



KWANDO
SAFARIS

01 May 2007 – 31 May 2007

fast facts

Game Sightings

Lagoon

- Lion activities seem to be on the increase now that the buffalo herds are moving back on to the flood plains. Lion tracks were seen almost every day and they could be heard calling during the night. A shy male lion, unknown in the area was found on a warthog kill and one female from the Lagoon pride was seen hunting on her own.
- A very unusual sighting of two leopards chased up a tree by the very active Lagoon pack of wild dogs was reported. It seems that the dogs found the leopards feeding on a kill. They then chased the leopards up the tree and stole their kill.
- The two cheetah brothers made a brief appearance in the Lagoon area, before they started heading south towards Lebala. They were not seen hunting, but were in good condition.
- The Lagoon pack of 6 dogs were seen almost every day and were followed on many of their hunts. After searching high and low for the perfect den, the Alpha female selected a site close to the Lagoon Airstrip. She gave birth to an unknown number of pups around the 14th of May.
- Hyena, both species of Jackal, African wild cat, small spotted genet, civet, bat-eared fox and caracal was seen during the night drives.
- Big groups of elephants, breeding herds as well as bachelor groups, have been seen on the floodplains and on the riverbanks.
- Big herds of buffalo, some of them with 1500 and more buffalo in the herds have been seen grazing on the flood plains. We suspect that the waterholes in the Mopane forests must now be dry and therefore the big movement of buffalo and elephants towards the river systems.
- General game was very good with Tsetsebee, warthog, wildebeest, steenbok, lechwe, zebra seen on most drives.
- Banded mongoose, dwarf mongoose, as well as porcupine, civet and a honey badger were seen on the 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

- A pride of five lions managed to kill a young Giraffe. They were only feeding on the kill for a few minutes when a big male turned up and claimed the kill for himself. A different pride consisting of one male and four females were seen feeding on an Impala. Two lionesses and their sub adult cub were seen hunting giraffe close to Sable Island.
- Again the female leopard and cub created great sightings throughout the month. They decided to visit Kwara Camp and were seen in front of tent one. The cub was a bit shy with the mother being very relaxed as they strolled through camp in broad daylight. They were also found feeding on a Reedbuck kill.
- The three Cheetah brothers were spotted on a regular basis throughout the month. They were seen hunting a young Tsessebe calf and took it down in front of the game drive vehicles. A female cheetah and her two ten month old cubs were followed and were seen chasing Impala with the cubs.
- A pack of thirteen Wild dogs briefly visited the area. They seemed very hungry but were not seen hunting.
- Small bachelor herds of elephant were seen on regular basis. A superb sighting of three elephant bulls crossing the Kwara channel in full view of guests on the boat.
- Small herds of buffalo have been seen moving through the area. The herds were all between 30 and 50 animals and have been spotted on a regular basis.
- A hyena was seen taking an Impala from a leopard close to Kwara Camp during an evening drive. A relaxed Male Civet was followed on one of the evening drives and successfully managed to kill a snake. Other evening sighting included Jackal, Small spotted Genet and a Giant Eagle Owl.
- General game sightings continue to be very good. Giraffe, zebra, tsessebe, warthog, kudu and some sable antelope were seen.
- Good sightings of Civet, Serval and African Wild Cat have been reported. The game drives have found numerous active Aardvark holes but animals have been eluding the drives up to now.
- A four metre African Rock Python was seen crossing the road between Kwara and Little Kwara. A couple of Puff Adders were found sunning themselves. Lots of spoon billed storks, yellow billed storks and Pelicans were seen in the Lagoon in front of the camp. About forty White Back vultures were seen feeding on an Elephant carcass. Bird of prey sightings have been good with both Martial Eagle and Fish Eagle seen.

Kwara and Little Kwara

- Three different prides of lions have been seen. The two big dominant males have joined up again with the rest of their pride (4 females and one sub adult male). They have been very active, hunting around the camp and airstrip and were seen feeding on a Tsessebe. A smaller pride consisting of 2 females and a year old cub were seen hunting around the mekoros station area. Another pride of five lions was seen killing a warthog.
- The famous leopard and cub were seen trying to hunt impala, as well as warthog. They were not successful and spent a lot of time relaxing in a tree.
- The coalition of three-brother cheetah was seen on numerous occasions. They looked very hungry at one stage but were later found with full bellies.
- A pack of 2 dogs appeared at Kwara camp one morning and the camp called the game drive vehicles back to come and have a look. They were very healthy looking, but did not spend much time in the area.
- Elephant numbers are slowly increasing in the area and quite a few bachelor herds as well as small breeding herds have been seen.
- Night drives provided sightings of hyena and, both jackal species. Hyena were also seen and heard in camp every night.
- General game sightings continue to be very good and the impala are also starting to rut. Good sightings of hippo coming out of the water to graze in front of the camp were also reported.
- Very good sightings of Serval and African wildcat were reported. A caracal was also seen walking down a road in broad daylight.
- Birding continues to be good. Martial eagle, brown snake eagle and black-breasted snake eagle were some of the birds of prey being seen. Marabou stork and saddle-billed storks was also seen. The guides also managed to locate two puff adders.