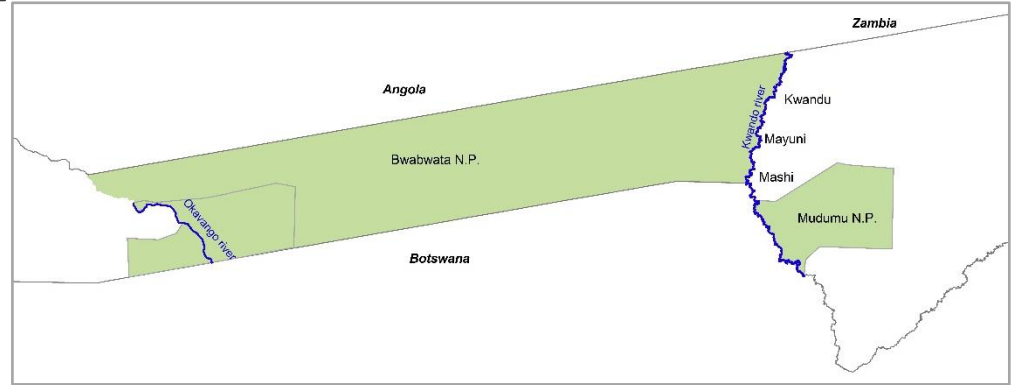


GAME COUNTS-ZAMBEZI RIVERS

The fundamental purpose of these annual game counts is to inform MEFT of general wildlife trends in the parks and conservancies.

August/September 2023

Boat counts were undertaken along the Kwando river from the Angolan border to the southern boundary of Mudumu National Park (2021, 2022, 2023) and along the Okavango river from the northern part of the Buffalo core area to the Botswana border (2023). Total river length counted is approximately 190 km. Within Namibia animals on each side of the river were counted while, in the case of hippo, animals in the river were also counted.



Numbers seen by river section:

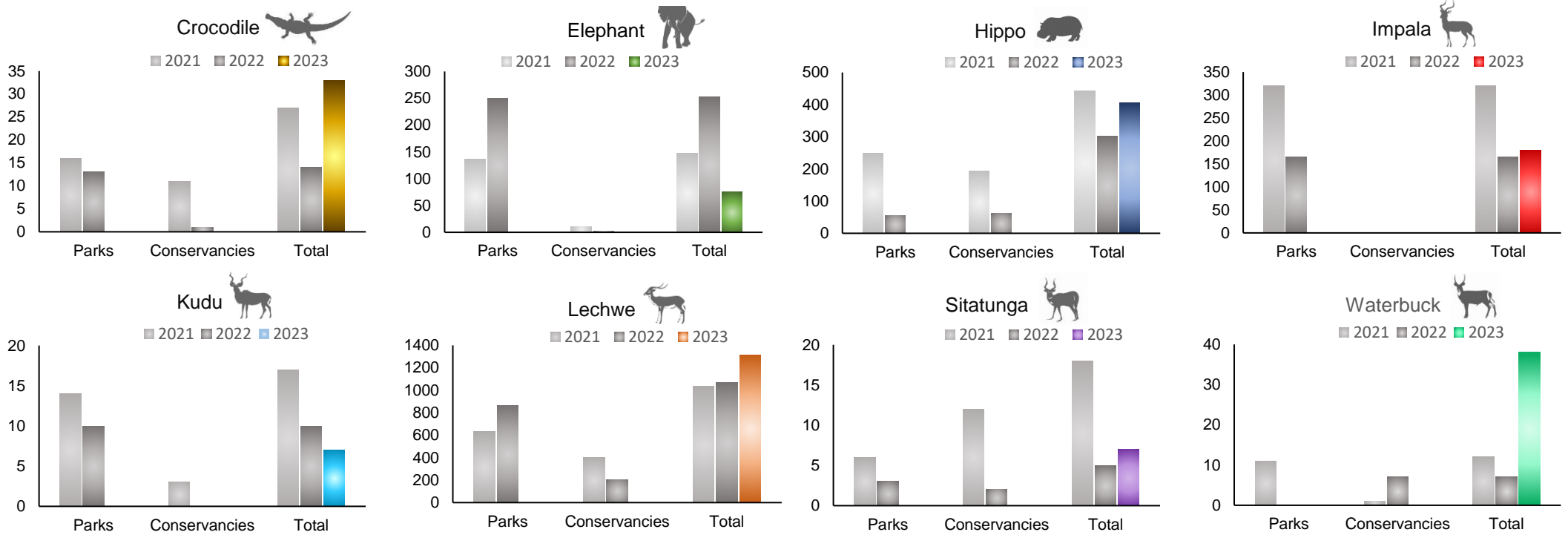
Species	Okavango		Kwando		Total
	Bwabwata West	Bwabwata East & cons.	Mudumu N.P.		
Baboon					0
Buffalo	34	16	211		261
Bushbuck	14	1	1		16
Crocodile	40	26	7		73
Elephant	3	36	39		78
Giraffe					0
Hippo	146	158	247		551
Impala	508	101	79		688
Kudu	14	6	1		21
Lechwe	83	1,139	177		1,399
Reedbuck	5	7			12
Sitatunga		3	4		7
Tsessebe	6		6		12
Vervet Monkey					0
Warthog	21				21
Waterbuck	30	17	21		68
Wildebeest					0
Burchell's Zebra					0

