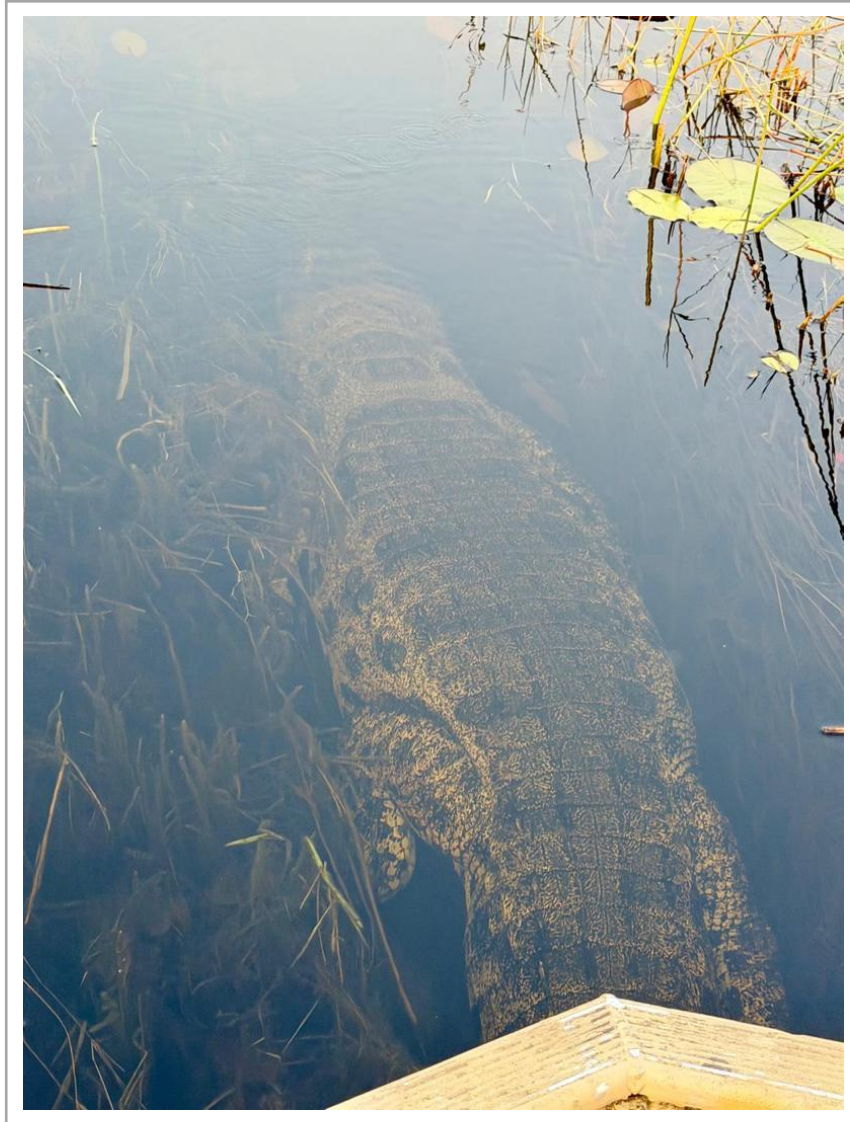


Singita



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

Temperature

Minimum recorded: 08.5°C (47.3° F)

Maximum recorded: 37.0°C (98.6° F)

Rainfall Recorded

For the month: 10.1 mm

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise: 06:35

Sunset: 18:25

September was a beautiful spring month with water levels slowly dropping but remaining relatively high. The water channels are now fully open allowing for unobstructed views, thanks to the activity of elephants and hippos. Temperatures have started to rise, however, there were a few windy, wet and cold weather fronts. The sausage trees flowered, attracting baboons and impalas to the trees. Their flowers are a deep red, velvety, and are trumpet shaped. The impalas and baboons also draw the attention of leopards, which patiently stalk the trees, waiting for the perfect opportunity to hunt.

Here's an overview of the sightings for September:

Lions

- The two large male lions continued to roam the concession, and a new coalition of four male lions made their appearance in the south.
- The lioness with five subadult cubs, Motsumi, was seen a few times resting with her cubs.
- A lioness we call Kenosi, with two three-month-old cubs, was spotted several times towards the north.

Leopards

- The team has named two new leopard cubs this month: siblings Mpho and Mphonyana. They were first seen in April when they were about four months old. In the beginning they were quite skittish, but now they are starting to feel more comfortable near the vehicle. They have been seen in the northern part of the concession.
- A female leopard we call Bame had a successful hunt and hoisted a small red lechwe in a tree, and fed on it for a couple of days.
- An unknown, relaxed, young female leopard was spotted twice around Tau Island.

African wild dogs

- The wild dog pack of eight was seen resting and hunting regularly. One day, four adults and one pup were seen running around the water and calling, in an effort to help the pup cross.

Spotted hyenas

- Hyenas were seen following the wild dogs, and a new hyena den was discovered. The team saw one hyena with four cubs of different ages. Hyena cubs are born with a distinctive dark, almost black coat, which gradually lightens as they grow. Their dark colouring helps them blend into the shadows around the den.

Elephants

- Plenty of elephants were seen grazing along the channels.
- The team was glad to see one of the old, large males, Mafunyane, believed to be at least 40 years old. Mafunyane was born in South Africa and lived through the era of culling in Kruger National Park.

Buffalos

- At least two big herds of buffalos of at least 50 individuals were seen moving through the concession.

