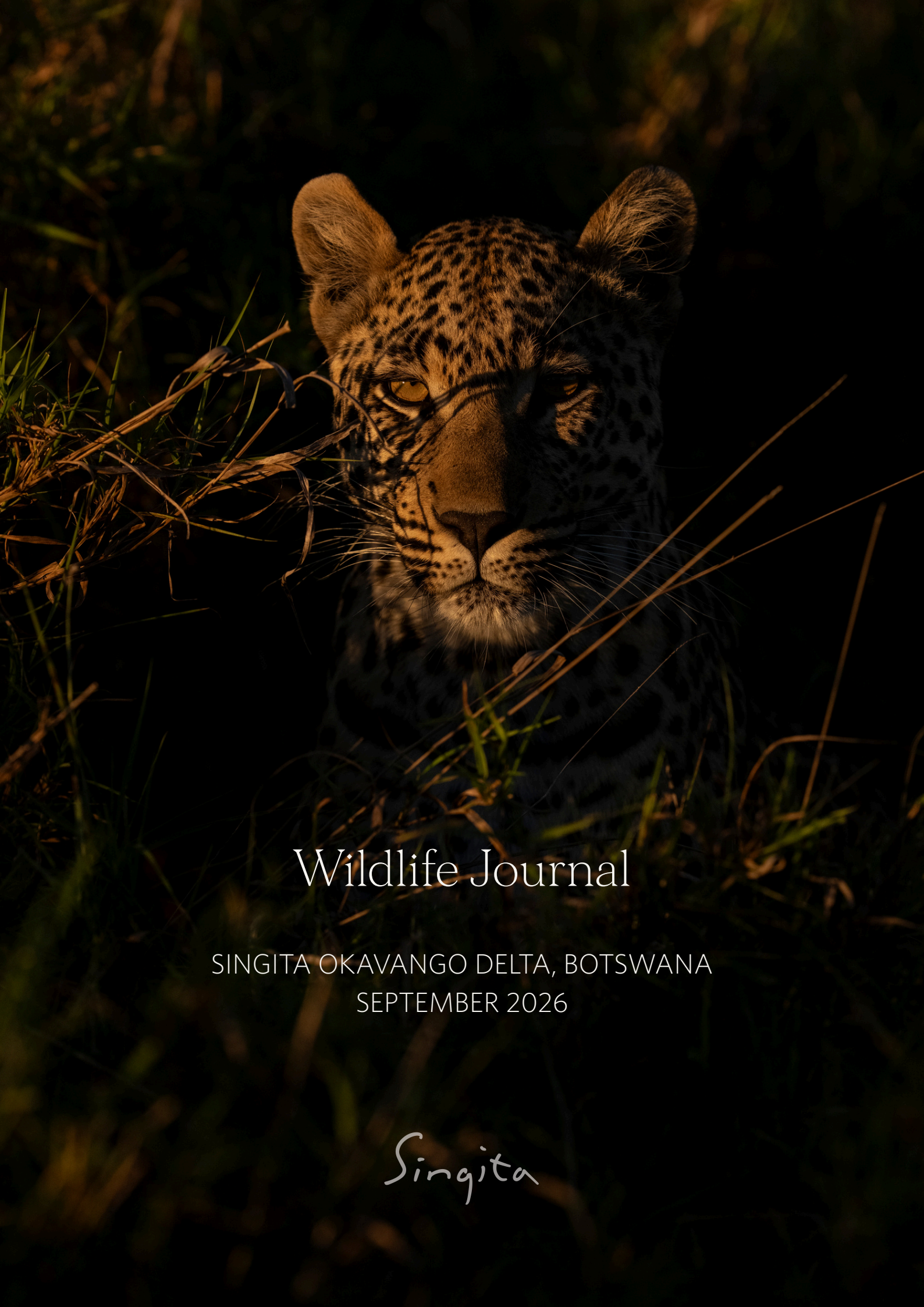


Wildlife Journal

SINGITA OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA
SEPTEMBER 2026

Singita

Singita Okavango Delta

OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2026



Spring is well underway in the Delta. Temperatures are beginning to rise, although September brought a few cold, wet fronts. Water levels are slowly receding, while channels are now fully open, thanks in part to the movement of elephants and hippos through the waterways.

The sausage trees have flowered, their velvety, trumpet-shaped blooms attracting baboons and impalas. These, in turn, drew the attention of leopards, which patiently waited in tall grass and trees, waiting for the right opportunity to hunt. Across the concession, wildlife was on the move, with animals gathering and dispersing in response to the changing season.

These are just some of the moments and observations that offer a glimpse into life across the concession this month.