Numbers seen by Year:

Species	Okavango	Kwando		
	Bwabwata West	Bwabwata East & conservancies		Mudumu N.P.
	2023	2023	2022	2021
Baboon			22	68
Buffalo	34	16	143	170
Bushbuck	14	1		
Crocodile	40	26	9	22
Elephant	3	36	230	105
Giraffe			5	
Hippo	146	158	151	313
Impala	508	101	159	214
Kudu	14	6	10	15
Lechwe	83	1,139	907	952
Reedbuck	5	7	8	13
Sitatunga		3	5	18
Tsessebe	6		7	8
Vervet Monkey				
Warthog	21		1	1
Waterbuck	30	17	7	9
Wildebeest				2
Burchell's Zebra				8

Trends in the Kwando river section:

(In 2023 counts were not attributed to conservancy/park so only totals are displayed).



Species	Fixed wing			Heli-copter	Fixed wing	Heli-copter
	2004	2007	2009	2014	2017	2019
Baboon	138	90	0	0	3	36
Buffalo	1,297	2,942	6,556	957	6,045	3,182
Bushbuck	2	1	0	40	0	
Crocodile	77	88	45	335	4	73
Elephant	740	2,388	2,703	1,043	2,035	1,813
Giraffe	13	0	2	0	11	5
Hippo	868	733	482	2,330	868	1,255
Impala	214	404	980	921	368	208
Kudu	37	39	92	208	0	6
Lechwe	269	487	516	4,008	1,602	5,205
Ostrich	0	0	2	0	0	
Reedbuck	44	135	40	263	123	211
Roan	0	0	0	32	2	
Sable	0	22	7	13	5	69
Sitatunga	2	7	19	54	0	
Tsessebe	4	31	16	8	0	22
Warthog	199	153	143	726	44	121
Waterbuck	7	3	10	128	82	80
Wildebeest	0	21	64	36	23	49
Burchell's Zebra	13	57	49	29	31	88

Species	Boat		
	2021	2022	2023
Baboon	111	22	
Buffalo	226	204	227
Bushbuck	0	1	2
Crocodile	27	14	33
Elephant	147	252	75
Giraffe	0	5	
Hippo	442	301	405
Impala	321	165	180
Kudu	17	10	7
Lechwe	1,035	1,072	1,316
Ostrich	0	0	
Reedbuck	13	8	7
Roan	0	0	
Sable	0	0	
Sitatunga	18	5	7
Tsessebe	8	7	6
Warthog	5	1	
Waterbuck	12	7	38
Wildebeest	2	0	
Burchell's Zebra	8	0	

Comparison with previous counts:

The entire Kwando River and the Linyanti River zone is regularly counted by MEFT using a helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft. We expect numbers from these counts to be higher than the boat counts due to the fact that:

- 1) The boat section counted is only half the extent of the aerial count.
- 2) Aerial counts include Nkasa Ruparo N.P. which contains many of the main wetland species. Generally, around half or more of the lechwe and Hippo seen in aerial counts are located in the Nkasa Ruparo park section.

