

Updated data on elephants of Ethiopia

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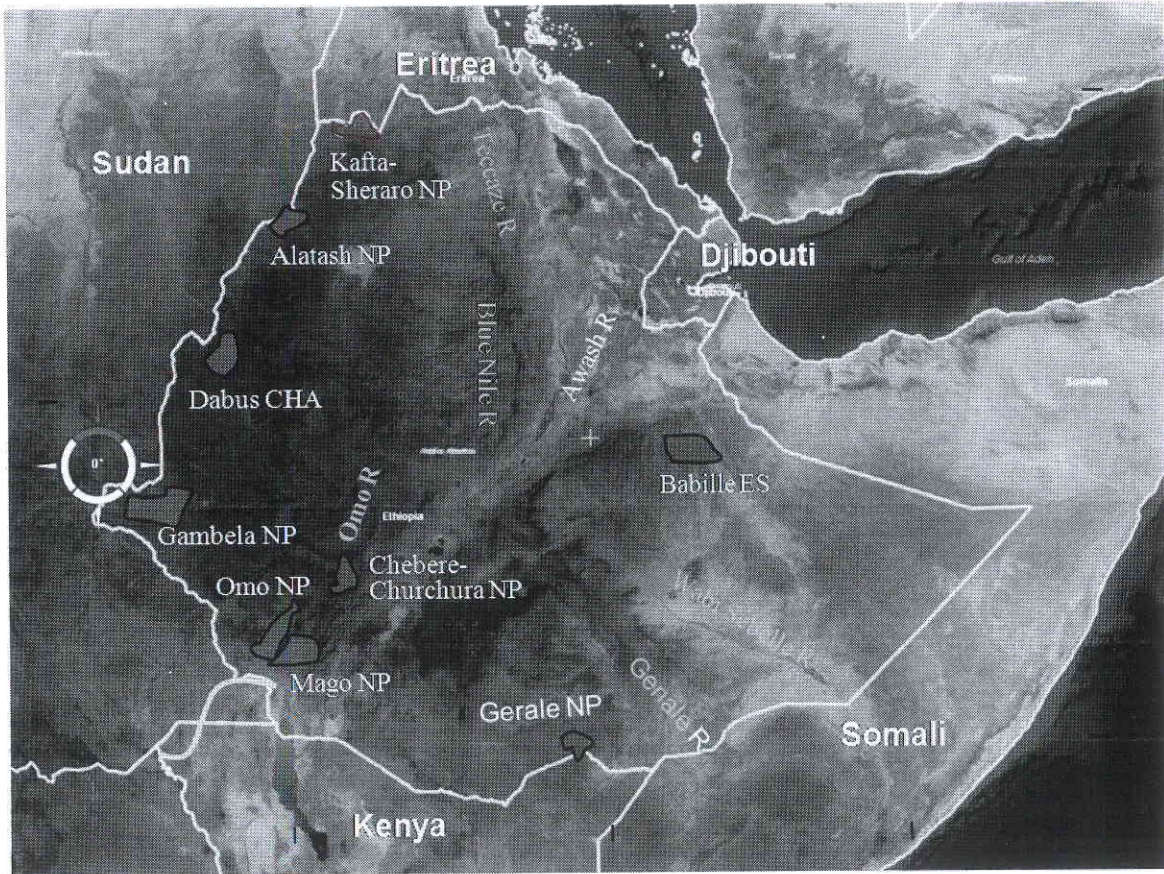
Elephant population estimates and their declining trend over time in Ethiopia from the 1960s to 2009.

Elephant area	Area km ²	1968	1970s	1984	1986	1990	1994	1998	2002	2009	Source
Alatash NP*	2,600		0	x	x	x	x	x		50	Yirmed, pers. comm. 2006
Babile ES	6,982	600	0	x	300	100	x	65	65	324*	Stephenson, 1976; Largen & Yalden, 1987; EWCO, 1990; Yirmed, 2006
Borana CHA (Gerale NP)	4,212	x	0	x	50	50	x	x	75	50	Thouless, 1995 Abdi, pers. comm. 1998 Yirmed, 2006
Dabus CHA	2,127	x	0	400	400	300	x	200	200	100*	Abdi, pers. comm. 1998 Yirmed, 2006
Gambella NP	5,061	x	0		x	100	x	150	200	150*	Yalden et al., 1986 EWCO, 2002
Akobo Complex		x	0	4,000	x	x	x	x	x	x	Douglas-Hamilton, 1987 Ariño, 1974
Mago NP	2,162	x	0	2,000	900	500	1320	250*	324	324	Lamprey, 1994 Graham et al., 1996 Yirmed, 1997, 2003
Omo NP	4,068	x	0		800	0	x				
Mizan Teferi CHA (Chebera-Churchura NP)	3,160	x	0	2,000	6,000	1,200	x	500	500	60*	Yalden et al., 1986 Chago et al., 2001 Meseret, 2006
Shire (Kafta-Sheraro NP) WR	1,123	x	0	250	250	200	x	6*	12	104*	EWCO, 1990 Shoshani et al., 2004
Total	24,827		5,500	8,650	8,700	2,450		985	965	1,228	

* Confirmed reports x No survey 0 Guess estimate

At present, Mizan Teferi and Akobo Complex are the only areas in the country where there is no confirmed data on elephant numbers. In the 1980s, these areas were known for holding the largest number of elephants in the country. However, it is believed that the surviving elephants that occupied the Mizan Teferi CHA have possibly concentrated in the Chebera-Churchura National Park, north of Omo National Park at the edge of the Omo River.

Known elephant ranges in Ethiopia



Existing gaps in elephant conservation and management

1. No ^{updated} population data for all elephant areas,
2. Areas supporting elephants have not properly been identified and assessed,
3. No management plan for all elephant areas, including species action plan and strategies,
4. Big gap in understanding the value of elephant conservation,
5. Minimal efforts in advocacy and awareness raising, and
6. Minimal efforts in community-based elephant conservation and management.