

# Wildlife in Kabini National Park: Flora and Fauna Present in Kabini National Park

Spandana Rameshwar<sup>1\*</sup>, Shobith R<sup>2</sup>


<sup>1\*</sup>Department of Studies in Organic Chemistry; University of Mysore, Manasagangothri,

<sup>2</sup>Adichunchanagiri Institute for Molecular Medicine, Adichunchanagiri University.



<https://doi.org/10.55041/ijstmt.v2i3.342>

**Cite this Article:** Rameshwar, S. & R, S. (2026). Wildlife in Kabini National Park: Flora and Fauna Present in Kabini National Park. International Journal of Science, Strategic Management and Technology, 02(03). <https://doi.org/10.55041/ijstmt.v2i3.342>

**License:**  This article is published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), permitting use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author(s) and source are properly credited.

## **ABSTRACT:**

Kabini is situated on the banks of the river kabini, the reserve is spread over about 55 acres of forestland, valleys and water bodies. It was once a private hunting spot for the Maharaja of Mysore.

**Keywords:** wildlife, flora, fauna, tiger, leopard, eagle

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Kabini is located on the edge of the Rajeev Gandhi National Park. Kabini corridor connects the Nagarahole, Bandipur forests and parts of Nilgiris biosphere. It connects Nagar hole, Bandipur, madumalai, Wayanad and many other parts to make it one of the largest forest areas in the country.

The whispers of the drying leaves, the silence of the forest, the chirping of birds, the calmness of River Kabini, thrilling safaris and the excitement of sighting wildlife are the main reasons to visit spectacular kabini forest and kabini backwaters. Kabini is one of the country's richest biodiversity area and tiger preserve forest. It is also a land of magnificent landscapes and wildlife spot (1).

Kabini, also known as the tiger land, it is home to more than 250 species of birds, approximately 40-50 species of mammals and other animals. Witness the herds of deer and elephants, wild boars, birds and the most exciting breed of tigers and leopards. If you are lucky, you have opportunity to see the rarest black panther.

## **FAUNA IN KABINI FOREST:**

The kabini forest is one of the most popular wildlife destinations of Karnataka, due to its lush green landscape surrounding a large lake and a beautiful sighting of nature and herds of elephants, tigers, leopards, deer, sloth bear, Indian gaurs in the dense forest.

### **1. ELEPHANT:**

Domain: Eukaryote

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Chordata

Order: Mammalia



Family: Elephantidae

Throughout the centuries, Kabini and Nagarahole have a very rich history about the elephant's habitat in the forest area. With close relationship to the jungle, elephants also have been inherited with human beings as kabini is a hotspot for Kheda by the jenu kurubas of kabini and they are also expert mahouts for taming the elephants. One of the most thrilling experiences that one can have is elephant safari to explore the dense forests and rich wildlife of kabini with majestic Asiatic Elephants (2).

