

Popa Game Park



Namibia's smallest game park is big on birds, with more than 400 species recorded here.

The park conserves a small patch of riverine forest on the west bank of the Okavango River and on small islands. The course of the river is interrupted by a quartzite ledge, creating a four-metre-high series of rapids, known as the Popa Falls, before the river continues on its journey to Botswana and the Okavango Delta.

The Popa Game Park is a popular stepping-stone for tourists visiting nearby protected areas such as the Khaudum National Park,

and the Buffalo and Mahango areas of the Bwabwata National Park and, a bit further afield, the Mudumu and Mamili national parks in the Caprivi Region. A small rest camp and campsite provide the ideal base for visiting Mahango, just 14 km to the south.

FACT FILE

Park size:	0.25 km ²
Date proclaimed:	1989
Natural features:	Lush vegetation, extensive lawns, riverine forest, the Popa Falls (rapids) on the Okavango River.
Vegetation:	Tree and Shrub Savannah Biome. Vegetation type: Okavango Valley. Trees include jackal-berry (<i>Diospyros mespiliformis</i>) and knob-thorn (<i>Acacia nigrescens</i>).
Wildlife:	Crocodile, hippo, vervet monkey, broad-head catfish and oscillated spiny eel. The 417 bird species recorded here include slaty egret, saddle-billed stork, bat hawk, western banded snake-eagle, collared pratincole, Heuglin's robin.
Tourism:	Bird-watching. Angling. Walking. Rest camp with bungalows. Day visits to Buffalo, Mahango. Communal kitchen and ablution facilities. Restaurant and kiosk. Several nearby lodges offer boat trips.

Map



Popa Game Park is located east of Rundu in the Caprivi Region. The turn-off to Popa Falls is sign posted 210 km east of Rundu on the B8 to Katima Mulilo.

Conservation successes

More rapids than falls, the Popa Falls are nonetheless beautiful and an important point of conservation of the Kavango River, Namibia's section of the Okavango River which ultimately feeds into the Okavango Delta system. Given the park's proximity to the Bwabwata National Park and Mahango Game Park it is also an area for migrating game and prolific birdlife.

Key management issues

Although proclaimed a game park, the area is extremely small and is managed by Namibia Wildlife Resorts.