

Singita



Chava lioness and cub - Photo by Matt Holland

WILDLIFE JOURNAL

SINGITA KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

For the month of April, Two Thousand and Twenty - Five

Temperature

Average minimum: 20.4°C (68.7°F)
Minimum recorded: 15.0°C (59.0°F)
Average maximum: 31.6°C (88.9°F)
Maximum recorded: 37.0°C (98.6°F)

Rainfall Recorded

For the month: 25.5mm
Season to date: 451.5 mm
(*Season = Oct to Sept)

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise: 06h15
Sunset: 17h25

April has brought a subtle shift in the landscape, as the vibrant greens of summer begin to fade into the soft cream - yellows of the approaching dry season. Dust hangs in the air, stirred by passing vehicles, casting burnt, rusty - orange hues across the horizon as the sun sets. Mornings are now noticeably crisp, a gentle reminder of winter's slow approach, though the midday warmth still lingers pleasantly. The short rains have been sporadic, and with the arrival of the dry wind, there's a quiet sense of transition settling over the bush.

A Sightings Snapshot for April follows:

Lions

- The Chava Pride is now up to 22 members! Seven adult lioness, two subadults and 13 new fluffy editions. They are not, however, always together. The mothers of the newest cubs are spending most of their time in the far north-western corners of our concession, and sometimes even hopping over to Kruger. Two females, one of which was seen mating with the Sonop male in the middle of this month, are exploring eastwards, further into our concession, towards the Lebombo mountain. They have been seen as far as the central plains. This could be due to the fact that the general game is plentiful and there have been herds of buffalo moving through.
- The three Sonop males split up temporarily when one spent a week mating with one of the Chava lionesses, but have joined forces once again.
- One afternoon, we spotted a lone lioness from the Chava Pride steadily walking along a drainage line. Every hundred metres or so, she paused to let out a soft yet deep and far - reaching roar, more of a mournful moan than a call. She was clearly searching for the rest of her pride. We followed her, and within five minutes, came across seven other females, two subadults, and all three Sonop males lounging in the shade of an apple - leaf tree on a sandy sodic clearing. As the sun dipped lower in the sky, we waited patiently. A few of the lionesses slipped quietly into the tall grass surrounding a small thicket, and soon we heard the unmistakable “aaow” of cubs greeting their mothers. They must have nursed for a few minutes - the sounds shifting to soft snarls as they jostled for a teat. Moments later, the tiny furballs emerged, wobbling into view. Their oversized paws and short legs made for clumsy but adorable antics as they tumbled, pounced, and chased each other in play.
- The Mananga Pride has remained tightly bonded, with all ten cubs still alive and thriving. In an effort to avoid encounters with the Sonop males, they’ve been keeping a low profile, spending most of their time along the edge of the basalt plains and the Lebombo Mountains. After a series of consistent sightings in the first two weeks, the pride vanished into the rugged southern Lebombo valleys, leaving trackers using all their skills and experience as they traced the pride’s elusive movements through the mountain terrain.
- With no sightings of the Shish Pride this month, except for the two - and - a - half - year - old male seen one morning on the S41, we can only hope that as the seasonal pans dry up and the game returns to our concession around the N’wanetsi River, that the Shish Pride will follow.

Leopards

- The Masia male managed to catch a young zebra foal, and hoist it into a magnificent tamboti tree. This is a rare sighting as zebra, always being in herds with a very observant stallion, are not easy to surprise. The strong kick of the hind legs could also cause significant injuries to a predator.
- The Kalanga male made a rare appearance this month, just once, slipping through on the far western edge of our concession, close to the Kruger boundary. It seems he’s taken a liking to that stretch of the N’wanetsi River lately - tucked away in the dense, sticky - thorny thickets. For the past month or so, that’s where he’s been hanging out, weaving in and out of the sticky thorns like he owns the place.
- The Dumbana female has been frequently sighted on both sides of the N’wanetsi River, particularly near the confluence with the Ntsisbistane drainage. Her sub - adult cubs are growing quickly and are beginning to spend more time away from her as they gradually assert their independence. Based on tracks discovered one morning, we suspect that she had caught an impala and dragged it across the S41, out of our concession. When we followed up later that evening, the carcass was gone, replaced by hundreds of hyena tracks - an unfortunate but common outcome when leopards fail to hoist their kills.

