



**Department of Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit Application Form**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Division of Management Authority  
Branch of Permits, MS: IA  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803  
1-800-358-2104 or 703-358-2104

Type of Activity

**IMPORT OF SPORT-HUNTED TROPHIES under Appendix I of  
the Convention on International Trade in Endangered  
Species (CITES) and/or U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

Complete Sections A or B, and C, D, and E of this application. U.S. address may be required in Section C, see instructions for details.  
Instructions on how to make your application complete and help avoid unnecessary delays are attached.

**Section A: Complete if applying as an individual**

|   |  |                                   |  |   |             |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|---|-------------|
| 1.a. Last Name<br><b>VANNATTA</b>               |  | 1.b. First Name<br><b>MICHAEL</b> |  | 1.c. Middle Name/Initial<br><b>J.</b>                   | 1.d. Suffix |
| 2. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)<br><b>(b) (6)</b> |  | 3. Telephone Number               |  | 3.a. Alternate Telephone Number                         |             |
|   |  |                                   |  | 4. E-mail address<br><b>cindi.rulon@procargousa.com</b> |             |

**Section B: Complete if applying on behalf of a business, corporation, public agency, Tribe, or institution**

|  |                                   |   |                              |             |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 1.a. Name of business, agency, Tribe, or institution |                                   | 1.b. Doing business as (DBA)                              |                              |             |  |
| 2. Tax identification no.                            |                                   | 3. Description of business, agency, Tribe, or institution |                              |             |  |
| 4.a. Principal officer Last name                     | 4.b. Principal officer First Name | 4.c. Principal officer Middle name/initial                |                              | 4.d. Suffix |  |
| 5. Principal officer title                           |                                   | 6. Primary contact name                                   |                              |             |  |
| 7.a. Business telephone number                       | 7.b. Alternate telephone number   | 7.c. Business fax number                                  | 7.d. Business e-mail address |             |  |

**Section C: All applicants complete address information**

|  |                            |   |                                       |                               |  |
|--|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 1.a. Physical address (Street address, Apartment #, Suite #, or Room #, no P.O. Boxes)<br><b>(b) (6)</b>                       |                            |   |                                       |                               |  |
| 1.b. City<br><b>SPRING</b>   | 1.c. State<br><b>TEXAS</b> | 1.d. Zip code/Postal code<br><b>77379</b> | 1.e. County/Province<br><b>HARRIS</b> | 1.f. Country<br><b>U.S.A.</b> |  |
| 2.a. Mailing address (include if different than physical address; include name of contact person if applicable)<br><b>SAME</b> |                            |   |                                       |                               |  |
| 2.b. City  | 2.c. State                 | 2.d. Zip code/Postal code                 | 2.e. County/Province                  | 2.f. Country                  |  |

**Section D: All applicants MUST complete**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Attach the nonrefundable application processing fee in the form of a check or money order payable to the U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE in the amount of \$100. Federal, Tribal, State, and local government agencies, and those acting on behalf of such agencies, are exempt from the processing fee-- attach documentation of fee exempt status as outlined in instructions [50 CFR 13.11(d)].   |  |
| 2. Certification: I hereby certify that I have read and am familiar with the regulations contained in Title 50 Part 13 of the Code of Federal Regulations and the other applicable parts in subchapter B of Chapter I of Title 50, and I certify that the information submitted in this application for a permit is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement herein may subject me to the criminal penalties of 18 U.S.C. 1001. |  |
| Signature of applicant/Principal Officer for permit (No photocopied or stamped signatures) Date of signature (mm/dd/yyyy)<br><br><b>PROFESSIONAL CARBO SERVICES INC</b> <i>for</i> <b>Neale city in fact 03/30/2020</b>  |  |
| <b>Please continue to next page</b>  |  |

**E. IMPORT OF SPORT-HUNTED TROPHIES (*Appendix I of CITES and/or ESA*)**

**Note 1:** This form should be used to request authorization to import trophies of species listed on Appendix I of CITES and/or as threatened or endangered under the ESA (examples include elephants, lions, cheetahs, wood bison, and markhor).

**PLEASE USE FORM 3-200-19 FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN LEOPARD TROPHIES AND SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS TROPHIES TAKEN IN NAMIBIA.**

**Note 2:** If you hold an import permit for a trophy that you did not use, please return the unused original permit. If you are requesting reissuance of a permit because you have taken a trophy, but were unable to import it prior to the expiration of the permit, please use the renewal form (3-200-52) and return your original permit with that form.

**Note 3:** Applications for species listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act are published in the Federal Register for a 30-day public comment period. Please allow at least **90 days** for the application to be processed.

**Note 4:** *Sport-hunted trophy* is defined at 50 CFR 23.74 as follows: *Sport-hunted trophy* means a whole dead animal or a readily recognizable part or derivative of an animal specifically identified on the accompanying CITES document that meets the following criteria:

- Is raw, processed, or manufactured;
- Was legally obtained by the hunter through hunting for his or her personal use;
- Is being imported, exported, or re-exported by or on behalf of the hunter as part of the transfer from its country of origin ultimately to the hunter's country of usual residence; and
- Includes worked, manufactured, or handicraft items made from the sport-hunted animal only when:
  - i. Such items are contained in the same shipment as raw or tanned parts of the sport-hunted animal and are for the personal use of the hunter;
  - ii. The quantity of such items is no more than could reasonably be expected given the number of animals taken by the hunter as shown on the license or other documentation of the authorized hunt accompanying the shipment; and
  - iii. The accompanying CITES documents (export document and, if appropriate, import permit) contain a complete itemization and description of all items included in the shipment.

**Note 5:** Certain hunting trophies, including elephants, are subject to restrictions on their use after import into the United States. Please see 50 CFR 23.55 for more information or contact the Division of Management Authority.

Please provide the following information. Complete all questions on the application. Mark questions that are not applicable with "N/A". If needed, use a separate sheet of paper. On all attachments or separate sheets you are submitting; please indicate the application question number you are addressing. If applying for more than one trophy, be sure to answer questions 4-6 for each trophy addressed in this application. If importing trophies from more than one country, you must submit a separate application for each shipment in order to obtain separate import permits.

1. Name and address where you wish the permit to be mailed, if different from page 1. If you would like expedited shipping, please enclose a self-addressed, pre-paid, computer-generated, courier service airway bill. If unspecified, all documents will be mailed via the U.S. Postal Service.

Pro Cargo USA    attn Cindi Rulon    self addressed fedex envelope enclosed  
15619 Morales Rd. Houston, Texas 77032

2. Who should we contact if we have questions about the application (name, phone number, and e-mail)?

Cindi Rulon                      CINDI.RULON@PROCARGOUSA.COM  
281-220-3176

3. Disqualification factor. A conviction, or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, for a felony violation of the Lacey Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act disqualifies any such person from receiving or exercising the privileges of a permit, unless such disqualification has been expressly waived by the Service Director in response to a written petition. (50 CFR 13.21(c)) Have you or any of the owners of the business, if applying as a business, been convicted, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, forfeited collateral, or are currently under charges for any violations of the laws mentioned above?

No  Yes

If you answered "Yes" to Question 3, provide: a) the individual's name; b) date of charge; c) charge(s); d) location of incident; e) court; and f) action taken for each violation. Please be aware that a "Yes" response does not automatically disqualify you from getting a permit.

4. For each trophy to be imported, provide:

a. Scientific name (genus, species, and, if applicable, subspecies) and common name.

LOXODANTA AFRICANA AFRICAN ELEPHANT

b. Sex (if known). MALE

5. **IF ANIMAL IS CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE WILD**, please enter the following information:

a. Country and place (area, region, GIS coordinates, ranch, conservancy, management area, or hunting block, AND nearest city) where wildlife is to be taken from the wild:

b. Date wildlife is to be hunted:

c. Name of hunting outfitter, safari company, or professional hunter you will be hunting with:

6. **IF THE TROPHY HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN**, please enter the following information:

a. Country and place (area, region, GIS coordinates, ranch, conservancy, management area, or hunting block, AND nearest city) where wildlife was removed from the wild:

TIMBAVATI PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE HOEDSPRUIT MPUMALANGA REGION SOUTH AFRICA

b. Date wildlife was hunted:

JUNE 2019

- c. Name of hunting outfitter, safari company, or professional hunter you hunted with:

INTREPID SAFARIS PHILLIP DU PLESSIS

- d. The current location of the trophy (address and country) [the U.S. import permit will identify this country as the country of export/re-export and must match with the foreign export/re-export document]:

SAFARI TAXIDERMY 47 GOUD STREET LABORIA POLOKWANE REP. SOUTH AFRICA

7. Please provide a copy of any applicable foreign government permits or licenses that were required to remove this animal from the wild (if you have not hunted yet and do not currently hold any such permits or licenses, please indicate so). ATTACHED
8. Complete name and address of overseas person or business shipping the trophy to you. If you are applying to import a trophy directly from **Namibia**, you must provide the name and address of the professional hunter listed on your Namibian hunting permit [this name will appear on the face of the export permit].

Name:

Business Name: SAFARI TAXIDERMY

Address:

City: 47 GOUD STREET

City: LABORIA

State/Province: POLOKWANE

Country, Postal Code: RSA

9. For species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, please be aware that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) must make a finding that your activities will enhance or benefit wild populations of the species involved. While we will communicate with the range country for the species you will hunt or hunted when making the required findings, if you have any information that could support this finding, it would be helpful for our review if you could provide it. Please submit such information on a separate page with your application.

- a. Do you have any information regarding the population status or trend data on the species hunted?

ATTACHED IS CENSUS REPORT ON THE TIMBAVATI PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE SHOWING INCREASE IN POPULATION AND DENSITY WITHIN THE RESERVE

- b. In order to hunt, you likely paid for licenses or trophy fees. What were those fees and do you have any information on how those funds were used by either the landowner, local community, or government?

Permit fees were 55,000. The reserve employees 20 for anti poaching patrols and uses funds to support them with equipment. The meat was all consumed by local villages and I provided a 5,000 tip for the cooks, guides, and support help that was used on this hunt.

- c. Do you have information on other funding activities that are being carried out, or were carried out, by the safari outfitter, professional hunter, concession holder, or landowner that provide a conservation benefit to the species being hunted/species hunted?

The anti poaching patrols mentioned in section b provide protection for all species in addition to the elephants

**CERTIFICATION STATEMENT** (original signature must be provided for either 10 or 11 below)

- 10. If you are a broker or ~~taxidermist~~ applying on behalf of a U.S. hunter or ~~foreign national~~, provide documentation to show you have a Power of Attorney to act on your client's behalf and sign the following statement:

I acknowledge that the sport-hunted trophy/trophies to be imported has been/will be personally hunted by my client and is being imported only for my client's personal use (i.e., not for sale, transfer, donation, or exchange that is reasonably likely to result in economic use, gain, or benefit). If applying for the import of an elephant trophy, I understand that my client may import no more than two elephant trophies in one calendar year.

Taxidermist/Broker's signature: PROFESSIONAL CARBO SERVICES INC Date: 3/30/2020  
*[Handwritten signature]*

- 11. If you are the hunter applying to import your own trophy, please read and sign the following statement:

I acknowledge that the sport-hunted trophy/trophies to be imported has been/will be personally hunted by me and is being imported only for my personal use (i.e., not for sale, transfer, donation, or exchange that is reasonably likely to result in economic use, gain, or benefit). If applying to import an elephant trophy, I understand that I may import no more than two elephant trophies in one calendar year.

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Be aware that there may be additional permitting or approval requirements by your local or state governments, as well as required by other Federal agencies or foreign governments to conduct your propose activity. While the Service will attempt to assist where possible, it is your responsibility to obtain such approval.*

- 12. All international shipments must be through a designated port. A list of designated ports (where an inspector is posted) is available from **the list of designated ports**. If you wish to use a port not listed, please contact the Office of Law Enforcement for a Designated Port Exemption Permit (form 3-200-2).



# Professional Cargo Services Inc.

15619 Morales Rd., Houston, Texas 77032 281-220-3158

BELOW IS A POWER OF ATTORNEY FORM WHICH IS REQUIRED BY U.S. CUSTOMS, TO ALLOW US TO TRANSACT U.S. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE ON YOUR BEHALF.  
U.S. Customs Services 141.32 C.R.

## CUSTOMS POWER OF ATTORNEY

SS #:

(b) (6)

Individual

Cell Phone #:

Email Address:

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That MICHAEL J. VANNATTA (Full Name of Person), residing at (b) (6) SPRING, TX 77379

hereby constitutes and appoints each of the following persons, Professional Cargo Services Inc., may act through any of its offices or any employees with Power of Attorney on file with this licensed broker as required by the Regional Commission of Customs as a true and lawful agent and attorney of the grantor named above for and in the name, place, stead of said grantor from this date and in all Customs Districts, and in no other name, to make, endorse, sign, declare, or swear to any entry, withdrawal, declaration, certificate, bill of lading, or other document required by law or regulation in connection with the importation, transportation, or exportation of any merchandise shipped or cosigned by or to said grantor; to perform any act or condition which may be required by law or regulation in connection with such merchandise; to receive any merchandise deliverable to said grantor: To make endorsements on bills of lading conferring authority to transfer title, make entry or collect drawback, and to make, sign, declare, or swear to any statement, supplemental declaration of proprietor on drawback entry, declaration of exporter on drawback entry, or any other affidavit or document which may be required by law or regulation for drawback purposes, regardless of whether such bill of lading, sworn statement, schedule, certificate, abstract, declaration, or other affidavit or document is intended for filing in any customs district. To sign, seal, and deliver for and as the act of said grantor any bond required by law or regulation in connection with the entry or withdrawal of imported merchandise or merchandise exported with or without benefit of drawback, or in connection with the entry, clearance, lading, unloading or navigation of any vessel or other means of conveyance owned or operated by said grantor, and any and all bonds which may be voluntarily given and accepted under applicable laws and regulations, consignee's and owners declarations provided for in section 485, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, or affidavits in connection with the entry of merchandise: To sign and swear to any document, and to perform any act that may be necessary or required by law or regulation in connection with the entering, clearing, lading, unloading, or operation of any vessel or other means of conveyance owned or operated said grantor. To authorize other Customs Brokers to act as grantor's agent; to receive, endorse and collect checks issued for Customs duty refunds in grantor's name drawn on the Treasurer of the United States; if the grantor is a nonresident of the United States, to accept service of process on behalf of the grantor. And generally to transact at the customhouses in said district any and all customs business, including making, signing, and filing of protests under section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930. In which said grantor is or maybe concerned or interested and which may properly be transacted or performed by an agent and attorney, giving to said agent attorney full power and authority to do anything whatever requisite and necessary to be done in the premises as fully as said grantor could do if present and acting, hereby ratifying and confirming all that the said agent and attorney shall lawfully do by virtue of these presents; the forgoing power of attorney to remain in full force and effect until notice of revocation in writing is duly given to and received by the District Director of customs of the district aforesaid. If the donor of this power of attorney is a partnership, the said power shall in no case have any force or effect after the expiration of two years from the date of its execution. Or until revoked. Pursuant to 19 CFR 111.36(a), election is made waiving the right to receive invoices, supporting documents and correspondences from Professional Cargo Services Inc. duties and services performed on our behalf. It is understood the right to revoke said waiver is continuing.

### Customs Rules on Discharge of Importers Liability for Duties

The U.S. Customs Service has issued a final amendment of the regulations to provide an alternative procedure for an Importer record to pay duties on imported merchandise through a licensed customhouse broker. Present rules provide for the payment of duties to Customs by a broker on behalf of the importer. Under the alternative procedure, the Importer may elect to submit to the broker a separate check or bank draft for the duties payable to the "U.S. Customs Service." The broker would then deliver the Importer's check or bank draft to Customs. The new rule also requires brokers to provide written notification to their clients, advising that if the client is an Importer of record, payment to the broker will not relieve the client of liability for Customs charges in the event that the charges are not paid by the broker. Brokers will be required to provide this notification to all active clients annually during the month of February. Additionally, brokers will be required to provide such information on a power of attorney executed on or after the effective date of the new rule. The amendments are effective as of September 27, 1982.

