

MAMMAL CHECKLIST FOR THE NYIKA NATIONAL PARK AND VWAZA MARSH WILDLIFE RESERVE

Compiled by David Happold, revised August 2019

This checklist has been compiled from published and unpublished records over the last 100 years. Sources are given in Note 1. The scientific and vernacular names are those used in *Mammals of Africa* (editors Jonathan Kingdon, David Happold, Thomas Butynski, Michael Hoffmann, Meredith Happold & Jan Kalina, 6 vols., Bloomsbury Natural History, London & New York, 2013); scientific names in brackets are those by which the species has been known or recorded in the past. Some old records are considered to be incorrect and are listed in Note 2 below; they require verification before the species can be accepted as occurring here.

The total number of mammals presently-accepted for the Nyika National Park is 99, of which 34 are rodents, 10 are bats (Chiroptera), 17 are carnivores and 17 are ungulates. There are 48 species recorded from the Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve, of which 6 have not been recorded from the Nyika National Park. The Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve has not been extensively surveyed for smaller mammals and the total number of species is certainly much larger than the 48 recorded here. This checklist is a corrected version of Table 1 published in the *Nyika-Vwaza News* (2014) and downloadable at <https://nyika-vwaza-trust.org/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter-18.pdf>

Habitat abbreviations (Nyika only):

A = aquatic habitats; C = commensal; E = evergreen forest; L = woodland on lower slopes in Nyika NP; P = Nyika plateau; R = rocks/ rocky habitats; S = swampy areas & dambos; Z = Zambian Nyika; ? = Uncertain or dubious.

Scientific name	Vernacular name	Habitat	Vwaza WR	References & notes
MACROSCOLIDIDEA				
<i>Elephantulus brachyrhynchus</i>	Short-snouted Sengi	P?	V	27, 3, 13
<i>Petrodromus tetradactylus</i>	Four-toed Sengi	P, L?	V	3, 13
<i>Rhynchocyon cirnei</i>	Chequered Giant Sengi	L		3, 13, 23
HYRACOIDEA				
<i>Heterohyrax brucei</i> (<i>Dendrohyrax brucei</i>)	Bush Hyrax	R, P, L	V	32, 3, 21
TUBULIDENTATA				
<i>Orycteropus afer</i>	Aardvark	L	V	33, (13), (21)
PROBOSCIDEA				
<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	African Elephant	P, L	V	3, 21

PRIMATES				
<i>Otolemur crassicaudatus</i>	Long-eared Greater Galago	L	V	(21)
<i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i>	Vervet Monkey	L	V	3, 21, 5
<i>Cercopithecus mitis</i> (<i>C. albogularis</i>)	Blue Monkey	L, E		6, 21, 5, 23
<i>Papio cynocephalus</i> (<i>P. ursinus</i>)	Yellow Baboon	L	V	13, 21, 5
<i>Galago</i> sp. (<i>G. moholi</i> , <i>G. senegalensis</i>)	Galago	L	V	(21), 3
RODENTIA				
<i>Heliosciurus mutabilis</i> (<i>H. rufobrachium mutabilis</i>)	Mutable Sun Squirrel	?P, L, Z		30, 2, 1
<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>	Smith's Bush Squirrel	L	V	21
<i>Paraxerus lucifer</i>	Black-and-red Bush Squirrel	E, Z		14, 13, 3
<i>Graphiurus murinus</i>	African Forest Dormouse	Z		30, 2, 14, 13
<i>Graphiurus microtis</i>	Noak's African Dormouse	P, L		3, 8
<i>Tatera boehmi</i> (<i>T. böhmi</i>)	Boehm's Gerbil	L		14, 16, 13, 3
<i>Beamys hindei</i> (<i>B. major</i>)	Long-tailed Pouched Rat	E		14, 8, 1
<i>Cricetomys gambianus</i>	Giant Pouched Rat	C, L		14, 16, 3
<i>Saccostomus campestris</i>	Cape Pouched Rat	L		8
<i>Lophuromys flavopunctatus</i> (<i>L. aquilus</i>)	Yellow-spotted Brush-furred Rat	E, P		30, 23, 27, 14, 15, 16, 18, 8
<i>Acomys spinosissimus</i> (<i>A. selousi</i> , <i>A. cahirinus</i>)	Least Spiny Mouse	L	V	30, 14, 8
<i>Aethomys chrysophilus</i> (<i>Mus chrysophilus</i>)	Red Veld Rat	L		30, 14, 8
<i>Aethomys nyikae</i> (<i>Mus nyikae</i>)	Nyika Veld Rat	P, L		29, 27, 8
<i>Mus triton</i>	Grey-bellied Pygmy Mouse	P		23, 27, 14, 16, 17, 8
<i>Dendromus nyikae</i> (<i>D. mesomelas nyikae</i>)	Nyika African Climbing Mouse	P, Z		23, 14, 16, 8
<i>Dendromus melanotis</i>	Grey African Climbing Mouse	?L, Z		27, 2, 3

