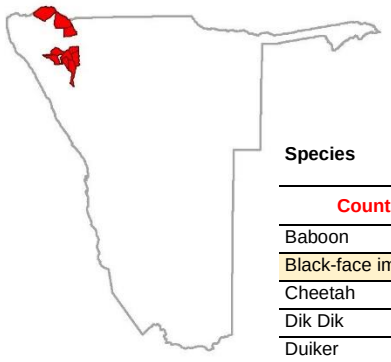
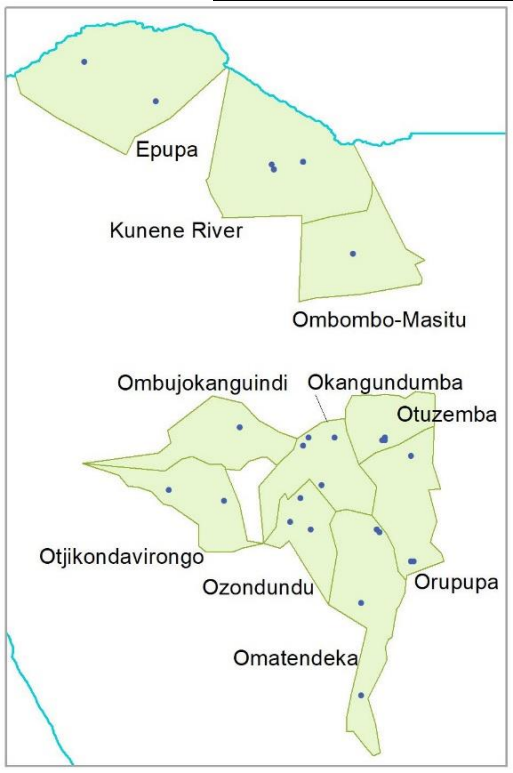
FULL MOON WATERHOLE COUNTS IN NORTHERN KUNENE

2019



Animals counted at waterholes 2019

Species	Kunene River	Okombine	Okozondjendje (Ehomba)	Ombahu	Ombujokanguindi	Okapangekua	Okangundumba	Epunguwe	Okahua	Omunuandjai	Otjite	Ozondundu	Okarumbu	Okomuhana	Otjomatemba	Otuzemba	Okatuzembona	Omukungu	Otut-okarindi	Orupupa	Okaturukira	Otjondeka	Omatendeka	Okavare	Okombako	Okondundu	Okovanatje	Otjomumbonde	Otjikondavirongo	Okozondjupa	Otjitjeue	Ombombo-Masitu	Otjihandja	Epupa	Otjouzuwo	Oheura	Total
Count days		3	3	3		3		3	3	3	3		3	3	3		3	3	3		3	3		3	3	3	3	3		3	3		3		3	3	
Baboon			34			3											82				144				102	68	156	32		13	63				66		**763**
Black-face impala		315	43	230		39											172	48			116	38			28	36	17	14		6	7					1	**1,110**
Cheetah																						2															**2**
Dik Dik						11																2				6				2	6			2		**29**
Duiker		6	2	7		4																1				2				1					1	**24**
Eland																	8					3					19									**30**
Elephant											45		49	1	28		5					50										23				**201**
Gemsbok														10				5									20									**35**
Giraffe		7								2											14		64				21									**108**
Hyaena										2				6							2	1	2				5		1							**19**
Jackal						3				1				4			1	1	1		8	1	2		2		13					6				**43**
Klipspringer			3			9															4			7		7				1					**31**
Kudu		63	11	22		63				14				31	4		169	105			145	149	13	53	28	19	36		2	39				70	32	**1,068**
Leopard																					1															**1**
Lion																											8									**8**
Ostrich										71				4			6	3			4	11	7				6									**112**
Springbok										2	4											16	32				448			24						**526**
Steenbok		7		12		1			5	1	1								2			4							2							**35**
Warthog																					13	21					2									**36**
Zebra (2 species)						3								305	1		243	125			104	68	34	8	24	20	311									**1,246**



North West Waterhole Counts

Counts were undertaken at waterholes in the escarpment zone of north west Namibia. In 2018,18 waterholes in 7 conservancies were counted while in 2019, the number of waterholes was increased to 26 covering 10 conservancies. Counts were undertaken over a period of 2, 3 or 4 days during which time all animals seen were counted.