(Print Name) MICHAEL J VANNATTA BY JOHN RULON CAB ATTY IN FACT has caused these presents to be sealed and signed:

Signature:

(b) (6)

Date:

3/18/2020



Issued in terms of the provisions of:  
Mpumalanga Nature Conservation Act,  
Act 10 of 1998

**Biodiversity  
Mpumalanga  
Provincial  
Permit  
Ordinary  
Hunt  
Rifle**

**Hunt in a protected area or nature reserve**

APPROVED SPECIES AND NUMBERS, RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES AND CONDITIONS AS PER ADDENDUM AND PAGES ATTACHED

**PERMIT HOLDER**

**Details**

Surname: Vannatta  
Full Name: Michael J  
Id Number: (b) (6)  
Passport: (b) (6)  
Cell Home: (b) (6)  
Tel Home: (b) (6)  
Tel Work: (b) (6)  
Fax Home: (b) (6)  
Email: paul@timbavati.co.za

**Physical Address**

Building: (b) (6)  
Street: (b) (6)  
Suburb: (b) (6)  
Town: Terranova  
Area Code: 77379  
Division/Region: Spring  
Province/State: Texas  
Country: USA

**Postal Address**

Post Office:  
Town:  
Postal Code:  
District/Region:  
Province/State:  
Country:

**REGION**

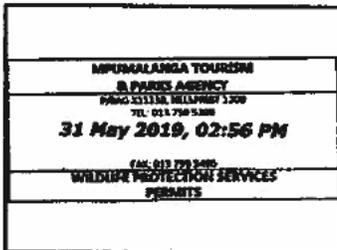
Mpumalanga  
**LOCATION**

**Facility**

Facility Name: Private Nature Reserve  
Building:  
Street:  
Suburb:  
Town:  
Area Code:  
Division/Region:  
Province:  
Country:

**Property**

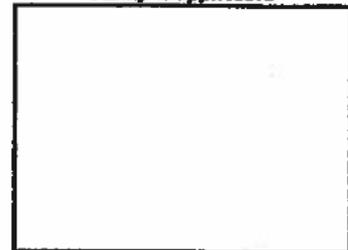
Property Name: Timbavati Private Nature Reserve  
Building: Nature Reserve Chimanimani  
Street: Timbavati PNR HQ Guernsey Road  
Suburb:  
Town: Hoedspruit  
Area Code: 1380  
Division/Region: Enhtanzeni  
Province/State: Mpumalanga  
Country: South Africa



Stamp of Issuing authority

**VALIDITY PERIOD**  
**FROM 07/06/2019 TO 13/06/2019**

Stamp if applicable



Permit holder / Dealer

Signature of Issuing Authority  
(Anna Shube)

31 May 2019, 02:56 PM

(b) (6)

(Michael J Vannatta)

## ADDENDUM FACILITIES

|                        |      |          |         |
|------------------------|------|----------|---------|
| Name                   | Town | Province | Country |
| Private Nature Reserve |      |          |         |

## PROPERTIES

|                                  |            |            |              |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Name                             | Town       | Province   | Country      |
| Timbavati Private Nature Reserve | Hoedspruit | Mpumalanga | South Africa |

## SPECIES INFORMATION

|                    |   |        |        |  |
|--------------------|---|--------|--------|--|
| Scientific Name    | Common Name                                 | Number | Gender | Description/Markings                     |
| Loxodonta africana | African Elephant, African Savannah Elephant | 1      | Male   | 30 - 35 year old/ maximum 40lbs per side |

## PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS

|                               |              |              |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Full Name                     | PH Number    | Cell Work    | Tel Work     |
| Hercules Phillipus Du Plessis | MTPA/PH/2159 | 083-633 5197 | 083-633 5197 |

## HUNTING OUTFITTERS

|                               |              |              |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Full Name                     | HC Number    | Cell Work    | Tel Work     |
| Hercules Phillipus Du Plessis | MTPA/HO/0993 | 083-633 5197 | 083-633 5197 |

## ACTIVITIES

Activity Name  
Hunt

## METHODS

Method Name  
Rifle

## STANDARD CONDITIONS

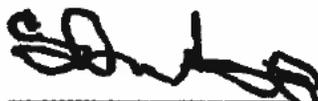
### GENERAL CONDITIONS - ALL PERMITS

1) The Issuing Authority for this permit is : The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Board, Private Bag X 11338, Nelspruit, 1200, hereafter named "the Issuing Authority". 2) This permit, unless otherwise stated, is only valid within the boundaries of the Mpumalanga Province (hereafter named "the Province") and then specifically as specified on the permit. 3) This permit is valid only : - a) for the specific species, sex and numbers as specified on this permit. b) for the specific activity / activities authorised. c) for the specified methods or instruments authorised. d) for the specific property / locality as specified. e) for the specific day, time or period stipulated. 4) This permit is only deemed valid : - a) in the original format and with the content as issued by the Issuing Authority. b) once it has been printed and the signature of the permit holder has been endorsed thereon in ink. 5) the Issuing Authority reserves the right to amend, withhold, withdraw or cancel any permit at any time. 6) This permit is not transferable to any individual, natural person, juristic person or any other legal identity. 7) Any alterations or attempt thereto, whether electronically or in any other way, shall immediately render it invalid. 8) This permit shall lapse and be deemed invalid when it is altered, lost or destroyed and no copy thereof shall be issued. 9) This permit shall also become invalid as soon as the permit holder loses possession of any animal, plant or derivative as the case may be, as specified on the permit. 10) This permit does not grant the permit holder automatic access to any Protected Area, National Park, Provincial Nature Reserve or privately owned land and : - a) the permit holder must beforehand obtain all other relevant written permissions, documents, rights and licences. b) the permit holder must comply with any other / further conditions or restrictions that the manager / landowner may stipulate at his / her discretion. 11) The permit holder must at all times while performing any restricted activity authorised by this permit, have the permit and all other relevant documentation in his / her possession and without delay make it available upon request by any authorized person. 12) An authorized person must also be allowed access onto the property at any reasonable time for any inspection needed and can remain on such property as long as it is needed to do the inspection. 13) The permit holder must immediately after completion of any activity authorised by this permit, record the required particulars in the space provided therefore or on the annexure or document attached hereto or in the prescribed register related to the permit. 14) The permit holder must return the original signed permit to the Issuing Authority within (14) fourteen days : - a) after performing or completing the authorised restricted activity, or b) after the date of expiry thereof whichever happens first, and c) if applicable furnish the Issuing Authority with a prescribed written feedback report on the results of every activity conducted. 15) The permit holder must retain a copy of the permit together with all other relevant written permissions, documents, rights and licenses for a period of at least (2) two years from date of issue or for as long as the permit holder is in possession of the animal, plant or derivative, whichever period is the longer. 16) If applicable, the permit holder shall apply for the renewal of the permit to the Issuing Authority, on the appropriate application form, at least (3) three months prior to the expiry date thereof. 17) Applications for renewal of this permit will only be processed after the original signed permit together with the prescribed written feedback report has been returned to the Issuing Authority. 18) This permit, during the period of validity thereof, is also subject to : - a) all applicable norms and standards in existence at the time of issuance. b) the provisions of any law in force, in respect of the specific species, activity, method or instrument to which this permit applies. 19) It is the permit holder's responsibility to obtain the correct information on any other legislation, specification, requirement or changes thereto that may be applicable or are required by any other Issuing Authority / Organization / Institute, relating to this permit. 20) By signing this permit, the permit holder declares that he / she is aware of the fact that : - a) any transgression or failure to return the original permit or failure to render the required reports can lead to criminal prosecution and also jeopardize any future applications by or in the name of the permit holder. b) if the permit holder contravenes or fails to comply with any permit condition or requirement, he / she shall be guilty of an offence. 21) The prescribed fees paid to the Issuing Authority for the issue of this permit shall not be refunded.

### HUNT - STANDARD REQUIREMENTS

1) The permit holder when prohibited by any applicable legislation, may NOT use any prohibited methods or instruments to hunt, capture or catch any wild animal unless he / she has obtained a special permit authorising him / her to do so. 2) The permit holder may NOT use : - a) a fire-arm having a barrel of a caliber of 6.5 mm (.256 of an inch) or less, to hunt any eland, kudu, blue wildebeest, black wildebeest, gemsbok, red hartebeest, roan antelope, sable antelope, Burchell's zebra, Cape mountain zebra, Hartmann's mountain zebra, nyala, or water buck unless authorised in the restricted activities. b) a fire-arm having a barrel caliber of less than 9.525 mm H&H (.375 of an inch H&H) to hunt any buffalo, elephant, lion, leopard, rhinoceros,

Page 2 of 3



Signature of Issuing Authority  
(Anna Shube)

31 May 2019, 02:56 PM

(b) (6)

Signature of Permit Holder  
(Michael J Vannatta)

**ADDENDUM**

hippopotamus or giraffe unless authorised in the restricted activities of this permit. 3) The permit holder must : - a) obtain the written permission as prescribed in applicable legislation, from the landowner to hunt on the property of the landowner and, b) obtain the written permission as prescribed in applicable legislation, from the landowner to remove the carcass from the property of the landowner. 4) When the permit holder kills any wild animal, he / she shall, before leaving the above-mentioned property (or if he / she does not leave it, after each days hunt) record in the space provided on the hunting license and / or written permission the particulars regarding the date, species, sex and number of each wild animal, or if it is impossible to distinguish the sex, the total number of each species of such wild animals which has been killed. 5) If the permit holder belongs to any hunting organisation, the hunt is conducted in the hunting area according to the code of ethical conduct and good practice, as supported by such organised hunting fraternity. 6) The responsibility to comply with all permit conditions, will reside with the permit holder and landowners of the properties assisting the permit holder.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

| <b>Condition Name</b> | <b>Condition Description</b>  |
|-----------------------|---|
| APNR Hunting Protocol | To be hunted in accordance with the APNR Hunting Protocol and approved quotas |

Page 3 of 3



Signature of Issuing Authority  
(Anna Shube)

31 May 2019, 02:56 PM

(b) (6)

(Michael J Vannatta)



**TIMBAVATI PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE**

**ANNUAL AERIAL CENSUS REPORT**

**19 September 2018**

**Compiled by:**

*Almero Bosch (TPNR Ecologist)*

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# INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 PREAMBLE

The Timbavati Private Nature Reserve forms part of the Greater Kruger Park, and is a member of the Associated Private Nature Reserves otherwise known as the APNR. The Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, herein further referred to as the TPNR, describes its vision for the overall long-term goal for the operation, protection and development of TPNR as follows: *To provide for ecologically and aesthetically sustainable (non-consumptive and consumptive) use of the area for its owners, based on wildlife focused recreation, tourism and hunting.*

The purpose of an organisation is the foundation on which all future action is based and must be in line with the overall management philosophy of the association. The purpose of the TPNR is thus defined as follows: *To conserve and maintain important aquatic and terrestrial habitat for wildlife conservation, ecosystem services and geological features whilst providing opportunities and benefits for sustainable nature based tourism and hunting whilst ensuring continued community support and beneficiation.*

Responsible wildlife management practices necessitated the monitoring of wildlife populations, the TPNR thus participates in active population monitoring of all mammalian species including carnivores. The scope of this report is to summarise the results for the annual aerial census conducted during September 2018. Please note that this report only provides information on the annual aerial census and that reports on other species and census techniques are published separately.

## 1.2 SURVEY AREA

The Timbavati Private Nature Reserve encompasses a total area of 530.2 km<sup>2</sup>, and is situated between: -24.190 and -24.198 S and 31.227 and 31.278 E. The reserve forms part of the Greater Kruger Park and is situated directly west of the Houtboschrand and Kingfisherspruit sections. The TPNR furthermore forms part of the Associated Private Nature Reserves, with the Umbabat and Klaserie Private Nature Reserves bordering towards the north and north-west respectively.

The TPNR falls within the Lowveld Bushveld climatic region of South Africa (Kruger 2004). Average rainfall for the area ranges from 500-700mm per annum (Kruger 2004), with the long

term average for the Timbavati Headquarters station in the region of 573 mm per annum. The peak rainfall season for the reserve is between the months of November and March, with the highest temperatures recorded during the months of January and February, this is further characterised by high humidity.

Geomorphology of the TPNR is characterised by an undulating landscape with small crests and long mid-slopes often not abrupt towards a foot slope or drainage line. High points within the landscape are confined towards the east of the TPNR, with the highest point located within the farm of Johnniesdale (520m m.s.l), followed by the Ceylon farm (420m m.s.l). Both of these properties can be located on the eastern boundary of the TPNR. Dolerite pipe erosion surfaces are prominent within the northern section of the TPNR and result in abrupt pedological differences.

Hydrology and drainage of the area consists of the Klaserie River, the only perennial river within the area, and eight other non-perennial rivers. Water for game is mainly in the form of earth dams build within drainage lines and pumped water in troughs, usually in the vicinity of infrastructure such as lodges and camps. The TPNR falls within the savanna biome with a further classification by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) at a vegetation unit scale, as part of the following vegetation units; Granite Lowveld (35018 ha), Phalaborwa-Timbavati Mopaneveld (18192 ha) and the Gabbro Grassy Bushveld (709 ha).

The main structural vegetation units within the TPNR can be described as:

- *Colophospermum mopane* veld within the north,
- Open *Senegalia nigrescens*/*Sclerocarya birrea* veld with in the central sections, and
- Open *Combretum*/*Terminalia* veld within the south.

A well-defined phyto-mass gradient is evident on the TPNR and this can be attributed to the rainfall gradient present, from the dry northern sections to the more mesic southern sections.

A wide verity of ungulates and the full spectrum of the large carnivores occur within the TPNR. Species dominating the landscape include, but are not restricted to: Impala (*Aepyceros melampus melampus*), African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*), Cape buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), Zebra (*Equus quagga*) and Blue wildebeest (*Connochaetes taurinus*). Primate species include: Chacma baboon (*Papio hamadryas ursinus*) and the Vervet Monkey (*Cercopithecus aethiops*)

Iconic carnivore species include; Lion (*Panthera leo*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*), Spotted Hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) and both Black-backed jackal (*Canis mesomelas*) and Side-striped jackal (*Canis adustus*). Furthermore, less frequent species within the Greater Kruger region, which might occasionally venture into the TPNR include: Eland (*Tragelaphus oryx*), Roan (*Hippotragus equinus*), Tsessebe (*Damaliscus lunatus*) and Sable (*Hippotragus niger*).

### 1.3 SURVEY METHOD

The Total Area Count (TAC) survey conducted between 8-10 September 2018 was based on the standard total count method (Norton-Griffiths, 1978). This technique, with a standardised helicopter and flight paths, has been used in conjunction with the Agricultural Research Council (ARC)<sup>1</sup> since 1991. Standardisation is vital for comparison of data over time, with special emphasis on open systems, with trends rather than actual numbers being analysed.

The total of 530.2 km<sup>2</sup> was surveyed, using a bell 206 B Jet Ranger helicopter, with count marker bars fitted to each side of the aircraft. Each marker bar represents a 200m transect on each side of the aircraft when the target height of between 70-90m is reached (Annexure 1). Flight paths are spaced 500m apart, resulting in a total survey strip length of 1566.5 km. Count session duration was limited to the fuel capacity of the aircraft and the sessions per survey day are depicted in (Annexure 1). The survey crew consisted of the pilot, Front Seat Observer (FSO) and two Rear Seat Observers (RSO). Navigation and data collection during the survey was done by means of the "Capture<sup>2</sup>" software program, a multi-disciplinary geo-referencing and data capture program.

