

# Singita



## WILDLIFE REPORT SINGITA OKAVANGO DELTA, BOTSWANA For the month of June, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six

### Temperature

Minimum recorded: 08°C (46.4°F)

Maximum recorded: 29°C (84.2°F)

### Rainfall Recorded

For the month: 0 mm

### Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise: 06:45

Sunset: 17:54

June has been an exceptional month in the Okavango Delta. The annual flood continued to arrive on top of an already high-water table following a long rainy season, creating one of the biggest flood years since 2010. Water levels continued to rise throughout the month, with large areas of the Delta inundated and many channels flowing strongly, providing spectacular conditions for boating and mokoro. Winter has now settled in properly. Days have been clear, sunny and warm, while mornings and evenings have been crisp and cold, with temperatures dropping further as June progressed.

*Here's an overview of the sightings for June:*

### **Large predators**

- Lions, leopards and hyenas have been seen regularly throughout the month.
- Several new leopards made their appearance in the concession this month, including a large, strong new male and several females. Leopard sightings have been particularly encouraging, with at least one female currently being seen with a cub of around ten months old.
- The wild dog pack of eight has been seen a few times this month. Their alpha female is currently denning, and we expect to see the pups soon.

### **Predators**

- Banded mongooses were frequently spotted again this month, and there were two honey badger sightings.
- The team had two serval sightings this month, which was one of the highlights in June.
- A genet was also spotted a few times. It can be spotted at night in one of the trees near the main water channel.

### **Large herbivores**

- Elephants, buffaloes, giraffes and hippos were spotted daily.
- The high-water levels have caused the hippos to disperse into newly flooded channels and lagoons, expanding their territories and reducing their concentration in the traditional areas.

### **Herbivores**

- Lechwees were in full abundance in June, following the floodwaters deeper into the concession. Large herds could be seen grazing on the newly inundated floodplains, taking full advantage of the fresh aquatic grasses that flourish as the waters rise.
- Warthog, impala, greater kudu, and zebra were seen daily throughout the month.
- Other herbivores were encountered less frequently but still made regular appearances throughout the month. These included steenbok, tsessebe, wildebeest, bushbuck, common duiker and common reedbuck, each contributing to the concession's remarkable diversity of plains game. As water levels continued to rise, many of these species concentrated on the remaining higher ground.

### **Hares, rodents, small mammals**

- The team had three porcupine sightings this month. As a nocturnal species, they emerge after dark to forage.

### **Reptiles and amphibians**

- Nile crocodiles and water monitors were seen regularly, making frequent appearances along the flooded channels, lagoons and riverbanks. The exceptionally high-water levels provided ideal habitat for these reptiles, and sightings were common during both boat cruises and game drives.
- Snakes were also seen, with puff adders being spotted most frequently due to their tendency to remain still and rely on their camouflage.
- Leopard tortoises, resident throughout the concession, continued to make regular appearances.

### **Birds**

- Saddle-billed storks and wattled cranes were among the other most frequently observed bird species. Both species have been taking full advantage of the extensive flooded wetlands, where they were often seen foraging in the shallow water and floodplains.
- African fish eagles were spotted regularly. Their unmistakable calls echoed across the Okavango Delta as they perched in riverside trees.

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

## Focus on the red lechwe



Wherever you see red lechwe, there's water. They move through the Okavango Delta with the flood, up and down, and stay close to the water.

