



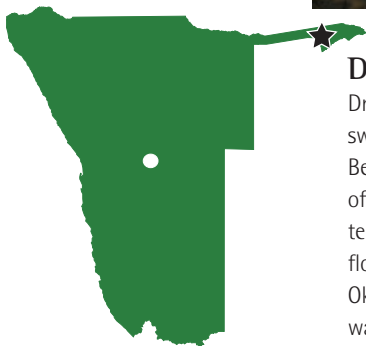
# Mudumu National Park

"The uniqueness of the Mudumu National Park is its scenic riverine environment and undisturbed continuous mopane forest. This combination of natural features is a draw card for the park and the Caprivi Region."

*Apollinaris Kannyinga • Chief Control Warden, North East Parks,  
Ministry of Environment and Tourism*



Republic of Namibia  
Ministry of Environment and Tourism



## Discover Mudumu National Park

Drive through thick mopane forest and over wide floodplains past swamps of papyrus and temporary lakes besieged by waterfowl. Be dwarfed by immense leadwood trees. Above all, experience one of Namibia's most rare and treasured sights – lots of running water! Rising in the central Angolan highlands, the Kwando River flows along the border of Mudumu before disappearing into the Okavango. The river is the lifeblood of this region. Encounter the water-loving creatures of Mudumu; the elephants and hippos, the spotted-necked otters and crocodiles, and the rare red lechwe and sitatunga antelope. Watch for the swirl of a fanged tiger fish or the ripples of turtles. Don't miss the sight of the local fishermen deftly poling their mokoros (dug-out canoes) and casting their nets for tilapia to the sound of drums and singing from nearby villages. Complete the day by camping under riverine forest and listen to nature's orchestra; the slosh of life-giving water, the croaking of frogs and the throaty chuckles of Mudumu's hippos.

## Wood, water, fire = wildlife!

The park is vast: 1 010-km<sup>2</sup> centred on the Mudumu Mulapo fossil river course. It is also a creation not just of politics and Ministry of Environment and Tourism conservation efforts but of wood, fire and water. Dense mopane woodlands are at the core of the park, offering shelter to animals such as roan, kudu and sable. Fire seasonally sweeps sections of the park. Like the Kwando waters, this also nourishes the land. The ash acts as natural fertiliser sparking fresh grass growth. After spring rains in the central Angolan highlands the Kwando River rises, sometimes by over two metres, and inundates the floodplains that surround the forests in Mudumu. New grass nurtures large herds of plains animals, most notably Burchell's zebra and impala. The Kwando's rise also nourishes papyrus beds and marshland that act as fish nurseries and serve as superb wetland bird habitat. Roughly 430 bird species have been recorded in this region, including cranes, storks, ibis and jacana, which race across lily beds on broad webbed feet.



## Celebrating independence

Proclaimed in 1990, the year of Namibia's independence, the Mudumu National Park is a vital place that celebrates freedom not just for the country but also for the wildlife. Due to the absence of fencing and its geographic location, Mudumu serves as a crucial trans-boundary link in a wildlife migration 'super highway' that connects Angola, Namibia and Botswana. Conservationists have established that the principal commuters on this highway are elephants. Elephants move freely through the park, the surrounding waterways, and across the main roads of the area, so stay alert while driving! Although rhino are absent, the other Big Four occur here and the park is one of the few places in Namibia where you find Cape buffalo. Mudumu is also a place of predators. Lions roam, leopards and hyenas hunt at night and packs of wild dogs (Africa's most endangered large predator) are now breeding and raising litters in the park, an encouraging sign for their future and for the future of the Mudumu National Park.

## Local awareness, international impact

In Namibia, conservation is a national priority. From its historic place in the Constitution to its roots in the hearts and minds of local people, conservation is making a positive impact on rural communities and the animals that share their land. Over the past several years, hundreds of animals have been relocated from Namibian parks back into parks and conservancies in the Caprivi Region. Eland, giraffe and rare sable antelope have been reintroduced into Mudumu, while conservancies surrounding the park have welcomed these species and also impala, giraffe and buffalo back onto their land. Several animals were fitted with global positioning collars and one with a satellite collar so that rangers in Namibia and scientists as far away as the US are able to track their movements. The information gathered from these collars will give us a better understanding of how and why animals move across this stunning landscape; and with understanding, our ability to protect these creatures and this spectacular area will grow.





## 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:

There is one unfenced campsite with river water and basic sanitation at the Nakatwa Nature Conservation Camp in Mudumu National Park. Please note, visitors must be self-sufficient in terms of water, food and fuel. There are also two privately managed lodges and accommodation facilities in conservancies adjacent to the park. Entry permits for Mudumu are obtainable at the MET offices in Katima Mulilo and Windhoek or from the offices at Susuwe and Nakatwa.

## How to get there:

Turn off the B8 - the Trans-Caprivi Highway - onto the D3511 after the Kongola Bridge to reach Mudumu National Park. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are required as the terrain can be sandy, muddy and waterlogged. Two vehicles are advisable.

## 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 arriving in January and February. In years of heavy rainfall, flooding can be extensive, although Mudumu is drier than her sister park, Mamili.

Vegetation type: Caprivi floodplain, riverine forests  
Mudumu National Park is located within a high-risk malaria area. Precautions are necessary.

[www.met.gov.na](http://www.met.gov.na)

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