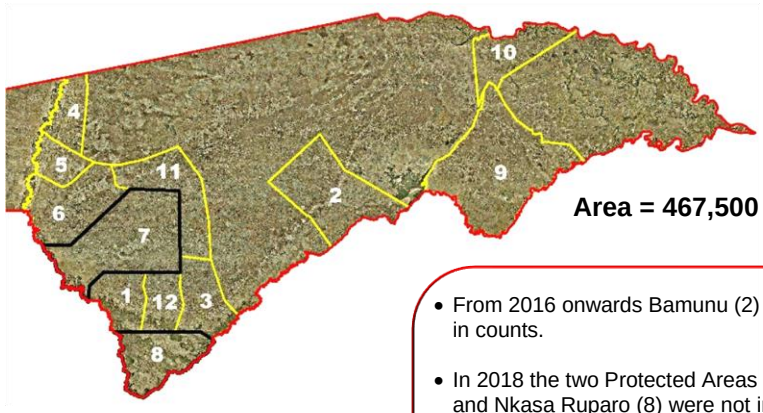
GAME COUNTS IN EAST ZAMBEZI

The fundamental purpose of game counts in communal areas is to inform conservancies and MEFT of wildlife trends for the purposes of adaptive management of resources. While estimates for some species are provided, these should only be considered as an approximate guide to species abundance.

Dry season - Live sightings

August 2022



Area = 467,500 ha

Numbers seen (transects):

Area	1 Balyerwa	2 Bamunu	3 Dzoti	4 Kwandu	5 Mashi	6 Mayuni	7 Mudumu	8 Nkasa Rupara	9 Salambala	10 Sikunga	11 Sobbe	12 Wuparo
Total km	77	90	120	95	104	86	386		208	44	110	46
No. of routes	11	9	12	11	9	6	24		16	4	10	5
Species												
Baboon							46					
Buffalo	60		150								86	
Bushbuck												
Bushpig				6								
Cheetah							2					
Crocodile							2					
Duiker	3		5	3	8	4	32			1	5	1
Eland			4			55	11		20		2	
Elephant	100		57				407		7		10	
Giraffe					1		38		14			
Hippo							8					
Hyaena							1					
Impala	3		120		15		128		61			
Jackal		1									1	
Kudu			12	5			23		10		1	
Lechwe					15	15	21					
Leopard												
Lion	3						1				5	
Ostrich												
Reedbuck		2	2	3								
Roan			3			2	43				18	
Sable							37				50	
Steenbok					2		7				1	
Tsessebe												
V. Monkey						10						
Warthog		3					17		14		5	
Waterbuck							2					
Wild dog												
Wildebeest			1				115		44			
Zebra B.		1,317	9		22		465				30	

Not counted due to inundation

Mudumu and Nkasa Rupara (outlined in red) are National Parks, the remainder are conservancies

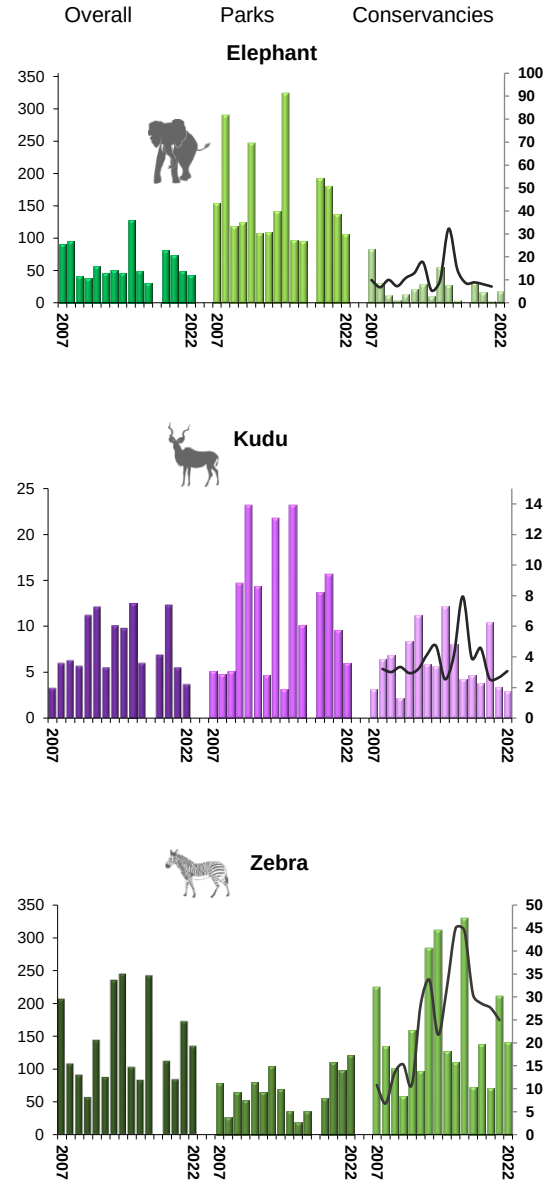
Last 3 Count Years (transects)

