

Singita



WILDLIFE REPORT SINGITA GRUMETI TANZANIA For the month of March, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two

Temperature

Average minimum: 17°C (62.6°F)
Average maximum: 32°C (89.6°F)
Minimum recorded: 16°C (60.8°F)
Maximum recorded: 34°C (93.2°F)

Rainfall Recorded

Faru Faru	62mm
Sabora	98mm
Sasakwa	110mm

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise	06:45
Sunset	18:50

March has been an exciting month, although wet at times, with the sun's rays warming us up when they emerged from behind the storm clouds. There has been a hive of activity up on Sasakwa Hill, with lions successfully hunting buffalo just a stone's throw from the lodge. The Grumeti River continues to flow although a little muddier now with the elevated rain showers, and the pools and waterholes dotted across the expanse of the reserve remain full. With water and good food available all over the ecosystem, animals are covering great distances as they spread over vast areas.

Here's a sightings snapshot for March:

Lions:

- The Sasakwa Hill Pride of 11 have been spending a lot of time close to Sasakwa Lodge. The pride has been hunting buffalo successfully and recently we observed three very young cubs with this family.

- The Butamtam Pride have been sighted in the central areas, as expected. Sometimes pushing east towards the Grumeti River and hunting on the banks.
- The Nyasirori Pride are camped out on the Raho drainage just east of Sabora, offering some great interactions as they hunt along the edges of the drainage line.

Leopards:

- Good leopard sightings this month.
- Always a pleasure spending time with the Grumeti North leopards and yet again they have offered some incredible sightings.
- The Mbogo male leopard has been sighted on regular occasions just west of Faru Faru. This individual is impressive. A beautiful mature, heavy-set male with a darkening coat. Such a treat to share with guests.
- The Sabora Drainage male has been seen a number of times this month.

Cheetahs:

- We have observed cheetah from time to time this month. The grass continues to get longer and longer making sightings tricky as cheetah individuals tend to be moving through to more favourable hunting regions.
- Always a pleasure to witness our resident male cheetah on the Sasakwa plains, and we have had some great sighting of a female just west of Sabora.

Elephants:

- Some really impressive elephant numbers rolling through the plains during the month of March.
- Fantastic numbers observed in the western regions as well as the Sasakwa plains.
- So beautiful to see breeding herds aggregating in large numbers on the grasslands during the green season.
- Such a pleasure to see elephants dotted across the land, all the way to the blue horizon.

Hyenas:

- The hyena interaction in the south and west of the property has been great, as you would expect at this time of year.
- Great hyena viewing as we watch clans hunting the great topi herds. Such a pleasure watching these clever, calculating animals pretending not to be interested as they casually breeze past, all the while, weighing up their quarry. An occasional glance at the detail, assessing, calculating and searching for a weakness. A fantastic story to share with guests as we watch the hunts unfold.
- The Nyasirori den has been particularly active this month. A number of young cubs spotted at this den in the last few weeks offering great viewing.

Buffaloes:

- The great herds of buffaloes still roam the vast grasslands. There are black masses in the heavy rains as you look south from Sasakwa Hill, towards the dam. Three large herds can be seen on the Sasakwa plains.
- There are large herds residing in the Sabora region and other herds observed towards Faru Faru region.
- Great buffaloes around Sasakwa area have fallen victim to the lions that have been hunting in the area.

Rhinos:

- The rhinos continue to do well up in the north-eastern reaches of the Singita Grumeti.
- All individuals are in fantastic shape and in great health.

A short bush story to follow as well as the March Gallery of images.

A patience game

Story and photos by Bernard Hosea

It was a lovely morning as we headed out on safari with guests from Serengeti House. The mission was to find a cheetah, but Mother Nature had some dramatic action in store. I spotted a large breeding herd of buffaloes around Sasakwa plains. They were staring at a clan of three hyenas... I drove nearby and realized a stillborn calf was on the ground and the mother was trying to protect it from the scavengers.

After a short while the whole herd grouped together and chased the hyenas away, but it didn't work. Hyenas are extremely patient and waited for so long while battling with buffaloes to get the calf. Eventually the herd gave up and left the mother of the calf struggling alone to fight for her dead calf. Eventually she also gave up and left, and the hyenas took over and consumed it completely.



Vultures, eagles and jackals also joined the feeding frenzy, by picking the little pieces of leftovers. We also experienced the symbiotic relationship of commensalism between buffaloes and white cattle egrets. As the buffaloes were chasing the hyenas so many insects were flushed from the grass and the cattle egrets benefitted by catching the fleeing insects.



