

# GAME COUNTS IN BWABWATA N.P.

The fundamental purpose of these annual game counts is to inform MEFT of general wildlife trends in the parks. While estimates for some species are provided, these should only be considered as an approximate guide to species abundance.

## October 2021

### Dry season - Live sightings

Numbers seen:

Park Section	Mahango	Buffalo	Kwando
Total km	323	596	783
No. of routes	20	34	58

Species	Mahango	Buffalo	Kwando
Baboon	43		45
Buffalo	87	1,461	364
Bushbuck		1	
Bushpig			
Cheetah			
Crocodile		6	2
Duiker	19	62	82
Eland		34	62
Elephant	109	2,137	334
Giraffe	66		67
Hippo		6	15
Hyaena			9
Impala	493	350	1,034
Jackal BB			
Kudu	225	207	155
Lechwe	344	163	182
Leopard			
Lion			
Ostrich	1	4	5
Reedbuck	5		34
Roan	16	72	15
Sable	10	142	78
Steenbok	4	14	38
Tsessebe	24	2	53
V. Monkey	24	12	
Warthog	49	76	45
Waterbuck		17	1
Wild dog		6	
Wildebeest	13		59
Zebra B.	184	111	558

### Habitat

Species	Riverine zone with floodplain grassland	Wood land < 8km from the river	Wood land > 8km from the river
Baboon	25	63	0
Buffalo	1,111	693	108
Bushbuck	1	0	0
Bushpig	0	0	0
Cheetah	0	0	0
Crocodile	3	2	3
Duiker	5	55	103
Eland	19	42	35
Elephant	244	1,081	1,255
Giraffe	29	68	36
Hippo	21	0	0
Hyaena	0	6	3
Impala	1,411	417	49
Jackal BB	0	0	0
Kudu	150	254	183
Lechwe	671	18	0
Leopard	0	0	0
Lion	0	0	0
Ostrich	0	0	10
Reedbuck	26	13	0
Roan	6	49	48
Sable	10	96	124
Steenbok	9	8	39
Tsessebe	15	32	32
V. Monkey	17	11	8
Warthog	97	30	37
Waterbuck	17	1	0
Wild dog	0	0	6
Wildebeest	26	6	40
Zebra B.	286	177	390