## 2. LANGUR:

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Chordata

Order: Mammalia

Family: Cercopithecidae

Genus: Semnopithecus

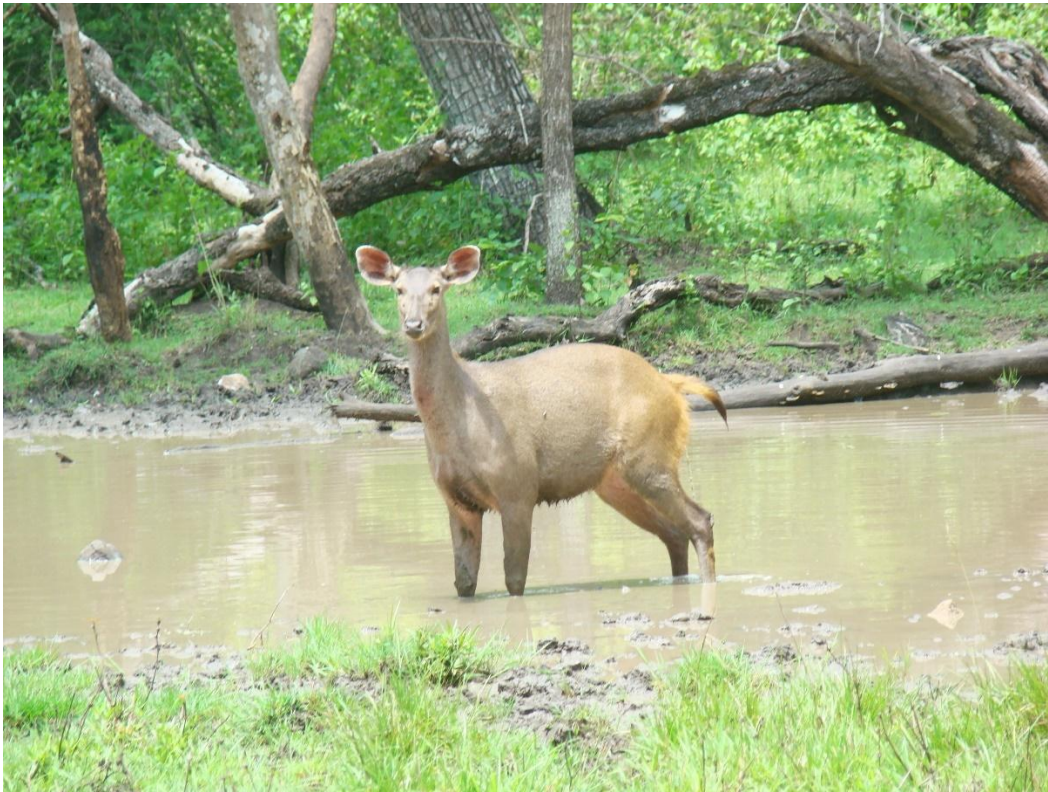


Semnopithecus is a genus of old-world monkey's native to the Indian subcontinent, with all species with the exception of two being commonly known as grey langurs. Grey langurs are commonly sighted in kabini forest. They live on big

groups and are nearly always visible while go on jeep safari in kabini, and the group is headed by a male langur. Langur can also be preyed upon by wolves, jackals, Asian black bears and sometimes by pythons (2).

### 3. **SAMBAR DEER:**

Domain: Eukaryota  
Kingdom: Animalia  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Artiodactyla  
Family: Cervidae  
Genus: Rusa



Sambar deer choose to make their habitats in dense vegetation area with shrubs and thick grasslands. They like residing in close to waterbodies especially rivers and lakes. Deep forest and under shades is the most preferable location they choose to spend their days. Sambar deer is one of the most common sightings during safari in kabini (3).

### 4. **SPOTTED DEER:**

Domain: Eukaryota  
Kingdom: Animalia  
Class: Mammalia  
Order: Artiodactyla  
Family: Cervidae  
Genus: Cervus



Deer lives in a variety of biomes, ranging from tundra to the tropical rainforest to dense evergreen forest. The spotted deer are found in abundance in kabini. Spotted deer, also known as chital, is an herbivorous species native to the Indian subcontinent. Their glossy eyes and sharp ears are always on a look for the threats from carnivores. Males have antlers and are huge than females. In kabini, they are preyed upon by tigers, leopard and crocodiles near the backwaters (4).

##### 5. CROCODILE:

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Reptilia

Order: Crocodylia

Family: Crocodylidae

Genus: Crocodylus



In 1974, a dam was built on the Kabini river which resulted in the submerge of the valley between Nagarahole and Bandipur. The reservoir is a home to a good population of mugger crocodiles. The kabini backwaters attract large herds of elephants in summer and many mugger crocodiles, which can be seen basking on the banks of the river (5).

## 6. **LEOPARD:**

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus: Panthera



Leopard, large cat closely related to the tiger and jaguar. The name leopard was originally given as cheetah. Leopards are solitary animal of the bush and forest. Kabini has produced some amazing leopards over the last decades. A leopard is considered to be a prized sighting on a safari and luck to watch the magnificent leopard in the mid of the forest (5).

