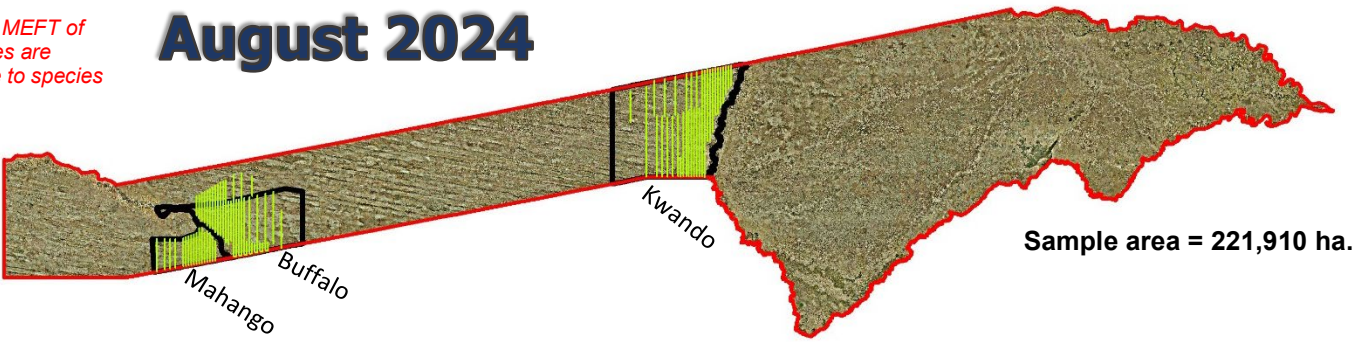


GAME COUNTS IN BWABWATA N.P.

A collaboration between NACSO, MEFT and environmental NGOs

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.

August 2024



Dry season - Live sightings

Numbers seen:

Park Section	Mahango	Buffalo	Kwando
Total km	297	414	860
No. of routes	20	34	58
Species			
Baboon	35		
Buffalo	71	729	249
Bushbuck		8	
Bushpig			
Crocodile	1	4	
Duiker	23	123	41
Eland	4	108	105
Elephant	233	1366	1346
Gemsbok	1		
Giraffe	37		95
Hippo	14	10	
Honey Badger			2
Hyaena, Sp			5
Impala	586	391	519
Jackal BB		1	2
Kudu	34	156	95
Lechwe	3	206	
Leopard		3	
Lion		4	1
Ostrich	3	2	5
Reedbuck			
Roan		122	26
Sable	4	319	235
Steenbok	8	24	28
Tsessebe		9	29
V. Monkey			8
Warthog	41	68	50
Waterbuck		15	
Wild dog	10	8	8
Wildebeest			32
Zebra B.	163	86	758

Species	Riverine zone with floodplain grassland	Wood land < 8km from the river	Wood land > 8km from the river
Baboon	35		
Buffalo	421	587	41
Bushbuck	8		
Bushpig			
Crocodile	5		
Duiker	18	46	123
Eland	15	119	83
Elephant	356	1180	1409
Gemsbok			1
Giraffe	43	23	66
Hippo	24		
Honey Badger		2	
Hyaena, Sp	1	4	
Impala	1001	424	71
Jackal BB	1	2	
Kudu	74	157	54
Lechwe	150	59	
Leopard		2	1
Lion	4		1
Ostrich	3		7
Reedbuck			
Roan	8	44	96
Sable	60	278	220
Steenbok	6	15	39
Tsessebe	16	4	18
V. Monkey		8	
Warthog	63	37	59
Waterbuck	15		
Wild dog	16	10	
Wildebeest	18	13	1
Zebra B.	157	415	435

