

Herewith the latest sightings report from Kwando: July 2008

The Kwando camps have been having fantastic sightings this month with the weather warming up. Incredible flood in the Kwando concession have resulted in phenomenal bird sightings.

### **Lagoon**

Tragedy at the wild dog den this month as they were raided by a pride of lion resulting in the pack being split up, originally we thought six pups were gone but fortunately after three days the rest of the pups navigated their way back to the rest of the pack. The lagoon pack now is settled at a new den with the eleven puppies.

Two large male lions and a lioness with two cubs had an amazing hunt on a herd of Buffalo. The small pride took hours to precisely judge the attack on the herd resulting in the perfect kill.

One afternoon game drive had the guests see a Leopard dragging an Impala kill a few hundred meters then hauling it up a tree. The guide seems to think that it was a new young leopard in the area as they have never seen him before.

Elephant numbers are still on the increase with bachelor herds, single bulls and large breeding herds. One young bull elephant has seem to taken up residency in lagoon camp, he is found thought the night foraging in between the camp tents and resting against the trees during the day.

A herd of four Buffalo have also seem to like the shade from the trees in camp and mow the lawn at night in the camp. Morning drives this month have daily seen the large herd in the Lagoon area which has amounted up to about four hundred.

Saddle bill storks have been foraging in front of the camp with the open billed storks feeding on fresh water snails.

Hippo have always been a highlight in front of Lagoon camp with them during siesta time coming out of the water and feeding on the grass on the opposite bank of the lagoon.

A very big highlight and rare occurrence one evening activity had a sighting of a very large Porcupine walking down the road and almost from the opposites direction was an Aardvark and with no confrontations they both split an went off the road in opposite directions.

### **Lebala**

Absolutely phenomenal evening game drive found two Leopards up in a tree with a civet kill. The guide said the one leopard was very skittish. The same group of guest managed to see two more leopards during their stay at Lebala.

A new pride of Lions in the area with two large males and five sub adults Lions have been creating havoc with the wildlife. On an afternoon drive the guest were astonished to see them provoking a Crocodile and then moved on in the evening killing a young Leopard.

Sightings of the three wild dog have been superb on a regular basis, the guides have had incredible opportunities with the guests on numerous occasions of them hunting and just lazing around. The most spectacular hunt was seen this month with the dogs hunting a Steen buck through the scrub mopane. The speed the dogs hunted at were only glimpses to the naked eye.

A huge herd of a thousand buffalo have been moving between the Selinda concession and Lebala.

Roan antelope have been sighted in the area with and the local Carmine Beeaters have been coming back in the numbers

The sightings of small predators have been great; Civet sightings along the roads have provided guests with great sightings. Honey badgers, black footed wild cat, Caracal and the Mongooses have been highlights on the evening drives. Aarvark tracks but no luck like Lagoon

### **Kwara and Little Kwara**

The Lion down in the Kwara concession have been al over, the coalition of seven is now down to five, two of the pride of seven have not been seen for a while, a female with two cubs have been feasting on a civet cat, three females

The single wild dog had great opportunity out towards Paul's crossing with and impala kill, amazing how versatile the dogs can be even when they on their own.

This single male dog also put on a spectacular show in front of camp chasing the where the Lechwe, guest were able to witness this from the luxury of their tents.

The one eyed female Lion with her pride have been lazing around the camps the past few weeks chasing Impala and Lechwe around camp but with no luck.

The three Cheetah brothers have been very active the last couple of days with them marking out their territory. They managed to kill an Impala out on Magwelewele road on the one afternoon drive with guests.

Generally the game reported by the guides has been described as brilliant! Hyena have been common around the area and our guests have had many sightings of them scavenging around the kills and camp. Twenty two Girrafe have been in the area and been seen by numerous guests.

A male Stitunga was spotted by guests this month, the guide says that it was well hidden but with a bit of patience the guests were able to great photos and brilliant view of this aquatic mammal.

The absolute highlight of this month were the three Cheetah hunting Impala and out of the blue came two Wild Dogs straight for the Impala resulting in the dogs taking the kill. The annoyed Cheetah gave a full charge towards the dogs and they were chased of the kill for the Cheetah brothers to feed.

### **Maun**

Planes were diverted and delayed for a few minutes as there were Wild dog on Maun airport, The Wildlife department there to catch the dogs and release them back to the wild.

### **Nxai pan**

Even just pure untouched bush at the moment the drilling company had a Leopard around the camp and had one of the staff members place a hard hat of water out for the animal to drink, to his amazement the Leopard came down to drink from the hat.