### 7. **TIGER:**

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Felidae

Genus: Panthera

Species: P.tigris



The tiger belongs to the big cat genus *Panthera*. Kabini is always been regarded as a tiger refuge. It seems this forest reserve is the smallest one with highest concentration of tigers in India. Kabini reserve is also one of the Tiger Reserve Forest in India. The glorious tigers of kabini have grown increasingly used to safari vehicles, and now they don't shy away from walking head-on towards the jeeps, like they did before. These days it's quite possible to have a kabini tiger sighting (6).

#### **8. ORIENTAL DARTER:**

Domain: Eukaryota  
Kingdom: Animalia  
Class: Aves  
Order: Suliformes  
Family: Anhingidae  
Genus: *Anhinga*  
Species: *A. melanogaster*



The oriental darter is a water bird of tropical Asia. It has a long and slender neck with a straight, pointed bill. It basically hunts for fishes while its body is submerged in water. It has wettable feathers and is often found perches on a rock or branch with wings held open to dry. Oriental darter is common in kabini backwaters as they prey on fishes (7).

### 9. PLAINTIVE CUCKOO:

Domain: Eukaryota  
Kingdom: Animalia  
Class: Aves  
Order: Cuculiformes  
Family: Cuculidae  
Genus: Cacomantis  
Species: C. merulinus



The plaintive cuckoo is fairly small, measuring about 21-24cm long. They are with grey-brown body and orange below with a grey head, throat and upper breast. The tail feathers have white tips. Cuckoo inhabits forest edges, farmland, grassland and gardens. In kabini cuckoo is sighted mainly at the resorts, entrance of the forest and in tribal areas (6).

#### **10. CRESTED SERPENT EAGLE:**

Domain: Eukaryota  
Kingdom: Animalia  
Class: Aves  
Order: Accipitriformes  
Family: Accipitridae  
Genus: Spilornis  
Species: *S. cheela*



The crested serpent eagles are found mainly in tropical Asia. They are medium large in size, dark brown body with its short black and white fan-shaped nuchal crest gives it a thick-necked appearance. The bare facial skin and feet are yellow. The tail and underside of the flight feathers are black with broad white bars. They are named after their favoured choice of food, snakes. They also feed on lizards. They can be found perched atop secluded tress in the kabini forest (7).

### **11. INDIAN ROLLER:**

Domain: Eukaryota

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Aves

Order: Coraciiformes

Family: Coraciidae

Genus: Coracias

Species: *C. benghalensis*



The Indian roller occurs widely from west Asia to the Indian subcontinent. The species is best known for the aerobatic displays of males during the breeding season. The Indian roller is a bulky and broad-winged bird with a large head and short neck and legs. It has a body length of 30-34cm. the bare skin around the eyes is dull orange, the legs and feet are yellow-brown. The bill is tinged with brown at the base. The iris is grey-brown. Indian roller is the state bird of Karnataka, Telangana and Odisha. They feed on insects, scorpions, spiders and small snakes. Kabini is home to a large number of these beautiful birds (8).

## **12. GREY HERON:**

Domain: Eukaryota  
Kingdom: Animalia  
Class: Aves  
Order: Pelecaniformes  
Family: Ardeidae  
Genus: Ardea  
Species: A. cinerea



The grey heron is a long-legged wading bird of the heron family. They have a white head and neck with a broad black stripe that extends from the eye to the black crest. The body and wings are grey above and below with greyish-white, with some black on the flanks. Sharply pointed beak is pinkish-yellow and legs are brown. feeds mostly on aquatic creatures which it catches after standing stationary beside or in the water or stalking its prey through the shallows. Grey heron is sighted mostly on the kabini backwaters during early morning boat ride (9).

### **CONCLUSION:**

Kabini, also known as the tiger land, it is home to more than 250 species of birds, approximately 40-50 species of mammals and other animals. Witness the herds of deer and elephants, wild boars, birds and the most exciting breed of tigers and leopards. If you are lucky, you have opportunity to see the rarest black panther. Hence, it is a luck if anybody watches black panther in the forest during safari and the rarest birds during the time of stay. Therefore, Kabini is a land for rich flora and fauna. The photography was completely done by Spandana Rameshwar.

