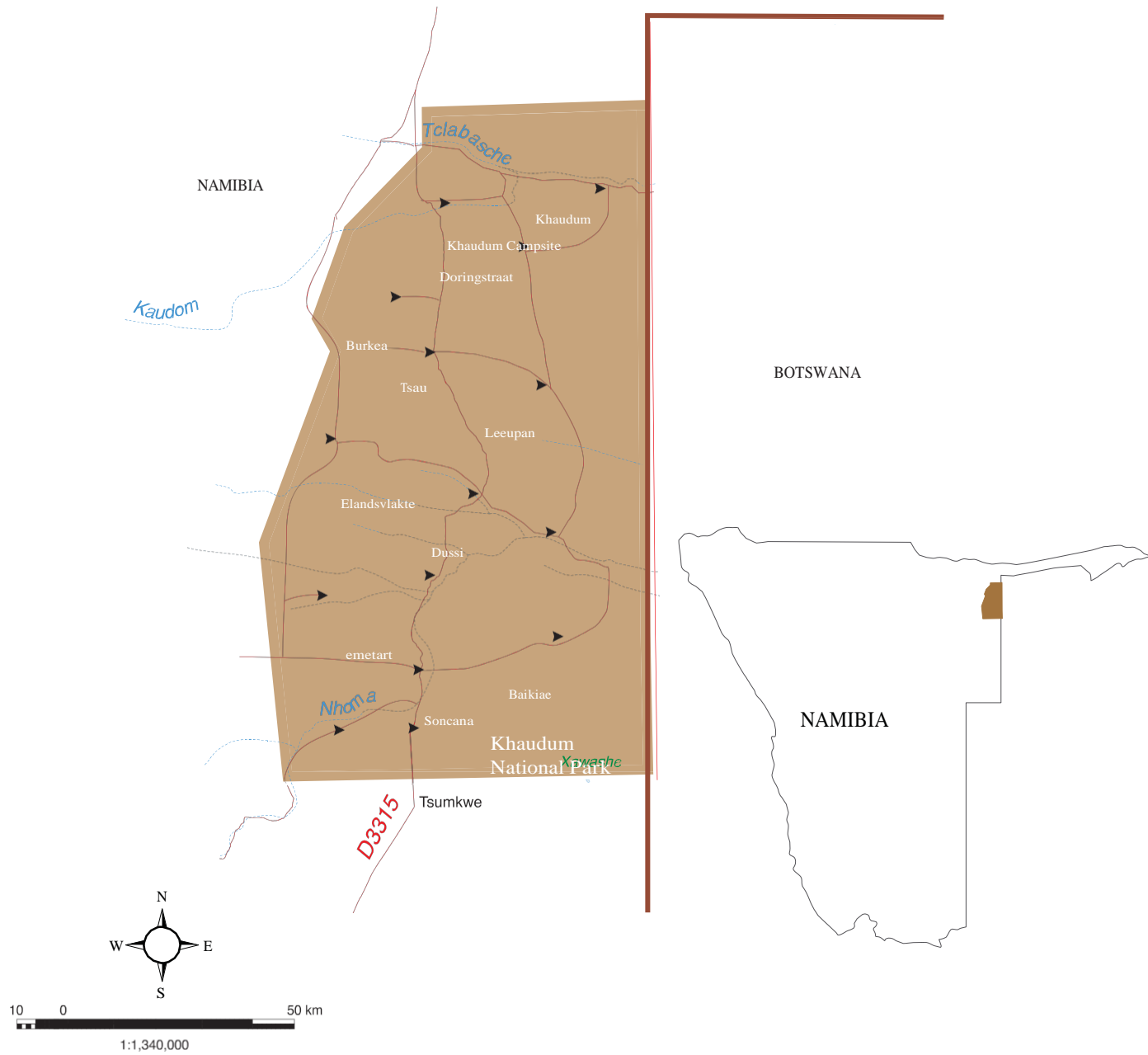


Khaudum National Park

“Khaudum National Park was established with conservation in mind, and not for cash generation. This simple guiding characteristic gave birth to the true wilderness feel that embraces one’s soul when visiting the park. It is wild, and we want to keep it like that.” Dries Alberts, Warden

Wilderness is indeed the Khaudum’s comparative advantage. The park, situated in north-eastern Namibia bordering Botswana, has less than 3 000 visitors annually and there are few tracks through the deep Kalahari sand. More elephants than people frequent the park. It is a refuge for African wild dog and roan antelope. Lion, cheetah and leopard are also found here.

The park is unfenced except along the Botswana border, so game is able to move into neighbouring conservancies. Park staff co-operate with the conservancies in the joint management of the wildlife that moves between the park and neighbouring land.



Roan (*Hippotragus equinus*)

Park size 3 842 km²
Proclamation Khaudum National Park in 1989

Natural features Kalahari sandveld with omurambas (fossil drainage lines) which act as ideal routes for wildlife.

Vegetation Tree and Shrub Savannah Biome. Dominant Trees include leadwood (*Combretum imberbe*), evergreen false mopane (*Guibourtia coleosperma*), various acacia species including camel-thorn trees (*Acacia erioloba*), Zambezi teak (*Baikiaea plurijuga*), tamboti (*Spirostachys africana*) and baobab (*Adansonia digitata*).
Wildlife Elephant, roan antelope, giraffe, eland, tsessebe, reedbuck, lion, African wild dog, leopard, spotted hyaena, ostrich, blue Wildebeest, red hartebeest, kudu, gemsbok, warthog, side-striped jackal and various other smaller species. A total of 320 bird species have been recorded, including Ground Hornbill, African Hobby Falcon, Racket-tailed Roller and Bradfield’s Hornbill. Summer visitors are Abdim’s Stork, Yellow-billed Kite, Steppe and Lesser Spotted Eagles, and African Golden Oriole. Tourism Game viewing, bird-watching. New camps under construction at Sikeretti and Khaudum. No accommodation currently available Due to renovations. Twelve artificial watering holes and two natural fountains. Several game-viewing hides. The MET recommends at least two 4x4 vehicles per party, at least three days’ worth of food.

Key management issues

Water is the main limiting factor in Khaudum, as underground water sources are limited. The park needs to deliver between 700 000 and 900 000 litres of water per day to meet game consumption needs. This amount will increase rapidly if the elephant population keeps on rising (currently around 3 500). This in turn could spell catastrophe, as antelope species will not be able to compete for water, making death due to thirst likely.

Seventy-two-hour full-moon game counts are conducted in September and October. Specially designed elephant cribs built at waterholes have increased water quality for wildlife, as less water is lost to evaporation and cleaner, better quality water is provided.

Fires enter the park from Botswana and neighbouring communities every year, causing devastating vegetation loss.

Future plans

A concession has been awarded to the Gciriku Traditional Authority and the Muduva Nyangana and George Mukoya conservancies to manage the new camps, to boost support for the park by the local community and to acknowledge that the land was first made available for conservation by the Traditional Authority.