<i>Dendromus mesomelas</i> (<i>D. mesomelas nysae</i> , <i>D. nysae</i>)	Brants's African Climbing Mouse	P, Z		30, 1,16, 3
<i>Dendromus mysticalis</i>	Chestnut African Climbing Mouse	P, Z		14, 2, 3
<i>Dasymys incomtus</i> (<i>D. incomptus</i> , <i>D. kaiseri</i>)	Common Shaggy Rat	P, L, S, Z		2, 14, 16, 3
<i>Lemniscomys rosalia</i> (<i>L. griselda</i> , <i>Arvicanthis dorsalis</i>)	Single-striped Grass Mouse	L		30, 14, 16
<i>Rhabdomys pumilio</i>	Four-striped Grass Mouse	P		23, 27, 14, 16, 18, 8
<i>Grammomys ibeanus</i> (<i>Thamnomys cometes</i>)	East African Thicket Rat	L		3, 14, 16 18, 8
<i>Grammomys dolichurus</i> (<i>Mus arborareus</i> , <i>Thamnomys cometes</i> ?)	Woodland Thicket Rat	P, L		14, 17
<i>Praomys delectorum</i> (<i>P. jacksoni delectorum</i>)	Delicate Soft-furred Mouse	E, P		27, 14, 16, 17
<i>Mastomys natalensis</i>	Natal Multimammate Rat	L, Z		14, 16, 8
<i>Pelomys fallax</i> (<i>Golunda fallax</i>)	East African Creek Rat	L, S		14, 16, 3
<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Black Rat	C		14, 8
<i>Zelotomys hildegardae</i>	Hildegarde's Broad-headed Mouse	P, L, Z		2, 14, 16, 8, 3
<i>Otomys angoniensis</i> (<i>O. irrorates angoniensis</i> , <i>O. irroratus</i> , <i>O. angoniensis nyikae</i>)	Angoni Vlei Rat	S, P, Z		23, 2, 14, 16
<i>Otomys denti</i> (<i>O. kempfi</i>)	Dent's Vlei Rat	S, P, Z		23, 27, 1, 14, 16
<i>Otomys typus</i> (<i>O. uzunwensis</i> , <i>O. typus uzungwensis</i> , <i>O. percivali</i>)	Ethiopian Vlei Rat	S, P, Z		23, 14, 1
<i>Heliophobius argenteocinereus</i>	Silvery Mole-rat	P, L, Z		23, 2, 3, 14
<i>Fukomys whytei</i> (<i>Georychus whytei</i> , <i>Cryptomys hottentotus whytei</i> , <i>C. whytei</i>)	Whyte's Mole-rat	L, Z	V	2, 14, 8
<i>Thryonomys gregorianus</i> (<i>T. sclateri</i>)	Lesser Cane Rat	L	V	(or <i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>) 30, 14, 2, 3
<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>	Cape Crested Porcupine	P, L	V	20, 8, 5, 21

