



KWANDO
SAFARIS

01 October 2007 – 31 October 2007

fast facts

Game Sightings

Lagoon

- The four male lions have now established themselves well in the area. They have been seen on numerous occasions throughout the month, mostly whilst following the buffalo herds around. A single male and female have also been spotted in the area and it looks like they might start mating soon.
- Leopard sightings were good during this month. A young female was seen feeding on the remains of a zebra fowl that was killed by the two cheetah brothers. Good sightings of a female and her cub feeding on an impala were also reported. A young male, who looked very healthy were seen on several occasions around and not far away from camp.
- The two cheetah brothers made their monthly appearance in the Lagoon area as usual. Some new faces were spotted in the area, when three young males were seen hunting impala. They were very nervous at first but seem to be getting more relaxed now after being around for a couple of weeks.
- The Lagoon pack of wild dogs and their pups were doing very well until it was noticed by the guides that two of the pups were missing. No one knows what could have happened to the missing pups. The pack of 6 adult dogs and remaining 7 pups were seen hunting and killing warthog as well as impala.
- A good sighting of two female hyena feeding young ones near their den were reported during one of the night drives. African wild cats, jackal and genet were also seen on the night drives throughout the month.
- A couple of early rain showers caused some of the big elephant herds to move towards the mopane forests. They soon started drifting back to the river and floodplains when the rain disappeared.
- Big mixed herds of buffalo, some of them with 500 and more buffalo in the herds continue to be seen grazing on the flood plains. Some of the bulls were seen mating with the cows and there are lots of calves in the herds.
- General game was very good during this month. Big herds of zebra and large herds 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 number of porcupines were seen, as well as civet, caracal, honey badgers and banded mongooses. Lots of springhare was also sighted almost every night.
- Birding was good during this month, with carmine bee-eaters, yellow-billed storks and some broad billed rollers being seen. A 2.5 meter black mamba was seen crossing the road in front of one of the game drive vehicles.

Lebala

- The pride of three lionesses and their eight cubs were seen regularly throughout the month. One cub went missing for a couple of days but joined the pride again at some stage. The two dominant males joined the pride on some occasions and were seen hunting zebra and warthog with them. They were followed on one of their warthog hunts; they missed the warthog but bumped in to a baby elephant, which they managed to kill.
- Leopard sightings were excellent during this month. A young male leopard was seen on several occasions, once while he was relaxing with his impala kill in a sausage tree. A female was also seen in a sausage tree feeding on her tsessebe kill.
- A pack of 11 wild dogs and their 2 pups made another brief visit to the area. They managed to kill an impala during their stay and then left the area shortly after the kill. The lagoon pack consisting of thirteen dogs were also seen nearby over the same period.
- Big breeding herds, bachelor herds and some single bull elephants are a common sighting on the flood plains.
- 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.
- Excellent general game with many large journeys of giraffe, impala, waterbuck, Tsessebe, Wildebeest, Steenbok zebra, red lechwe and kudu. Some herds of roan and sable antelope were also seen during the drives.
- Night sightings were good with both species of jackal being seen. Spotted hyena and jackal were seen feeding on an elephant carcass. Some of the hyena clans managed to kill a very old buffalo cow near the airstrip and they managed to finish it off overnight.
- Birding was excellent during this month, with most of the summer residents around. The carmine bee-eaters are breeding and the weavers are busy making nests. Some paradise flycatchers were also seen around camp.
- Civet, serval, porcupines as well as honey badgers were common sightings throughout the month. Various mongoose species were also seen.

Kwara and Little Kwara

- Lion sightings were again very good during this month. The pride of 7 females managed to kill a giraffe near wild dog road. They fed on it for a day, before a coalition of 7 male lions showed up at their feast. The male lions drove the females off and took over the kill. The very successful coalition of seven males also managed to kill a buffalo calf a few days later and were seen feeding on their kill.
- Two groups of cheetah were seen during this month. A female with her 3 sub-adult cubs were seen hunting and they brought down an impala in front of the game drive vehicles. Unfortunately a clan of hyena rushed in and stole the kill from them. The 3 brothers were also seen resting under some trees.
- A pack of 22 wild dogs visited the area unexpectedly during this month. The pack consisted of 13 adult dogs and 9 pups. They were followed on numerous of their hunts and they made for very good photographic opportunities
- Small bachelor herds and many single bull elephants were seen feeding on the floodplains during this month. One of these big old bulls was seen wading through the Gadikwe lagoon by one of the boats visiting the heronry.
- Big herds of buffalo are still visiting the area. These herds are coming out of the mopane woodlands where all the waterholes are dry.
- Hyena was seen most nights patrolling around the camps and good interaction between them and the wild dogs were reported. Both black backed and side-striped jackal were seen during the night drives. One of the game drives also saw some bat eared foxes.
- General game sightings continue to be very good. Giraffe, zebra, tsessebe, warthog, kudu and many reedbucks were seen.
- Good sightings of Civet, Serval and African Wild Cat have been reported. Serval and genets were also seen on some of the drives.
- Birding was spectacular in this month. Many of the summer residents are now breeding at Gadikwe lagoon. The heronry is filled with yellow-billed storks, marabou storks, egrets and many other species of birds. A group of 14-wattled cranes have been seen on numerous occasions foraging in the Kwara floodplains.