

# Bwabwata National Park



Bwabwata is named after the Bwabwata Omuramba which runs diagonally across the park from the settlement of Bwabwata located near the Angolan border.

## Bwabwata buffaloes

The buffalo, *Syncerus caffer*, is one of the iconic game species of Africa. It's one of the 'Big Five', a grouping of the big game animals most dangerous to hunters, originally made during the heyday of big game hunting over a century ago. Today, the Big Five are more a tourist attraction than hunting target, and four of the Big Five can be glimpsed in Bwabwata. Some of the largest herds of buffalo in Namibia are found on the floodplains of the Okavango and Kwando, particularly in the Buffalo Core Area. The Mahango CA is the typical home of bachelor groups, dubbed 'Dagga Boys' (mud boys in Swahili). These are old, often irritable bulls that no longer associate with the breeding herds. Buffaloes are large animals of up to 800 kg. They need to drink regularly and prefer habitat with both water and ample shade. They move away from the rivers during the rainy season, when plenty of water is available in the surrounding veld. Their Namibian distribution has been limited by agricultural policies and veterinary fences, which completely exclude them from all commercial farming areas of the country.



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