

Mago National Park is a national park in Ethiopia located in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region about 782 kilometers south of Addis Ababa and north of a large 90° bend in the Omo River, the 2162 square kilometers of this park are divided by the Mago River, a tributary of the Omo, into two parts. To the west is the Tama Wildlife Reserve, with the Tama river defining the boundary between the two. To the south is the Murle Controlled Hunting Area, distinguished by Lake Dipa which stretches along the left side of the lower Omo. The park office is 115 kilometers north of Omorate and 26 kilometers southwest of Jinka. All roads to and from the park are unpaved.

The major environments in and around the Park are the rivers and riverine forest, the wetlands along the lower Mago and around Lake Dipa, the various grasslands on the more level areas, and scrub on the sides of the hills. Open grassland comprises about 9% of the park's area. The largest trees are found in the riverine forest beside the Omo, Mago and Neri. Areas along the lower Omo (within the park) are populated with a rich diversity of ethnic groups, including the Aari, Banna, Bongoso, Hamar, Karo, Kwegu, Male and Mursi peoples.[1]

Fauna[edit]

The Mago National Park was established in 1979, making it the newest of Ethiopia's several National Parks. Its highest point is Mount Mago (2528 meters). Indigenous bird life include the extremely uncommon *Turdoides tenebrosus* especially at Lake Dipa, *Estrilda troglodytes* in the rank grass along streams and swamp edges, *Phoeniculus damarensis*, *Porphyrio alleni*, *Butorides striatus* also at Lake Dipa, and in riverine contexts *Pluvianus aegypticus*, *Scotopelia peli* and *Cossypha niveicapilla*. [1] The park's perhaps best known attraction are the Mursi, known for piercing their lips and inserting disks made of clay. Other interesting animals you could find are Black Rhinoceros, Lion, Leopard, Hippopotamus, Cape Buffalo, Cheetah, Giraffe, Hyena, African Wild Dog, Warthog, Nile Crocodile, Zebra and African Elephant.

In this park, the main biomes or landforms are Savanna, Acacia trees, Shrubland, and also Woodland.