All mammalian species encountered during the census were counted, these included all ungulates and carnivores. Other non-mammalian species counted during the survey included:

- Raptors nests,
- Saddle billed Storks,
- Southern-Ground Hornbill, and
- Vulture nests.

---

<sup>1</sup> Agricultural Research Council, Dr Mike Peel. Range and Forage Institute, Nelspruit.

<sup>2</sup> Capture software, Mike Pingo/ Sunrise Aviation, South Africa.

Weather conditions for the majority of the census period were favourable, with the exception of the last 15 minutes of the first session on 8 September 2018 when sporadic rainfall was experienced and due to the poor visibility, the helicopter was forced to land 15 minutes early, while the weather cleared. Specifics related to climatic conditions are depicted in (Annexure 1).

#### **1.3.1 FIXED-WING-BUFFALO COUNTS.**

Individual Cape buffalo and small bachelor herds were counted using the method described above, however in the case of a large herd, a fixed-wing aircraft was used to take high resolution photographs of the herd once encountered. This practise lends itself to more accurate counts and a realistic estimation of natality within these herds.

#### **1.3.2 RHINOCEROS DEMOGRAPHICS**

Photographs were taken of each rhinoceros, both black and white, encountered during the survey out of the helicopter. A photograph time and data record time was correlated to ensure all individuals on the photographs were accounted for. Ageing was done by utilizing the rhinoceros ageing guide of Adcock and Emslie (IUCN Publication)<sup>3</sup>. Due to the sensitive nature of this data set, rhinoceros demographics will only be used for specialist reports and not be distributed.

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<sup>3</sup> Adcock and Emslie, African Rhino Monitoring Guide/ IUCN, Rhino Specialist Group

# RESULTS

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## 2.1 COUNT TOTALS

Results for species of importance are given in (Table 1). Impala (8233), Cape buffalo (1619), Burchell's zebra (856) African elephant (768) and blue wildebeest (635) were the most numerous species counted during the survey. Nyala (24) and bushbuck (2) numbers are low due to habitat selection of these cryptic species (riverine vegetation), and as a result these numbers cannot be seen as a true reflection.

A single Sable antelope bull was also recorded; this animal was seen at the pan close to Mopani camp on the farm Ceylon. Other species seen during the survey are depicted in (Table 2) with the following species counted within the Ngala concession area, warthog (2), impala (33), African elephant (3) and steenbok (1).

**Table 1** Important species results (2018 TPNR aerial census).

| <b>Species</b>   | <b>Count</b>                                |
|------------------|---|
| Blue Wildebeest  | 635   |
| Cape Buffalo     | 1619  |
| Duiker           | 31  |
| African Elephant | 768   |
| Giraffe          | 309   |
| Hippopotamus     | 103   |
| Impala           | 8322  |
| Kudu             | 448   |
| Nyala            | 24  |
| Black Rhinoceros | <i>* Not disclosed for security reasons</i> |
| White Rhinoceros | <i>* Not disclosed for security reasons</i> |
| Steenbok         | 47  |
| Vulture Nest     | 72  |
| Warthog          | 196   |
| Waterbuck        | 282   |
| Burchell's Zebra | 856   |

**Table 2** Other species counted during the census.

| <b>Species</b>           | <b>Count</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Black-backed Jackal      | 3            |
| Cheetah                  | 1            |
| Honey Badger             | 5            |
| Leopard                  | 2            |
| Lion                     | 16           |
| Ostrich                  | 1            |
| Raptors nest             | 7            |
| Southern Ground-Hornbill | 38           |
| Spotted Hyena            | 26           |
| Vulture nest             | 72           |

## 2.2 IMPORTANT SPECIES DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION

The overall animal density of all species counted during the survey was 28.3 animals/km<sup>2</sup>. Densities of all important species as depicted in (Table 1) are at 26.2 animals/km<sup>2</sup>. Density figures for individually important species are depicted in (Table 3). Important distribution notes are the increase of both Vulture nests and Impala within the north of the TPNR as well as the occurrence of African elephant and Kudu in close proximity to drainage lines. The distribution maps of all significant species within the TPNR are depicted in (Annexures 2 to 12).

**Table 3** Densities of important species counted during the 2018 Aerial census

| <b>Species</b>   | <b>Density (no/km<sup>2</sup>)</b> |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Blue wildebeest  | 1.20                               |
| Cape Buffalo     | 3.05                               |
| Duiker           | 0.06                               |
| African Elephant | 1.45                               |
| Giraffe          | 0.58                               |
| Hippopotamus     | 0.19                               |
| Impala           | 15.70                              |
| Kudu             | 0.85                               |
| Nyala            | 0.05                               |
| Steenbok         | 0.09                               |
| Vulture Nest     | 0.14                               |
| Warthog          | 0.37                               |
| Waterbuck        | 0.53                               |
| Burchell's Zebra | 1.62                               |

## 2.3 BIOMASS

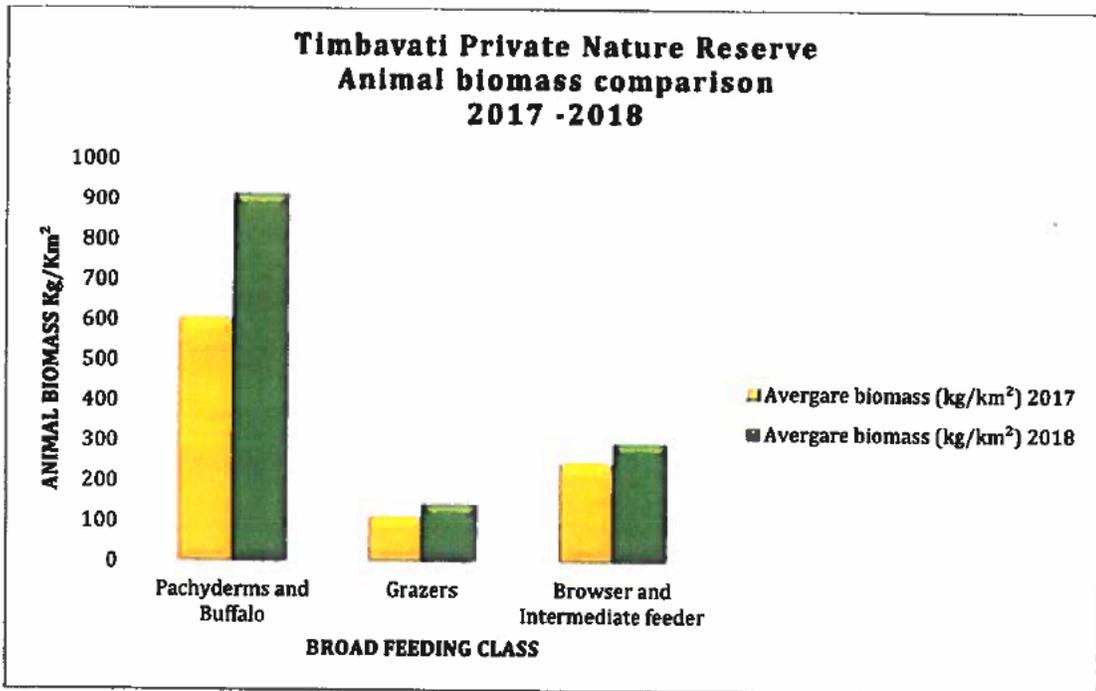
Total animal biomass for important species over the total survey area was 6381 kg/km<sup>2</sup> (Table 4), using biomass conversions according to Meissner *et al.*,(1983). African elephant was the single highest contributor to animal biomass with 39% of the biomass assigned to this species followed by Cape buffalo at 27.5%. Other species with high contributions to total animal biomass were impala (9.9%), white rhinoceros (7.7%), giraffe (6.9%) and Burchell's zebra (5.1%).

**Table 4** Biomass of important species during the 2018 Aerial census

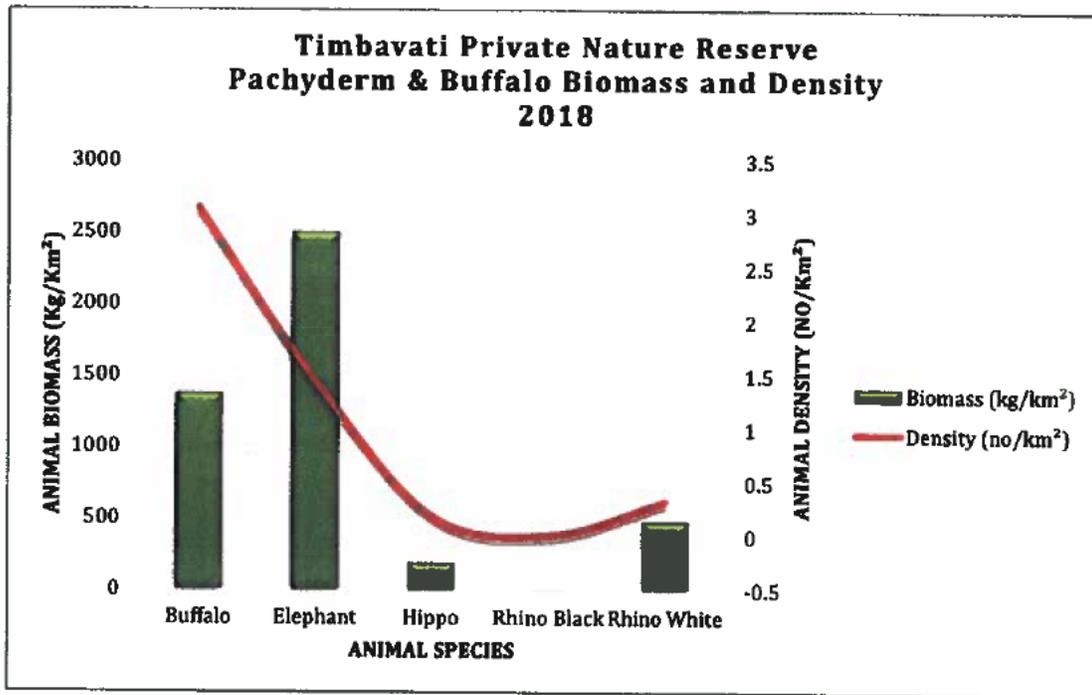
| Species          | Biomass kg/km <sup>2</sup> | % of Total biomass |
|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Blue Wildebeest  | 147.37                     | 2.33               |
| Cape Buffalo     | 1374.62                    | 21.75              |
| Duiker           | 0.58                       | 0.01               |
| African Elephant | 2499.62                    | 39.56              |
| Giraffe          | 437.26                     | 6.92               |
| Hippopotamus     | 194.34                     | 3.08               |
| Impala           | 628.08                     | 9.94               |
| Kudu             | 114.96                     | 1.82               |
| Nyala            | 3.31                       | 0.05               |
| Black Rhinoceros | 6.16                       | 0.10               |
| White Rhinoceros | 486.79                     | 7.70               |
| Steenbok         | 0.80                       | 0.01               |
| Vulture Nest     | 0.00                       | 0.00               |
| Warthog          | 16.64                      | 0.26               |
| Waterbuck        | 85.13                      | 1.35               |
| Burchell's Zebra | 323.02                     | 5.11               |

Biomass interpretation can be done by grouping the important species into the following broad classes representing feeding habits; Pachyderms, including buffalo, Grazers, Browsers and Intermediate feeders. It is important to note that these broad feeding classes and respective biomass will directly indicate the competition for herbaceous and woody resources on the TPNR.

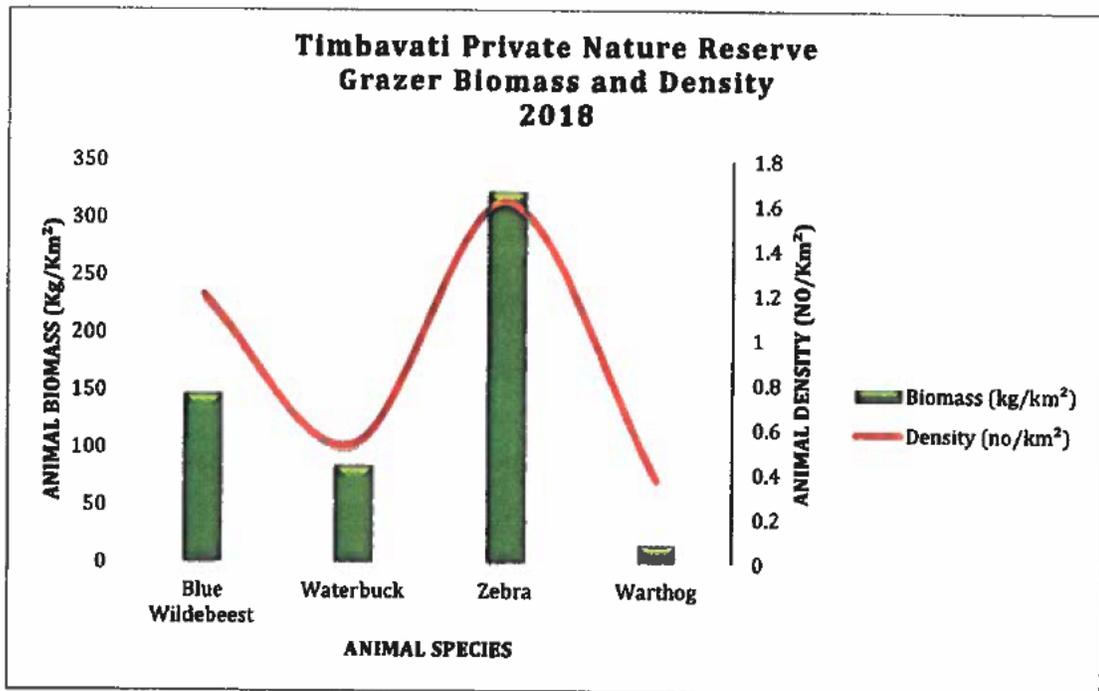
A comparison between the 2017 and 2018 aerial census results is made in terms of average biomass/ broad feeding class (Figure 1). It is important to note both Cape buffalo and African elephant numbers are higher in the 2018 census. Densities and biomass of species grouped into these broad feeding classes are depicted in (Figures 2 to 4), based on the 2018 census results. Figures 5 to 8 further refer to the trends in herbivore feeding classes, i.e. feeding class 1 to feeding class 4.



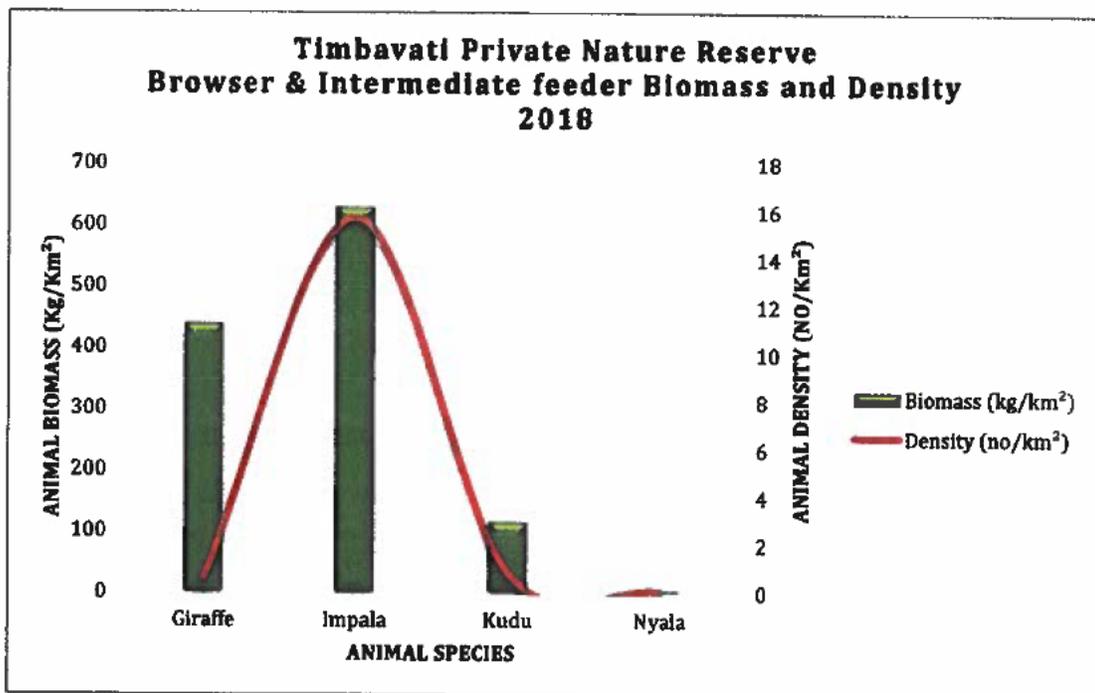
**Figure 1** Biomass comparison between 2017 and 2018 for respective broad feeding classes, September 2018.