Game species differ in the frequency with which they need to visit water resources with some able to acquire much of their hydration needs through foraging. Waterhole counts are therefore best suited to species (like elephants) which make infrequent discrete trips to specific water points to quench their thirst.

Estimates of animals are calculated by correcting the numbers seen over the entire count period using the number of count days, and the drinking frequency of the species. They are therefore crude estimates and should be considered a guide to the relative abundance of animals in the area. Values are influenced by several assumptions including drinking frequencies and independence of sightings.

Based on assumed drinking frequencies of 2 days for black-faced impala and 1.8 days for elephants, the total estimated number of animals at waterholes was 754 and 212 respectively in 2018. In 2019 a very similar number i.e. 740 was estimated for black-faced impala while the estimate for elephant was approximately half that of the 2018 value at 121.

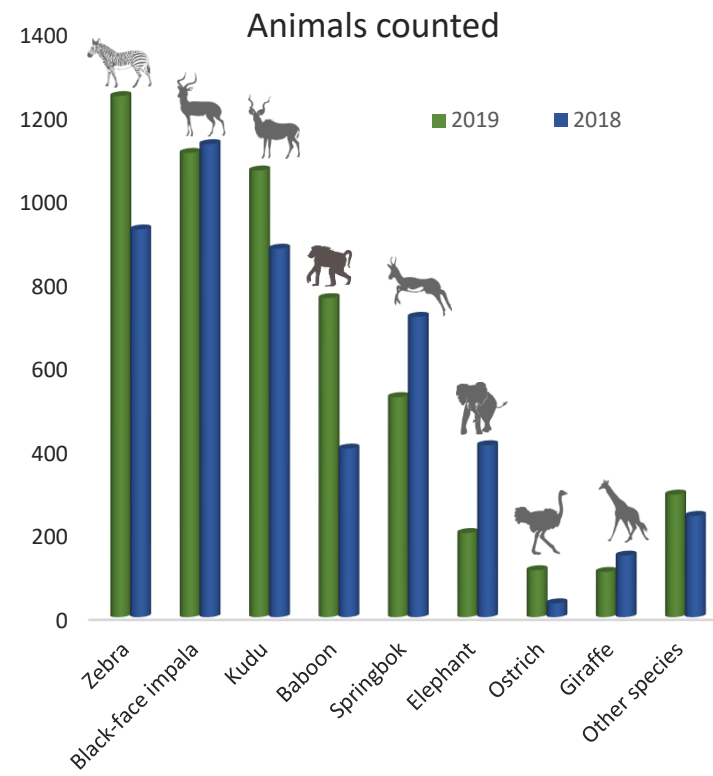
Primary count focus:
To derive estimates for two species: elephant and black-faced impala; species which are not well represented in road transect counts.


T. Robertson

Waterhole Estimates

DF = drinking frequency (days)		Kunene River		Ombujokanguindi		*Okangundumba		*Ozondundu		*Otuzemba		Orupupa		Omatendeka		Otjikondavirongo	Ombombo-Masitu	Epupa	Total	
		2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018
Focal Species	**DF**																			
Black-face impala	2	392	311	26	38					147	212	103	140	63	52	9		1	740	754
Elephant	1.8			27			97	47	74	3	34	30			7		14		121	212
Other species																				
Eland	4									11		4		25	45				40	45
Gemsbok	4							13		7				27	77				47	77
Giraffe	4	9		3								19	5	113	173				144	178
Kudu	2	64	22	9	33	42	1	24		183	158	196	240	100	122	27	68		712	576
Ostrich	4			95			4	5	16	12	4	20	4	17	12				149	40
Springbok	4			8			101					21	87	640	733	32			701	920

** In each of these conservancies an additional waterhole was counted in 2019*



Numbers seen
Low ● → ● ***High***

Distribution