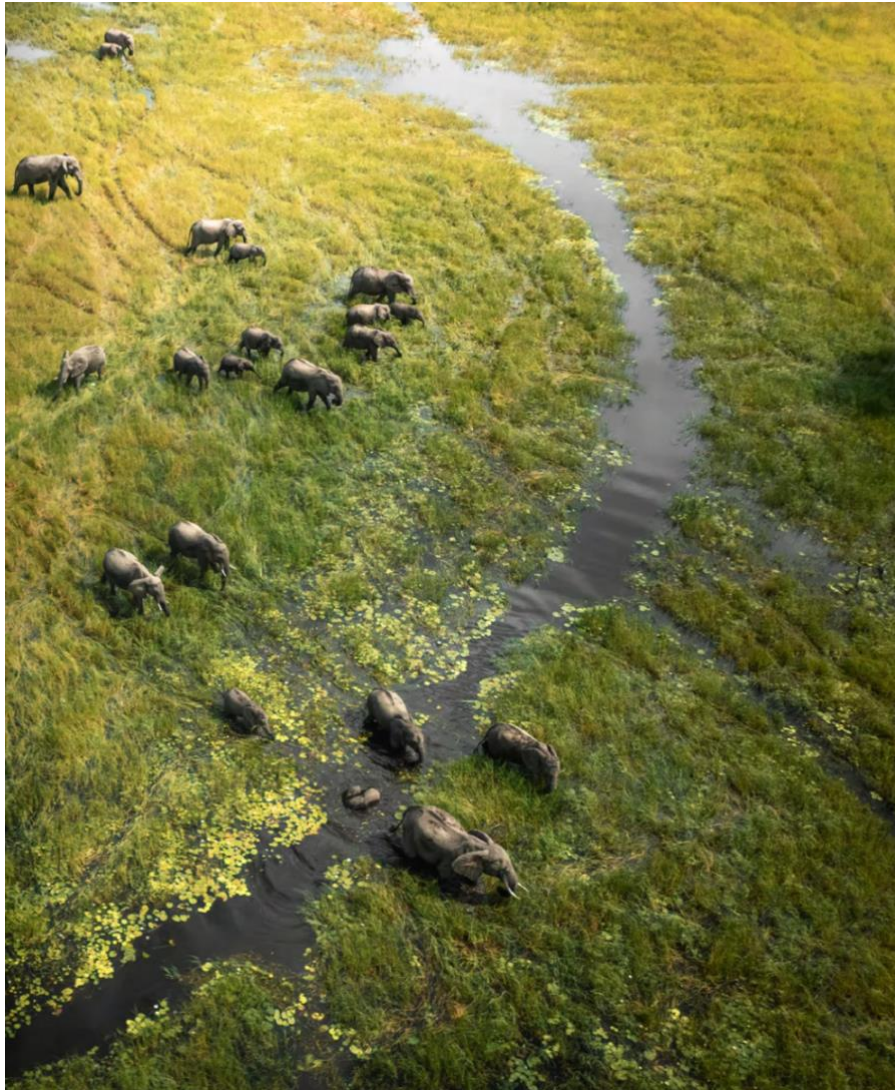


Singita



WILDLIFE REPORT SINGITA OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA For the month of May, 2026

Temperature

Minimum recorded: 08°C (46.4°F)

Maximum recorded: 32°C (89.6°F)

Rainfall Recorded

For the month: 3.3 mm

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise: 06:53

Sunset: 17:49

May has been full of discoveries and learning the ways of Elela before we open at the end of the year in December. Our guiding team has been spread far and wide across the open floodplains, lagoons, dense woodlands, and palm islands, be it on foot, in a boat or mokoro, or a game-drive vehicle. This vast 420 000-acre concession really is a living mosaic of habitats. Normally the floodwaters from Angola flow into our concession around the beginning of May. When the floodwaters are especially high after a lot of rain, they reach us in March or April. This year we are experiencing one of the biggest floods since 2010, and the landscape is a lot greener than it was in May last year. The winter weather is dry and sunny during the day.

Here's an overview of the sightings for May:

Large predators

- Lions, leopards and hyenas have been seen regularly throughout the month.
- Near month-end we were delighted to find a pack of eight African wild dogs on our airstrip. They were observed hunting in the area for the next nine days. The alpha female is pregnant and we expect them to den soon.