- Towards the end of the month, as we were driving back to the lodge, we stopped to take in the sounds of the night. Barely ten seconds passed before we heard the unmistakable sawing call of a leopard behind us. We turned around and headed in the direction we thought the sound had come from. Switching off the engine, we sat in silence, straining our ears. A few quiet minutes passed - then came a soft contact call. Just a few hundred metres ahead, Dumbana and her daughter appeared, casually strolling down the road. I suddenly remembered a group of impalas we had passed not far back, and my heart began to race as the two leopards veered off the road, heading straight towards the unsuspecting herd. We switched off the lights and sat in the pitch black, waiting, listening for any sign of movement. Under the starry sky, we could just make out Dumbana's silhouette as she slinked behind a tree. About five minutes later, chaos erupted - impalas scattered in every direction, accompanied by frantic snorts and alarm calls. That was our cue to turn the spotlight back on. She had done it. We found Dumbana and her daughter dragging an impala ewe toward a nearby thicket. Dumbana had her jaws locked around the ewe's throat, while her daughter had already begun tearing into the soft skin behind the hind legs in a hurry to feed. Then, out of the darkness, Dumbana's son emerged, and the three leopards fed as quickly as they could. With no trees large enough nearby to hoist the kill into - and a high hyena population in the area - they had no choice but to consume as much as possible before it was too late.
- Late one afternoon, Nhlangueni appeared, casually strolling along the road in the central depression. She soon spotted a small group of impala and quietly slipped into the long grass. Sensing danger, the impala grew wary and moved off into a nearby sodic site, making it impossible for her to stage an ambush in the daylight. Abandoning the attempt, she changed course and disappeared into a drainage line. There, she found a small pool of water and paused to quench her thirst. By the time the sun had set, she was already making a direct line back toward the impala.

Cheetahs

- These elegant cats have been elusive this month, but are sure to return as the dry season approaches.

African wild dogs

- The pack of three, two females and one male, appear every now and again in the granophyre and area adjacent to that every other day. Breeding season is typically from March to June so that the pups can be born in the dry season when hunting is easier and pup survival is higher. Dens are often located in abandoned aardvark, porcupine, or warthog burrows, or under thick bush. In Sabi Sand the abandoned burrows are typically in huge termite mounds while in our concession in Kruger, having a more clay soil means there are almost no termite mounds large enough to house a pack of wild dog puppies. Instead, thick brush and caves in the Lebombo mountains are used.

Elephants

- Daily sightings of breeding elephant herds - ranging from 5 to 30 individuals - have been a highlight for guests as they admire the playful calves, dust bathing adults, and the impressive use of trunks as the elephants feed and reach into rivers for clean water. It's a special glimpse into the social life of these iconic animals in one of Kruger's wildest regions.
- An elephant bull with unusually large tusks, the kind not often seen in this area anymore due to past poaching, was recently seen following a breeding herd. He stood out noticeably, both for his size and the impressive length of his tusks, which made the adult cows around him appear much smaller by comparison. His presence was a rare and interesting sight for this region.

Spotted hyenas

- Hyena sightings have doubled this month. The Granophyre Clan currently has at least five cubs under a year old. Though shy at first, their curiosity usually gets the better of them - if you're patient though, they'll often sneak up to the vehicle for a closer look.
- In the Nstibistane and Ostrich Link area, another clan was spotted one morning lounging together. At least three adult females were accompanied by five youngsters, all busily chewing on anything they could find to soothe their growing teeth and developing jaws.