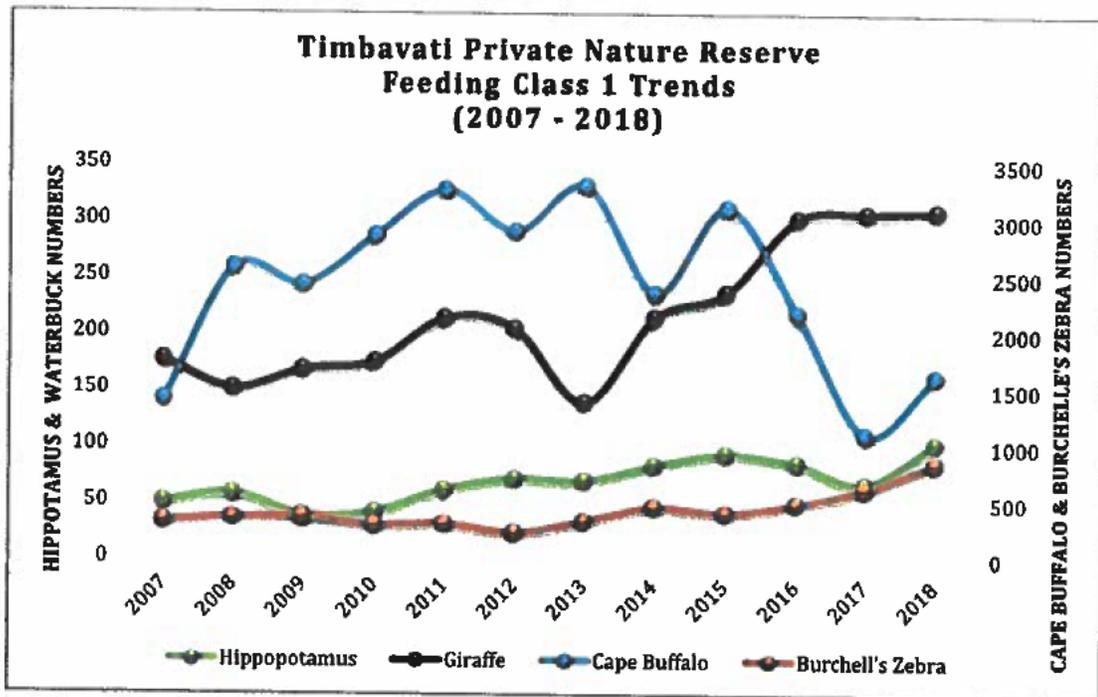
**Figure 2** Biomass and density for Pachyderms and buffalo as a broad feeding class, September 2018.



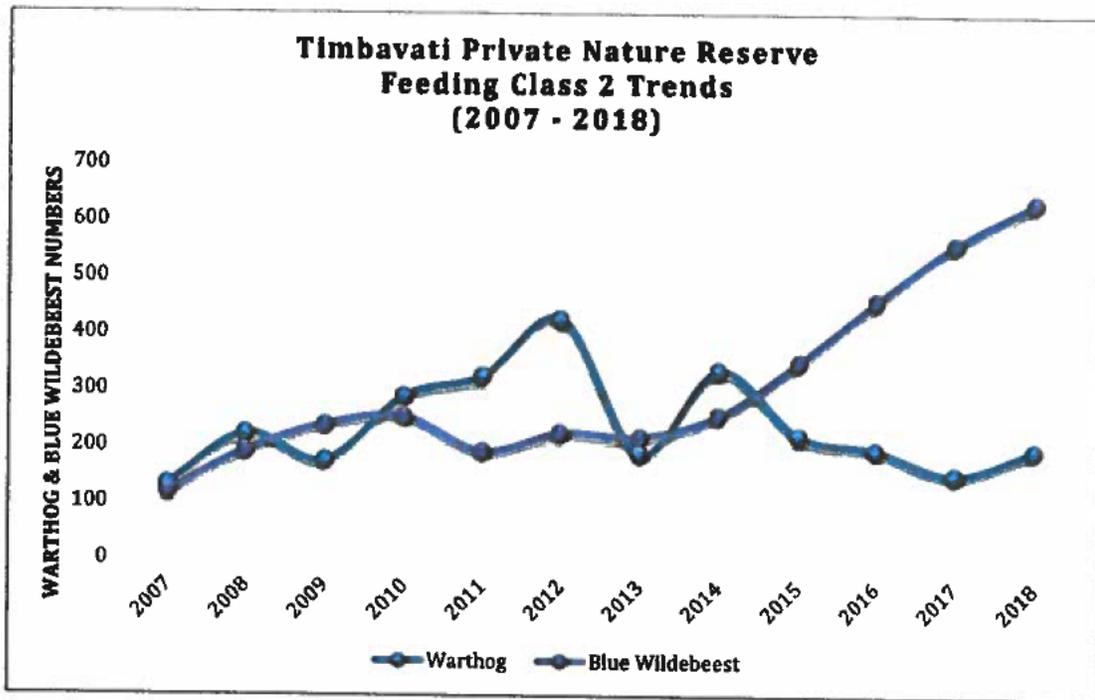
**Figure 3** Biomass and density for grazers, September 2018.



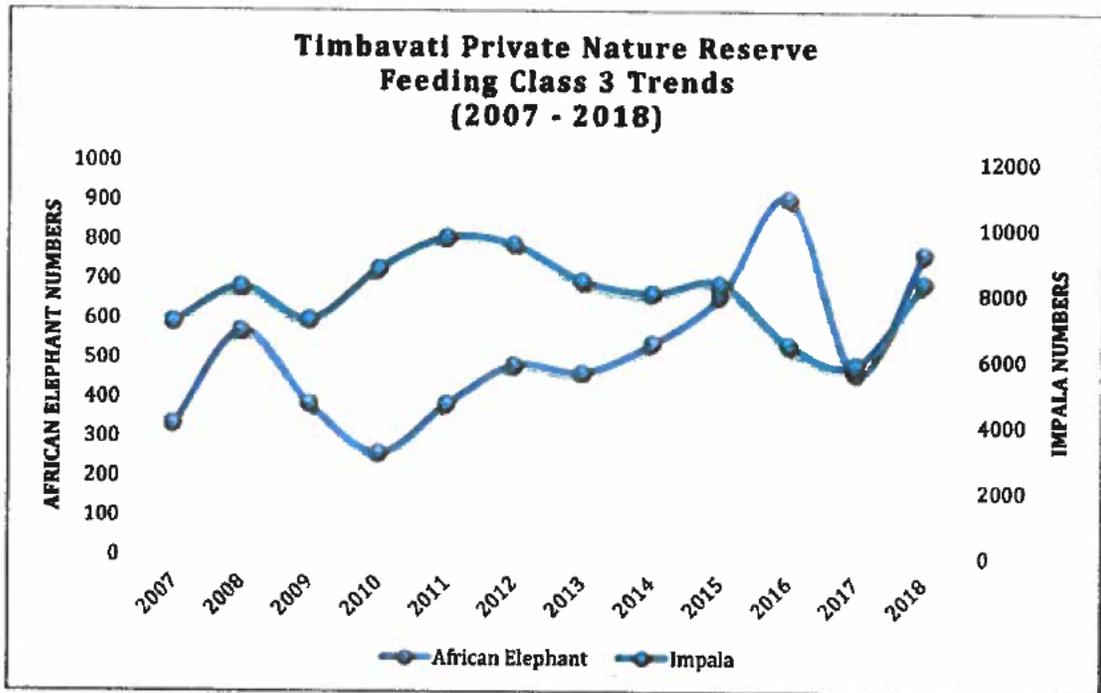
**Figure 4** Biomass and density for browser and intermediate feeders, September 2018.



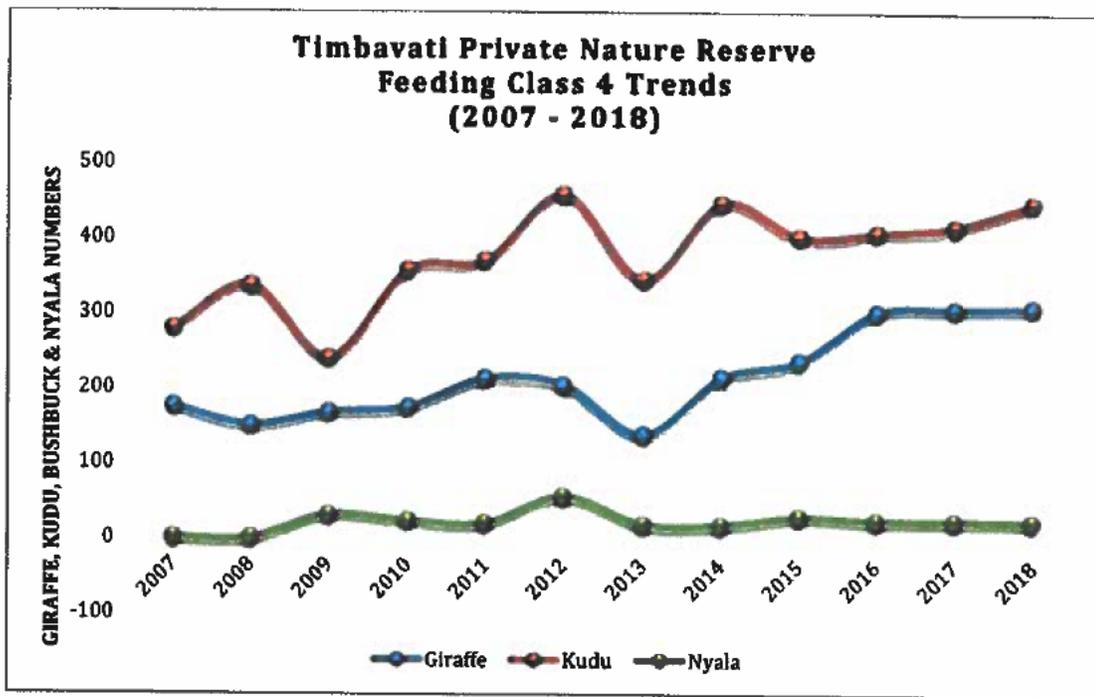
**Figure 5** Graph illustrating the feeding class 1 species trends within the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, 2007 – 2018.



**Figure 6** Graph illustrating the feeding class 2 species trends within the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, 2007 – 2018.



**Figure 7** Graph illustrating the feeding class 3 species trends within the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, 2007 - 2018.



**Figure 8** Graph illustrating the feeding class 4 species trends within the Timbavati Private Nature Reserve, 2007 - 2018.

## **METHOD OF ASSESSMENT**

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Population numbers as recorded during the 2018 census in general is satisfying if compared to the long term data set (Bosch, 2009). Climatic conditions prevailing from 2015-2017 have negatively influenced population numbers to a varying extend. Populations have shown positive growth according to the 2018 results.

Antelope species such as Nyala, Duiker and Steenbok are difficult to count during aerial surveys due to their cryptic colouration, habitat, size and behaviour if disturbed. These species numbers are given for reference purposes only.

### **3.1 POPULATION GROWTH**

#### **3.1.1 BLACK RHINOCEROS**

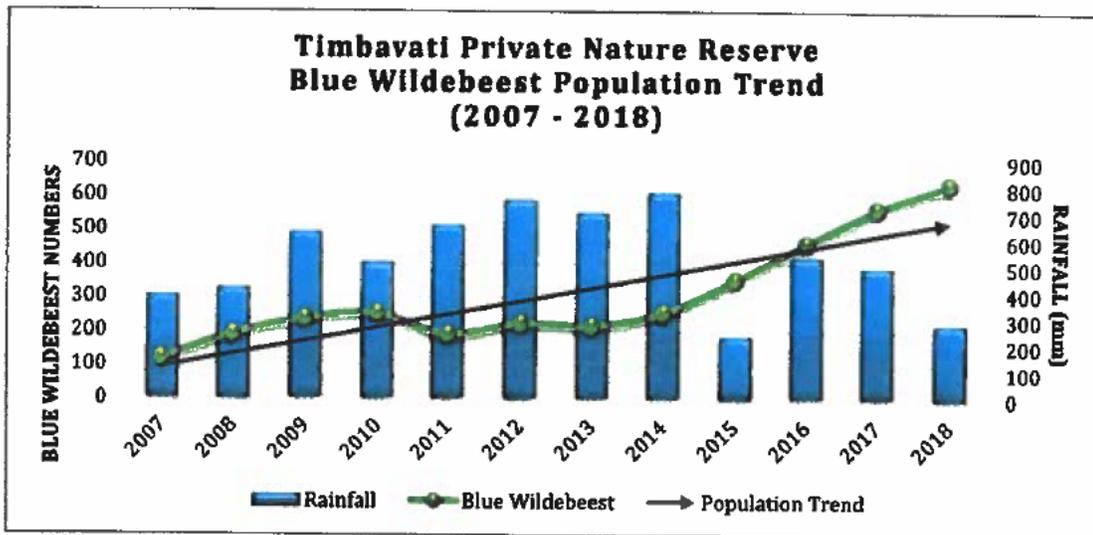
This species have shown a decrease of 20% during the 2018 census. The species is known to have an erratic growth figure within the TPNR. This is mainly due to the movement of only a few individuals within 15% of the TPNR. This species is highly selective in terms of habitat and are also known to be explorative. With the incorporation of Thorny Bush Game Reserve (TBGR) as part of the APNR, new habitat for exploration was opened; movement between the TPNR, Kruger Park and TBGR is inevitable.

#### **3.1.2 WHITE RHINOCEROS**

White Rhinoceros have shown an increase of 14% during the 2018 census. Numbers for this species are stable in relation to the long term dataset. A total of 31 calves (0-1,5years of age) were counted during the 2018 census.

