

Herewith the latest sightings report from Kwando: September 2008

The Kwando camps have not ceased to amaze us with wonderful sightings this past month.

Lagoon

A new leopard was sighted in the Lagoon area, guests were on a late afternoon game drive when the tracker and guide spotted her, the elegant cat was extremely shy and walked away, with a bit of patience and tracking the guide found her and slowly she became more relaxed with the presence of the vehicle. The Leopard slowly retreated into a large Aardvark hole when the guests left her.

The Lagoon pack of wild Dogs have been sighted almost weekly, guides are reporting that the pack is very healthy and the new pups have been seen hunting with the main pack, but are still kept at a distance as the main pack does the final hunt. Impala and Warthog have been on the menu for the pack the last few weeks.

Enormous herds of elephant are daily sightings in the lagoon area, they have been sighted just to the north of the camp crossing the channel into the swamp and papyrus beds.

A herd of three hundred Buffalo are still roaming the area between the airstrip and John's pan.

The guests on game drives have regularly sighted raptors like the Brown snake eagle, Martial eagle and the African hawk eagle as well as different species of Vultures.

Herds of Roan and Sable antelope are a daily sighting along the river's edge as they come from the sand veldt and congregate along the river.

The Carmine Bee Eaters are back near Lagoon camp and are definitely a highlight to see when they are nesting along the river banks.

Lebala

Several prides of Lion have been sighted by the guests this month at Lebala camp. A pride of four with a young female and three young males as well as a pride of seven that were located hunting Buffalo but without any success. The two large male Lions have been regularly sighted in the area and a single young male seems to be on patrol in the area.

An amazing week for Leopard in the area as the guests manage to see five different leopards, three were sighted on one day!! Guests were thrilled as all the leopards sighted were very relaxed around the game drive vehicle and put on their show of stalking and attempting to make a kill.

Ten Cheetah were sighted in one week in the Lebala area - the three brother cheetahs were seen hunting along the woodland and have been reported to be in immaculate condition. A mother and her single cub have been sighted on a daily basis and guests have been lucky enough to have witnessed a kill on one of the morning activities. Another female with her four cubs are in the area, but they still seem very shy and skittish with the vehicles.

Daily visits to the wild dog den have enthralled guests as they get to see the five dogs and the four pups.

Hyena have been the highlight of the night game drives as they are regularly sighted calling each other and trying to find an old carcass or a fresh kill, so that they can gang up together and chase off the hunter - scavenging alone does not provide enough food for them.

General game has been phenomenal towards the twin pools area with a herd of Zebra, Wildebeest, Kudu, Warthog, Lechwe, Tsesebe, Roan antelope and Giraffe. A pair of Honey badgers were sighted during the day around an old termite mound foraging and digging.

Kwara and Little Kwara

Enormous conflict has erupted in the Kwara concession as the coalition of seven male Lions had a battle with two large males from the Splash side. Due to strength in numbers, the seven won the battle but did not manage to chase the two far from the area. Guests were on the edge of their seats as they witnessed the conflict between the prides along Magwelewele road. The whole night the battle took place with an ultimatum being reached in the early morning. A few days later the two males from Splash manage to bring down a buffalo just on other side the airstrip. The single female with her cub has been weekly sighting through out the Kwara area.

A female Leopard was seen by the guests on a morning game drive , she feeding on a Reedbuck up a tree. The kill had been made the night before and was almost completely eaten.

Two thousand buffalo have been repeatedly sighted in the area across the Kwara floodplains

Primates are almost witnessed on every activity, the local Baboon troop have been very active and amusing around the camp, Vervet Monkeys are regularly seen around the watering holes and the Lesser bush babies seen on night drives

Guests on an evening game drive close to Peters crossing, were lucky enough to see an Aardvark digging a hole just to the one side of the road. The spray of sand went almost ten feet in the air as the animal dug his way into the ground.