

## **Monthly Sightings Reports – June 2009**

### **Kwara & Little Kwara**

Afternoon siesta was interrupted one day this month by the deafening sounds of Lions roaring close to Kwara camp. As guests clambered onto the game drive vehicles the sounds came ever closer until four Lionesses appeared being chased by five others. The first four are well known in Kwara as 'One Eyes Pride'. The second group are newcomers and were evidently successful in chasing establishing themselves in the area. Guests and camp staff alike watched in amazement as the lionesses swam across the lagoon in front of camp to safety.

### **Lagoon**

Guide and guests in the search for the Wild Dog den site at Lagoon had a successful month. The site was identified close to the airstrip and the heavily pregnant female is deep inside the hide before the impending birth. Other members of the pack stand sentry outside the entrance providing wonderful game viewing for expectant guests. Some guests keen to try their hand at fishing have had a successful first attempt off the jetty at Lagoon camp, A huge 6kg Catfish was caught along with two delicious Southern Mouth Brooder Breams!

### **Tau**

The local Tau pack of Wild Dogs got more than they bargained for this June when they made the mistake of igniting the anger of the legendary Honey Badger. These ferocious little omnivores may not look like much but tales of their bravery are stuff of bush mythology.

Seven of the dogs were spotted attacking the badger by some aghast guests along with their guide. To their amazement the little badger more than held its own and sent the seven dogs packing with a toxic secretion from its anal glands!

Elsewhere, Lions and Leopards have been seen on the Pan and close to the Tau waterhole. Cheetahs have been seen hunting Springbok on the Pan and a large herd of Eland antelope was seen on the road to Deception Valley.

### **Nxai**

The Bushman walks have proved especially productive this month with the stark winter landscape and cooler weather providing perfect conditions to take a morning stroll and learn about the culture of these extraordinary people.

Nxai is attracting all manner of beasts to its refreshing waterhole. Giraffes, Elephants, Gemsbok, Impala, Springbok and Wildebeest have been seen this month along with a wonderful sighting of a Cheetah. Guests enjoying the midday sun on the deck first noticed the speedy cats cautiously approaching through the acacia trees. Gradually they grew in confidence until they were able to lap up the cool water and drink their fill. A wonderful sighting for the new camp!

## **Lebala**

The extraordinary site of a Pangolin greeted some surprised guests in June at Lebala. The armoured anteater was spotted not even a kilometre of the camp itself. These animals practice myrmecophagy meaning that they feed exclusively on a specific species (in this case ants and termites).

Cat lovers have been treated to an exhibition in hunting by the three big species. Cheetahs have been sighted in a failed attempt to kill a Kudu, Leopard have been caught with a hunted Impala in a tree and four female Lions made a successful kill on a Zebra in the woodlands.

Elsewhere, an interesting moment for environmentalists elapsed in June. The Selinda Spillway, which sources from the main Okavango River at Seronga, finally joined the Linyanti River close to Lebala. What this means is that after a gap of some years the aquatic systems of the Okavango and the greater Zambezi River can again merge and the gene pools of species such as the Crocodile and the Tiger Fish can again combine.