



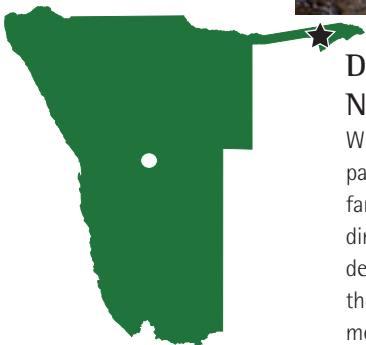
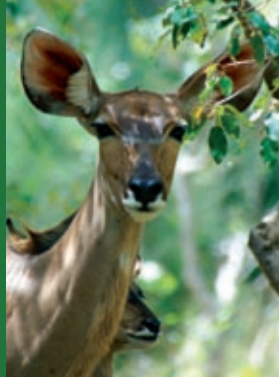
## Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park

"The Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park is very special. It is a pristine piece of nature and one of the best places in the world to enjoy a true wilderness experience."

*Shadrick Siloka • Chief Warden, Caprivi Parks, Ministry of Environment and Tourism*



Republic of Namibia  
Ministry of Environment and Tourism



## Discover the Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park

Wild – that's the one word that best describes Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park. There is nothing prissy about it, it doesn't have fancy campsites and offers no guided tours. But it is an extraordinary piece of wilderness, waiting to be explored. Lush marshes, dense savannah and high river reeds mean that travelling through the area is a dream for 4x4 enthusiasts. During the dry winter months, large herds of elephant congregate on Nkasa and Lupala islands. But for much of the year, the park is awash with flood-water. Drive slowly through deep pools and avoid rivers where crocodiles lie in wait. Slip through thick black mud, so soft it is called cotton, and dice with the odds of getting stuck! If you have to wait while someone else digs the vehicle out, listen carefully. Nearby buffalo or elephant may be crossing the river. For anyone who relishes the adventures of raw, real Africa, Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park is the place to be.

## Namibia's largest wet wonderland

In a vast arid country, Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park holds the distinction of being the largest wetland area with conservation status in Namibia. The Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) was proclaimed in 1990, shortly before Namibia's Independence. And there is much to celebrate about this wet wonderland. The 318-km<sup>2</sup> Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park protects the flora and fauna living within a complex channel of reed beds, lakes and islands that make up the Linyanti swamps. Spectacular herds of elephant, buffalo, red lechwe and reedbuck are among the highlights of any game-viewing experience. But be careful, the waters are also home to five-metre-long crocodiles and families of hippopotamus, which venture onto the floodplains at night to feed. During the rainy season, as much as 80% of the park can become flooded and inaccessible, and yet it remains a sanctuary for birds. With more species of birds recorded here than anywhere else in Namibia, Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park is a bird-watcher's paradise.



## A uniquely Namibian edge

The Kwando River cuts a wide, wild path through Southern Africa. From its source in the Angolan highlands, the Kwando flows for 1 000 km before it changes direction sharply, turning south-west at the border between Namibia and Botswana, to become the Linyanti River. At the southern edge of Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park, it is possible to straddle the banks of the Kwando and Linyanti rivers. Sound odd? That's just the beginning. The change in the river's course heralds many other surprises in this dynamic environmental system. The park is dominated by wetlands, with shifting channels and floodplains. Several 'islands,' including Nkasa and Lupala, rise gently above the wetlands. The combination of water, reeds, trees and dense grass attracts wildlife in abundance. Lightning from thunderstorms literally ignites the ground, sparking fires that temporarily burn above and below the earth. Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park beautifully mirrors Botswana's Okavango-style wetland wilderness with an edge that is uniquely Namibian.

## Cross-border conservation efforts

Although you seldom encounter other tourists in the Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park, the visit is a shared experience. Along with Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism, local conservancies play a vital role in protecting this stunning park. The Caprivi and Kavango regions are the geographical heart of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area, a five-country initiative, involving Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Angola, which is aimed at broadening the protected areas network, thus increasing biodiversity, expanding historical game migration routes and drawing more tourists into the area. In a place where local people often bear the costs of living with wildlife, KAZA will help make the protection of wildlife more economically viable for rural communities. The Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park is part of a web of 22 protected areas which cover 280 000 square kilometres that have the potential to be transformed into a transfrontier conservation area.



## Environmental Care Code

Please adhere to the following:

- For your own safety, stay on existing roads and in your vehicle.
  - Note that fishing is not permitted inside the park.
  - Collecting firewood is not allowed inside the park.
  - Visitors must report to the MET office before entering the park.
  - Please follow the rules and regulations listed on your permit.
- Have a fabulous, wet, wild time!



### Facilities:

Due to extensive flooding in the Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park, camping is not advised within the park. Community-based campsites are available in the surrounding area. Visitors must be completely self-sufficient in terms of water, food and fuel. Entry permits for the park are obtainable at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism offices in Katima Mulilo and Windhoek or from the field offices at Susuwe, Nakatwa and Shisnze, the northern gate of Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park, where reference maps are also available.

### How to get there:

Turn off the B8, the Trans-Caprivi Highway, onto the D3511 after the Kongola Bridge to reach the Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park. Four-wheel-

drive vehicles are required as the terrain can be muddy and waterlogged. Travelling in groups with at least two vehicles is advised.

### Fact File:

Proclamation date: 1 March 1990

Rainfall: Average annual rainfall is between 550 mm and 700 mm per year, with the peak rainy period in January and February. In years of heavy rainfall, flooding can be extensive.

Mamili (Nkasa Lupala) National Park is located within a high-risk malaria area. Precautions are necessary.

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