### **REFERENCE:**

1. <https://www.karnatakaturism.org/kabini-the-land-of-spectacular-landscapes-and-wildlife/#:~:text=The%20other%20animals%20like%20leopards,larks%2C%20trogons%20and%20many%20more.>
2. <https://www.toehold.in/blog/spectacular-wildlife-of-kabini/>
3. <https://www.theserai.in/kabini-resort/blogs/fauna-to-be-spotted-in-kabini.html>
4. <http://www.kabiniwildlife.com/>
5. [https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction\\_Review-g1152766-d12544047-Reviews-Kabini\\_Wildlife\\_Safari\\_Day\\_Tour-Nagarhole\\_National\\_Park\\_Kodagu\\_Coorg\\_Karnataka.html](https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction_Review-g1152766-d12544047-Reviews-Kabini_Wildlife_Safari_Day_Tour-Nagarhole_National_Park_Kodagu_Coorg_Karnataka.html)
6. [https://r.search.yahoo.com/\\_ylt=Awr1QWkWo8JpSgIAOiO7HAX.;\\_ylu=Y29sbwNzZzMEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1775573014/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.kabiniwildlife.com%2f/RK=2/RS=re1QARdlx\\_ealbcYC8sFN17So8gg-](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=Awr1QWkWo8JpSgIAOiO7HAX.;_ylu=Y29sbwNzZzMEcG9zAzEEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1775573014/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.kabiniwildlife.com%2f/RK=2/RS=re1QARdlx_ealbcYC8sFN17So8gg-)
7. [https://r.search.yahoo.com/\\_ylt=Awr1QWkWo8JpSgIARSO7HAX.;\\_ylu=Y29sbwNzZzMEcG9zAzMEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1775573014/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fkarnatakaturism.org%2fexperiences%2fkabini-backwaters-forest-safari%2f/RK=2/RS=kWS0h4GX.j3rg4smFxFxVSpXSY-](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=Awr1QWkWo8JpSgIARSO7HAX.;_ylu=Y29sbwNzZzMEcG9zAzMEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1775573014/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fkarnatakaturism.org%2fexperiences%2fkabini-backwaters-forest-safari%2f/RK=2/RS=kWS0h4GX.j3rg4smFxFxVSpXSY-)
8. [https://r.search.yahoo.com/\\_ylt=Awr1QWkWo8JpSgIATCO7HAX.;\\_ylu=Y29sbwNzZzMEcG9zAzUEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1775573014/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwildlifezones.com%2fguide-to-visiting-kabini%2f/RK=2/RS=gdlRjffKjqd.WLppGm0kX.4x1GI-](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=Awr1QWkWo8JpSgIATCO7HAX.;_ylu=Y29sbwNzZzMEcG9zAzUEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1775573014/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwildlifezones.com%2fguide-to-visiting-kabini%2f/RK=2/RS=gdlRjffKjqd.WLppGm0kX.4x1GI-)
9. [https://r.search.yahoo.com/\\_ylt=Awr1QWkWo8JpSgIATSO7HAX.;\\_ylu=Y29sbwNzZzMEcG9zAzYEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1775573014/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.timesnownews.com%2ftavel%2fdestinations%2fa-complete-guide-to-kabini-wildlife-safari-sightings-best-time-to-go-article-152257973/RK=2/RS=SljOzoQ4x3I5ZKBHFnKyXOzUi.k-](https://r.search.yahoo.com/_ylt=Awr1QWkWo8JpSgIATSO7HAX.;_ylu=Y29sbwNzZzMEcG9zAzYEdnRpZAMEc2VjA3Ny/RV=2/RE=1775573014/RO=10/RU=https%3a%2f%2fwww.timesnownews.com%2ftavel%2fdestinations%2fa-complete-guide-to-kabini-wildlife-safari-sightings-best-time-to-go-article-152257973/RK=2/RS=SljOzoQ4x3I5ZKBHFnKyXOzUi.k-)