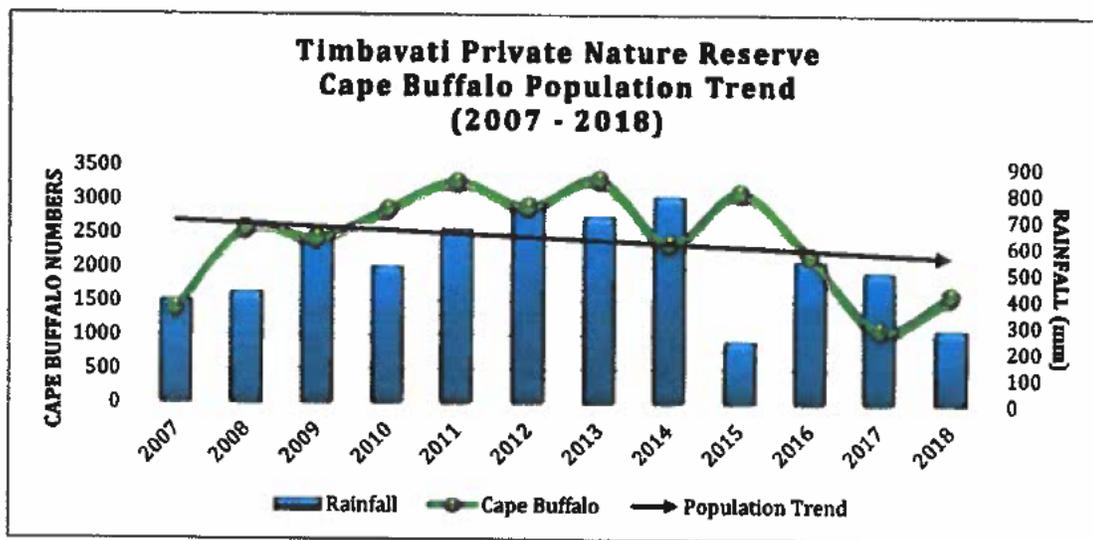
### 3.1.3 BLUE WILDEBEEST

This ungulate species have shown a 13% increase during the 2018 census. Blue wildebeest have also shown a drastic increase in numbers from 2010 (252) to 2018 (635), incorporation and water policies can be ascribed to this increase in numbers over years.



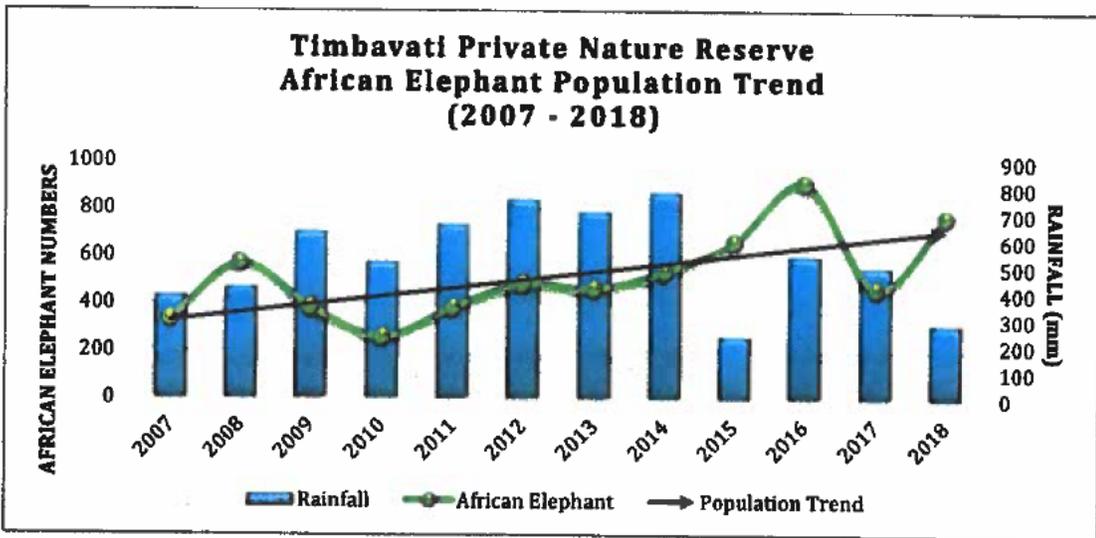
### 3.1.4 CAPE BUFFALO

Cape buffalo numbers are increasing slowly after the drought period with a 46% increase during the 2018 census. Buffalo herds are becoming larger and more frequently seen on the reserve. The count of 1619 is still low in relation of the long term dataset average of 2400-2500 individuals for the TPNR management area.



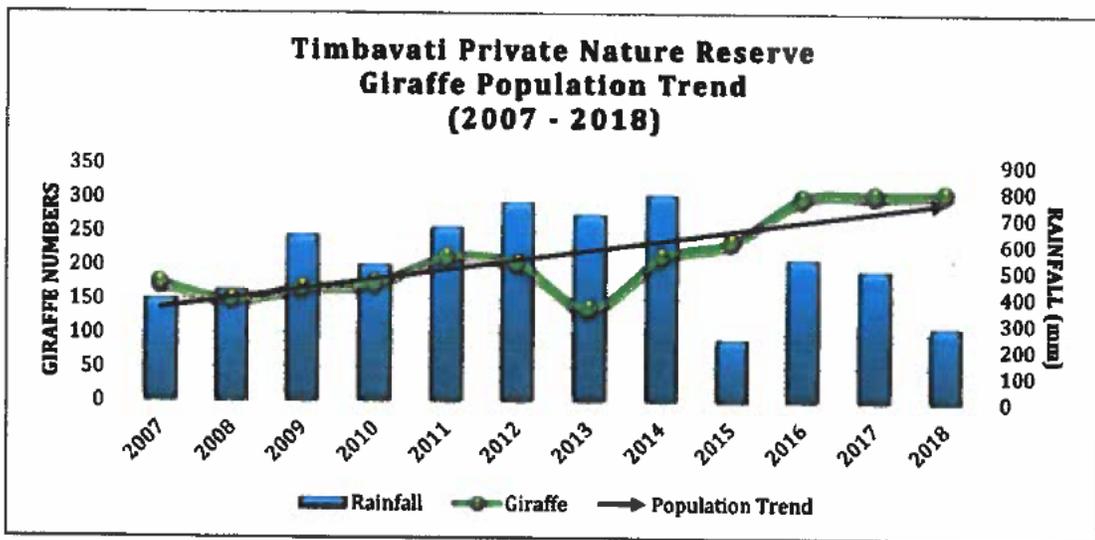
### 3.1.5 AFRICAN ELEPHANT

This species showed a 65% increase during the 2018 census. Elephant is the species with the highest percentage increase during the 2018 census. This species contributes the most (39%) to overall animal biomass on the TPNR, the constant increase of this species can be ascribed to water policies.



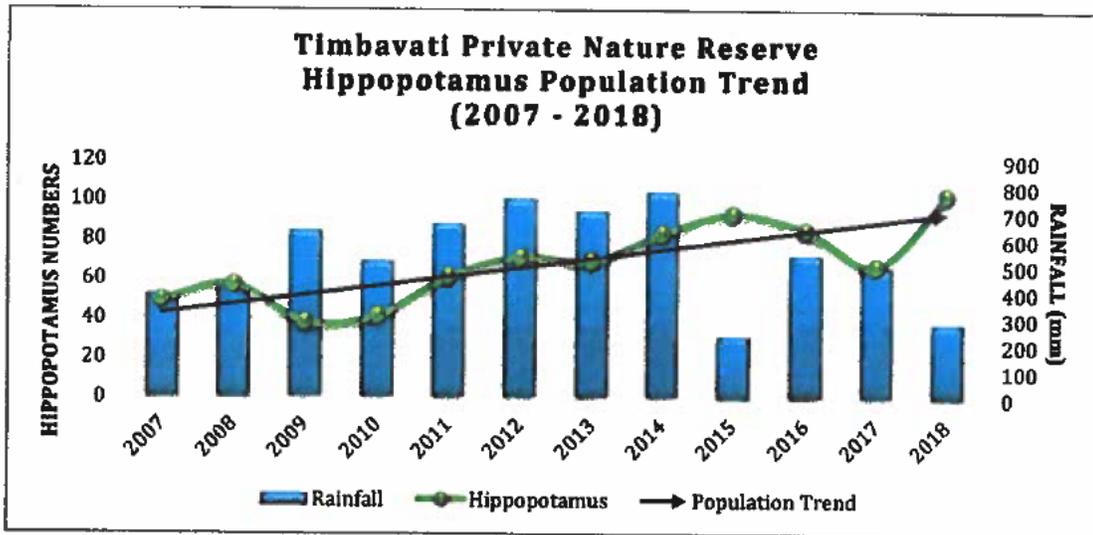
### 3.1.6 GIRAFFE

This species have shown a 0.7% increase during the 2018 census. The population is stable with little variation as from the 2016 census.



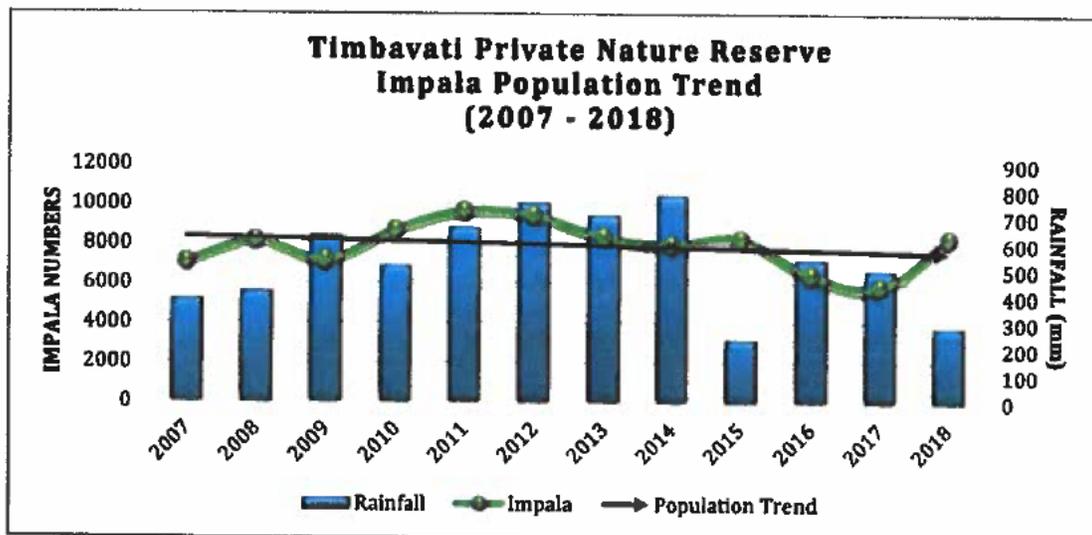
### 3.1.7 HIPPOPOTAMUS

This species have increased by 54% from the 2017 census. The TPNR hippopotamus population has always been stable with the exception of the 2015 count when habitat conditions during the drought influenced the population negatively.



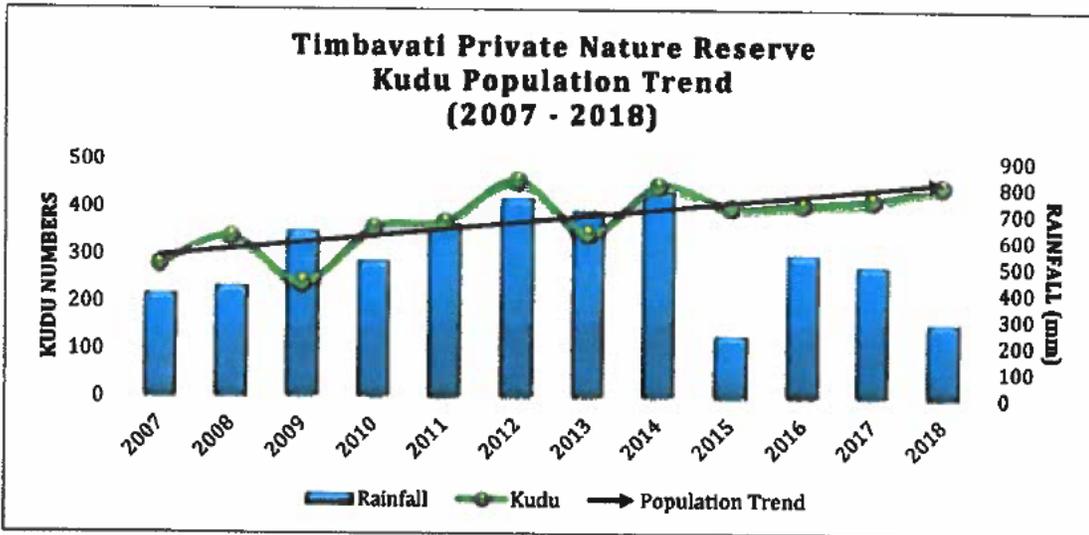
### 3.1.8 IMPALA

Impala, second to elephant, have the highest percentage increase (42%) during the 2018 census. This species count has always been the highest of all ungulates on the TPNR with fluctuations between years. The increase of this species in particular can be ascribed to water policies.



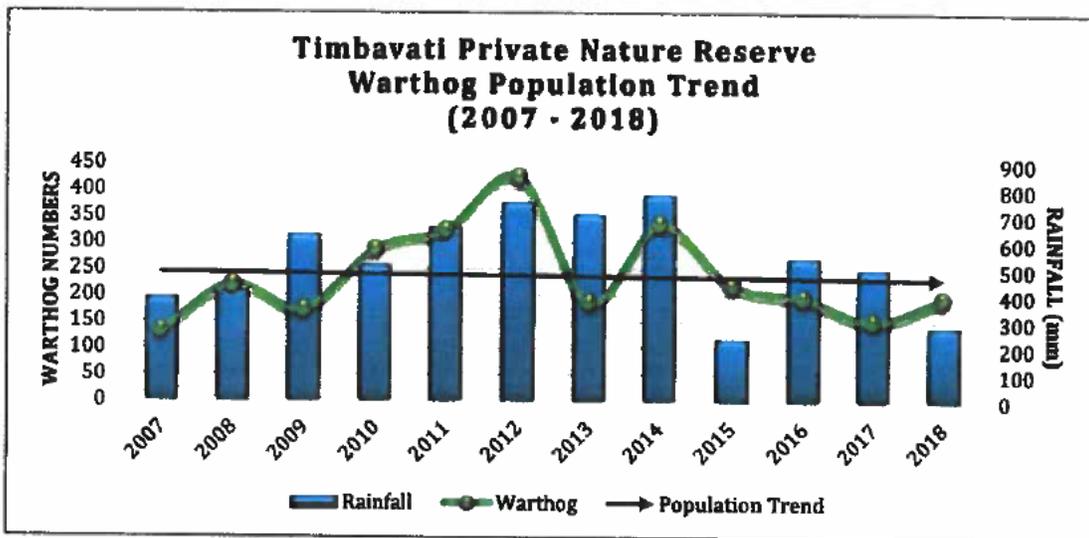
### 3.1.9 KUDU

Kudu numbers have increased with 7%. This is a welcoming increase as the population showed a decline of 10% during the 2015 census, with a recovery of 1.4% and 2.2% during 2016 and 2017 respectively. The population remains stable.



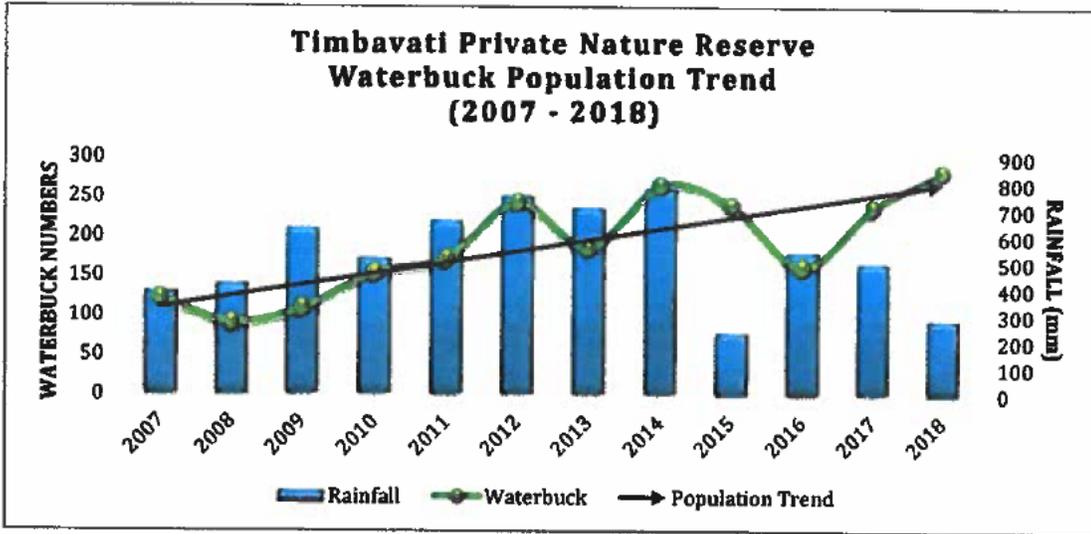
### 3.1.10 WARTHOG

Warthog numbers have increased by 29% during the 2018 census, the second highest increase after the 2010 increase of 66%. This increase might be short term as this species is known to increase drastically when conditions are favourable after a drought. The population is expected to stabilise when we enter a normal rainfall cycle.