LAGOMORPHA				
<i>Lepus victoriae</i> (<i>L. saxatalis</i>)	African Savanna Hare	P, L	V	3, 21
<i>Pronolagus rupestris</i> (<i>Lepus crassicaudatus</i>)	Red Rock Hare	R	V	30?, 2, 3, 21
SORICOMORPHA				
<i>Crocidura olivieri</i> (<i>C. flavescens, C. occidentalis</i>)	African Giant Shrew	P, Z		2, 20
<i>Crocidura luna</i> (<i>C. fumosa johnstoni</i>)	Moonshine Shrew	P, Z		23, 2, 20, 3
<i>Crocidura hildegardeae</i> (<i>C. silaceae hildegardeae</i>)	Hildegard's Shrew	P, Z		23, 1, 3
<i>Crocidura nigrofusca</i> (<i>C. zaodon</i>)	African Black Shrew	Z		1, 3
<i>Suncus lixus</i> (<i>Crocidura lixa</i>)	Greater Dwarf Shrew	L		30, 3
<i>Suncus varilla</i>	Lesser Dwarf Shrew	L		23
<i>Myosorex gnoskei</i>	Gnoske's Mouse Shrew	P		28
CHIROPTERA				
<i>Eidolon helvum</i>	African Straw-coloured Fruit Bat	Z, E		2, 3
<i>Epomophorus wahlbergi</i>	Wahlberg's Epauletted Fruit Bat	Z		2, 3
<i>Epomophorus crypturus</i>	Peters's Epauletted Fruit Bat	Z		2, 3
<i>Plerotes anchietae</i>	Anchieta's Broad-faced Fruit Bat	L		22
<i>Rhinolophus clivosus</i>	Geoffroy's Horseshoe Bat	Z, E		2,3, 18
<i>Rhinolophys blasii</i>	Blasius's Horseshoe Bat	Z, E		2, 3, 18
<i>Rhinolophus hildebrandti</i>	Hildebrandt's Horseshoe Bat	Z		2, 3
<i>Miniopterus natalensis</i> (<i>M. schreibersi</i>)	Natal Long-fingered Bat	Z		1, 3
<i>Pipistrellus hesperidus</i> (<i>P. kuhli</i>)	Dusk Pipistrelle	P		3, 18
<i>Tadarida ventralis</i>	Giant Free-tailed Bat	Z		3

CARNIVORA				
<i>Canis adustus</i>	Side-striped Jackal	P, L	V	6, 23, 2, 21, 5
<i>Lycaon pictus</i>	African Wild Dog	L	V	6, 3, 7
<i>Aonyx capensis</i>	African Clawless Otter	L, A	V	3, 21
<i>Atilax paludinosus</i>	Marsh Mongoose		V	
<i>Mellivora capensis</i>	Ratel	P	V	5, 3, 21, 11
<i>Poecigale albinucha</i>	African Striped Weasel	P, Z		3, 21, 12 (one record on Nyika)
<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	Two-spotted Palm Civet	E		2, 3, 21
<i>Civetticus civetta</i> (<i>Viverra civetta</i>)	African Civet	Z, L	V	3, 21, 5
<i>Bdeogale crassicaudata</i>	Bushy-tailed Mongoose	P		3, 21
<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	White-tailed Mongoose		V	
<i>Herpestes ichneumon</i>	Egyptian Mongoose	S, (P) (L)		21
<i>Herpestes sanguineus</i> (<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>)	Slender Mongoose	P?	V	3, 21
<i>Helogale parvula</i>	Dwarf Mongoose	L	V	2, 3, 21
<i>Mungos mungo</i>	Banded Mongoose		V	
<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	Spotted Hyaena	P	V	6, 2, 3, 21
<i>Caracal caracal</i> (<i>Felis caracal</i>)	Caracal	P		5, 21; but 3 suggests Nyika record is incorrect although one seen near Thazima in 2008
<i>Felis lybica</i>	Wild Cat	P	V	One record on Nyika (31)
<i>Leptailurus serval</i> (<i>Felis serval</i>)	Serval		V	6, 2, 3, 21
<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Leopard	P	V	26, 6, 2, 3, 21
<i>Panthera leo</i>	Lion	L(P)	V	26, 32, 6, 3, 21
PERISSODACTYLA				
<i>Equus quagga</i> (<i>E. zebra</i> , <i>E. burchellii</i>)	Zebra	P	V	24, 23, 26, 6, 32, 21
ARTIODACTYLA				
<i>Potamochoerus larvatus</i> (<i>P. porcus</i>)	Bushpig	L, E	V	19, 6, 3