Buffalos

- The northern grasslands have been buzzing with activity lately, with buffalo herds ranging from 50 to well over 250 strong moving through the area. The grass up there is still lush and green - so tall in places it nearly swallows the adult buffalo whole. Add in the abundance of mud wallows, and it's just about paradise for these tick-covered beasts. Between the grazing and the wallowing, they've settled into the perfect spot to ride out the last of the season's heat.

Plains game

- Zebra herds have started returning to our concession, moving in from the south and west of the Sweni River, bringing with them a familiar sense of movement across the plains. Giraffe sightings have been especially frequent lately - it's not uncommon to see 30 or more on a single drive. Warthog numbers have made a noticeable recovery since the drought, and most sounders now include a couple of piglets trotting close to the adults. Among the impalas, the rams have begun to establish territories, and the first throat-gurgling calls of the rutting season can already be heard echoing through the bush.

Rare animals and other sightings

- One crisp morning, a young female caracal was seen walking down the road, more relaxed than most of her kind, who are usually shy and elusive. She allowed a rare and special sighting, moving with calm confidence as she strolled ahead of the vehicle. We were able to watch her for a few quiet minutes before she casually hopped into the long grass and disappeared, leaving us with a memorable glimpse of one of the bush's more secretive predators.
- Nearing the end of the month, a herd of nine sable were seen about midway up on the eastern boundary of the concession. As the veld and ephemeral pans begin to dry up, we tend to see these elusive animals venturing further south from their usual home range.
- A honey badger was startled by hyenas following a pack of wild dogs through the long grass. The interaction was quick. The deep gurgling rattle from the badger enough to scare away most animals.
- A female cane rat was nursing her two youngsters on the road when one of our lucky guide and tracker teams came past one evening. They are rarely encountered as they prefer areas with dense vegetation, especially wetlands, reedbeds, and riverbanks, where they can find ample grasses and reeds to feed on. In Kruger, they often stay close to rivers like the Sabie or Letaba, where thick cover is available. Their habitats are often off the main roads and hidden, so they're not easily visible to tourists.

Birds

- As summer comes to an end, many of the migrant birds have now departed, much to the apparent relief of the lilac-breasted rollers, who were heavily outnumbered by their European counterparts throughout the summer months. With the sky's quieter, the lilac-breasted roller is once again a more dominant presence in the area. On the ground, almost every spurfowl sighting includes a line of tiny chicks scurrying behind the adults along the dusty roads.

Some Bush Stories follow, as well as the April Gallery.

Singita Kruger National Park is a 15 000ha private concession which lies within the N'wanetsi section of the park, sharing a 32km eastern boundary with Mozambique.

Stone Age

The earliest evidence of human habitation on the concession is from various stone age tools scattered far and wide, but particularly concentrated on an area known as the central depression. This is where the basalt plains meet the Lebombo hills, separated - and divided by one of the N'wanetsi River's major tributaries, the Xinkelengana (small fever tree). Flakes, skinners, handaxes of various shapes and sizes, and a digging weight from probably the Late Stone Age have been found. Yellow and red ochre was also mined at a site on the bank of the Shishangani spruit 100m to the west of our boundary with the S41. This site was apparently used for a long stretch of time during the Late Stone Age and Early Iron Age. This is the only confirmed ochre mine in the entire park, as the one around Ngodzi hill further north in the park has not been found again since the time it had been discovered.



The ochre mine on the banks of the Shishangani spruit.