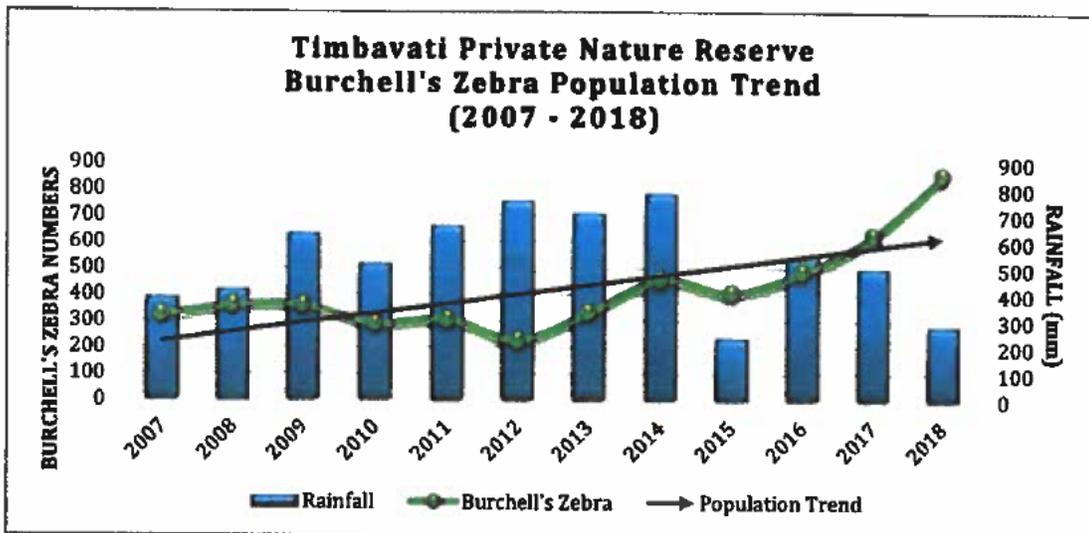
**3.1.11 WATERBUCK**

This species increased by 19% during the 2018 census. This increase is welcoming as the species have shown a combined 41% decrease for the years 2015-2016. The waterbuck population is stable with climatic factors influencing the decline over the 2015-2016 periods.



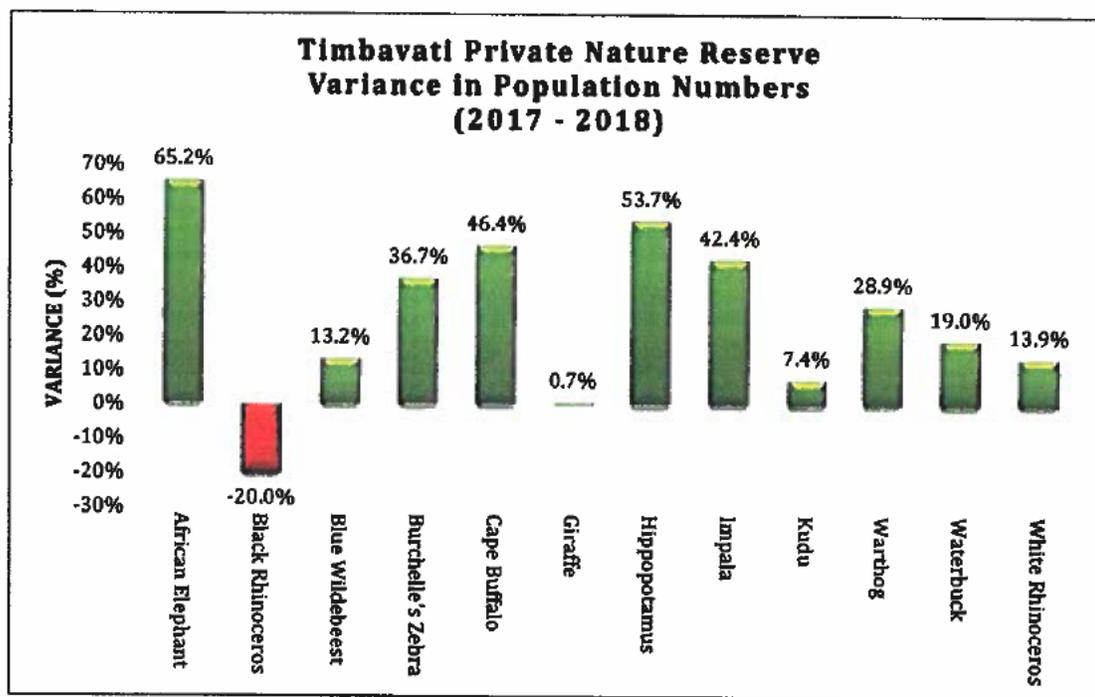
**3.1.12 BURCHELL'S ZEBRA**

This species increased by 37% during the 2018 census. Zebra numbers have started to increase as from 2013 with the exception of 2015 when results showed an 11.1% decrease. The population is stable and with the incorporation of TBGR to the APNR, structural habitat attributes brought about by fire and Elephant impact can be seen as the main drivers of population increase for this species.



**Table 5** Biomass of important species during the 2018 Aerial census

| Species          | 2018                                  | 2017 | Variance | %Variance |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------|----------|-----------|
| African Elephant | 768                                   | 465  | 303      | 65.2%     |
| Black Rhinoceros | <i>* Removed for security reasons</i> |      |          | -20.0%    |
| Blue Wildebeest  | 635                                   | 561  | 74       | 13.2%     |
| Burchell's Zebra | 856                                   | 626  | 230      | 36.7%     |
| Cape Buffalo     | 1619                                  | 1106 | 513      | 46.4%     |
| Giraffe          | 309                                   | 307  | 2        | 0.7%      |
| Hippopotamus     | 103                                   | 67   | 36       | 53.7%     |
| Impala           | 8322                                  | 5844 | 2478     | 42.4%     |
| Kudu             | 448                                   | 417  | 31       | 7.4%      |
| Warthog          | 196                                   | 152  | 44       | 28.9%     |
| Waterbuck        | 282                                   | 237  | 45       | 19.0%     |
| White Rhinoceros | <i>* Removed for security reasons</i> |      |          | 13.9%     |



**Figure 9** Graph illustrating the variance in population numbers in focus species between 2007 and 2018.

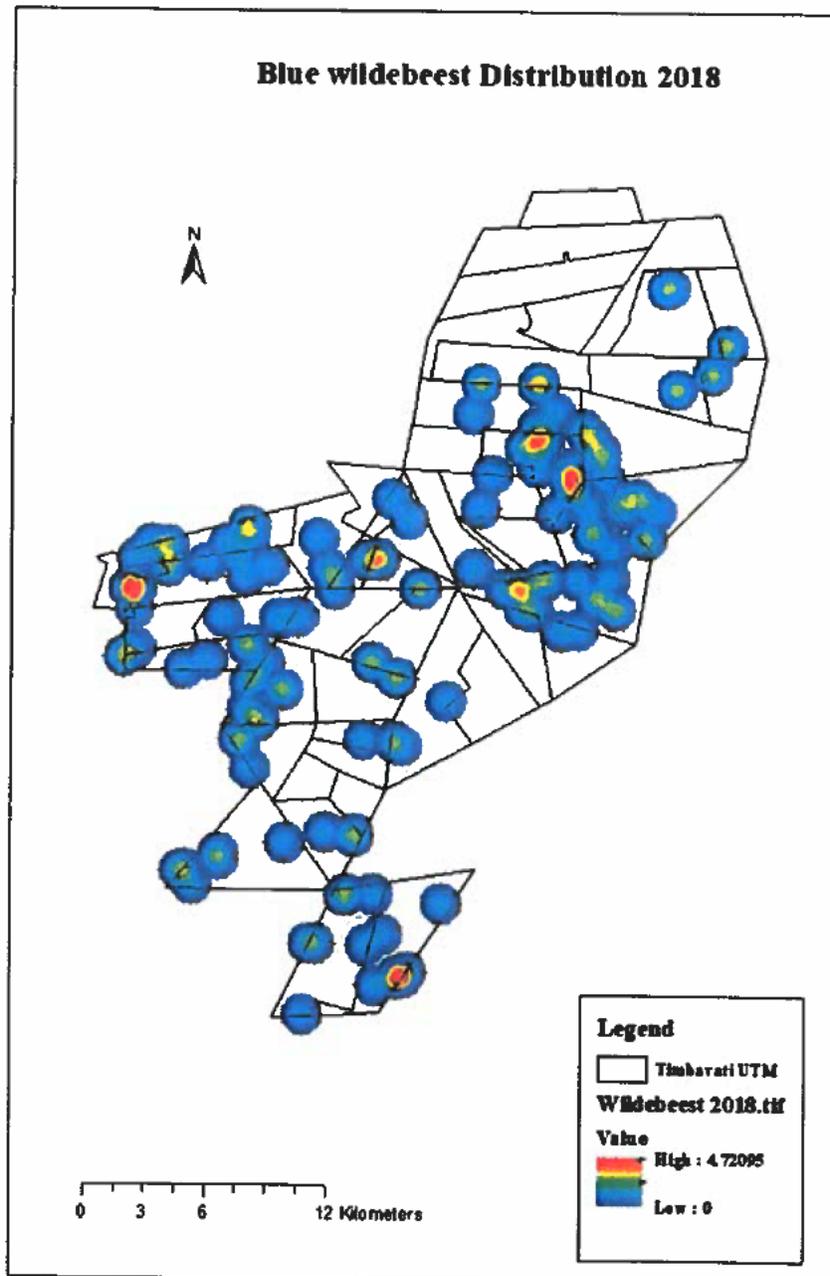
## ANNEXURE A – SURVEY PARAMETERS TAC

ANNEXURE 1: Survey parameters Total Area Count (TAC), TPNR 8-10 September 2018.

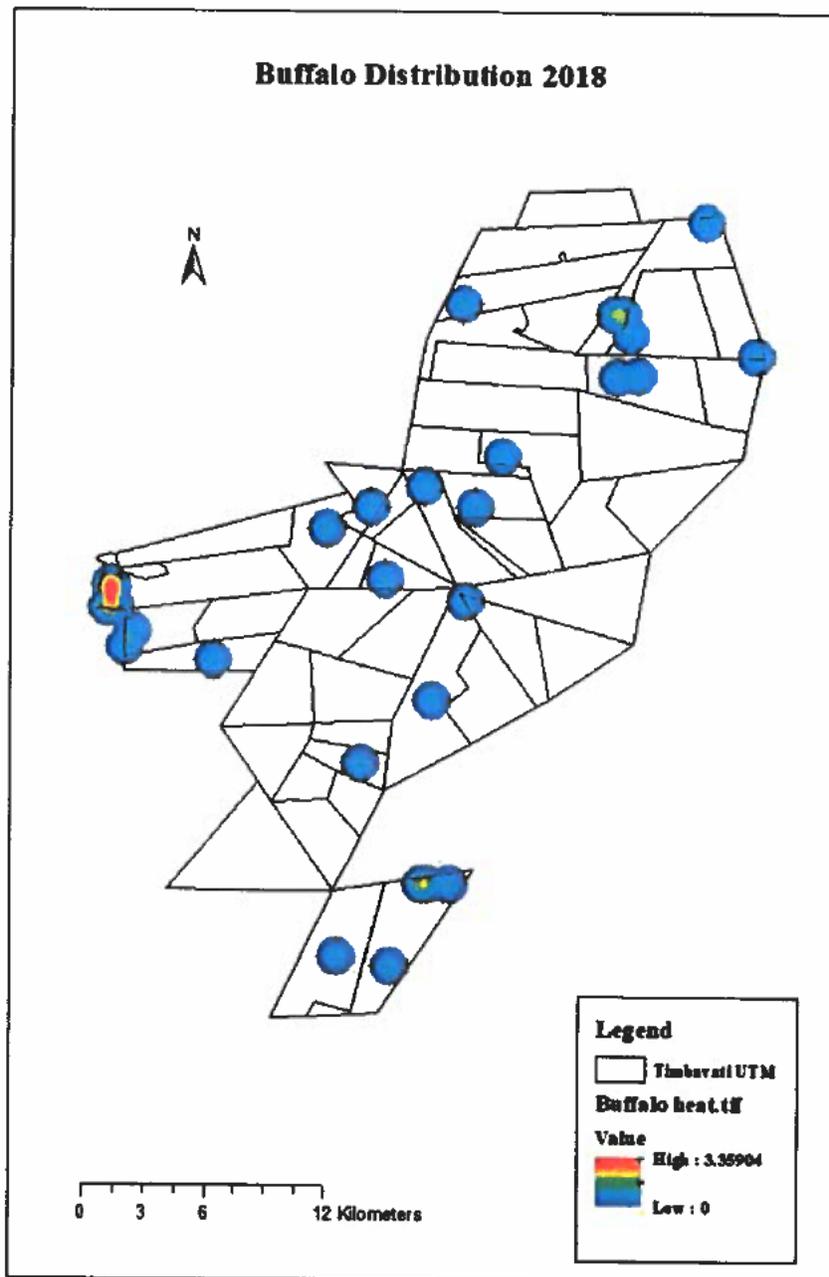
|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Survey date</b>                              | 8-10 September 2018   |
| <b>Survey area</b>                              | Timbavati Private Nature reserve. Ngala concession area as depicted   |
| <b>Type of Survey</b>                           | Total Area Count  |
| <b>Helicopter</b>                               | Bell Jet Ranger 206 B   |
| <b>Survey Crew</b>                              |   |
| <b>Pilot:</b>                                   | Mr Mike Pingo (Sunrise Aviation)  |
| <b>Front Seat Observer &amp; data recording</b> | Almero Bosch  |
| <b>Rear Seat Observers</b>                      | Candice Pierce (one session), Daniel Ball, Edwin Pierce and Kathleen Gibson   |
| <b>Survey strip spacing</b>                     | 500m  |
| <b>Survey height</b>                            | 70-90m  |
| <b>Number of survey sessions</b>                | <p><b>Day 1:</b> Session 1: 2h:00 min<br/>           Session 2: 2h:15 min<br/>           Session 3: 1h:50 min</p> <p><b>Day2:</b> Session 1: 2h:35 min<br/>           Session 2: 1h:55 min<br/>           Session 3: 2h:25 min</p> <p><b>Day3:</b> Session 1: 2h:35 min<br/>           Session 2: 2h:10 min<br/>           Session 3: 2h:35 min</p> |
| <b>Total survey strip length</b>                | 1566.5 km   |
| <b>Average survey flight speed</b>              | 90-110 km/hr  |
| <b>Survey time</b>                              | 20.3 hours  |
| <b>Weather conditions</b>                       | <p><b>Day1: 8 September 2018</b><br/>           19°C-21°C. Light rain within the far South, high clouds, and good visibility on ground.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>Day2: 9 September 2018</b><br/>           15°-23°C. Good visibility during the day.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>Day 3: 10 September 2018</b><br/>           19°-26°C. Good visibility during the day.</p>   |