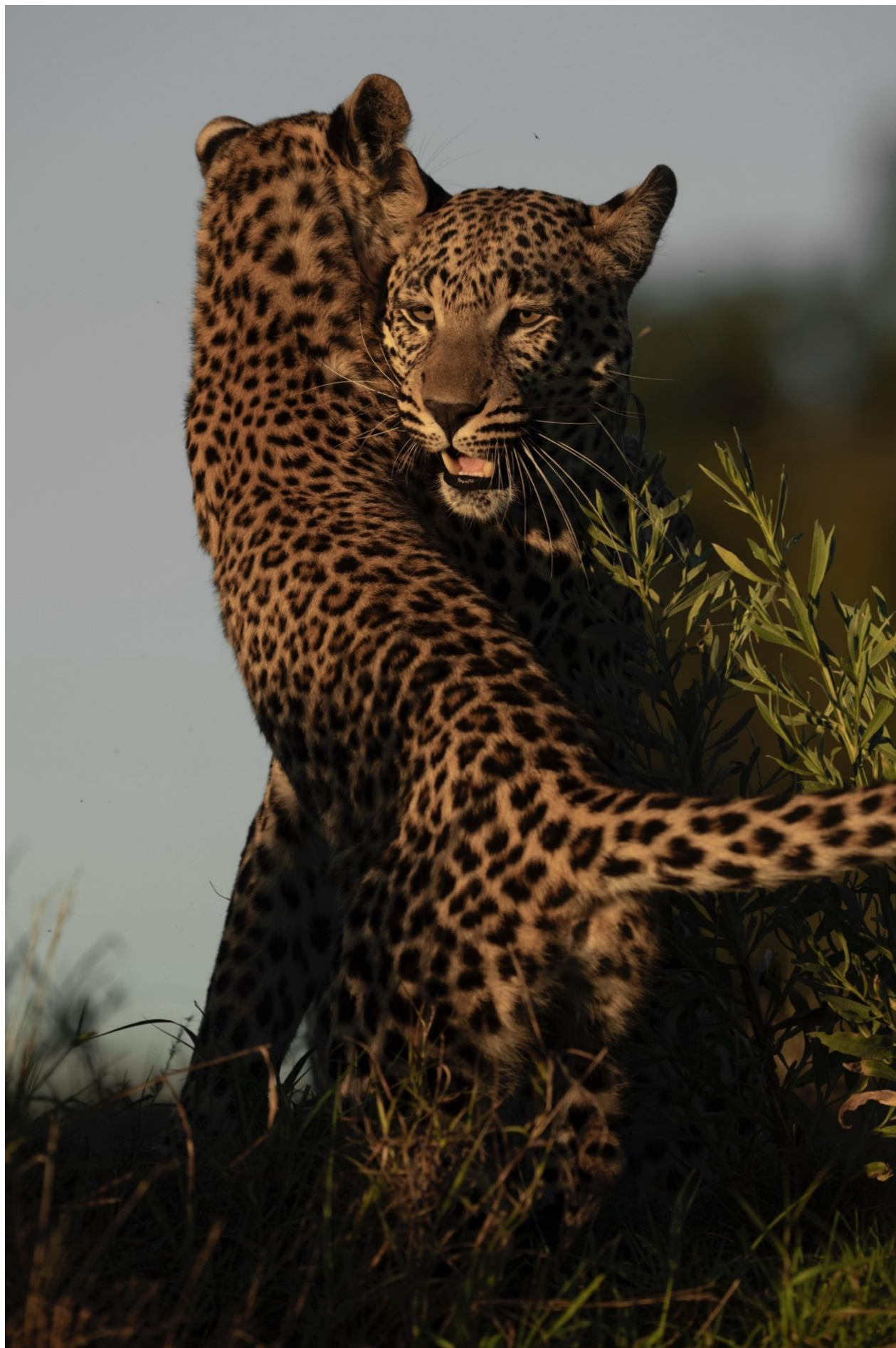
In summer, when the flood is less, they are more abundant in the north. They stick more to lagoons that have permanent water. When the flood begins, they move south with the flood. In the concession, they can move as far south as Rewilding and Beagle Safaris.

They've developed several unique mechanisms that make them uniquely adapted to life near the water. Their coats are coated in an oily skin secretion that repels water, preventing them from being weighed down. Their splayed, elongated hooves help them move effortlessly through flooded grassland. Their front legs are more sloped than their longer, more muscular back ones, which helps them leap through water where predators struggle to follow.



*Photos by Tops Xani*

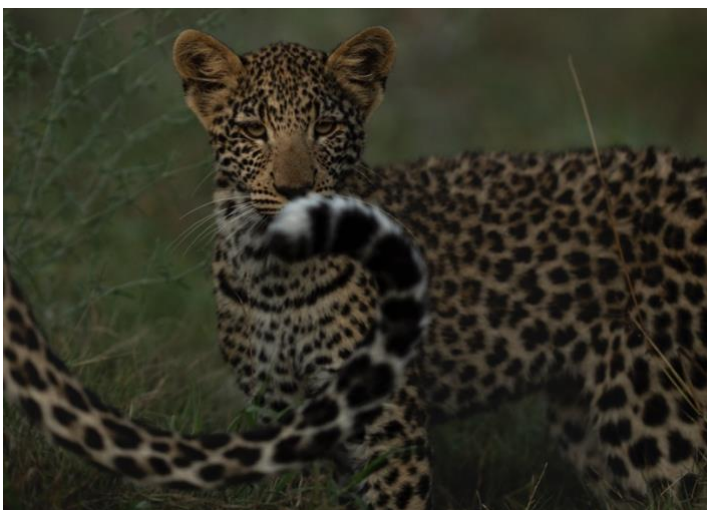
*Mother leopard and her female cub in a moment of play.*





*The big male leopard, Mafunyane, moving through the water.*

*The eight-month-old youngster with her mom photographed below. She is curious, yet cautious.  
Paw prints providing vital clues to the owner's whereabouts.*





*Peaking water levels and the channels of the Okavango Delta at its fullest.*

*Large crocodiles can be found on the sand banks.*



*A spotted hyena running through the wetland.*



*A dreamy scene of zebras in the golden haze.*





*Photo by Tops Xani.*

*Photos by Ross Couper, unless otherwise indicated.*