Iron Age

The first Iron Age people in our area were most likely the Vatsonga, followed by the Va ka Valoyi who were part of the Kalanga tribe and associated with the Zimbabwe culture, although they later became Vatsonga through assimilation. They also claimed to have given the Lebombo mountains north of the Olifants River its original name, which is *Longwe*, and there is to this day a viewpoint on the Letaba River north of the rest camp called 'Longwe Lookout'. During the early 19th century several groups of Nguni people fled civil war in northern Zululand and beyond, especially after the defeat of the Ndwandwe tribe, under king Zwide Nxumalo, by Shaka Zulu. The general of the Ndwandwe army at that time was a man called Soshangani Nxumalo, alias Manukosi, who fled with a group of a few hundred of his warriors into southern Mozambique after their defeat on the Umhlatuze River in Zululand. Gradually Manukosi assimilated or defeated smaller Vatsonga clans in the surrounding areas, which sent a diaspora of various Vatsonga clans fleeing west over the Lebombo mountains through present day Kruger National Park, some settling as far as the territory of the famous rain queen Modjadji of the Lobedu people, others in the area south of Tzaneen like the Va ka Nkuna and some even fleeing into the Soutpansberg to the land of the Vanyai and Vhavenda. With time Manukosi's mixed army of Nguni (by now called Vangoni or Mazithi by the Vatsonga) and Vatsonga army grew large and powerful and their conquest spread further north to the area around the Save River Valley in Zimbabwe and Mozambique, forming the powerful Gaza empire. The 19th century was a very violent and turbulent time in southern Mozambique and the surrounding areas, seeing many refugees and armies moving through the current Kruger National Park.

The closest village to Singita Kruger National Park is in Mozambique and is called Mapulanguene, which is roughly 15km away. This was part of an area called Khoseni and the territory of the Va ka Khosa people, who produced the last Shangaan general, called Magigwana Khosa. Magigwana abandoned the ways of his native Tsonga people and joined the future and last king of the Gaza empire Nghunghunyani Nxumalo and his Shangaan army in the fight as overlord of neighbouring tribes and the Portuguese. It was in this village that after the capture of King Nghunghunyani, General Magigwana Khosa was decapitated by the Portuguese, under Mouzinho de Albuquerque in 1897, which brought an effective end to the Gaza empire established by Soshangani Nxumalo in the early 19th century, and plunged southern Mozambique into civil war and scattered both Nguni and Tsonga people far and wide.

There are several Late Iron Age habitation sites in our area, most notably north of the current golf course clearings where a section of the Va ka Masia people were said to live in the past. Various middens, basically an archaeological garbage dump, have been found in this location containing mostly potsherds of different colours and some with markings on them, broken freshwater mussel shells and glass trade beads of various colours, the most common being of the blue hexagonal type. All these beads are of European origin. Other interesting artefacts that have been found are a broken clay spindle whorl used for spinning wild cotton and an iron arrow tip. Very little information is available on the history of these people or where they are now. Ekson Ndlovu, who worked at Singita Kruger National Park since its inception and who is now retired, stated that the legendary tracker, the late Wilson Masia, was born in this village. The Va ka Masia are originally part of the greater Va ka Khosa, along with the Va ka Rikhotso and Va ka Ntimane and appeared to have split into independent clans at some stage during the 19th century or earlier. At Dave's Crossing is a midden which produced potsherds, a fragment of a blue hexagonal bead and also pieces of slag, which are the impurities separated from metals during the smelting process. No further evidence of smelting or forging have been found as yet. The blue bead fragment is of 19th century Bohemian origin and was a very common type of trade bead during that time and later. Directly north of our concession is the Pumbe sandveld, with very unusual sandy soil which gives it an extraordinary diversity of unique and scarce plants. Not far from the border with our concession is an archaeological head-scratcher: a dome-shaped structure built with small clay bricks and

surrounded by large round rocks was discovered by scientists A. Potgieter and F. Venter. The origins of this dome is unknown but may possibly have an Arabic connection, as not far from this position runs an old trade route called Mahasani, which hints at an Arabic origin.



