



KWANDO
SAFARIS

01 July 2007 – 31 July 2007

fast facts

Game Sightings

Lagoon

- A coalition of four, young male lions are still operating between Lagoon and Lebala. They have been seen on numerous occasions following the big herds of buffalo and trying to kill, buffalo calves. A once off sighting of a male and female feeding on a warthog kill were also reported. Two females from the old Lagoon pride also moved back in to the area and were seen hunting impala near the airstrip.
- Leopard sightings were very good during this month. A mother and her cub were seen feeding on their impala kill, which made for very good photo opportunities. An unknown male was seen near Kwane lagoon, but he was very nervous and would not let the game drives get close.
- The two cheetah brothers moved north towards Lebala, but a female cheetah was seen hunting impala near John's pan.
- The Lagoon pack of 6 dogs and their 9 pups are doing well. All the pups look healthy and they are very playful when seen outside the den. The guides have reported some very strange behaviour at the den site. It seems that two warthogs have also made the den their home. One evening while the dogs were on a hunt, these two warthogs turned up at the dog den. They sniffed around for a bit and then proceeded to back in to the den as if they were planning to spend the night. This was indeed exactly what they did; they spent the night in the den, with the pups. This has now been going on for most of the month and the dogs seem not to mind having them as housemates. The dogs also proved to be good guides with one group of guests following them and bumping into a pangolin and on the next day, following the dogs to a leopard.
- 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.
- Night drives were very successful during this month, with bat eared foxes, both species of jackal, small spotted genets and a couple of chameleons being seen.
- 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.
- Rare sightings of aardvark and pangolin were reported on some of the drives. Honey badger banded and dwarf mongoose as well as genet and African wildcat were also seen on the drives.
- Birding was excellent during the month, with purple gallinule, lapped faced vulture, osprey and giant eagle owls being seen.

Lebala

- Lion sightings have again been very good throughout the month. The four young male lions were followed on numerous occasions while they were hunting buffalo. They managed to kill a buffalo bull right in front of camp and stayed with the kill for three days. The two big dominant males and single female were also seen hunting in the mopane woodlands. A pride of three lionesses and eight cubs also visited the area. The lionesses were seen hiding their cubs and hunting buffalo.
- A rare sighting of two big male leopards walking less than a hundred meters apart was reported. A very relaxed young male were seen on numerous occasions. He was mostly seen trying to catch some fowls. The resident female was also located twice in the woodlands.
- The two cheetah brothers put in their normal appearance during the month and were followed on numerous occasions. A female cheetah appeared on the scene and she managed to successfully hunt and kill an impala almost in the camp. She has been seen on numerous occasions and seemed to have made the area around the camp her home. Four very shy males appeared briefly and managed to kill a young kudu before they moved on.
- 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.
- 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.
- Some hyena were found feeding on a baby elephant carcass and another group of eight hyena were seen scavenging on the remains of a buffalo kill. 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. Sable and roan antelope were also seen on some of the drives.
- Night sightings were fantastic with a pangolin being 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. Marabou storks as well as wattled cranes were also seen. Hundreds of guttural toads and bell frogs could also be heard during the night.

Kwara and Little Kwara

- A coalition of two old male lions was seen frequently during this month. They were seen hunting buffalo on numerous occasions and managed the almost impossible task of killing a buffalo in the middle of a big herd. The pride of four females and one sub adult male were also seen operating in the area. They were very care full not to clash with the two old males but still managed to kill a buffalo calf on the road between camp and the airstrip.
- A sub adult female leopard was seen resting in a tree, with a pride of lions only about a hundred meters away. She was also seen trying to kill a large spotted genet, but did not succeed. An adult female was seen hunting reedbuck, but she also was unsuccessful.
- The coalition of three male cheetah were seen a couple of times. They were followed on one of their hunts and they managed to kill and impala in front of the game drive vehicles.
- Some bachelor herds and 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 and also feeding on the trees in the camps.
- Huge herds of buffalo, some of the herds had up to 2000 animals have been visiting the area. These herds are coming out of the mopane woodlands where all the waterholes are now dry. Some guests were very lucky when they were able to witness a buffalo cow giving birth.
- 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. Wattled cranes, saddle billed storks, fish eagles and an elusive Pels fishing owl were seen.