



KWANDO
SAFARIS

01 June 2007 – 30 June 2007

fast facts

Game Sightings

Lagoon

- A coalition of four young male lions seems to have settled in the area. They were followed on numerous occasions whilst hunting buffalo. They only managed to kill one baby buffalo but managed to kill three baby elephant in the duration of their stay.
- Leopard sightings were a little less frequent during this month compared to last month. This might be because of the lions being very active in the area. The game drives did manage to locate a female leopard though and she was very relaxed and created good photo opportunities for the guests.
- The two cheetah brothers made their monthly appearance in the Lagoon area as usual. They were seen on numerous occasions resting and moving through the area. Towards the end of the month they started moving south towards Lebala.
- The Lagoon pack of 6 dogs have now well and truly settled in to their den site close to the Lagoon airstrip. There were lots of speculation about the number of pups that were born but everyone had to wait until about two weeks ago when finally the Alpha female showed all of her nine healthy pups to the world. Since then there have been daily sightings of the adult dogs and pups. All of a sudden it was noticed that the dogs had started to hunt twice a day instead of their normal once a day routine. This was because they had to start feeding the now very fast growing pups as well. The dogs were seen regurgitating so that the pups could feed. A very interesting altercation between the adult dogs and a rather large crocodile was noted, when the crocodile came a little too close to the den to the dogs liking. The dogs were seen jumping on to the crocodile and biting him until he rushed back in to the water, not without a few snaps at them.
- Six hyena were seen at one of the elephant kills. They kept their distance though as the four male lions were still feeding on the kill. Hippo's, were seen grazing on the plains almost every night. Both species of jackal were also common sightings throughout the month.
- Big groups of elephants, breeding herds as well as bachelor groups, have been seen on the floodplains and on the riverbanks. Some of the single bulls have also been visiting the camp during the nights.
- Big mixed herds of buffalo, some of them with 1500 and more buffalo in the herds have been seen grazing on the flood plains, with the four male lions never very far behind them.
- General game was very good with both roan and sable antelope being found. Big herds of zebra and large journeys of giraffe were also seen. Wildebeest, steenbok, lechwe, and impala made up some of the many other species of general game that were sighted.
- A rare sighting of a caracal was reported on one of the morning drives. Honey badger banded and dwarf mongoose as well as genet and African wildcat were also seen on some of the drives.

- The highlight of this months birding must have been the sighting of a Goliath heron that got into a fight with a fish eagle. The contest was declared a draw, with no serious injuries being reported. The cold weather made for no snake sightings but martial eagle and ostrich were seen.
- One group of guests were glad of their seat belts, when their vehicle came to an abrupt stop in front of a very large puff adder on the road.

Lebala

- Lion sightings have been very good throughout the month. A single lioness was seen regularly following the buffalo herds. She was unfortunately not successful in her hunting attempts. Two big males appeared on the scene and also started following the buffalo herds. They met up with the single female and started mating with her. The mating lasted for three days. The four young males from the Lagoon area were also seen hunting buffalo at John's pan, which is situated halfway between Lebala and Lagoon. They were followed on one of their hunts by the game drives and one of the males was seen successfully bringing down and killing a two month old buffalo calf.
- Leopard sightings were again very good with four different leopards being sighted throughout the month. One female was seen hunting springhare at Twin pools whilst another female was also seen hunting in the area. A young male was seen playing in the mopane woodland and a big male was seen resting near wild dog pan.
- The two cheetah brothers put in their normal appearance during the month and were followed on numerous occasions. They were seen hunting a warthog but did not manage to make the kill. An unknown female was found resting at twin pools as well.
- Big breeding herds, bachelor herds and some single bull elephants are a common sighting on the flood plains. These herds are now moving out of the Mopane forests onto the floodplains since all the water holes have dried up. Two guests enjoying a drink around the campfire with the camp manager were witness to a very special moment, when an eight-month-old elephant calf decided to come and visit the camp on his own one evening. He casually strolled past the coffee station and into the lounge. After looking around in the lounge he made his way into the drinks storeroom and then back to the fireplace. He got so comfortable that he took the camp managers hand and put it in to his mouth. They eventually persuaded him to move out towards the open area behind the camp, but not before he took a chair from the managers hand and played with it. He disappeared into the dark and after a while a breeding herd came past and took him with them.
- Big herds of buffalo, some ranging between five hundred and a thousand animals were found along various plains. They were mostly seen mating and drinking with some of the bulls fighting for females.
- The hyena den near Nari pan is still very active and regular sightings of the young and adult hyena have been reported. Both species of jackal are also found during the night drives.
- Excellent general game with many large journeys of giraffe, impala, waterbuck, Tsessebe, Wildebeest, Steenbok zebra, red lechwe and kudu.
- Night sightings were fantastic with two aardvarks sighted. They also saw many servals and honey badgers as well as a striped polecat. Bat eared foxes were located near the hyena den. Yellow, dwarf, banded and slender mongoose were also seen.
- Raptor sightings were very good during the month, with Martial eagle, brown and black snake eagles as well as tawny and short tail eagles being seen. A puff adder was located in camp when the guides went to investigate a francolin alarm call. A black mamba as well as an African rock python was seen on the drives.

Kwara and Little Kwara

- Lion sightings were incredible during this month. Two nomadic male lions managed to kill a buffalo calf near Peter's crossing. The buffalo herd retaliated when they heard the calf's distress calls and one of the male lions got his flank ripped open by some of the buffalo bulls. A very old male lion was also seen following one of the buffalo herds and he managed to kill a young buffalo after a couple of days. A new pride consisting of four lionesses, one sub adult male and two big males got into a huge territorial fight with the Kwara pride – also known as the one eyed pride. The Kwara pride won the fight and luckily there were no serious injuries. The other pride is still hanging around the area though, so more action can be anticipated.
- A new face appeared on the Leopard scene at Kwara. A young female was seen and followed on numerous occasions. She is very relaxed and in good condition. She was seen feeding on a unusual pink backed pelican kill and again found later in the month, when the game drives followed a lion on a night drive. The lion walked underneath the tree where she was resting. She looked terrified but the lion did not see her up in the tree. The well-known leopard cub and mother were also seen on a regular basis. The cub now accompanies its mother on all her hunts, as she is busy teaching the cub how to hunt.
- The female cheetah and her three 11-month-old cubs were seen twice. They were being watched when she managed to kill a young kudu and on another occasion when she managed to kill an impala. The three brothers were only spotted once earlier on in the month.
- A small pack, consisting of two wild dogs spent some time resting between Kwara and Little Kwara camps. They looked hungry and were only seen once before the disappeared.
- Only a small amount of bachelor herds and some single bull elephant were seen during this month. Some of these bulls were seen swimming as well as crossing the channel in front of the boat cruise.
- Huge herds of buffalo, some of the herds had up to 2000 animals big have been visiting the area. These herds are coming out of the mopane woodlands where all the waterholes are now dry.
- Hyena were seen most nights patrolling around the camps. Both black backed and side-striped jackal were seen during the night drives.
- 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.
- Birding continues to be good in the area. Pink and white backed pelicans were seen as well as saddle billed storks and sacred ibises. A spectacular sighting were recorded when about 300 pink backed pelicans decided to come and fish in the Kwara lagoon in front of the camp. Fish eagles and marabou storks were also common sightings. Some night adders were also seen in the camps.