Various 19th century trade beads



Two large green beads of unknown origin



Potsherd with markings

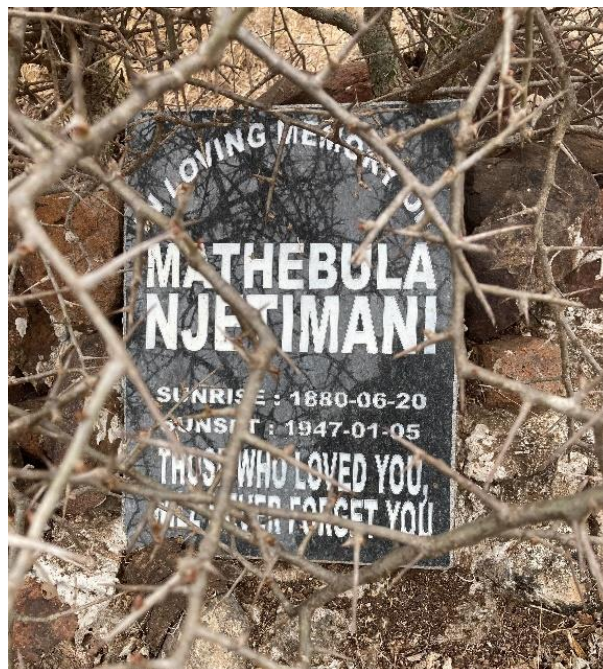


Freshwater mussel shell bead, potsherd and slag



Dome - like structure in the Pumbe sandveld, just north of SKNP

There is also at least one marked grave on the concession on the road that leads to the confluence of the Sweni and N'wanetsi Rivers, opposite the boutique and gallery. The headstone reads Njetimani Mathebula 1880 - 1947 and his descendants, who mostly live in the Jongilanga and Mnisi tribal authority areas still come annually to pay their respects. The surname Mathebula or Baloyi are of the Va ka Valoyi people, who have been living in and around the confluence of the Limpopo - (Vhembe) and Olifants (Balule) Rivers and beyond for a few hundred years and may even have predated the arrival of the Vatsonga in that area. In the Portuguese hunter and trader Fernandes Das Neves' book 'A Hunting Expedition to the Transvaal' he mentions a Tsonga chief called 'Macimbandlopfu', who was the chief of a group of Va ka Valoyi living in the area of the current Kumana area or maybe further north of it in 1860, which is close to us. The Ngirivani area around Satara was also traditionally a territory of the Va ka Valoyi.



20th century European history

Louis Trichardt and his party of Voortrekkers were the first people of European origin who travelled through the general vicinity of Singita Kruger National Park who left a written record. They reached a high hill called N'wamuriwa – which can be seen clearly from some viewpoints here – and then crossed the Lebombo mountains at a point further south through Mbhatsi Poort on the Nhlangueni stream, about 15km south of us, on 13th March 1838.

Frederick Vaughan Kirby was an Irish hunter and conservationist who travelled through the current SKNP concession and beyond in the 1880's. Here is an excerpt from his book 'In Haunts Of Wild Game':

"Our wagons stand outspanned on the edge of a small clearing in the otherwise low but thick bush on the north side of the Mazimtonti (N'waswitsontso) River, and from a comfortable camp, with good water within 400 yards, and near the long stretches of young sweet grass, which has sprung up since the February burns. About 200 yards distant a small stone kopje, rising out of the surrounding bush, forms a remarkable feature of the landscape. It is the lowest of the straggling group comprising the Eland kopjes - thus called for the elands, which but a few years ago were to be found in considerable numbers in their vicinity.

(According to his excellent map, they must have camped close to the current Nwaswitsontso hills on the western border and along the upper reaches of the Mtlhowa Spruit, a tributary of the Nwaswitsontso. During winter months there is now no water at all here anymore.)

I cannot say whether wildebeests are able to swim, for I never saw them trying to cross deep water; but once I witnessed a singular incident, which at the time led me to think they could not do so. I was hunting on foot near the junction of the Mjindana (Shinkelengane) and Mabutsha (Mavumbye) Rivers, and having hit a good koodoo (kudu) bull hard, had followed him into an extensive gwarri thicket, where I lost the spoor amongst the numerous tracks of game. Catching sight of an animal standing in the thickets, the nature of which neither I nor my boy could determine, I fired at it. It dashed off, and we followed the spoor, evidently that of a big wildebeest bull: it led us to the edge of a deep pool, 300 yards long and about 25 yards wide, with 10 feet - high banks. I saw the wildebeest in the water, apparently drowning.

