

GAME COUNTS IN EAST ZAMBEZI

A collaboration between NACSO, MEFT and environmental NGOs

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

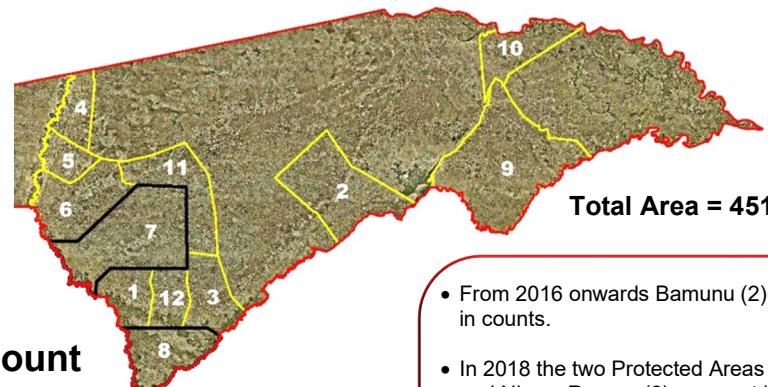
August 2024

Numbers seen (transects):

Area	1 Balyerwa	2 Bamunu	3 Dzoti	4 Kwandu	5 Mashi	6 Mayuni	7 Mudumu	8 Nkasa Ruparo	9 Salambala	10 Sikunga	11 Sobe	12 Wuparo
Total km	99	106	118	79	99	71	392	116	201	58	97	44
No. of routes	12	9	12	11	9	6	24	4	16	4	10	4

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Baboon									40			
Buffalo			903		150		45	35	7		20	200
Bushbuck			1				1					
Bushpig												
Cheetah												
Crocodile												
Duiker	8	3	10	9	4	2	21		1	8	1	
Eland			16	34		10	19		22		3	
Elephant	73		45	20	200	15	939	68	23	37	8	48
Giraffe			1		5	8	13		42		9	
Hartebeest												
Hippo	1			4		25	46	7				
Hyaena, sp.							1					
Impala	74	18	90			10	345	1,349	168			182
Jackal	2		2				4	1				
Kori bustard							1					
Kudu	16			13	23		45	42	5		23	4
Lechwe			10	280	9	604	52	183				18
Leopard												2
Lion			5				1					
Ostrich					1							
Reedbuck	2	2						8				6
Roan				2			81					14
Sable			2				193					26
Steenbok							1					
V. Monkey							1					
Warthog	4		1				34	453	16			28
Waterbuck				6								1
Wild dog												
Wildebeest	51	1	2				181	26	23			12
Zebra B.	46	373	10		91		791	36	128	7		

Mudumu and Nkasa Ruparo (outlined in red) are National Parks, the remainder are conservancies. Mudumu included both vehicle and foot transects while only vehicle transects were counted in Nkasa Ruparo. The remainder of routes were foot transects only. Also seen in 2024: 1 wild cat (Mudumu), 1 porcupine (Sobe).



Total Area = 451,600 ha

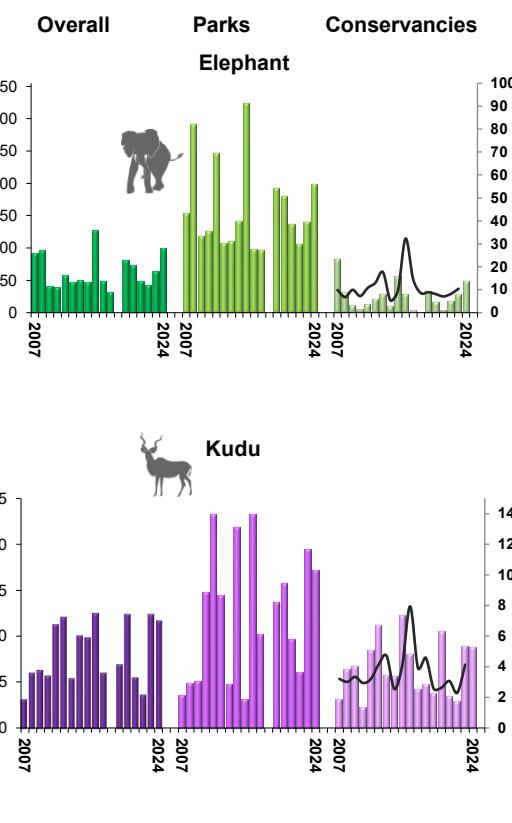
Last 3 Count Years (transects)

Species	Animals Seen			Groups Seen		
	2024	2023	2022	2024	2023	2022
Baboon	40	173	46	1	8	4
Buffalo	1,360	708	296	13	11	4
Bushbuck	2	3		2	3	
Bushpig		4	6		1	1
Cheetah			2			1
Crocodile			2			2
Duiker	67	88	62	56	76	58
Eland	104	202	92	14	14	8
Elephant	1,476	892	581	81	93	21
Giraffe	78	38	53	21	14	17
Hartebeest		2			1	
Hippo	83	92	8	9	7	2
Hyaena, sp.	1	1	1	1	1	1
Impala	2,236	2,325	327	102	139	27
Jackal	9	13	2	7	8	2
Kori	1			1		
Kudu	171	193	51	33	38	12
Lechwe	1,156	1,003	51	23	36	8
Leopard	2	3		1	2	
Lion	6	2	9	2	1	3
Ostrich	1			1		
Reedbuck	18	42	7	7	16	4
Roan	97	155	66	16	27	19
Sable	221	29	87	13	8	6
Steenbok	1	9	10	1	9	8
V. Monkey	1		10	1		1
Warthog	536	718	39	63	143	13
Waterbuck	7	43	2	2	8	1
Wild dog						
Wildebeest	296	304	160	16	17	14
Zebra B.	1,482	2,655	1,843	72	71	73

- 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 fixed patrol sighting index



Estimates

Estimates were calculated for 2024 using DISTANCE. Due to low numbers of sightings, in most cases, at least the last 5 years of data were used in analyses to generate detection profiles for each species. Only foot transects were used in analyses for Mudumu N.P. Some contiguous conservancies have been grouped in which case estimates are provided for the combined area. The bottom row of hyphenated numbers = 95% Confidence Intervals. With zebra, buffalo and lechwe DISTANCE is not an appropriate method to use as these animals are usually found in large herds, and/or in association with floodplain and riverine areas.

Species	Kwandu	Mayuni	Mashi	Sobbe	Balyerwa	Dzoti	Wuparo	Mudumu	Nkasa Ruparo	Bamunu	Salambala	Sikunga
Buffalo	170		1,103	0	45		20	35	*	(5)	*	0
Duiker	1,308	752-2274	644	351-1184	932	524-1660		*	(4)	*	(16)	**
Elephant	813	358-1847	1,526	777-2997	5,605	144-964		373	*	(7)	**	*
Giraffe	290	121-692		34-643	148	0		*	(1)	42	*	(9)
Impala	166	30-919	3,715	1638-8425	471	113-1957		18,375	*	(5)	2,480	*
Kudu	912	424-1964	366	135-996	330	117-934		456	*	(5)	197	*
Lechwe	893	211	28		52	153		183	0	0	*	(1)
Roan	232	87-616		*	882	328-2370		1,393	0	0	*	(1)
Sable	*			*	567-3420				0	0	*	0
Steenbok	*		*		39	7-220		0	*	(1)	**	0
Warthog	**		595	208-1702</td								