Predators

- You don't immediately think banded mongooses are predators, but they are. They eat insects, beetles, snails, frogs, lizards, and small snakes. They hunt in groups and busy themselves through the grass to scare out and catch their prey. We've had regular sightings of these characterful animals this month, and they are always entertaining to observe.
- We've had three sightings of honey badgers – much faster and with less finesse than banded mongooses.
- Other smaller predators seen this month include side-striped jackals, genets and slender mongooses.

Large herbivores

- Elephants, buffalos, hippos and giraffes have been seen almost every single day in May.
- A seemingly endless breeding herd of elephants was seen wading through the floodplain – little calves following their mothers and aunts, as they all splashed and hurried along from one feeding ground to another.

Herbivores

- Not a day went by without seeing impala, kudu, lechwe, zebra, tsessebe and wildebeest. We are sure guests who have been to Singita's other properties in Africa are going to love seeing animals like the lechwe and tsessebe that are not commonly seen elsewhere.
- There were also sightings of bushbuck, duiker, steenbok and warthogs.

Hares, rodents, small mammals

- Not a day has passed without seeing tree squirrels – they seem to be everywhere and are constantly chasing one another or catastrophising about some real or imagined issue.
- Less dramatic are the beautiful scrub hares we see at dusk and dawn.

Reptiles and amphibians

- It's too cold for most snakes to show themselves now, but basking in the sun at the water's edge are many crocodiles.
- The delightful Angolan reed frogs have been spotted regularly. Read more about them in the story that follows.

Birds

- African fish eagles, jacanas, marabou storks, saddle-billed storks and wattled cranes have been seen almost every day. Having water all around us really opens up the playing fields for bird watching. There have also been some exceptional sightings of rare Pel's fishing owls, majestic martial eagles, and a pair of southern ground hornbills with a youngster.

A closer look at one of the unique aspects of the Okavango follows, as well as our May Gallery.

Focus on the Angolan reed frog



Among the swaying reeds at Elela, there is a good chance that one of the Delta's smallest residents will catch your eye. As your guide poles your mokoro silently through the winding waterways, look carefully at the tips of the reeds. Perched delicately above the water, no bigger than your thumb, you may spot a striking Angolan reed frog (*Hyperolius parallelus*). Its vivid colours and patterns provide excellent camouflage among the sunlit vegetation where these tiny amphibians spend much of their lives.

