



The Malawi Project

# Animals of Malawi

Conserving the future



## Not your typical walk in the park!



Whether it is elephant, hippo, lion, crocodile, baboon, bird, wart hog, zebra, or a long list of other African animals, you will find them in Malawi. Sub-Saharan Africa is aware of the need to conserve their environment and their wildlife, and Malawi is no exception. They have set aside large tracts of land to preserve the animals and the environment. Here is some interesting information about some of the animals you will see in Malawi. On the next page is information about the five national parks and four wildlife reserves in Malawi.

### Hippo

- Barrel shaped torso, large mouth and teeth, stubby legs.
- Weights 1 ½ to 3 tons.
- Inhabits rivers, lakes and swamps.
- Groups, called pods, have 1 male and as many as 5 to 30 females.
- During the day they inhabit the water, in order to stay cool, coming out at night to graze on grass.



### Impala

- Reddish brown fur, with white streaking.
- Sleek in stature.
- Males have horns.
- Built for speed, and jumping.
- Can jump as high as 8 feet and as far as 30 feet in a single leap.

### Zebra

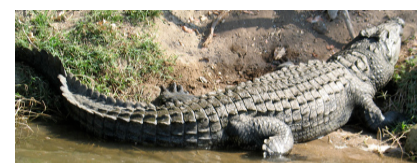
- Relatives to the horse.
- Weight approximately 770 lbs.
- Background is black, with white stripes added. Helps camouflage in forested habitat.
- Excellent eyesight, with wide field of sight.



- Excellent hearing.
- Acute sense of smell.
- Highly social.
- Sleep standing up.

### Crocodile

- Congregate in freshwater habitats.
- Streamlined body to swim quickly.
- Feed on fish, reptiles, and mammals.
- Can reach 16 feet, and weight of 2,600 lbs.
- Believed to live up to 70 years or more.



### Elephant

- Weighs as much as 9 tons.
- Thick skin, tusks, large flapping ears, long trunk.
- Largest of all land animals.
- Often used for labor.
- Live very structured social lives.
- Females live in family units. Males seek more solitude.
- Eyesight is poor. Hearing is excellent, often hearing sounds five miles away.

### Lion

- Males can exceed 550 lbs.
- Second largest living cat.
- Thousands of years ago the lion was the most widespread large, land mammal after humans.
- Lions live ten to fourteen years (males seldom exceed ten years)
- Lion's face is the most widely recognized animal symbol.
- A pride usually consists of 1 or 2 males, 5 or 6 females and the cubs.
- The female does most of the hunting.



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