

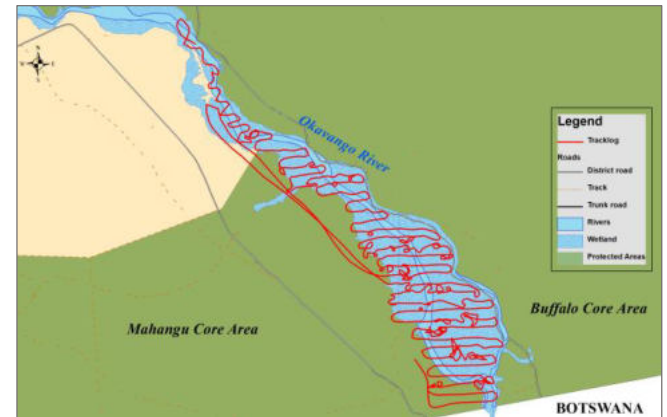
Wildlife censuses of the Okavango Ramsar Site

The aerial survey includes the Mahangu and Buffalo Floodplain area in Bwabwata National Park, Namibia. This area is a Ramsar site and supports one of the highest diversity of species in the Zambezi Flooded Savannas ecoregion. The site covers the lower Okavango River, part of the Okavango Delta Panhandle and permanently or temporarily flooded marshes and floodplains bordered by riparian forests and open woodland.

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

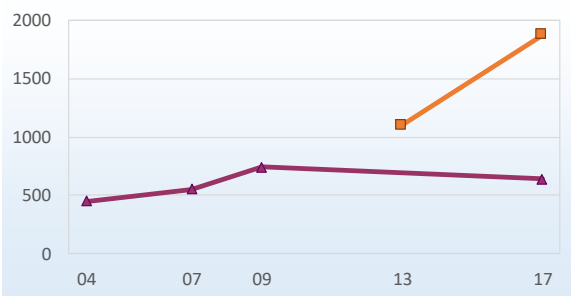
Fixed-wing surveys

* Total

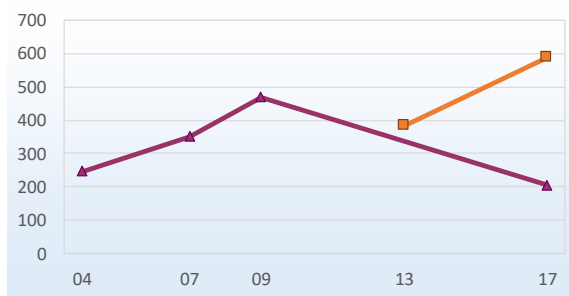
Species	2013	2017	2004	2007	2009	2017	Population estimate
Buffalo	935	2,216	815	861	519	366	2,216
Common Impala	0	457	43	156	206	133	457
Elephant	0	2	43	122	5	70	70
Plains Zebra	0	0	24	38	0	47	47
Hippopotamus	384	588	247	351	470	205	588
Red Lechwe	473	969	154	142	169	369	969
Reedbuck	147	188	32	24	55	22	188
Waterbuck	0	52	0	0	14	0	52
Crocodile	95	75	17	36	33	43	75
Baboon	0	11	20	0	0	0	11
Blue Wildebeest	0	0	6	0	0	32	32
Bushbuck	0	4	4	2	0	0	4
Giraffe	0	0	0	0	1	25	25
Kudu	0	5	57	81	71	90	90
Ostrich	0	0	0	0	18	3	3
Roan	16	0	0	0	29	2	2
Sable	104	1	45	80	13	5	5
Sitatunga	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Tsessebe	46	13	21	0	1	23	23
Warthog	0	355	9	15	18	48	355
Total	2,200	4,938	1,537	1,908	1,622	1,483	5,214

* The best available recent population estimate derived from multiple sources

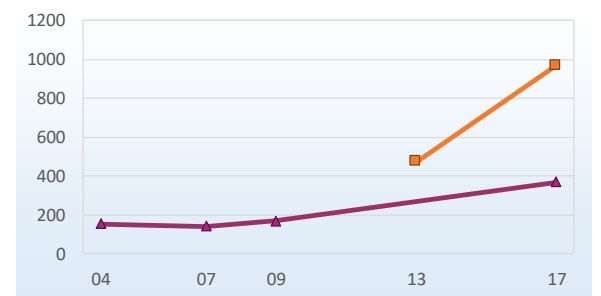
Summary: five wetland species combined



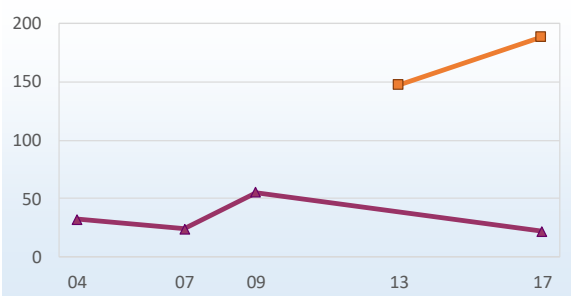
Hippopotamus



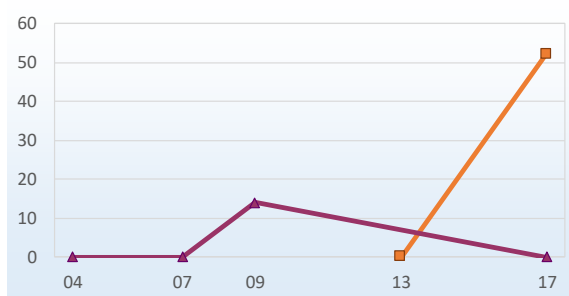
Red Lechwe



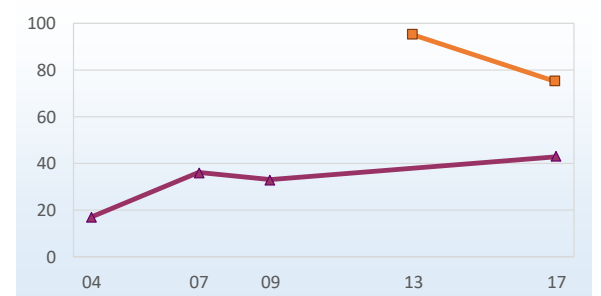
Reedbuck



Waterbuck



Crocodile



Helicopter survey Fixed-wing survey



Sponsors:

