## Wildlife censuses of the Zambezi-Chobe-Linyanti wetlands

The aerial survey includes the Eastern Floodplain area from the Zambian border to the Nkasa Rupara National Park border. This represents 1042 square kilometer area stretching over a 380-km portion of the Zambesi, Chobe and Linyanti Rivers.

The area is surveyed during north-east wetland counts by fixed-wing aerial surveys and helicopter surveys.

Helicopter surveys use two observers, one data recorder and a pilot. Transects 400 m apart are flown at $90 \mathrm{~km} / \mathrm{h}$, with back doors open for optimal visibility. The helicopter is circled especially for groups of buffalo, lechwe and hippo, to obtain a better count. Some bigger groups are photographed for verification of group size.

Fixed-wing aeroplane surveys use standard aerial survey methodology. All counts follow the same flight path and give a $100 \%$ sampling coverage of the area.


Total numbers of animals recorded:

| Helicopter surveys |  | Fixed-wing surveys |  |  | * Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Species | 2016 | 2004 | 2007 | 2009 | Population estimate |
| Buffalo | 809 | 1,150 | 2,148 | 2,558 | 809 |
| Common Impala | 0 | 485 | 801 | 271 | 0 |
| Elephant | 22 | 77 | 552 | 742 | 22 |
| Plains Zebra | 1,741 | 1,047 | 1,558 | 1,640 | 1,741 |
| Hippopotamus | 380 | 272 | 185 | 339 | 380 |
| Red Lechwe | 38 | 315 | 138 | 92 | 38 |
| Reedbuck | 42 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 42 |
| Waterbuck | 6 | 53 | 27 | 107 | 6 |
| Crocodile | 249 | 113 | 119 | 73 | 249 |
| Baboon | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Blue Wildebeest | 0 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Bushbuck | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Giraffe | 0 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Kudu | 0 | 4 | 14 | 8 | 0 |
| Ostrich | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Roan | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Sable | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sitatunga | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tsessebe | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Warthog | 16 | 18 | 8 | 12 | 16 |
| Total | 3,308 | 3,542 | 5,583 | 5,860 | 3,308 |

* The best available recent population estimate derived from multiple sources

Summary: five wetland species combined


Reedbuck


Hippopotamus


Waterbuck


Red Lechwe


Crocodile