Herbivores

- Red lechwes are slowly reducing in number as they begin to make their way north. The red lechwe moves through the Okavango Delta with the flood.

Unusual sightings

- The sighting of a roan antelope is very rare in this area. The team spotted a mother with a small baby.

Reptiles and amphibians

- While boating, the team spotted several large crocodiles swimming through the channels. A small wave in front of the boat signals their presence.
- A large rock python was seen crossing the road, offering a special close-up encounter.

Birds

- Pel's fishing owls have been spotted a few times up in the trees and near the water, and 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, photographed below, is a dry-country kingfisher of scrub and woodland, often found near water, but unlike most kingfishers is not aquatic.



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

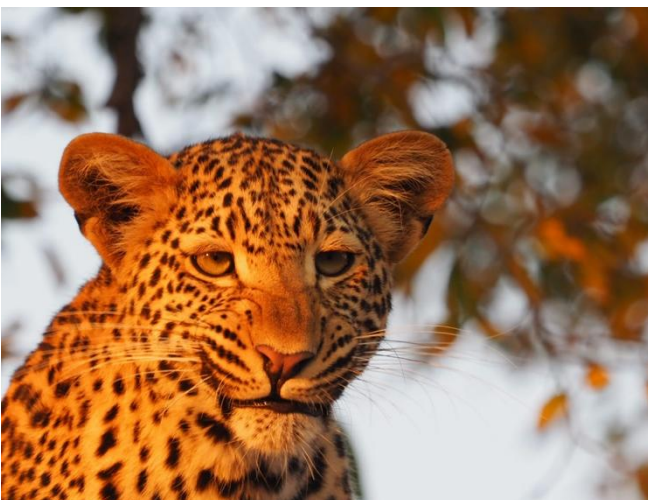
Focus on the leopard



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. The Delta supports leopard densities among the highest in Africa.

Although leopards are generally more comfortable on land, they can swim and will cross channels, when necessary, particularly when moving between islands.

In the Delta, they prey on impalas, red lechwes, young baboons, warthogs, birds, and smaller mammals. Under the watchful eye of their mother, young leopards learn to hunt through practice, play and observation.

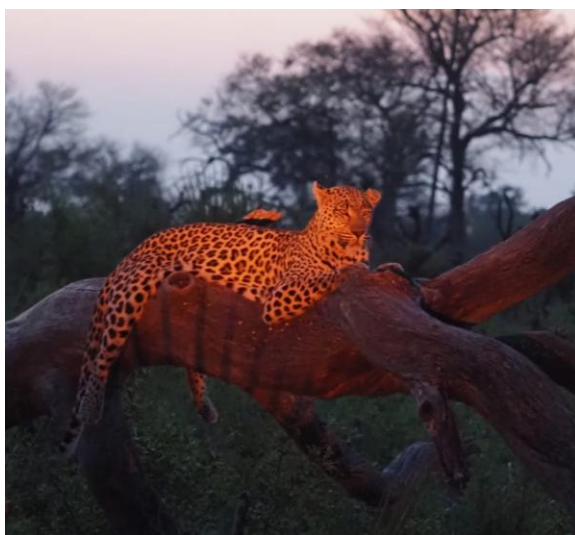
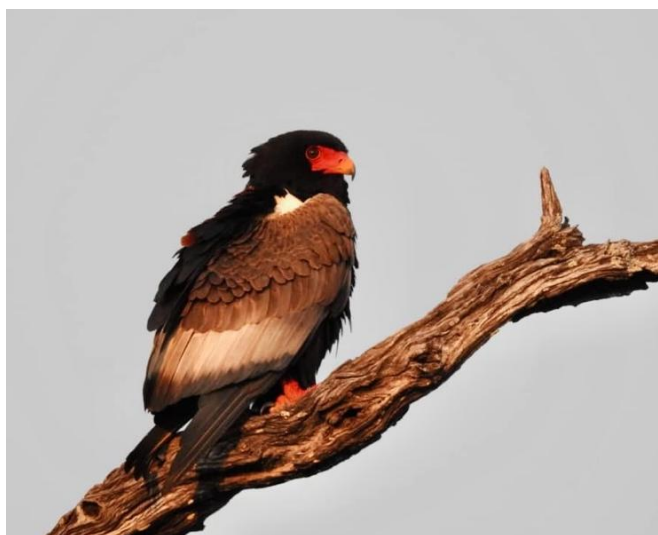


September Gallery



Palm trees are a distinctive feature of the Delta.

A bateleur eagle perched on a tree. Bame, one of the older female leopards in the concession, relaxed on top of a leadwood log.





The presence of dragonflies is closely linked to the seasonal waters, where they breed and spend much of their early lives as aquatic nymphs. As adults, they move around the waterways in search of insects. The Okavango Delta is home to almost 100 different species.



African rock pythons are found throughout the Okavango Delta. They are excellent swimmers and they can take a surprisingly wide variety of animals, from birds and small mammals to larger prey such as antelope.



With water levels relatively high, the team was still able to boat throughout September. Elephants were seen regularly grazing along the channels. This is the old male, Mafunyane.

Angolan reed frogs were also abundant, filling the Delta with their calls at night.
Spring brings new life to the Okavango Delta.





A rare sighting of a small roan antelope.
Lioness Kenosi with her three-month-old cubs.



One of the males of the new coalition of four in the south of the concession.



Photos by Ross Couper, Joseph Molekoa, Nthabiseng Mokotedi, Gaongalelwe Lesh Sikwane,
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