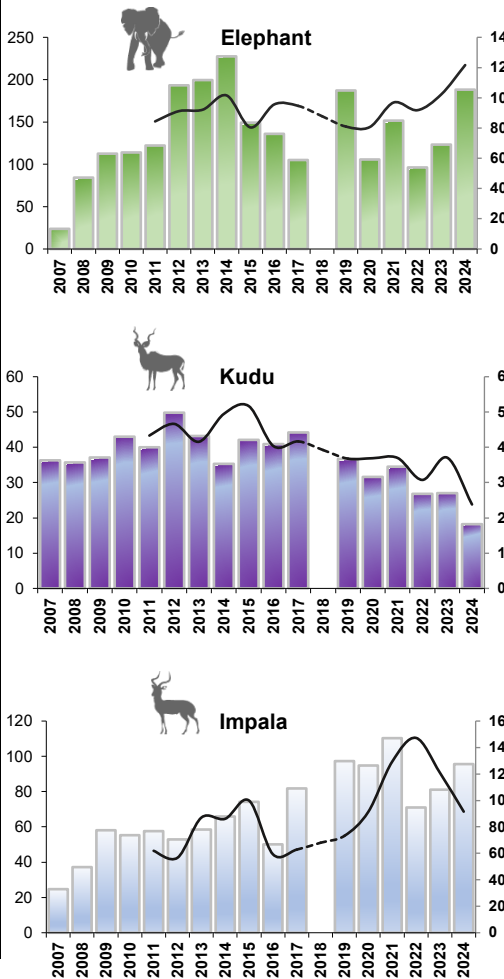
Species	Animals Seen			Groups		
	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022
Baboon	35	93	101	1	5	6
Buffalo	1,049	1,913	940	49	76	42
Bushbuck	8	19	4	5	15	2
Bushpig		2			1	
Crocodile	5	4	33	2	4	20
Duiker	187	229	143	119	206	131
Eland	217	210	46	33	32	12
Elephant	2,945	2,323	1,653	154	184	123
Gemsbok	1			1		
Giraffe	132	98	127	36	35	37
Hippo	24	59	39	4	8	7
Honey Badger	2	2	2	1	2	1
Hyaena, Sp	5	7	5	3	5	3
Impala	1,496	1,529	1,218	85	180	136
Jackal BB	3			2		
Kudu	285	509	459	69	141	117
Lechwe	209	800	893	10	74	53
Leopard	3	1	1	2	1	1
Lion	5	2		2	1	
Ostrich	10	24	27	5	11	9
Reedbuck		23	15		12	7
Roan	148	270	126	48	54	38
Sable	558	464	293	81	99	60
Steenbok	60	64	42	43	53	36
Tsessebe	38	36	82	11	14	19
V. Monkey	8	76	89	1	9	12
Warthog	159	117	219	40	57	72
Waterbuck	15	4	29	2	3	7
Wild dog	26	2	12	3	1	2
Wildebeest	32	117	112	5	10	14
Zebra B.	1,007	912	424	92	100	55

Also seen: 4 Ground hornbills and 2 Bat-eared foxes in the Kwando section

Trends

Numbers per 100km overall (bars) and 3-year-average estimates (line)