<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i> (<i>P. aethiopicus</i>)	Common Warthog	L	V	24, 6, 19, 3, 21
<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Hippopotamus	L, A	V	54, 3, 21
<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i> (<i>A. lichtensteinii</i>)	Hartebeest	L	V	6, 26, 21
<i>Cephalophus harveyi</i> (<i>C. natalensis</i>)	Harvey's Duiker	P, E		23, 26, 6, 21
<i>Philatomba monticola</i> (<i>Cephalophus monticola</i>)	Blue Duiker	E		26, 6, 3, 21
<i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i>	Common Duiker	P, L	V	23, 26, 6, 3, 21
<i>Oreotragus oreotragus</i>	Klipspringer	P, R	V	24, 26, 6, 3, 21
<i>Raphicerus sharpei</i>	Sharpe's Grysbok	L	V	3, 21
<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	Roan Antelope	P	V	24, 32, 26, 6, 3, 21
<i>Hippotragus niger</i>	Sable Antelope		V	Recorded just outside Nyika NP in surrounding miombo and mopane woodlands (26), but not by others. Recorded in Vwaza Marsh WR (25)
<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	Greater Kudu	L	V	6, 3, 21
<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Bushbuck	P, L	V	24, 26, 6, 21
<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Common Eland	P	V	32, 23, 6, 26, 3, 21
<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Impala		V	
<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Waterbuck		V	
<i>Kobus vardonii</i>	Puku	P, L	V	Vagrant or migrant in Nyika NP. 6, 3, 21
<i>Redunca arundinum</i>	Southern Reedbuck	P		24, 26, 6, 3, 21
<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	Buffalo	L	V	24, 26, 6, 21

Note 1. The following three species were recorded many years ago but are now considered to be locally extinct: Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*, Black Rhinoceros *Diceros bicornis*, and Wildebeest *Connochaetes taurinus cooksoni*.

The following species have been recorded for the Nyika N.P. but are not considered to occur owing to misidentification, lack of verification, or absence of evidence (e.g. specimens): Southern Tree Hyrax *Dendrohyrax arboreus*, Gambian Sun Squirrel *Heliosciurus gambianus*, Chestnut African Climbing Mouse *Dendromus mystacalis*, Tiny Pygmy Mouse *Mus minutoides*, Dybowski's Mill Rat *Mylomys dybowskii*, Bushveld Gerbil *Tatera leucogaster*, Tropical Vlei Rat *Otomys tropicalis*, Common Fat Mouse *Steatomys pratensis*, Bicoloured Shrew *Crocidura fuscomurina*, Lesser Red Shrew *Crocidura hirta*, Dobson's Epaulleted Fruit Bat *Epomops dobsoni*, Bushveld Horseshoe Bat

Rhinolophus ?simulator, Welwitsch's Myotis *Myotis welwitschi*, Madagascan Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida fulminans*, Rusty-spotted Genet *Genetta maculata* (as *Genetta rubiginosa*), and Suni *Neotragus moschatus* (as *N. livingstonianus*). Full details on these species are given in Table 2 of *Nyika-Vwaza News* **18**: 8-15 (2014).

Note 2. Reference abbreviations: 1–Ansell 1978; 2–Ansell & Ansell 1953; 3–Ansell & Dowsett 1988; 4–Bergmans & Jachmann 1983; 5–Carter 1987; 6–Cater 1954; 7–Chirwa 1995; 8–Chitaukali *et al.* 2001; 9–Critchlow 2004; 10–Critchlow & Foot 1996; 11–Critchlow *et al.* 1995; 12–Critchlow & Kumwenda 1995; 13–Elias 1981; 14–Hanney 1962; 15–Hanney 1964; 16–Hanney 1965; 17–Happold & Happold 1989; 18–Happold *et al.* 1987; 19–Hough 1989; 20–Ingles 1965; 21–Johnson 1990; 22–Kock *et al.* 1998; 23–Lawrence & Loveridge 1953; 24–McClounie 1903; 25–McShane & McShane-Caluzi 1988; 26–Mitchell 1953; 27–Overton & Nursaw 1972; 28–Peterhans *et al.* 2008; 29–Thomas 1987a; 30–Thomas 1897b; 31–Tweddle 1995; 32–Young 1953; 33–Zimmerman 1968.

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