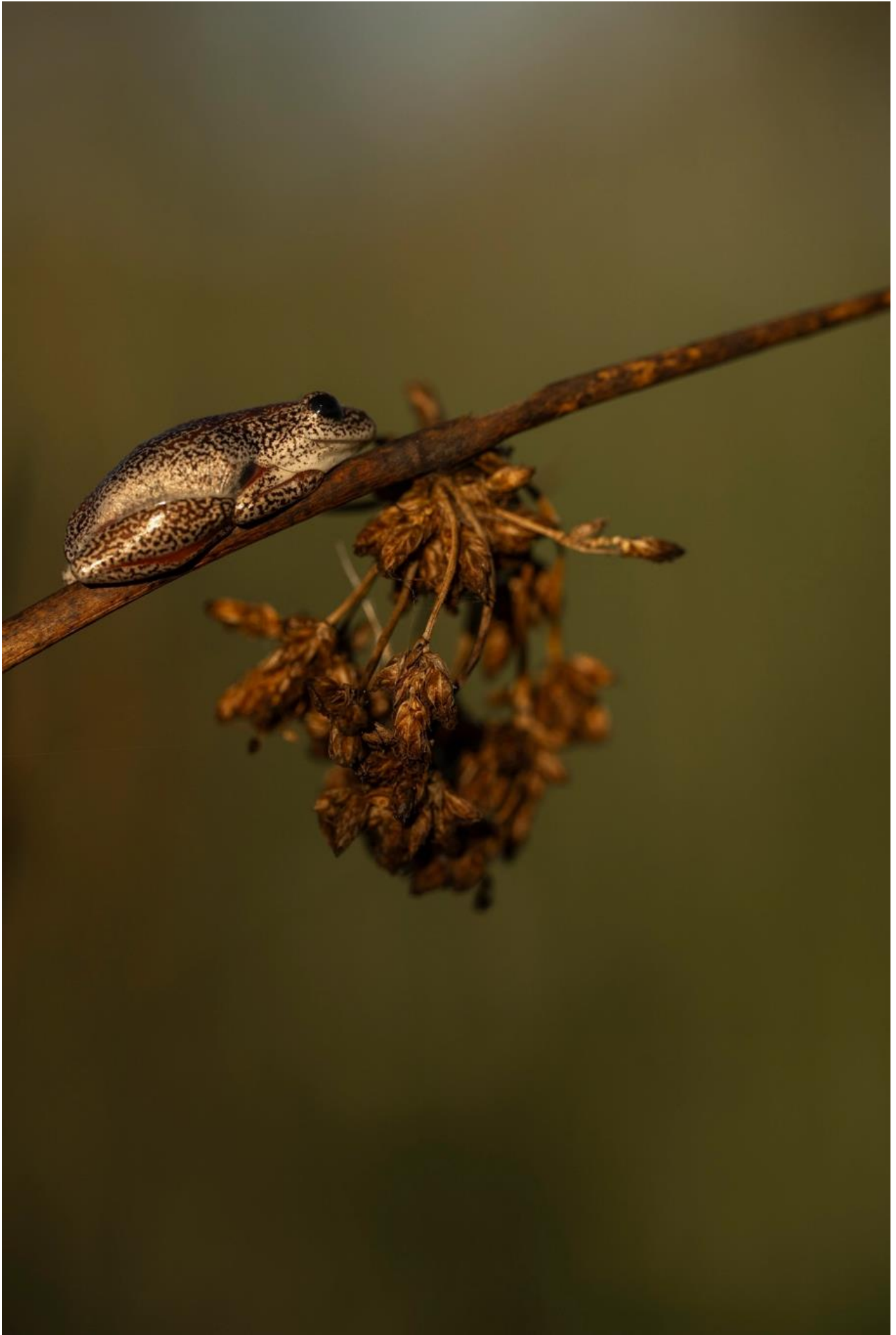
Angolan reed frogs play an important role in the Delta's ecosystem. They emerge after dusk to hunt mosquitoes, termites, flies and other small insects, helping to keep insect populations in balance. Males are especially vocal, filling the evening with a chorus of sharp, repetitive calls as they advertise for mates and defend their chosen clumps of reeds. You can always count on being serenaded by frogs at Elela.

Females are often more uniformly coloured, while males display more distinctive markings. Interestingly, these frogs belong to a "species complex," meaning populations vary in appearance depending on where they occur.

These adaptable amphibians thrive wherever there is emergent vegetation along the edges of rivers, lagoons, swamps and seasonal floodplains. During the breeding season, they lay their eggs directly into both temporary and permanent water bodies, where the tadpoles develop before beginning life among the reeds. Angolan reed frogs are expert climbers thanks to their sticky toe pads and special gripping joints. They stay safe perched out of harm's way above the water's surface.

They are relatively widespread throughout southern and central Africa, and are considered a species of Least Concern, thanks to their remarkable ability to colonise new wetlands.

While the Delta's elephants, lions and hippos like to steal the spotlight, slowing down and searching the reeds can reveal one of the Okavango's most enchanting hidden treasures – a jewel-like little frog that reminds us that some of Africa's greatest wildlife experiences come in small packages.



May Gallery



Golden hour patrol of a formidable male leopard.

Leopards seen and photographed by our guides this month include the youngster on left beautifully camouflaged in the leaf litter, and this mother and cub quenching their thirst.





Backlight on the sea of grass.

Our great road network means we can follow where the elephants lead.





Our dry warm winter is here, and the annual floodwaters have reached us, expanding the waterways. The rainy season and the flooding season in the Okavango are completely separate. Our famous floodwaters do not come from local rain. Instead, floodwaters arrive from distant rains in Angola. These Angola floodwaters take about four months to travel to Botswana, meaning the rising water peaks in the delta around July, long after the local rains have ended.

A stripe of zebras trot along a path of their own.





Dream big. Join us in a private paradise, where time and space are your own.

Photos by Ross Couper, unless otherwise indicated.
Written and compiled by Jenny Hishin.