Species	Animals Seen 2022	2021	2020	Groups Seen 2022	2021	2020
Baboon	**46**	94	181	**4**	5	9
Buffalo	**296**	180	602	**4**	8	7
Bushbuck	**0**	0	1	**0**	0	1
Bushpig	**6**	0	0	**1**	0	0
Cheetah	**2**	0	0	**1**	0	0
Crocodile	**2**	4	2	**2**	4	2
Duiker	**62**	110	91	**58**	101	84
Eland	**92**	66	7	**8**	11	4
Elephant	**581**	766	1,120	**21**	61	53
Giraffe	**53**	54	35	**17**	17	13
Hippo	**8**	22	41	**2**	7	9
Hyaena	**1**	0	2	**1**	0	1
Impala	**327**	1,531	1,447	**27**	152	139
Jackal	**2**	6	13	**2**	5	8
Kudu	**51**	87	189	**12**	23	46
Lechwe	**51**	313	462	**8**	46	33
Leopard	**0**	1	1	**0**	1	1
Lion	**9**	13	0	**3**	3	0
Ostrich	**0**	0	1	**0**	0	1
Reedbuck	**7**	42	45	**4**	19	22
Roan	**66**	114	118	**19**	35	35
Sable	**87**	41	57	**6**	12	11
Steenbok	**10**	16	19	**8**	13	18
Tsessebe	**0**	1	7	**0**	1	1
V. Monkey	**10**	31	0	**1**	3	0
Warthog	**39**	518	669	**13**	176	209
Waterbuck	**2**	2	92	**1**	1	9
Wild dog	**0**	21	1	**0**	4	1
Wildebeest	**160**	314	301	**14**	19	13
Zebra B.	**1,843**	2,723	1,298	**73**	84	66

- From 2016 onwards Bamunu (2) was included in counts.
- In 2018 the two Protected Areas Mudumu (7) and Nkasa Ruparo (8) were not included in counts.
- In 2022 Nkasa Ruparo (8) was not counted due to inundation.
- It is important to bear this in mind when interpreting tables, charts and a time series of posters.

Trends:

Bars = numbers per 100km (left axis); line = monthly patrol sighting index



Estimates

Estimates were calculated for the **current year** using DISTANCE. In most cases at least the last 5 years of data were used in analysis to generate a detection profile for each species. Several conservancies have been grouped due to the low numbers of animals recorded. The bottom row of the table (hyphenated) numbers = 95% Confidence Intervals. In Sikunga, very few sightings have ever been recorded (60 for all species since 2011) and no sensible estimates for any species can be derived for this area. With Zebra and Buffalo DISTANCE is not an appropriate method to use when the number of sightings is low. These animals are usually found in large herds and these sightings at least provide some guide to abundance.

Species	Kwandu Mayuni Mashi Sobbe	Balyerwa Dzoti Wuparo	Mudumu	Nkasa Rupara	Bamunu	Salambala	Sikunga
Buffalo	86	210	*		0	0	0
Duiker	**660** 397-1,096	**127** 52-311	**1,106** 661-1,851		*	*	*
Elephant	**84** 15-481	**201** 63-640	**2,686** 1302-5541		*	*	*
Giraffe	*	*	**216** 110-424		*	**131** 41-423	*
Impala	*	**326** 98-1088	**1,779** 399-7921		*	**929** 416-2070	*
Kudu	**122** 34-442	**31** 6-176	**278** 84-915		*	**184** 49-696	*
Lechwe	206	0	165		0	*	0
Roan	**191** 68-538	**14** 3-76	**184** 78-438		*	0	0
Sable	*	*	**359** 115-1121		0	*	0
Steenbok	*	*	**27** 5-154		0	*	0
Warthog	**57** 10-312	*	**262** 87-790		**79** 12-510	**160** 25-1036	*
Wildebeest	*	*	**618** 186-2050		*	**1**,628 655-4050	*
Zebra	52	9	**3,553** 2024-6237		1,317	*	0

DISTANCE analysis is not appropriate for herd species with low numbers of sightings.
***In red**: numbers seen in transects.*
***In blue**: numbers seen in the river count.*

** = too few, or zero, observations to derive estimates-but animals have been recorded here*
0 = no animals seen in counts

Impala in Nkasa Rupara account for around half of the total animals normally seen. Consequently, trend values for the two parks and overall, in 2022 are not included in that chart.