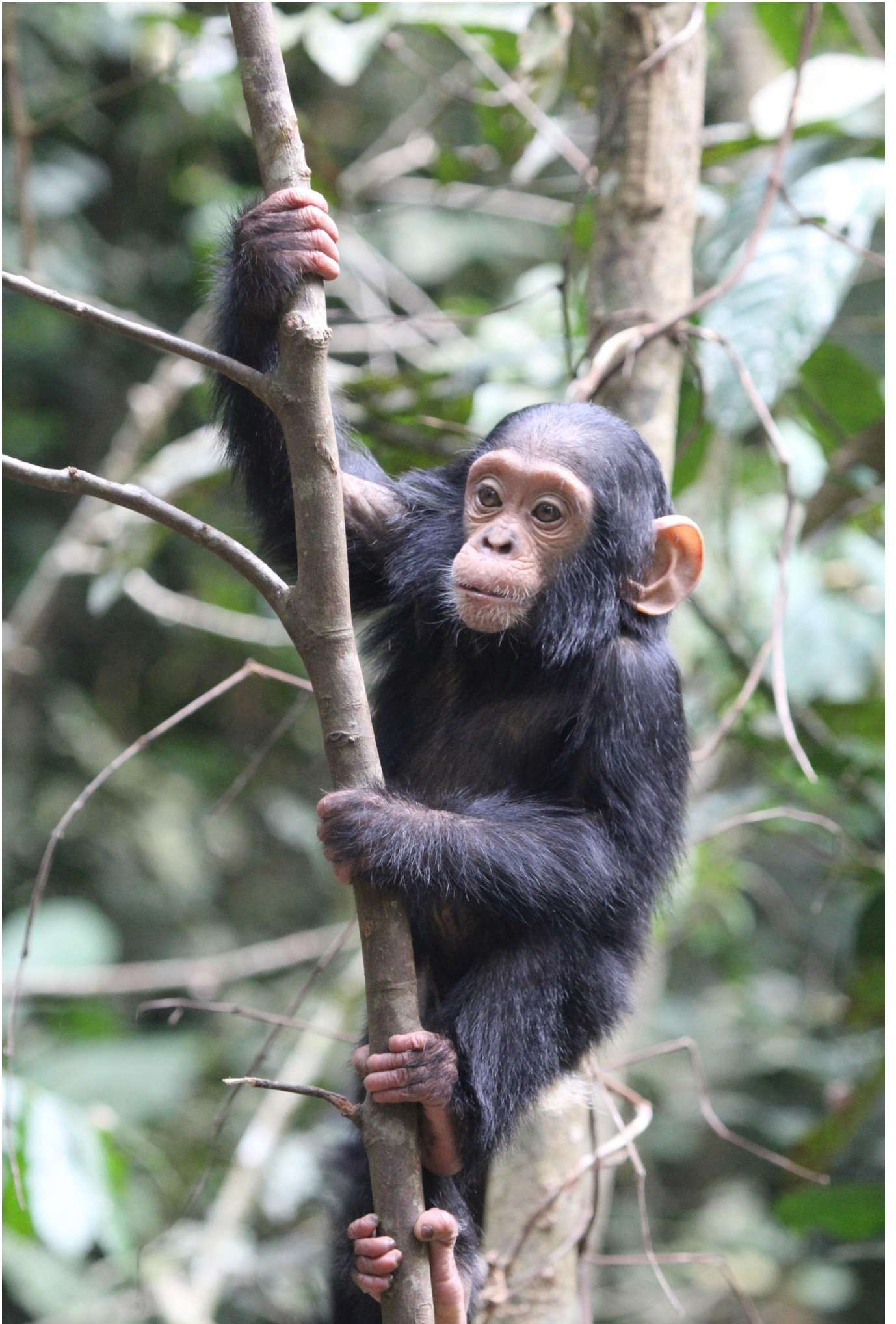
on to Kibale National Park, home to thirteen primate species and over 1500 chimpanzees, the largest population in Uganda. In all, I managed to see ten of the thirteen during my three-day stay, including tana river red colobus and grey-cheeked mangabey on the drive



