

The Marsabit National Park is a national park and nature reserve located at Mount Marsabit in northern Kenya, near the town of Marsabit. It is located 560 km north of Nairobi in Marsabit County in the former Eastern Province and its reserve is noted for its zebra population and bird sanctuary.[1]

Contents

1 Geography

2 Flora and fauna

3 References

4 External links

Geography[edit]

The area contains a number of extinct volcanic craters, which are covered in forests. There is a crater in the vicinity named Gof Redo, roughly 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) north of Marsabit in the fork of the roads to Moyale and North Horr.[2]

Flora and fauna[edit]

Zebras, elephant, lions, giraffes, buffaloes, black and white colobus, blue monkeys, bushbucks, sunis, and leopards populate the park. The park contains some 350 species of birds in total, of which 52 are birds of prey. The cliffs in the northern end of Lake Paradise, in Gof Sokorte Gurda, are home to a number of birds, including Ruppell's griffon vultures, peregrine falcons, mountain buzzards, black kites and African fish eagles. Ducks such as garganeys, southern pochards and teals are found on the lake, which is also home to red-knobbed coots, hamerkops, ibises, purple herons, and yellow-billed storks. On the lower slopes of the forest of the park, marked by scrubland, there are populations of olive baboons, vervet monkeys, Peter's gazelles, beisa oryxes, striped hyenas, caracals and aardwolves.[3]

On the road south from Mount Marsabit to the rocky plains of Shaba, Michael Palin describes passing extraordinary Strangler figs in the mountain-top forest, a stark contrast to the dusty track below which is lined by low, flat-topped acacias.[4] The area is home to sociable weaver birds, which can be identified by their neater, tidier nests; sparrow weavers, with their "scruffier" nests; and white-bellied turacos.[4]

In the 1970s, the park achieved fame for reputedly having elephants with the longest tusks in the world. One elephant, named Ahmed, was under constant surveillance, and when he died his tusks were found to weigh over 300 kg.[5]

[^] "Marsabit National Park & Reserve". Kenya Wildlife Service. Retrieved 26 November 2016.

[^] Trillo, Richard (2002). Kenya. Rough Guides. p. 625. ISBN 978-1-85828-859-8.

[^] Firestone, Matthew D.; Karlin, Adam (2009). Watching Wildlife East Africa. Lonely Planet. p. 94. ISBN 978-1-74104-208-5.

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a b Palin, Michael (1992). Pole to Pole. London: BBC Books. p. 197. ISBN 0-563-36283-9.

[^] "Marsabit National Park Destination Guide". Kenyasafari.com. Retrieved 26 November 2016.

External links[edit]

World Database on Protected Areas – Marsabit National Park
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National Parks of Kenya

National Parks

Aberdare Amboseli Arabuko Sokoke Central Island Chyulu Hills Hell's Gate Kora Lake

Nakuru Malka Mari Marsabit Meru Mount Elgon Mount Kenya Mount Longonot Nairobi Ol

Donyo Sabuk Ruma Saiwa Swamp Sibiloi Tsavo East Tsavo West

Reserves

Arawale Bisanadi Boni Buffalo Springs Dodori Kerio Valley Kakamega Forest Kisumu Impala

Lake Bogoria Maasai Mara Mwaluganje Mwea Samburu Shaba Shimba Hills Witu Forest

Marine National Parks

and Reserves

Kisite-Mpunguti Kiunga Malindi Mombasa Watamu

Sanctuary

Kisumu Impala

Former National Reserves

Tana River Primate National Reserve