

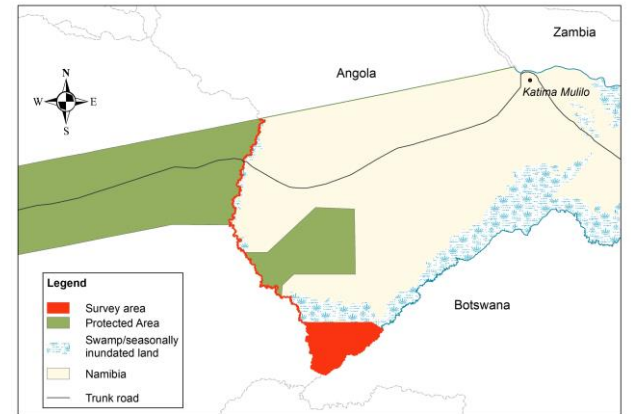
Wildlife censuses of the Kwando – Nkasa Rupara wetlands

The aerial survey includes the Kwando River from the Angola border to the Botswana border. This represents a 730 square kilometer area covering a 110 km length of the Kwando River and the wetlands of Nkasa Rupara National Park.

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 400m apart are flown at 90km/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

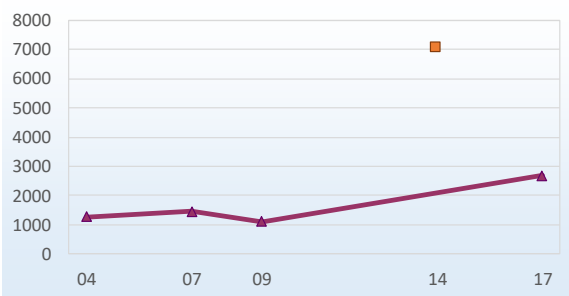
** Total

Species	2014	2004	2007	2009	2017	Population estimate
Buffalo	957	1,297	2,942	6,556	6,045	6,045
Common Impala	921	214	404	980	368	921
Elephant	1,043	740	2,388	2,703	2,035	2,035
Plains Zebra	29	13	57	49	31	31
Hippopotamus	2,330	868	733	482	868	2,330
Red Lechwe	4,008	269	487	516	1,602	4,008
Reedbuck	263	44	135	40	123	263
Waterbuck	128	7	3	10	82	128
Crocodile	335	77	88	45	4	335
Baboon	0	138	90	0	3	3
Blue Wildebeest	36	0	21	64	23	36
Bushbuck	40	2	1	0	0	40
Giraffe	0	13	0	2	11	11
Kudu	208	37	39	92	0	208
Ostrich	0	0	0	2	0	0
Roan	32	0	0	0	2	32
Sable	13	0	22	7	5	13
Sitatunga	54	2	7	19	0	54
Tsessebe	8	4	31	16	0	8
Warthog	726	199	153	143	44	726
Total	11,131	3,924	7,601	11,726	11,246	17,227

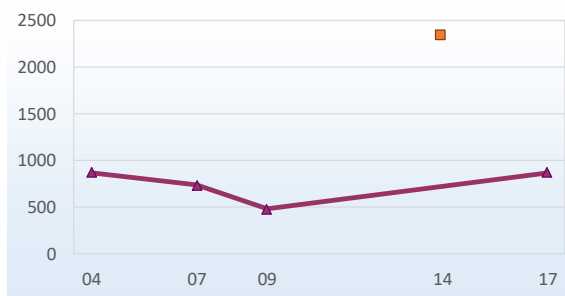
* For 2017, the helicopter ratio was used to adjust fixed-wing lechwe and impala numbers

** The best available recent population estimate derived from multiple sources

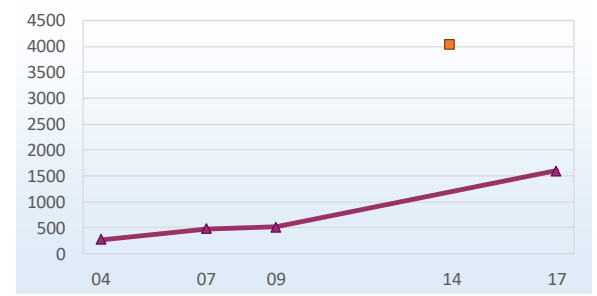
Summary: five wetland species combined



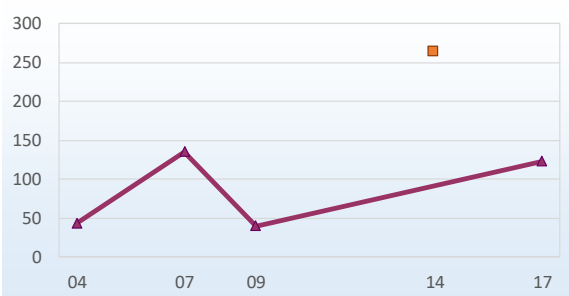
Hippopotamus



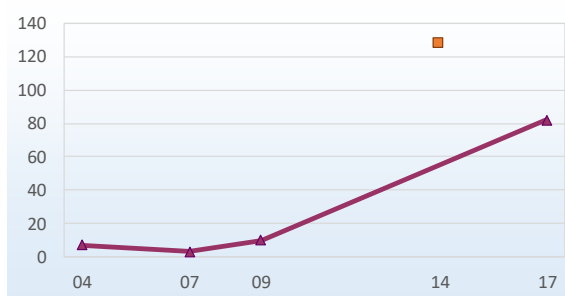
Red Lechwe



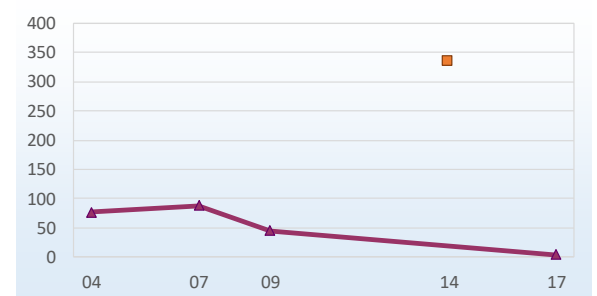
Reedbuck



Waterbuck



Crocodile



Legend: Blue square = Helicopter survey, Red triangle = Fixed-wing survey



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