(The size of this waterhole is equalled by few of the existing earthen dams in the Park.)

One Sunday morning about 9 pm two boys who had been down to the junction of Mabutsha (Mavumbye) and Mjindana (Shinkelengane), returned with the news that a hippopotamus was in a large hole near that place and distant about ten miles. The stream narrowed here to a breadth of less than a dozen yards, flowing swiftly over a stony bottom; but a few yards above was an enormous pool - or seacow hole, as they called it - fully a mile in length and as deep for aught I know, and alive with crocodiles. A deadly-looking place with great water-lilies covering its surface scum.

(He was probably referring here to the Dumbana waterhole, which in those years was about as big as most of the larger dams in the Kruger National Park today.)

At length we turned our faces westwards towards the Nguanetsi (Nwanedzi) at which river we found Messrs Barber and Bowker camped; and they showed me a very remarkable specimen of an albino reedbuck, a young ram, which one of their party had shot higher up the river.

On one occasion I was walking along the banks of the Makanbana (close to the current Satara), at a spot where the reeds were very dense, and a lion jumped out of those...

(Similar conditions repeated themselves along the Kambana Spruit during the high rainfall years from 1971 to 1978.)

My friend F and I were shooting during that season in partnership, and we made our headquarters at my old

'wildcat camp', near the junction of the Mabutsha (Mavumbye) and Manungu (Gudzani) Rivers, tributaries of the Nguanetsi.

(This must have been in the vicinity of Shikwembu waterhole in the Mavumbye. This waterhole currently also dries up during the winter months of dry years.

On the 5th July I did not fire at any of the game seen along the way, my object being only to secure something for bait, at or near Simana (Nsemani) kopjes (Ngirivane), as it seemed probable the lions were lying up in some of the dense and extensive patches of cover on the Simana River."



Gideon Retief Von Wielligh, in his capacity as surveyor general of the ZAR, explored, surveyed and put beacons along a big stretch of the border between South Africa and Mozambique in 1890.

Excerpt from 'A Cameo From The Past':

"On 28 June they trekked along a footpath that led in the direction of Chief Magebain's village. They reached a flowing spruit (the Makongolweni) and pitched camp for the night - their eleventh camp. The next day they trekked further and found another spruit with a strong flow (the Ngunwini) that had not been marked on their map. Here Abel Erasmus and Von Wiellish shot two giraffes and wounded a third. They reached the Sweni River on 29 June, which also had a strong flow. They set up their camp number 12 close to the confluence of the Sweni, Guweni and Nungwini spruits. That night they feasted on giraffe meat and marrow - a dish everyone relished. They also received a letter from the hunter Henry Glynn, who said that he had crossed the Lebombo mountains and had already shot more than 60 head of game. The next day they reached the Shishangani, just west of the Nwanedzi confluence, and while crossing the spruit one of Hiron's wagons broke. They set up camp number 13, just south of the Shishangani. The flowing Shishangani and Nwanetsi spruits both had large hippo pools and the bearers reported that a hippo was hiding in one of the pools. They used dynamite to chase the animal out of the water, after which Luttig shot it. They were all surprised to see such a

scenic river (the Nwanedzi) there, since it had also not been indicated on their map. On 1 July they built beacon I on the southern bank of the Nwanedzi in the poort.

Luttig collected some seeds from Rhodesian teak pods in the area. That night they heard lions roaring in the distance. On 2 July they moved camp to the confluence of the Gudzani and Nwanedzi spruits (camp 14)."

It is clear that there is a significant history to this area, with this article just dipping its toes into the deep waters of the past.

Every morning as I drive out of camp, before the sun stretches its fingers over the Lebombo mountains, I see them. Tall shadows gliding silently through the knobthorn savanna, the giraffe, our peaceful giants. Here in the N'wanetsi Concession, we are privileged. This region holds the highest density of giraffe anywhere in Kruger, and some days I'll count over 30 before breakfast. But despite their apparent abundance here, we're not blind to what's happening across the rest of southern Africa. The silent decline of giraffe populations is a reality we live with every day.