into the park. As I was photographing the mangabeys at the side of the road, my guide shouted that he had seen chimpanzees and we were able to watch a small group crossing the forest in the distance. It was a wonderful start to my visit and I certainly had not expected to see the chimps this easily or quickly. That night I had another highly entertaining encounter, although it wasn't with the thomson's dwarf galago that we saw on the evening walk and it did not involve a primate. Instead, the object of my attention was a very sweet black rat, which had become trapped in the women's toilets and was in the process of terrifying half the guests as it tried to escape. I went into the toilet with one of the waiters, less in an attempt to assist and more to get a quick picture, and was very quickly alone, as the frightened rat scurried directly over the waiters' shoes and sent him running straight back out. In the end I was able to steer the disorientated rodent to safety, but not before I had closed the main toilet door in order to

take a few photographs. I took two chimp treks at Kibale, just to ensure that I was not unfortunate, as sightings are never entirely guaranteed even here, and both were superb experiences. Walking with chimpanzees climbing and running around you is always a highlight of any trip and my two treks were no exception, as the apes were extremely active and I was able to observe a great deal of natural behaviour and interaction between various members of each troop. On one memorable occasion I was sitting alone on the forest floor watching a young mother feeding her infant, when a huge male walked past me and nudged my elbow as I was taking pictures. There were no other people present at this stage, but I had not heard him approach and was not aware of his presence until he actually touched me. I also made two visits to the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, primarily to look for sitatunga and l'hoest's monkey, but also to support the reserve, which is run by the local community, who receive the proceeds of every visit. I did not see a great deal on the first visit, apart from a large troop of olive baboons eating a farmer's maize, but on the second, which took place at first light, I disturbed a sitatunga on the path and barely had time to register the fact before the equally startled animal leapt into the reeds. The





sanctuary is another good spot for primates and I saw four here in all, including l'hoest's monkey. I had less luck at night though and only spotted demidoff's dwarf galago and a wood mouse on my last two evening walks through the forest. Whilst it was always a long shot, I set up a couple of camera traps, which I use wherever I travel, in the hope of perhaps recording a highly elusive golden cat. Instead I got a marsh mongoose and an African civet and it was already time to move on to my next destination, Queen Elizabeth National Park. I had visited Queen Elizabeth more recently, as it is often combined with gorilla trips, and therefore knew more what to expect. As a result, I only stayed at one lodge in the Lake Edward region, whereas I would generally also use a wilderness camp in the Ishasha region to the extreme south and split my time between the two. After an initial game drive towards my lodge, on which I saw the first of three leopards encountered here, I began my stay with a peaceful cruise on the Kazinga Channel, a beautiful stretch of water running between Lake Edward and Lake George. This is always a lovely introduction to the park, as you generally see herds of elephants drinking in the hot afternoon



sun, as well as buffalos cooling down in the shallows and a host of ornate water birds perched along the riverbank. My trip was no exception, although the boat captain pushed far too close to a hippo, probably in the hope of getting a reaction for his guests, and we ended up scaring the poor animal out of the water and up onto the bank. The main reason for staying at Queen Elizabeth on this occasion was to visit the stunning Kyambura Gorge and compare the chimp trek within the gorge to those at Kibale. They are very different experiences, as there are far less at Kyambura and instead of walking slowly to known areas, as at Kibale, this is a more frantic exercise, as you cannot really afford to let the chimpanzees get past you in such a narrow gorge and as soon as you hear them moving, you immediately dash off to try and intercept them at some point. According to my guide, this rather unpredictable system works more often than not and it certainly did for us that day, as we found the chimpanzees after a fairly breathless chase along the steep banks of the gorge and proceeded to spend a wonderful hour with them. Unlike Kibale, the chimps appear to spend more time in the trees at Kyambura, although that may have only been on this occasion and we did also sit with a few on the ground for about fifteen minutes. Despite the distance and long drive, I decided that I should spend a day at the Ishasha section of the reserve, which is famous for lions lounging in the expansive fig trees and is the only area in the park at which you can see topi. It was a reasonable decision in terms of sightings, but as soon as I arrived I regretted not staying at least a couple of nights, as it is a beautiful area and the view across the river from the wilderness lodge I use is absolutely superb. We did see lions, but only the terrestrial kind, as well as lots of topi, spotted hyena and a small herd of elephants wading in the river in front of the lodge. On the drive back we saw a leopard