TEMPERATURE

Minimum recorded

8.5°C 47°F

Maximum recorded

37°C 99°F

RAINFALL

For the month

10.1 mm

SUNRISE & SUNSET

Sunrise

06:35

Sunset

18:25







Renewal is new life

Where there is water, there is life, in all forms and sizes. With plenty to eat and drink, the breeding season is underway, and plentiful young animals were seen across the concession this month. Among them:

- A lioness was seen on several occasions resting with her five subadult cubs.
- Another lioness, with her two three-month-old cubs, was spotted several times in the north of the concession.
- Two young leopard cubs were seen repeatedly in the north of the concession. First spotted in April, they were initially skittish. As they've grown, however, they've become increasingly comfortable around our vehicles. This is also true of many of the leopards we encounter across the concession.
- A pack of eight wild dogs was regularly seen resting and hunting. On one occasion, four adults and a pup were observed running around in the water and calling, seemingly encouraging the youngster to make its way across.
- Hyenas were seen following the wild dogs, and a new den was discovered. One female was observed with four cubs of different ages. Hyena cubs are born with a distinctive, almost black coat that gradually lightens as they grow. Their dark colouring helps camouflage them in the shadows around the den.
- A female roan antelope was seen with her calf. These magnificent antelope are rarely encountered in this area. With no fences restricting their movements across the Delta, animals are free to roam between habitats, making for the occasional unexpected encounter.



The abundance of spring

The changing season brings movement and activity across the concession. Elephants, buffalo, and crocodiles were among the many animals seen making use of the waterways and surrounding landscapes this month.

- Large numbers of elephants were seen grazing and moving along the channels across the concession.
- Several herds of buffalo, each numbering at least 50 individuals, were seen roaming the concession.
- Several large crocodiles were spotted swimming through the channels. A small wave on the water ahead of the boat can sometimes reveal their presence, offering a reminder of just how much life exists beneath an otherwise still surface.

Following the flood

The Delta is an ever-changing landscape. As channels flood and recede, wildlife moves with the water, adapting to the shifting availability of food and habitat. The experience of the Delta is therefore never quite the same from one season to the next, with each bringing its own patterns of movement and opportunities for observation.

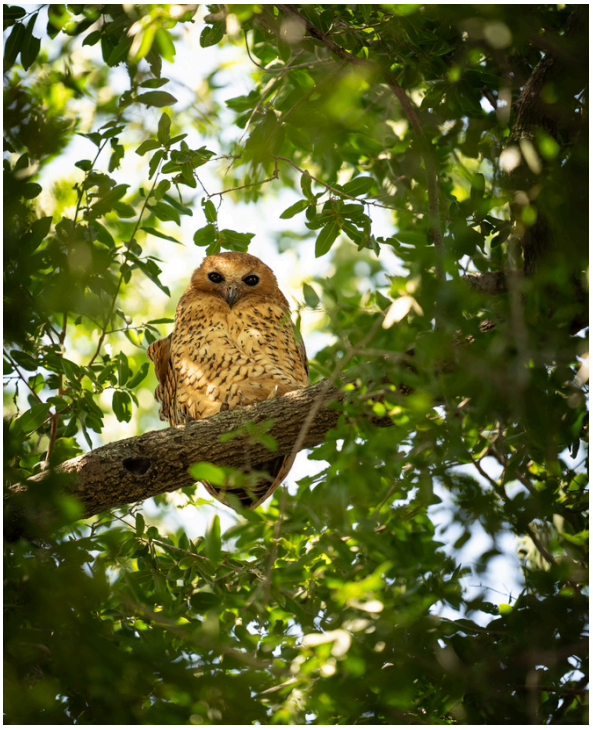
- Red lechwe numbers across the concession are beginning to decrease as these antelope move north with the changing floodwaters. Their movements are closely tied to the annual flood cycle, and they are expected to return from around March next year, as the floodwaters begin to arrive again.

When fortune favoured us

The wild rarely unfolds as expected. Each outing brings the possibility of an encounter entirely its own. Some of the more remarkable sightings this month included:

- A female leopard was seen with her prey, a young red lechwe, in a tree. She remained there for several days, resting beneath the canopy and feeding. The Okavango Delta is an exceptional habitat for leopards, offering a combination of woodland, floodplains, islands, and dense vegetation where they can hunt and remain hidden. It supports leopard densities among the highest in Africa.
- An unidentified young female leopard was spotted twice around Tau Island, relaxed. As we continue to explore the concession, we're discovering more of the wildlife that calls it home.
- A large rock python was seen crossing the road, offering an unusually close encounter with this impressive reptile.





- The elusive Pel's fishing owl was spotted on several occasions in trees near the water, including close to one of Elela's new camps.
- Kingfishers are making the most of the newly opened channels, hunting from the banks and darting over the water in search of fish. The grey-headed kingfisher, pictured below, is a dry-country species associated with scrub and woodland. Although often found near water, it differs from many other kingfishers in that it is not aquatic.