

Sightings report Kwando Safaris for January 2009

The rainfall has slightly subsided this month as we move into the New Year. Kwando concessions are predicting great floods of the Okavango and Kwando Rivers due to phenomenal rains in Angola this season.

Lagoon

An incredible sighting for the guests on one morning drive as the tracker initially found a large drag mark across the road. The game drive became a lesson in tracking as the guide and tracker eventually spotted a male and female leopard in the same tree feeding on a fresh impala kill!

The three cheetah brothers were resident for a few weeks at "Mabala a Mothlotse" (the flood plain of the Bat Eared Fox) and were seen hunting a fully grown ostrich on several occasions.

The Lagoon wild dog pack are still seen regularly in the area as they have been occupying the mopane forest to the west of Lagoon camp. The young dogs are becoming more aware of the importance of hunting and are now contributing more actively in the pack's hunts.

For the second month, pangolin have been spotted on drives. A late evening drive found a young pangolin digging and foraging for ants in the middle of the road.

Plains game sightings continue to be excellent and include large groups of giraffe, zebra, lechwe and impala with regular sightings of impressive kudu bulls, and the rare roan antelope.

Lebala

Lebala's new airstrip has attracted a pair of ostrich and are now a welcome sight as the guest fly into the concession, though the guides periodically have to chase the pair off the runway to ensure a safe landing!

Guests have had spectacular views over the floodplains from camp, of elephant heading to and from the Lebala marshes. Lone bull elephant regularly stroll through the camp, and broke a section of new decking attempting to reach some tasty marula fruit lying on the ground.

Two young lioness are a regular sight this past week around the concession but have not had great success hunting the few times they have been witnessed. The guides believe they belong to the pride of five that have been chased away by the lone male lion seen in the area last month.

The Lebala pack of wild dogs are doing extremely well in the area and are seen at least once every ten days or so.

Plains game abounds as always at Lebala, with large herds of zebra and wildebeest as well as the usual impala and tsessebe.

Kwara and Little Kwara

Buffalo herds of varying sizes have been sighted daily in the Kwara concession as they move into the swampy flats south of the camps. Lions and their young cubs have been following the larger herds, and guests have been lucky enough to see these lions as they are swimming across the floodplains and rivers.

The coalition of seven male lions chased a smaller pride this month in the Tsum Tsum area, killing three young cubs and eating them. Guests and guides alike were all horrified by this event as the males attempted to prevent any of their competitors passing on their genes.

Two Giant eagle owls have taken up residence close to camp and have started building a nest in a Jackal Berry (African ebony) tree. The two owls are now a regular sighting on late evening drives. Guests were recently amazed to see the pair of owls feeding on a carcass of a small mammal, probably a rodent of some kind.

The coalition of three cheetah are still a regular sighting by the guests up on the Tsum Tsum floodplains.

Nxai Pan

Nxai pan has been a hive of activity this past month as the trackers and guides went down for some training and familiarization of the area. Large herds of springbok and impala have congregated on the main pan, alongside large numbers of gemsbok. An enormous male lion was seen when they went to explore Khama Khama pan and an inquisitive lioness walked into camp one morning to investigate all the activity! Hundreds of zebra have begun to arrive in the area on their annual migration— a sight to behold. Elsewhere kudu, gemsbok, steenbok, various species of mongoose and wary jackals are all common sighting also on the daily drives activities.