in good light and we encountered another that evening when we went spotlighting. The nocturnal drives were not quite as productive here, lions and large-spotted genets were the animals most commonly observed after dark, and probably my best sighting at night was from the grounds of the lodge overlooking the Kazinga Channel, when a huge male lion started roaring out challenges into the night and then lay down patiently on the dock below my vantage point, as if waiting for a response. Other highlights of Queen Elizabeth included a brief view of two giant forest hogs walking into the bushes on an early morning drive and an even more fleeting view of a running harvey's duiker on the walk back from the famous bat cave within the Maramagambo Forest. It had been another good stay in another first class park and I was hopeful that my final destination, Lake Mburo National Park, would provide a strong finish, for although it does not have

the reputation of some of the other reserves, you can see a lot of animals relatively easily here, including a few that are rarely observed elsewhere. By this stage of the trip, I only had two nights remaining and therefore spent as long in the field as possible, particularly searching the lake for any of the three otter species that occur here. I was not successful with the otters, but I did see eland and zebra for the first time since Kidepo and the only impala, dwarf mongoose and southern tree hyrax of the entire trip. Around the lodge area I found another three new species for the tour, a thick-tailed greater galago, which is commonly observed on the lodge decking, as well as a pair of marsh mongooses and several bushpigs, which visit the staff quarters at night in the hope of scavenging a few leftovers. Large predators are more difficult to see, but I was fortunate with several spotted hyenas and leopards are encountered

fairly regularly according to the guides and a guest who had seen one the day before I arrived. Lions are apparently also returning to the area after being wiped out by the local farmers more than a decade before. There have been several sightings in the last two or three years and the main guide that I used for my trip had already told me that he had seen them twice in the park that year, which is hopefully a good sign for the future for both the lions and the park. At night large-spotted genets and white-tailed mongooses were everywhere and I sat watching another two thick-tailed greater galagos in the trees next to my room each evening. Klipspringer loved the rocky outcrops around the lodge, which was perched high on a hill with an outstanding view of the park, and in all I saw five different types of mongoose at Mburo, with banded and slender both making a belated appearance as I exited the park. The hungry bush pigs were my 64th and final mammal species of a tour that I believe highlights just how well the wildlife is doing again in Uganda and the type of quality safari that can be experienced in the country once more, particularly when combined with a magical opportunity to spend time with mountain gorillas.



No.	Species	Scientific Name	Notes
1	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	Good numbers at Kidepo, Murchison and QE.
2	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Two at Murchison Falls and three at Queen Elizabeth.
3	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>	One individual seen twice at Kidepo.
4	Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	One prolonged sighting at Kidepo at night.
5	Black-backed Jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>	A pair at Kidepo only.
6	Side-striped Jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>	Very common at Kidepo and Murchison.
7	Spotted Hyena	<i>Crocota crocuta</i>	Individuals only at Murchison, QE and Lake Mburo.
8	African Civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	Very common at night at Murchison.
9	Banded Mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>	Regularly seen at Murchison, Ziwa and Mburo.
10	Common Dwarf Mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>	Mburo only, but frequently observed.
11	White-tailed Mongoose	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	More than thirty in total at almost every destination.
12	Slender Mongoose	<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i>	One on the drive from Kidepo to Murchison and a second when exiting Mburo.
13	Pousargues' Mongoose	<i>Dologale dybowskii</i>	A group of about eight seen often around the lodge at Semliki.
14	Marsh Mongoose	<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	Two seen on consecutive nights behind the staff quarters at Lake Mburo.