No counts were undertaken in 2018

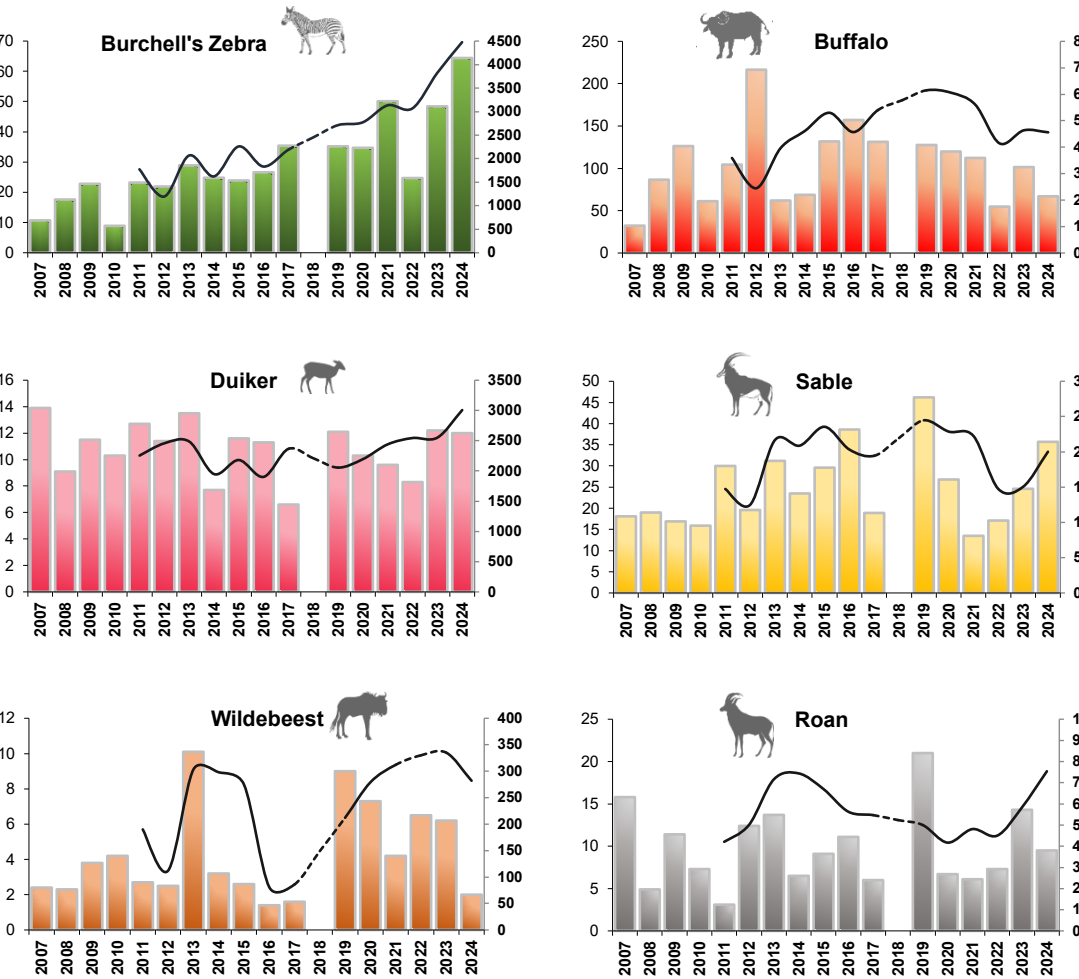


Estimates (transects)

Estimates were calculated using DISTANCE. Most transects were foot counts, although some vehicle transects were also counted (5 in Mahango and 3 each in Buffalo and Kwando). While foot transects conform to an evenly spaced regular grid system, vehicle transects follow park roads and are prone to sampling and habitat bias due to the oversampling of boundary tracks and river sections. Consequently, the estimates presented below were derived from analyses restricted to foot transects only. Where the number of observations was low (< 40) one or more data years immediately prior to the count were used to boost the sample for the generation of detection profiles. The bottom row of the table i.e. hyphenated numbers = 95% Confidence Intervals for each 2024 count year estimate.

Species	Mahango	Buffalo	Kwando	Total Estimate 2024
Buffalo	90 24-333	2,450 1239-4844	805 296-2195	3,345
Duiker	290 137-614	2,632 1784-3883	752 459-1231	3,674
Elephant	1,441 644-3223	6,082 3860-9582	7,839 4955-12403	15,362
Giraffe	57 16-202	0	346 177-674	403
Impala	1,582 588-4252	2,232 820-6074	3,660 1776-7543	7,474
Kudu	303 144-637	1,316 734-2362	760 4044-1431	2,379
Lechwe**	*	*	0	-
Reedbuck	0	0	0	0
Roan	0	644 381-1088	178 68-468	822
Sable	*	1,411 681-2923	969 457-2055	2,380
Steenbok	25 7-97	538 313-925	265 128-549	828
Tsessebe	0	*	124 46-332	124
Warthog	66 14-316	397 159-992	216 96-485	679
Wildebeest	0	0	116 43-309	116
Zebra Burchell's	625 313-1250	856 318-2308	4,441 2630-7499	5,922

* = too few observations to generate useful estimates
** = boat counts provide the best estimates for wetland species like lechwe
0 = no animals seen in counts



T. Robertson