I've been guiding in Greater Kruger for over a decade now, and giraffes have always been part of my daily rhythm. Their calm demeanour, awkward grace, and sky-scraping stature never get old – not to me, not to our guests. They are so iconically African that it's almost unthinkable that they could disappear. And yet, across southern Africa, giraffe populations have been quietly shrinking under the weight of pressures that often go unnoticed.



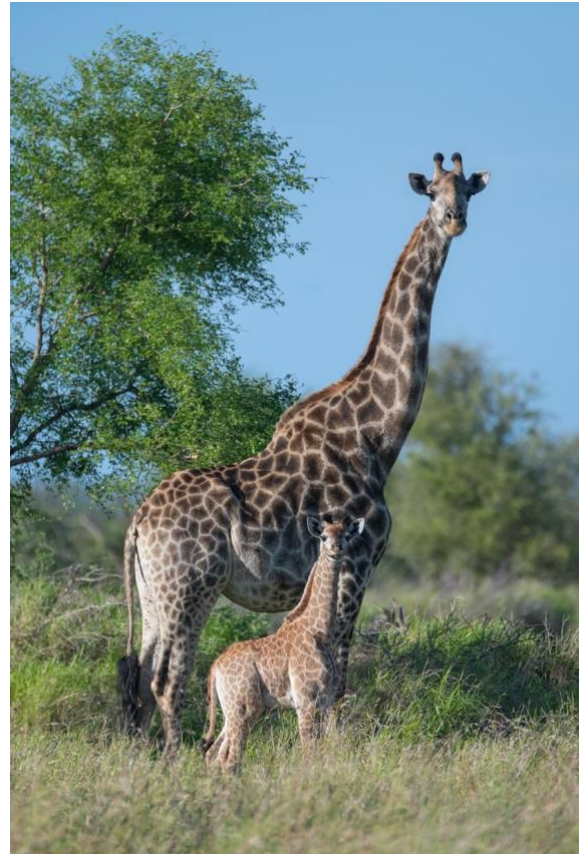
Giraffe silhouette – Photo by Rudi Hulshoff

Back in the '80s, Africa's giraffe population stood at over 150 000. Today, that number is closer to 97 000. That's a 40% drop in just one generation. In some countries, like Zambia and Angola, the decline has been particularly steep. Giraffes may still seem common in protected areas like Kruger, but overall, they've been dubbed the "forgotten giants" of African conservation – declining silently while more attention is paid to elephants and rhinos.

Here in Singita Kruger National Park, we see the southern giraffe subspecies – *Giraffa giraffa giraffa*. These animals are resilient, adaptable, and thankfully, thriving in this corner of the park. But beyond Kruger’s borders,



Male giraffe – Photo by Rudi Hulshoff



Female and calf – Photo by Rudi Hulshoff

their fate is less secure. There’s no single culprit behind the giraffes’ decline. It’s a combination of intertwined issues:

- Habitat loss is by far the biggest threat. Across the continent, expanding agriculture, settlements, and infrastructure developments are slicing up their ranges into disconnected pockets, leaving giraffes stranded without access to seasonal resources or safe breeding grounds.
- Poaching is another ugly reality. While giraffes aren’t targeted as aggressively as rhinos or elephants, in some regions they are hunted for meat, bones, and even superstitious purposes. Their body parts are sold illegally as charms or bushmeat, particularly in areas where law enforcement is weak.
- Climate change brings increasingly unpredictable weather. Droughts like the one we experienced in 2016 don’t just dry up waterholes – they shrink the thornveld and the acacias that these browsers depend on. We watched giraffes lose condition that year, struggling through dusty plains in search of greenery.
- Human - wildlife conflict also plays a role. As giraffes are pushed out of protected areas, they increasingly come into contact with people. In some rural regions, desperate farmers view them as pests and take matters into their own hands.