## ANNEXURE B – DISTRIBUTION MAPS

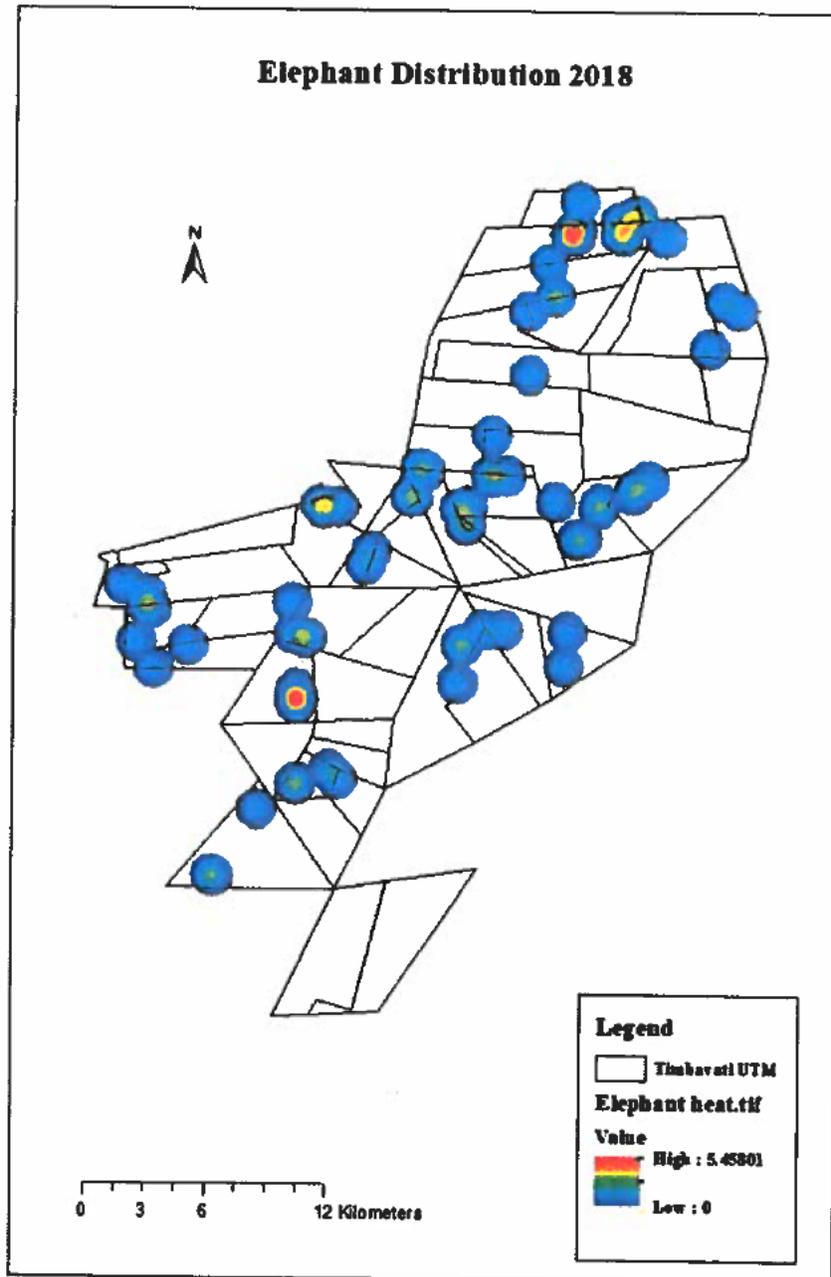
ANNEXURE 2: Blue wildebeest distribution during the 2018 aerial census.



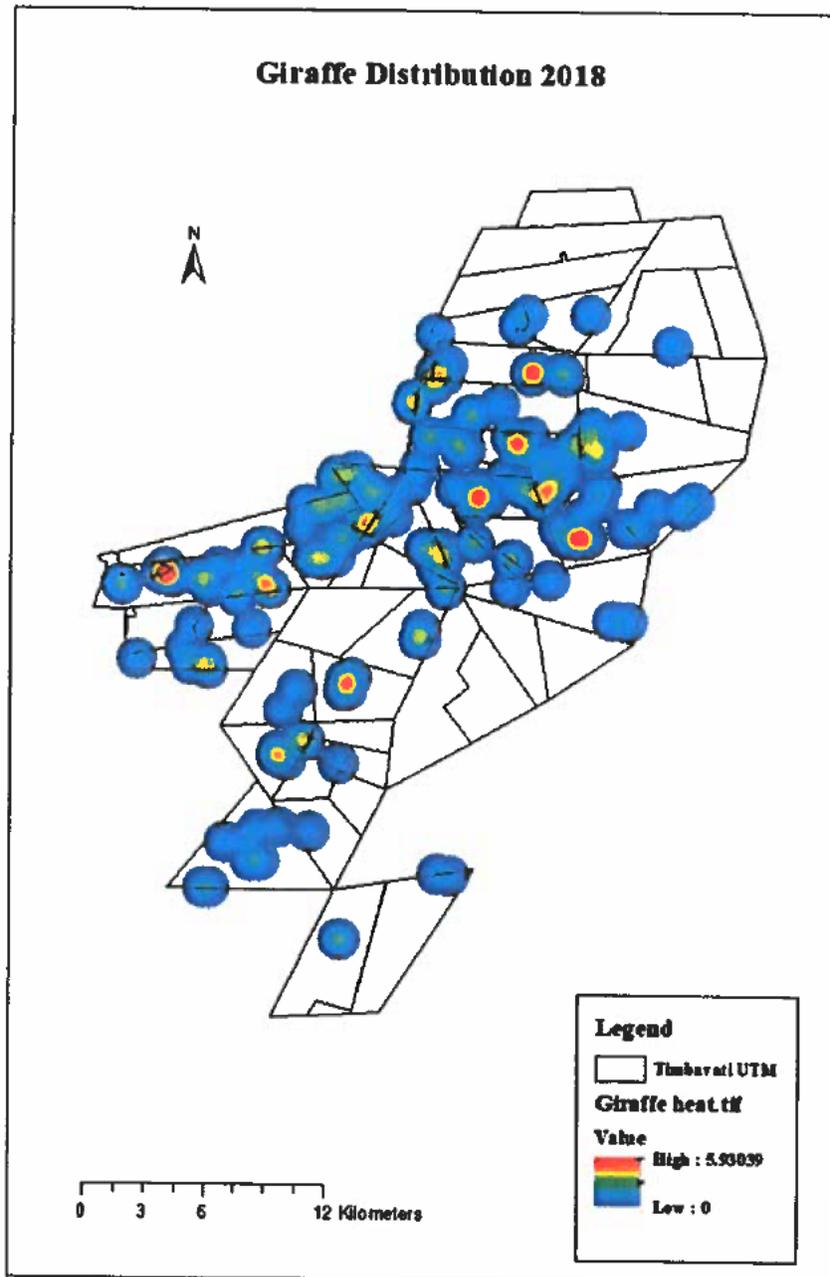
ANNEXURE 3: Cape buffalo distribution during the 2018 aerial census



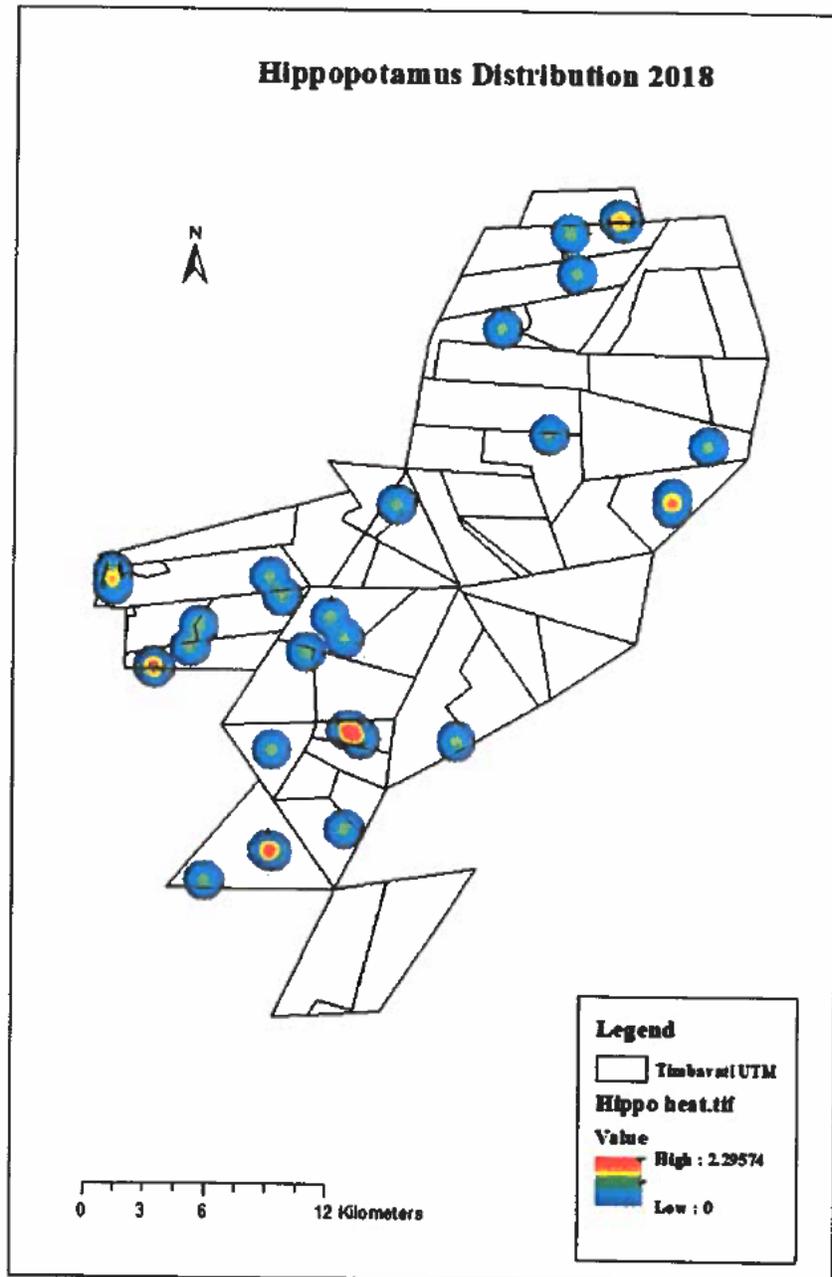
ANNEXURE 4: African elephant distribution during the 2018 aerial census.



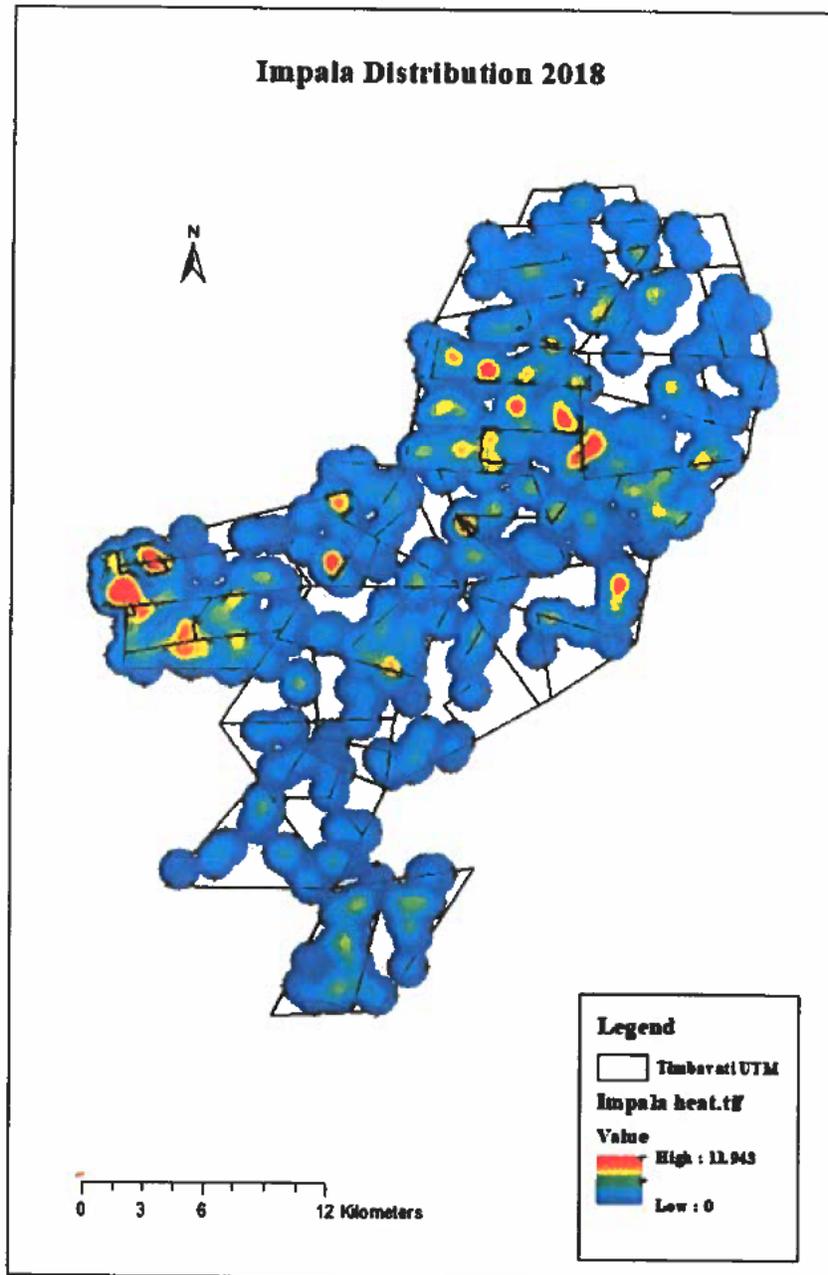
ANNEXURE 5: Giraffe distribution during the 2018 aerial census.



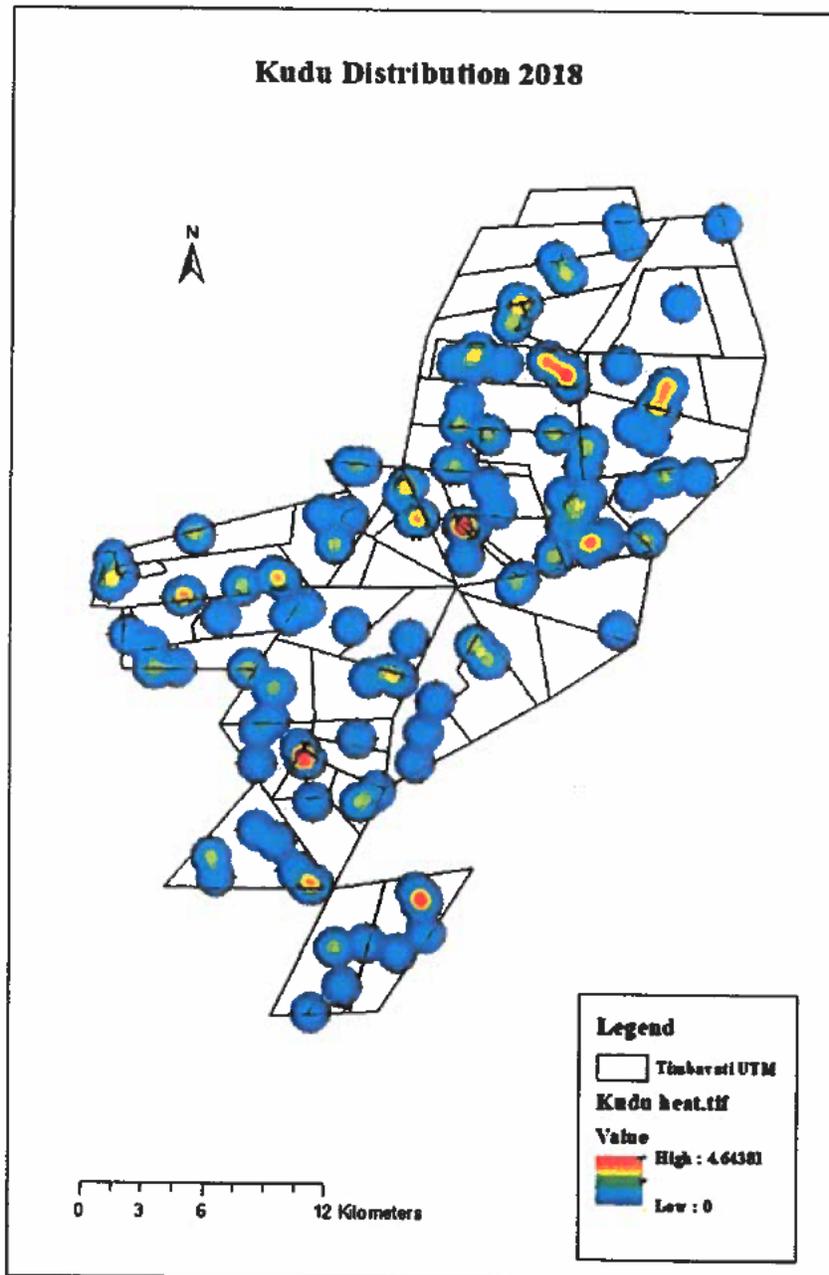
ANNEXURE 6: Hippopotamus distribution during the 2018 aerial census.



