



KWANDO
SAFARIS

01 April 2007 – 31 April 2007

fast facts

Game Sightings

Lagoon

- Two unknown and very skittish male lions were found in the water cut area. They were very nervous and would not let the game drive vehicles get close to them. They were later seen heading south through the area. Another single male and female were seen following a herd of buffalo. The male was nervous, whilst the female was very relaxed.
- A single female cheetah was seen on water cut. She was very relaxed, so the game drives got a good look at her. She was also seen hunting impala, but did not manage to make a kill.
- As usual, the lagoon pack of 6 wild dogs was seen on a regular basis and was followed on numerous hunts. The Alpha female is now two and a half months pregnant, so everyone is hoping to see new pups soon.
- Night drives were very successful, with many side-striped jackal, black backed jackal and hyena being seen. Two side-striped jackal were spotted trying to turn an African rock python into their supper. The python, it seems, did not take kindly to their idea and put up quite a bit of resistance.
- Big herds of elephant, bulls as well as breeding herds have moved back in to the area. They can be seen almost every evening, playing fighting and quenching their thirst on the riverfront.
- The buffalo herds have also moved back in to the area after months of grazing in the mopane forests. This includes breeding herds and bachelor groups.
- General game is very good with Tsetsebee, warthog, wildebeest, steenbok, lechwe, zebra seen on most drives. Giraffe and baboons as well as ostriches were also seen. Sightings of crocodiles, sunning themselves on the riverbanks have also increased as the evening and mornings became colder.
- Several honey badgers, porcupines, civets and serval have been seen on the night drives.
- Birding continues to be good, especially the birds of prey, with Martial eagle, Black breasted snake eagle, Giant eagle owl, barn owl and pearl spotted owls being seen. Spoonbill storks and wattled cranes were also seen.

Lebala

- Three female and two big male lions have been visiting the Lebala area. One of the females is heavily pregnant and one of the other females is lactating, which indicate that there might be some cubs around. Another younger male was spotted following some buffalo around.
- A young male leopard was seen stalking impala near wild dog pan, two nights in a row. He was not successful in his hunt, as the impala's smelled him and took off.
- After being absent for almost a month, the two-brother cheetahs were seen West of python pan. They were in very good condition. They were seen several times more during the month, every time with full bellies.
- The Lagoon pack of 6 wild dogs ventured closer to Lebala and were seen resting near John's pan.
- Big herds of elephants are moving on to the flood plains; this is due to the water pans in the mopane forest drying up. Some of the breeding herds had very small babies with them. One old bull came in to camp and started feeding on the grasses under the bird hide, in full view of the guests who were busy having tea.
- Big herds of buffalo have also moved back on to the flood plains, for the same reason as the elephants. The herds are scattered all over the area and are in very good condition with lots of young calves in the herds.
- The hyena clans have been very active throughout the month. One group were seen feeding on a carcass that they stole from a leopard. Some black backed jackals were seen, pushing last year's litter of pups out of the territory. The young jackals were very distressed by their parent's behaviour. Several genet sightings were also reported, one of them a mother with her tree kittens playing on the lounge deck, early one morning.
- Excellent general game with many large journeys of giraffe, impala, waterbuck, Tsessebe, Wildebeest, Steenbok zebra, red lechwe and kudu. A brief sighting of roan antelope were also reported. A full on territorial fight between 2 wildebeest bulls were seen by some guests out on the morning game drive.
- Several species of mongoose were seen on numerous game drives. A very relaxed serval was seen hunting on the flood plains South of camp and there was also a brief sighting of a caracal on main road.
- Eleven wattled cranes were found together at Kubu pans. Many different eagles, including Martial eagle and Walberg's eagle were seen. Most of the summer residents have now left, except for some little bee-eaters who are still hanging around. A very unusual sighting of a snouted cobra, swallowing a frog, in front of the camp was also reported.

Kwara and Little Kwara

- The pride of 5 lions, consisting of 2 females, with the three one-year cubs was seen often during the month. On one occasion they were seen hunting and bringing down a big male warthog. Another group of 4 lionesses were seen fishing in an almost dry pond. They ate too much fish and got sick afterwards. One of the big males was seen mating with one of the females of the pride of five.
- Our resident female leopard is now leaving the famous leopard cub, alone for longer periods of time. She has been seen twice, trying to hunt impala but was not successful. The female was seen in Kwara camp, late one afternoon. She strolled through camp, unworried by the presence of the manager and staff. A big male leopard was also seen, but he was rather shy.
- A female, cheetah with her two cubs were seen regularly. She was seen hunting twice, but missed on both occasions. The three brothers were also seen hunting and they also missed.
- Two packs of wild dogs, one pack of 13 dogs and another of only 2 dogs, visited the area very briefly.
- Very good sightings of bull elephants have been reported. They moved in to the area to feed on the marula fruits, which are now ripening up and falling from the trees.
- A group of 5 old bachelor buffalo's were seen in the distance by guests, out on the boat cruise.
- On one of the nights a unique sighting, of three-spotted hyena, fighting a female giraffe for her stillborn calf were reported. After about an hour the giraffe gave up and the hyena feasted on the dead calf. Genet, serval and African wild cats, were also seen regularly.
- General game sightings continue to be very good. Giraffe, zebra, tsessebe, kudu and some sable antelope were seen. Rutting season has started, so there are lots of excitement in the impala herds, with the males competing for the attention of the females.
- Birding continues to be good. Pairs of wattled cranes, saddle billed storks, yellow-billed storks, marabou storks and some ground hornbills have been seen. There were also lots of reptile sightings, with black mamba, puff adders and African rock pythons being seen. Some guests also got good photographs of painted reed frogs while out on the mekoro.