The habitat here, a blend of rolling grasslands, rocky ridges, and riparian thickets supports an incredible range of food sources. The open savannas allow giraffes to move freely, and the relative remoteness of the

concession limits human disturbance. Add to that the protection from SANParks and conservation partners like Singita, and we have a recipe for long-term giraffe safety.

But that doesn't mean we can be complacent. As a guide, I consider myself both a storyteller and a steward. When I stop the game vehicle near a group of giraffes, I don't just talk about ossicones and tongue length. I tell the story of their vulnerability. I point out how their numbers are vanishing elsewhere, and I remind our guests that this beauty we're witnessing is precious, and not guaranteed.

Education is one of the most powerful conservation tools we have. When guests go home with a deeper appreciation of what's at stake, they become advocates. Sometimes, that's where change begins.

We're lucky here in the N'wanetsi concession. Every sunset drive ends with the silhouettes of giraffe necks etched against the fiery horizon. But I can't help thinking of other guides, in other parts of Africa, who haven't seen a giraffe in years. I hope that through continued protection, community collaboration, and cross-border conservation efforts, we'll never have to say the same.

Until then, I'll keep doing what I do – guiding, watching, recording, and most of all, telling their story.

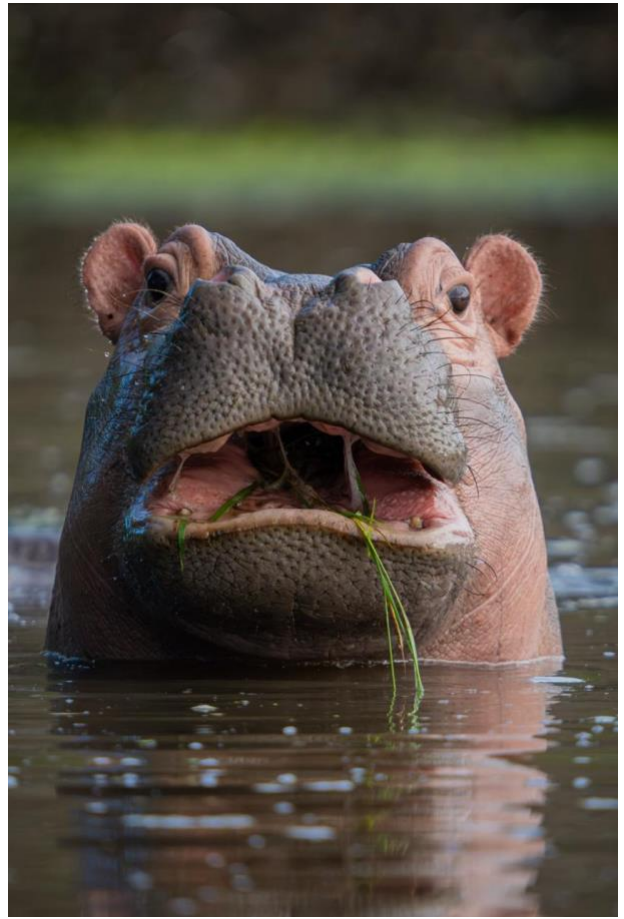


Giraffe in the sticky-thorns – Photo by Rudi Hulshoff

April Gallery



Chava Pride – Photo by Monika Malewski



Hippopotamus – Photo by Rudi Hulshoff

Crested francolin and chicks – Photo by Monika Malewski





Nhlanguleni female – Photo by Monika Malewski

Zebra at sunset – Photo by Monika Malewski





Southern yellow-billed hornbills – Photo by Rudi Hulshof

Young Nile crocodile – Photo by Monika Malewski





South African rock python with a bushbuck – Photo by Alistair Burt

Masia male leopard – Photo by Bradwin Adendorff





Golden orb-web spider – Photo by Graeme Stuart

Caracal – Photo by Graeme Stuart





Rainbow – Photo by Graeme Stuart

Chava Pride – Photo by Rudi Hulshoff