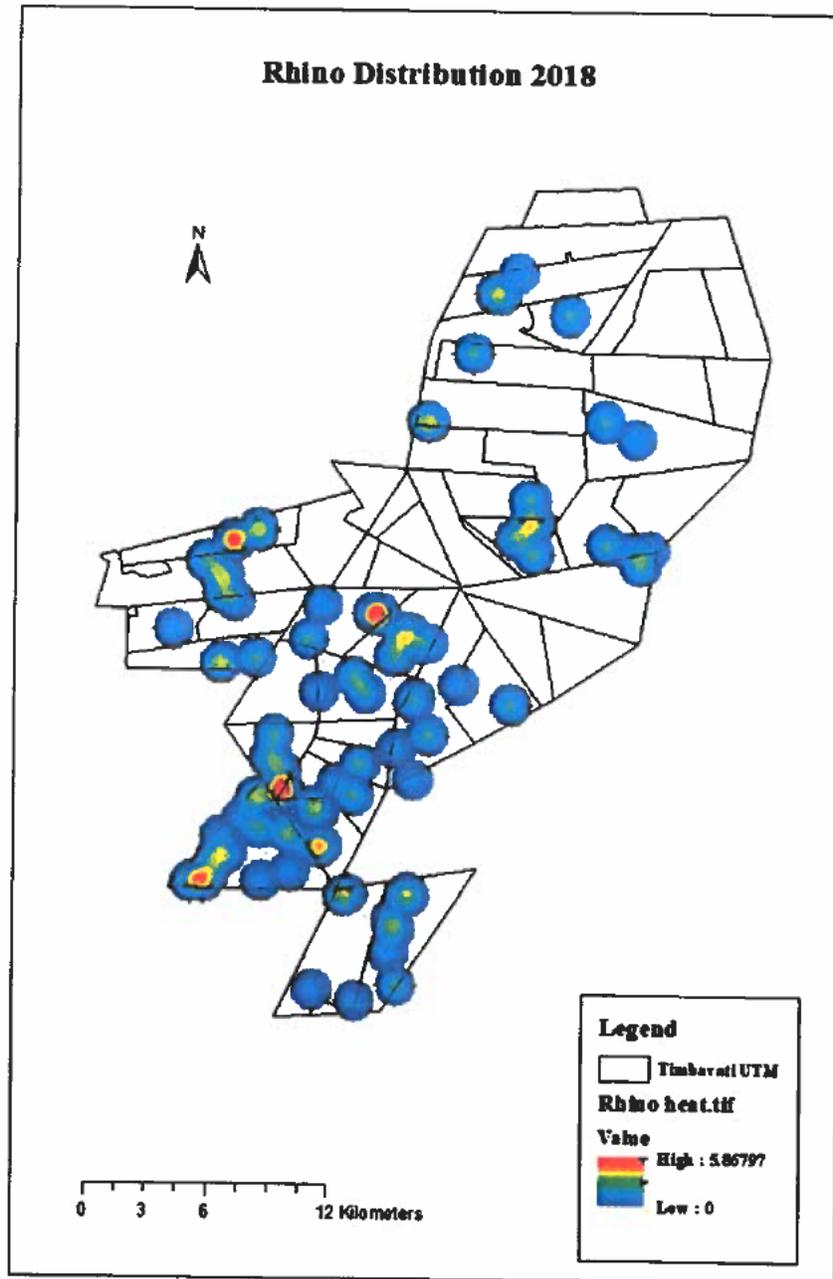
ANNEXURE 7: Impala distribution during the 2018 aerial census.



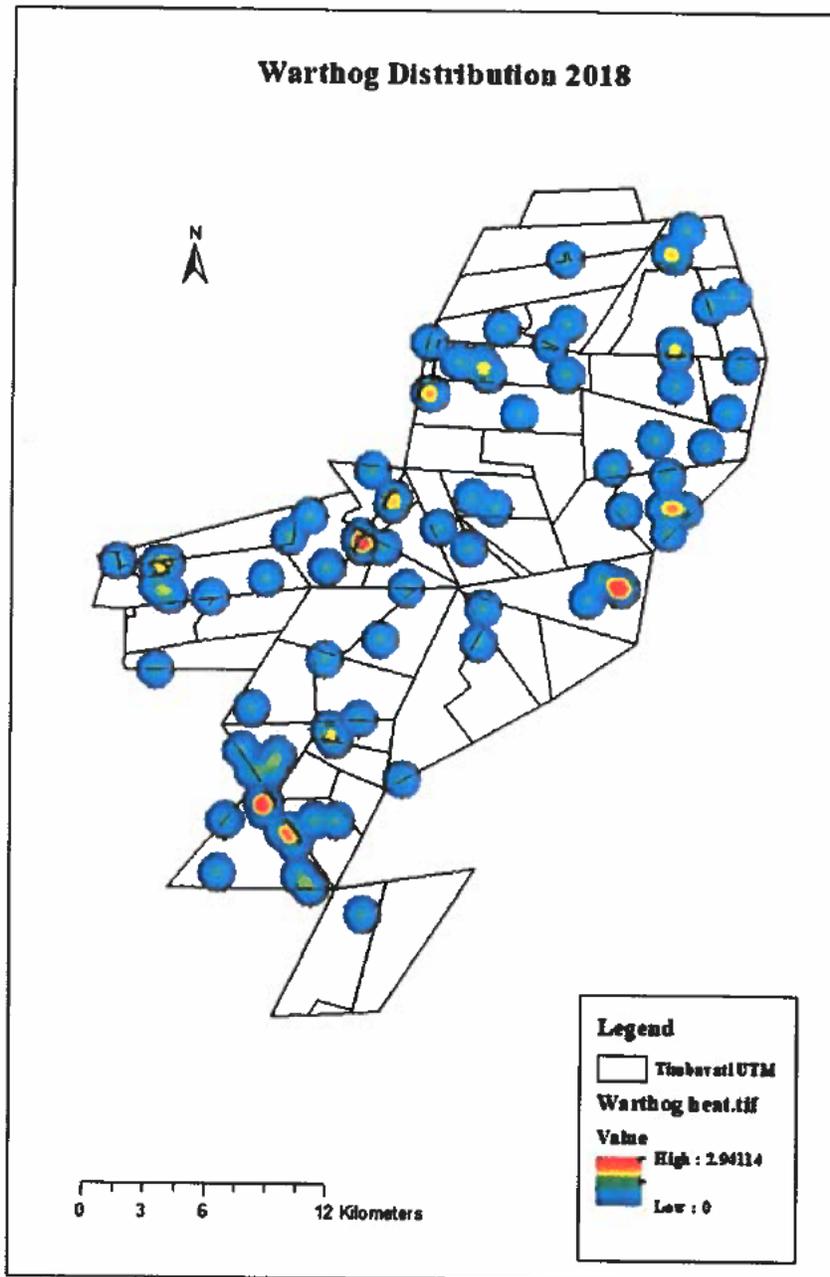
**ANNEXURE 8: Kudu distribution during the 2018 aerial census.**



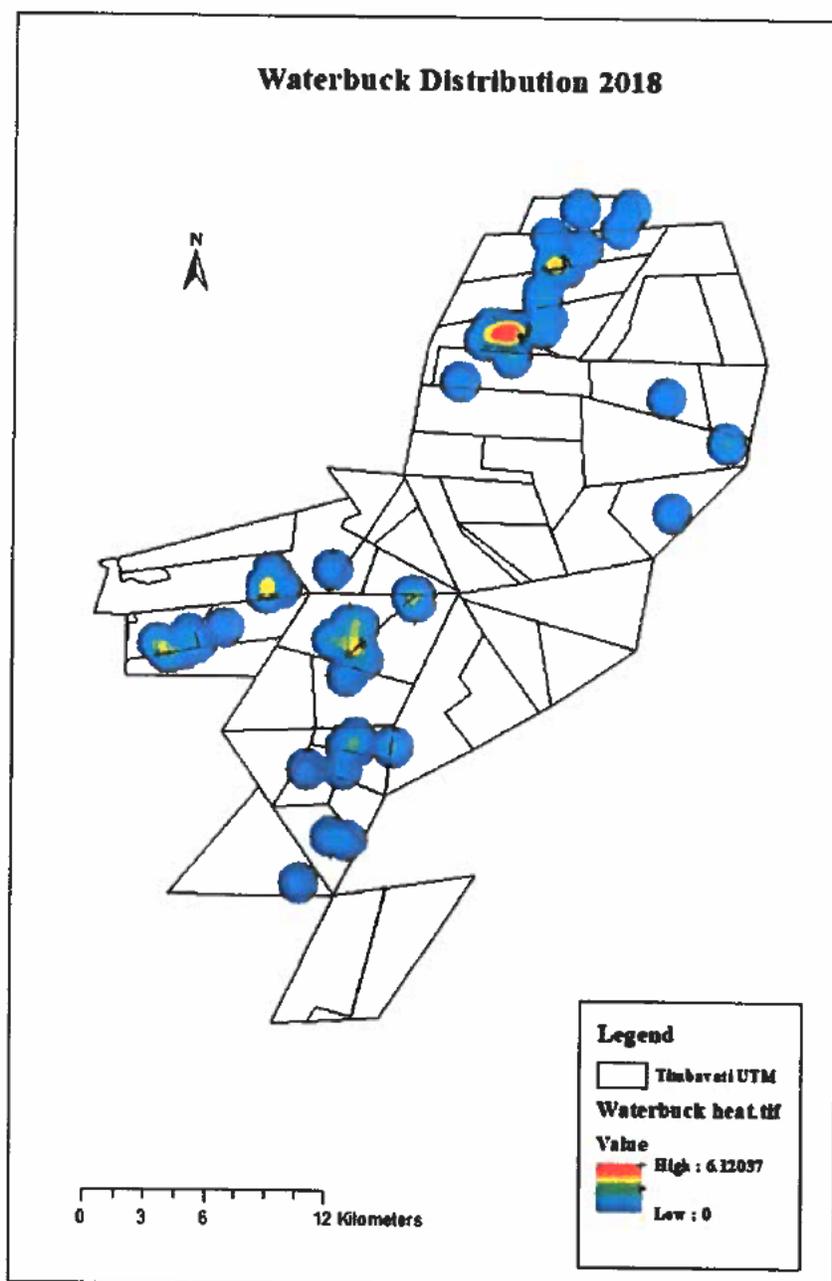
ANNEXURE 9: White Rhinoceros distribution during the 2018 aerial census.



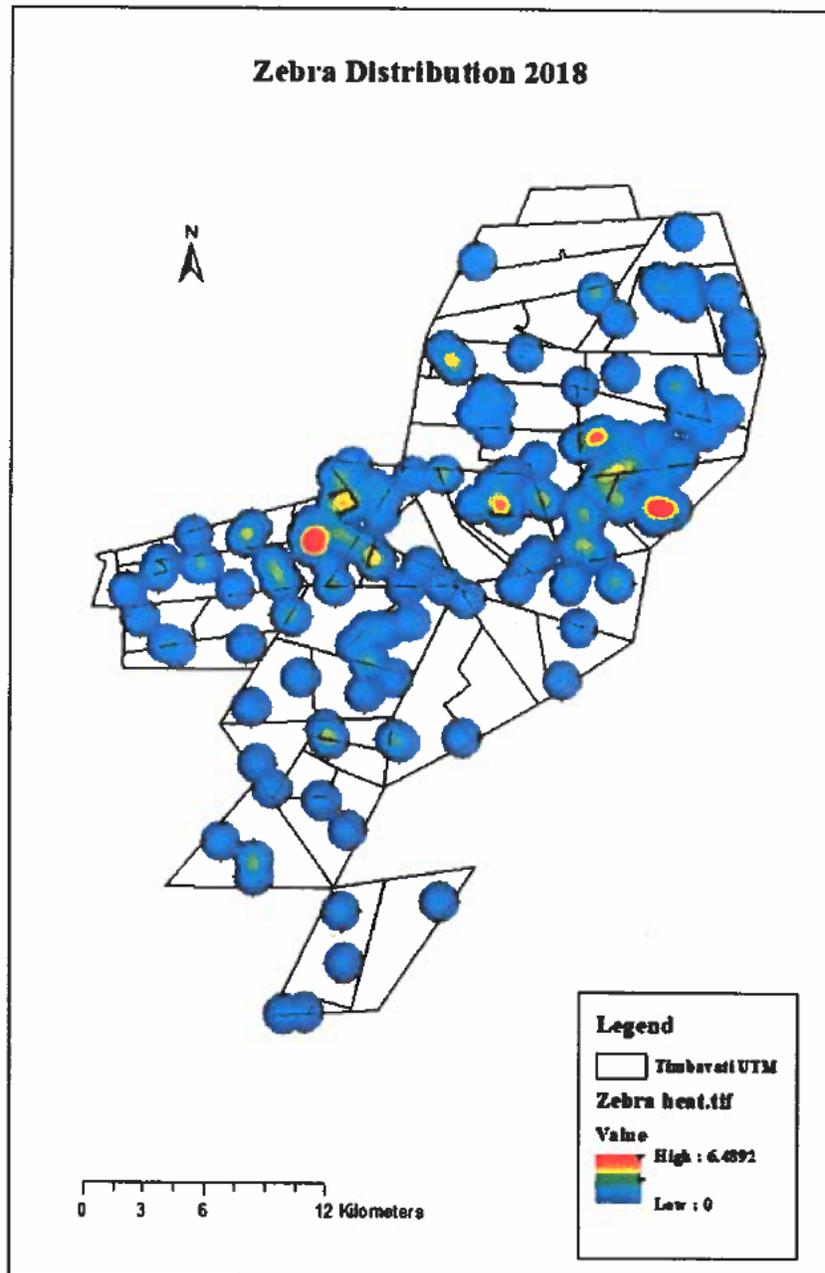
ANNEXURE 10: Warthog distribution during the 2018 aerial census.



ANNEXURE 11: Waterbuck distribution during the 2018 aerial census.



ANNEXURE 12: Burchell's zebra distribution during the 2018 aerial census.



## REFERENCES

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