

Wildlife Journal

SINGITA OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA
OCTOBER 2026

Singita

Overview



TEMPERATURE

Minimum recorded

10.9°C 51.6°F

Maximum recorded

40°C 104°F

RAINFALL

For the month

0 mm

SUNRISE & SUNSET

Sunrise

05:50

Sunset

18:30

October is typically Botswana's hottest month, and this year was particularly dry. Trees continued to shed their leaves, leaving precious little shade for relief from the heat. Water levels dropped significantly and, with no new rains, animals had to adapt to the changing landscape.

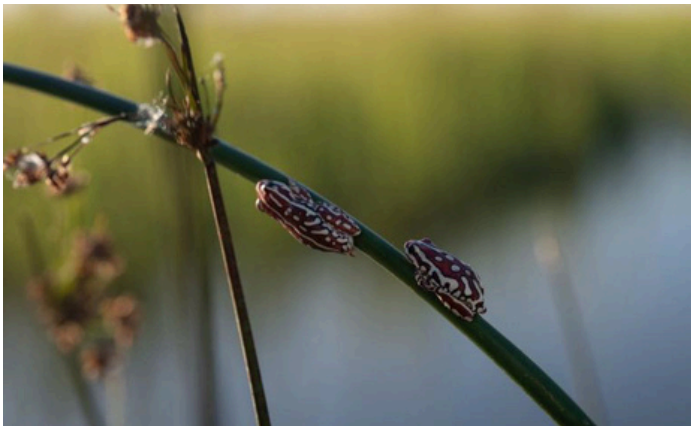
As the floodwaters receded, routes between islands became more accessible, allowing wildlife to move more freely in search of food. Hippos sought refuge in the deeper remaining pools, elephants roamed further across the floodplains, and female red lechwe began moving upstream in search of safe places to give birth.

Wildlife sightings were exceptional throughout the month. As animals gathered around the remaining water sources and floodplains, predators were never far behind. This resulted in some remarkable big cat encounters, with numerous predator sightings and several successful hunts. Yet, despite the harsh dryness, new life continued to emerge, bringing hope and renewed energy to the ecosystem.

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





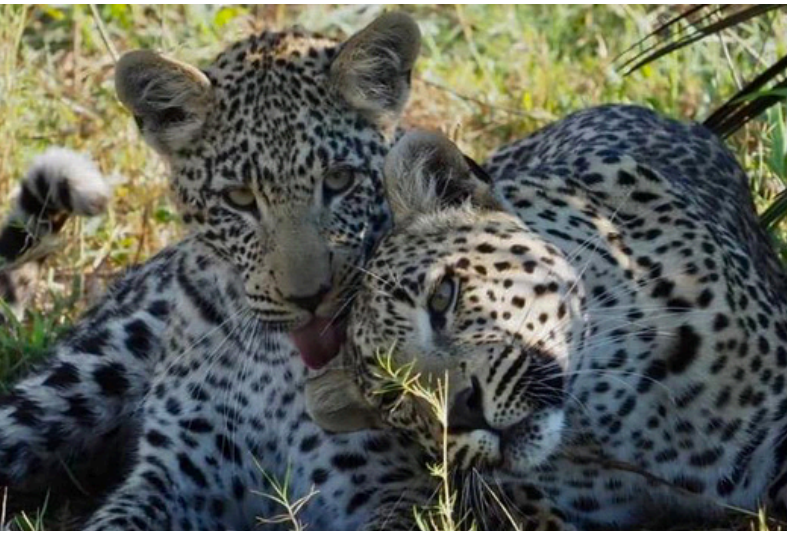




When the Waters Recede

As the floodwaters recede, the landscape shifts, revealing new pathways, feeding grounds and opportunities for wildlife. Animals are adapting to these changing conditions, moving further across the floodplains and gathering around the remaining water sources.

- Large herds of elephants and impalas were seen.
- Buffalo bulls were seen roaming close to Elela, as the big herds headed towards the concession's marshy areas.
- The presence of plentiful red lechwe, tsessebe, wildebeest and zebra showcased the concession's incredible beauty and diversity.
- Hippos found refuge in the deeper remaining pools.
- Rock monitor and water monitor lizards were seen frequently this month.
- Lagoon residents, such as Nile crocodiles, were seen basking on riverbanks.
- Migratory birds began to appear across the concession, including yellow-billed kites, southern carmine bee-eaters and barn swallows. This is an excellent time of year for birders.
- The melodious fish eagle, one of the most iconic birds in the Delta, was seen and heard every day.
- A number of martial eagles were spotted both in flight and perched in skeleton trees.





New Life, New Beginnings

Life in the wild is an ongoing cycle of birth, growth, and change. October offered some wonderful glimpses into the lives and relationships of the animals across the concession. These moments remind us of the importance of family and the continuation of life.

- A mother leopard and her two subadult cubs made an appearance along Matsebe Road in the floodplain area, stalking impalas.
- The next day, the team spotted one of the frequently seen females and her cub on an island. They paced along together before breaking into play, showing just how strong their bond is.
- One of the leopard cubs we saw is reaching the stage where he must become more independent. His mother is gradually distancing herself from him. This is natural behaviour, as leopards are solitary animals.
- A male lion was spotted in the territory of a lioness with cubs. We presume he's their father and was checking on them.
- A mother cheetah was seen with not three, or four, but five cubs. Dropping water levels offer ideal conditions for the mother to move more easily across the dry areas.

Life on the Edge

Territories are constantly tested, alliances shift, and the balance of power is never guaranteed in nature. October was a particularly dynamic month for the big cats, with new individuals appearing, dominant males making their presence known, and established prides beginning to change.

- The month began with the discovery of an unknown female leopard in the south of the concession.
- A large, old male leopard in the area was heard vocalising frequently around Elela and was spotted marking his territory.
- Two large male lions were seen moving around near Elela, vocalising their presence to ward off potential intruders.
- Another male lion was seen in the south of the concession, along with a coalition of four males. As there are now two dominant male lions in the area, we're excited to see how events will unfold.
- A pride of six lions was seen moving around in smaller groups rather than as one unit. Two of the subadult males are starting to be rejected by the dominant male. Although the pride is breaking up, they've been moving within the same territory.

The Art of Survival

In the wild, every successful hunt is an opportunity to replenish energy, while every meal is a reminder of the constant demands of survival. October delivered some remarkable predator encounters. Even in death, the cycle continues, with other animals taking advantage of what gets left behind.

- A pride of lions had a successful zebra hunt close to the airstrip. They fed on it for two days in a row, highlighting just how efficiently lions utilise a kill.
- A leopard was spotted high up in a leadwood tree with an impala kill.
- Another male leopard was spotted resting in a sausage tree, which provided perfect shade and respite from the heat.
- Two large male lions were seen close to the staff village, feasting on a buffalo carcass.
- A pack of eight adult wild dogs was seen frequently. They've been on the move, covering significant distances. One morning, they were spotted shortly after successfully hunting an impala. Once their bellies were full, they rested under a large fever berry tree.
- Towards the end of the month, hyenas were seen feeding on the carcass of a male lion in the south of the concession.
- The team also spotted an African civet on one of the walking trails.