March Gallery



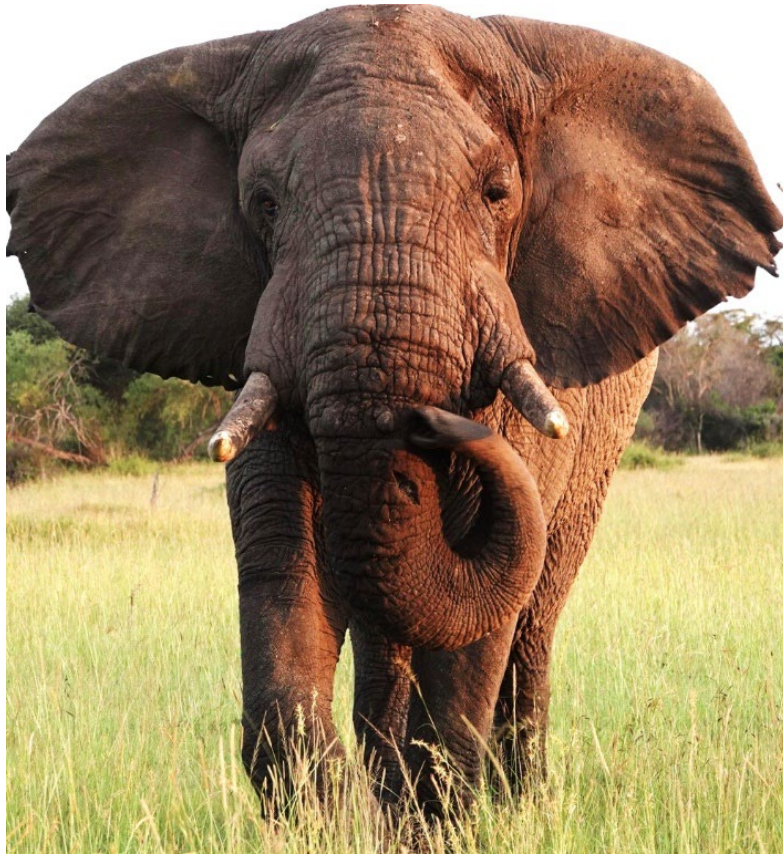
A wonderful capture here of a young dark chanting goshawk by Bernard Hosea.
The beautiful Grumeti North female photographed here by Calson Luka.





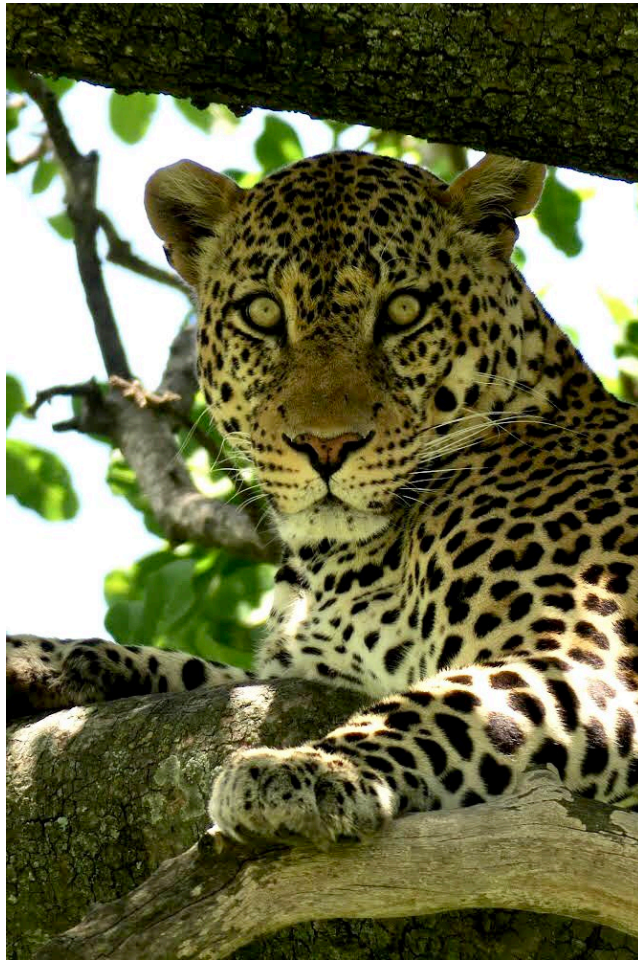
Zebra drinking at the waterhole close to Sabora. Picture by Bernard Hosea.
A handsome topi standing strong on the Sasakwa plains. Picture by Bernard Hosea.





A lovely bull elephant photographed by Edward Ayo on the plains in front of Sasakwa.
Two Nyasirori lionesses, photographed close to Sabora by Calson Luka.





The awesome Butamtam Drainage male leopard, photographed by Adas Anthony.
Notice this individuals piercing eyes.



Young lions adamant it belongs to each of them! Pictures by Calson Luka.





A tower of giraffe standing tall in front of Sasakwa Hill.

A lioness on Sasakwa Hill watches the black rhino statue carefully. Picture by Calson Luka