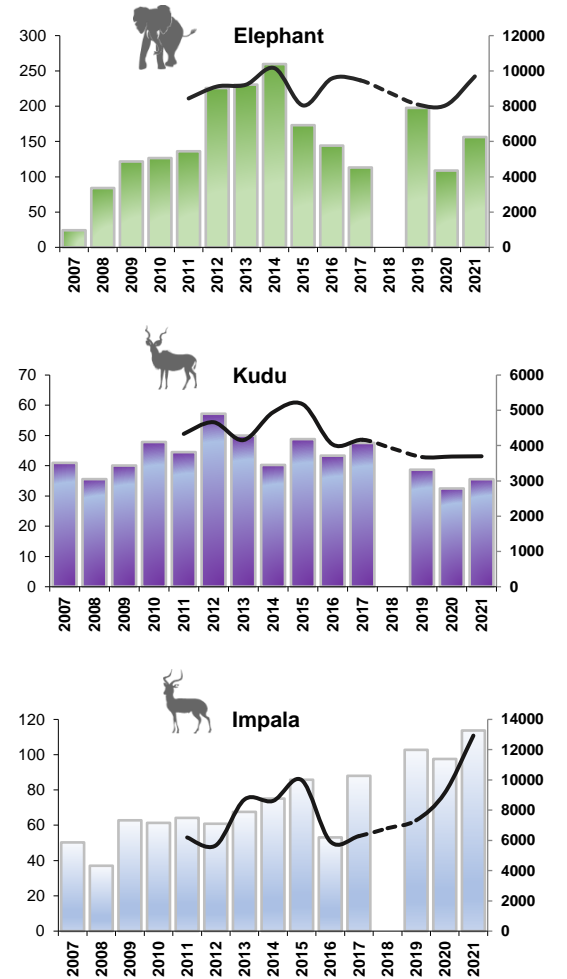
### Last 3 Count Years

Species	Animals Seen			Groups		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Baboon	88	117	148	4	9	6
Buffalo	1,912	2,067	2,210	66	63	67
Bushbuck	1	2	11	1	2	9
Bushpig	0	0	8	0	0	2
Cheetah						0
Crocodile	8	27	28	5	15	19
Duiker	163	177	210	150	163	191
Eland	96	363	183	15	23	27
Elephant	2,580	1,822	3,243	129	136	157
Giraffe	133	166	119	41	43	36
Hippo	21	92	58	4	10	15
Hyaena	9	7	6	6	6	4
Impala	1,877	1,634	1,686	177	139	199
Jackal BB	0	2	2	0	1	1
Kudu	587	544	635	123	127	145
Lechwe	689	627	1,042	51	36	65
Leopard	0	2	1	0	2	1
Lion	0	2	0	0	1	0
Ostrich	10	13	41	6	7	14
Reedbuck	39	38	46	12	8	14
Roan	103	116	363	36	32	56
Sable	230	462	801	68	90	120
Steenbok	56	56	30	44	47	29
Tsessebe	79	110	80	24	21	20
V. Monkey	36	134	57	9	17	4
Warthog	170	213	298	81	85	100
Waterbuck	18	16	23	3	1	3
Wild dog	6	1	0	1	1	0
Wildebeest	72	126	156	12	9	25
Zebra B.	853	599	610	79	40	72

### Trends

Numbers per 100km overall (bars) and 3-year average estimates over the past 10 years (line)

• No counts were undertaken in 2018



### Estimates (transects)

Estimates were calculated using DISTANCE. The last 3 years of data were used in analysis to generate a detection profile for each species. The bottom row of the table (hyphenated) numbers = 95% Confidence Intervals (rounded) for the 2021 count year.

Species	Mahango	Buffalo	Kwando	Total Estimate 2021	Average Estimate (2019-2021)
Buffalo	115 30-410	1,490 640-3490	1,968 635-6100	3,573	5,609
Duiker	124 65-240	773 500-1200	1412 980-2030	2,309	2,440
Elephant	543 230-1300	6,748 3850-11830	2,268 1240-4140	9,559	9,689
Giraffe	114 60-220	0	446 275-730	560	603
Impala	1740 685-4420	3,826 1200-1225	10,741 4110-28065	16,307	12,929
Kudu	908 488-1690	1,412 750-2670	1,619 905-2895	3,939	3,698
Lechwe	318 50-1730	327 80-1340	481 140-1640	1,126	1,131
Reedbuck	*	*	120 30-470	*	*
Roan	64 30-135	216 120-400	33 10-105	313	489
Sable	13 10-90	404 240-680	377 210-690	794	2,224
Steenbok	*	138 60-310	557 305-1010	*	*
Tsessebe	32 10-130	*	326 175-600	*	*
Warthog	107 35-320	244 110-560	321 160-640	672	749
Wildebeest	14 5-50	0	262 110-620	276	312
Zebra Burchell's	277 115-675	517 240-1125	3,168 2040-4920	3,962	3,134

\* = too few observations to provide useful local estimates  
0 = no animals seen in counts

### River count

In addition to line transects a boat count was undertaken along the Kwando River from the northern to the southern border of the park. This river section is 97 kms long and the following animals were recorded:

Species	Count
Buffalo	170
Elephant	94
Impala	214
Crocodile	11
Hippo	120
Lechwe	548
Reedbuck	13
Sitatunga	6
Waterbuck	8
Baboon	61
Kudu	12
Tsessebe	8
Warthog	1
Zebra, Burchell's	8

Although slightly lower, the transect estimate for lechwe in the Kwando section is similar in magnitude to the number of animals seen in the river count.

