

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 opposite direction was an Aardvark and with no confrontations they both split and 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 to kill a young Leopard.

Sightings of 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 Steenbuck through the scrub mopane. The speed the dogs hunted at, they were only glimpses to the naked eye.

A huge herd of a thousand buffalo have been moving in the area along with sightings of the Road Antelope.

Carmine Bee Eaters have been coming back in the numbers which is one of the most amazing sights at this time of year

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. Aardvark tracks but no luck like Lagoon

Kwara and Little Kwara

The Lion down in the Kwara concession have been all 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 has been seen feasting on a civet cat.

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

This single male dog also put on a spectacular show in front of camp chasing the Lechwe, and 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 Giraffe have been in the area and been seen by numerous guests.

A male Sitatunga 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 get great photos and brilliant view of this aquatic mammal.

The absolute highlight of this month was the three Cheetah hunting Impala and out of the blue came two Wild Dogs. They headed 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.

