

#### 4. Chebera-Churchura-National-park( CCNP)

**Location:** CCNP is found within the western side of the central Omo Gibe basin, in between Dawero zone and Konta Special Woreda of the SNNPRS, Ethiopia. The park is located about 330 & 460 km south west of Hawassa & Addis Ababa, respectively. It covers an area of 1215 km<sup>2</sup> that ranges in altitude from 700 to 2450 m.a.s.l..

**Main Attractions:** The prominent topographic features of the CCNP are highly attractive and characterized by unique and highly heterogeneous and hilly terrain, few flat lands and highly undulating to rolling plains with incised river and perennial streams, valley and gorges.

So far 39 larger mammals and 237 species of birds have been recorded in the different habitats (Highland & Rverine forest and savanna and bush lands) of the park. White-cliff chat, banded-barbet, wattled ibis, black-headed forest orio and thick billed Raven are endemic birds for the country.

Common mammals include the African elephant, hippopotamus, cape buffalo, lion, and leopard. Currently, CCNP appears to be the least disturbed and reliable ecosystem for the African elephant and Buffalo in the country

The Park & surrounding area also has different natural and cultural attractions such as different hot and cold springs, lakes, caves.

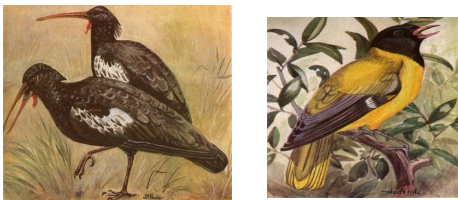


Fig.6. Endemic Birds which are also found in CCNP

#### 5. Mazie National Park (MzNP)

**Location:** MzNP is one of the wildlife conservation areas known for its good population of the critically endangered endemic Swayne's Hartebeests population and located 460km and 235 south west of Addis Ababa and Hawassa, respectively, in Gamo-Gofa Zone.

**Main attractions:** So far 46 larger and medium mammals and 196 different bird's species have been recorded in the park. Swaynes hartebeest, Lesser Kudu, Greater Kudu, Lion, Bohor, Leopards, , and Oribi are typical features of the park. Beside the park and the surrounding area have different natural, cultural and historical attractions such as Bilbo Hot Springs, Wenja Stone Cave, "Kaouwa Wella"(Yeniguse Warka),



Fig.7. Swayne's Hartebeests (Maze & Nech-Sar)



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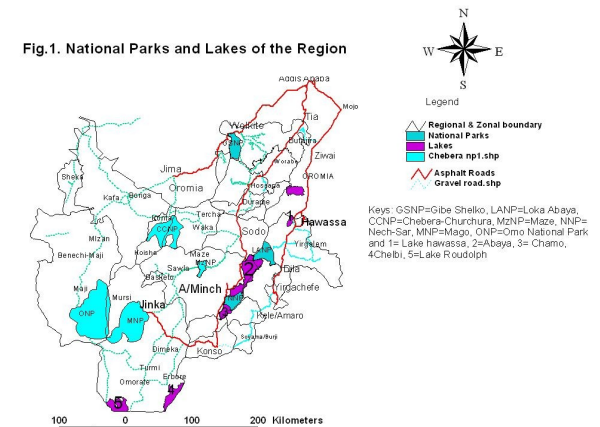


Fig.2. Water Buck

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Fig.3. Another Endemic Birds found in SNNPR (Abyssinian Long-Claw, Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, Black-Winged Lovebird)

**Wildlife Resources of Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS)**

The SNNPRS is one of the Federal Regional States of Ethiopia known for its wide spectrum of biological diversity with endemic, endangered and globally threatened flora and fauna. The diversity of the biological resource is a reflection of the Region unique geological history and diverse physical and climatic conditions

The wildlife resource of the Region are mainly restricted in Wildlife Protected Areas, Namely:: seven National Parks, two wildlife Reserves, six Controlled Hunting Areas and ten Important Bird Areas as well as different community based wildlife conservation areas. So far 127 mammals (46% of the country) and 574 birds (65% of the country) have been recorded together with some endemic, near endemic and/or globally threatened species

**1. Nech-Sar National Park (NNP)**

**Location:** NNP is found in SNNPRS between the two Great Rift Valley lakes (Chamo & Abaya) near Arba-Minch town & located about 500 & 270km south of Addis Ababa and Hawassa, respectively.

**Main Attractions:** NNP diverse habitats and vegetation types shelter for over some 104 small, medium and larger species of mammals, 351 species of birds and 1000 species of vascular plants

The park is known for its beautiful natural scenery and varieties of mammals and avian species. Among mammals: Burchel's zebra, Grant's gazelle, greater kudu, waterbuck, Guenther's dikdik, bushbuck, jackal, spotted hyena, leopard, lion, cheetah serval-cat, honey badger, gureza-coloubs, vervet monkey, olive-baboon, wild dog and caracal are common & conspicuous in the park.

Among the avian the endemic Nech-Sar Nightjar and the globally threatened lesser-kestrel, lesser-flamingo and phalied-harrier are known.

Fig.4. Photograph

**Nech-Sar** is very well-known for its wonderful attraction sites such as Crocodile Market (where hundredth of giant Nile crocodile with congregation of waterfowls and hippo herds are commonly seen on the shore of the lake), the Forty Springs, Lake Abaya and Chamo, the Chained Amaro Mountains, the Bridges of God & Nech-Sar Plains.



Fig.4. Burchel's Zebra (Nech-Sar)

**2. Mago National park (MNP)**

**Location:** MNP lies on the eastern sides of a small branch of the eastern Rift Valley (Omo depression), in the South Omo Zone of SNNPRS and located about 530 and 800 km south west of Hawassa and Addis Ababa, respectively.

Fig.6. Photograph

**Main attractions:** The park supports a typical bush savanna fauna with 81 larger mammals & 237 species of bird. Among mammals: African elephant, buffalo, , lesser-kudu, greater-kudu, duiker, warthog, tiang, le-wel's hartebeests ,oryx, grant's gazelle, gerenuk, giraffe, cheetah, wild dog, lions, leopards, gureza, common ba-boon and verevt monkey are common & conspicuous.

**MNP area** is also very well-known for its rich cultural diversity, where many elements of the earliest nomadic lifestyles are still continued. Hammer, Benna, Mursi, Ngagatom, Ari, karo, Muguji, Body, Kwegu are communities very well-known for their traditional lifestyles, colorful body decoration ceremonies, festivals, rituals, and other living expressions

**3. Omo National Park (ONP)**

**Location:** ONP is one of the largest and biologically rich National Park in Africa found in SNNPRS of Ethiopia & located about 870 and 655km south west of Addis Ababa and Hawassa, respectively.

**Main attractions:** Savannah, riparian formation and deciduous woodland constitute the major vegetation types of ONP. So far 325 species of birds and 75 species of mammals have been recorded.

Eland, cheetah, elephant, black rhino, giraffe, buffalo, lion, leopard, lelwel hartebeest, tiang, oryx, Burchell's zebra, Lesser kudu, de Brazzas monkey, common baboon and gureza, ostrich on the plains and the endemic black-winged love bird are among others typical features of ONP..

Besides, there are eight different ethnic groups living around the ONP known for their untouched culture & traditional life style including lip plate of Surma & body coloration of Mursi.



Fig.5. African Elrphant (Omo National Park)