15	Common Genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Common at Murchison Falls, Ziwa and Semliki.
16	Central African Large-spotted Genet	<i>Genetta maculata</i>	Large numbers at Kidepo, Semliki, QE and Mburo.
17	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Several herds at Lake Mburo only.
18	Sitatunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekii</i>	Individual running into the reeds in the early morning at Bigodi Wetlands Sanctuary.
19	Defassa Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa ssp</i>	Abundant at Kidepo, common elsewhere.
20	Topi	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>	Small herds in the Ishasha section of QE only.
21	Oribi	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>	Common throughout, excluding Semliki and Kibale.
22	Common Duiker	<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	A few individuals at Kidepo and Ziwa.
23	Harvey's Duiker	<i>Cephalophus harveyi</i>	Lone individual on the walk back from the bat cave at Maramagambo Forest in Queen Elizabeth.
24	Greater Kudu	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	Two females in the forest towards the north of Kidepo.
25	Kob	<i>Kobus kob</i>	Common throughout Murchison, Semliki and QE.
26	Klipspringer	<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	One individual and two pairs in the rocky areas of Kidepo.
27	Bohor Reedbuck	<i>Redunca redunca</i>	Very common at Kidepo, Murchison, QE & Mburo.
28	Hartebeest	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	Large numbers at Murchison, Semliki and QE.
29	Common Eland	<i>Tragelaphus oryx</i>	Large herd at Kidepo and smaller herds at Mburo.
30	Guenther's Dik-dik	<i>Madoqua guentheri</i>	Two individuals in the thick vegetation towards the north at Kidepo..
31	Bushbuck	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Observed in every area except Semliki and Kibale.
32	African Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Herd of over a thousand at Kidepo and generally common.
33	Plains Zebra	<i>Equus quagga</i>	Kidepo and Mburo only.
34	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	Kidepo and Murchison only, but common at both.
35	African Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	Large numbers at Murchison and QE, far less at Semliki.
36	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Numerous in all of the freshwater lakes and waterways.
37	White Rhinoceros	<i>Ceratotherium simum</i>	Eight encountered on foot at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary.
38	Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	Five different troops at Kibale and Queen Elizabeth.
39	Olive Baboon	<i>Papio Anubis</i>	Common at every destination.
40	Guereza Colobus	<i>Colobus guereza</i>	Regularly observed at Semliki, Kibale and QE.
41	Tana River Red Colobus	<i>Procolobus rufomitratus</i>	Small numbers at Kibale.
42	Red-tailed Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>	Several groups at Semliki, Kibale and QE.
43	Blue Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i>	Just one individual at distance in Queen Elizabeth.
44	Vervet Monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>	Seen in large numbers everywhere excluding Kibale.
45	Patas Monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	Several small groups at Kidepo and Murchison Falls.
46	Grey-cheeked Mangabey	<i>Lophocebus albigena</i>	Two groups at Kibale.
47	L'hoest's Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus lhoesti</i>	Small group at the Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary in Kibale.
48	Thick-tailed Greater Galago	<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>	Commonly observed at night at Mburo.
49	Thomas's Dwarf Galago	<i>Galagoides thomasi</i>	One individual at distance at Kibale.
50	Demidoff's Dwarf Galago	<i>Galagoides demidovii</i>	One individual at Kibale.
51	Common Warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>	Abundant in every major reserve except Kibale.
52	Bushpig	<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i>	Small group seen on consecutive nights behind the staff quarters at Lake Mburo.
53	Giant Forest Hog	<i>Hylochoerus meinertzhageni</i>	Two walking into vegetation at Queen Elizabeth.
54	Rock Hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Large number around the lodge at Kidepo.
55	Southern Tree Hyrax	<i>Dendrohyrax arboreus</i>	Brief sighting in a tree at night at Mburo.
56	Bunyoro Rabbit	<i>Poelagus marjorita</i>	Several on night drives at Murchison Falls.

57	African Savanna Hare	<i>Lepus microtis</i>	Widespread at Kidepo, Queen Elizabeth and Mburo.
58	Crested Porcupine	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	One on a night drive at Kidepo.
59	Red-legged Sun Squirrel	<i>Heliosciurus rufobrachium</i>	A few individuals at Semliki and Kibale.
60	Striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Xerus erythropus</i>	Two individuals at Kidepo.
61	Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	One seen around the lodge at Kibale.
62	Emin's Gerbil	<i>Taterillus emini</i>	One on a night drive at Murchison Falls.
63	Beaded Wood Mouse	<i>Hylomyscus aeta</i>	One on a night walk at Kibale.
64	African Grass Rat	<i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i>	Several in one area at Queen Elizabeth.



Pousargues' Mongoose

When I first saw this species at Semliki, I was immediately aware that these were not mongooses I had previously encountered and I consequently devoted a significant amount of time to observing and photographing the small group that appeared around my lodge each afternoon. However, I was not aware at the time, just how rare this mammal actually is, as it is currently known from just a few museum specimens and there have been no confirmed records of it for more than three decades, just a handful of possible sightings. The locals are obviously familiar with the animal and referred to it as a savannah mongoose, but it was always thought to be solitary, which, if my encounters are anything to go by, is not actually the case. A full report of my sightings will appear in the December 2014 issue of *Small Carnivore Conservation*, the journal of the IUCN/SSC Small Carnivore Specialist Group (SCSG).







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