

# Singita



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

### Temperature

Average minimum: 18°C (62.6°F)  
Average maximum: 31°C (89.6°F)  
Minimum recorded: 17°C (60.8°F)  
Maximum recorded: 33°C (93.2°F)

### Rainfall Recorded

Faru Faru	77 mm
Sabora	104 mm
Sasakwa	80 mm
Lamai	69 mm

### Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise	06:40
Sunset	18:39

May has been yet another fascinating month here on the Singita Grumeti Reserve.

There has been reasonable rainfall, including intermittent showers towards the end of the month. The Grumeti River still flows, although it dropped considerably towards the end of the month. The grass remains long, but despite this the predator sightings have been awesome. The colours of the landscape are changing as the dry wind begins to set in.

Many thousands of wildebeest are nearing the Singita Grumeti Reserve now and it is only a matter of time before they reach us. As they edge closer our anticipation grows to witness the migration which is recognised as one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World.

**A sightings snapshot for May follows:**

**Lions:**

- Butamtam Pride observed almost daily this month. Much of their activity has been between Koroya Hill and the German Bridge on the Grumeti River.
- Great Nyasirori Pride sightings south of OP 7 and on the Butamtam drainage. The seven young males of the pride are becoming quite the attraction and should one day become a very strong coalition. These males are approaching two years old now, and they are almost fully grown in the body.
- There have been some fantastic lion sightings recorded close to Fara Faru Lodge and along the Grumeti North drainage.
- The Nyasirori high ground has also offered some great lion interactions this month.

**Leopards:**

- There have been some lovely leopard interactions from the males in various areas of the Sasakwa plains and close to Sabora.
- Some good sightings of our resident leopard on Sasakwa hill. Although still quite shy, our gentle processes of habituation are paying off.
- At Faru Faru a mother and two youngsters were sighted from the rooms, walking the river bank.

**Cheetahs:**

- Cheetah sightings have been good in certain areas of the reserve.
- A young male cheetah has been sighted on a number of occasions on the Nyasirori high ground, south of Sabora.
- The Sasakwa male has been seen hunting within his territory on the Sasakwa plains, close to Koroya hill and the watershed areas.
- A female with cubs was observed in the central region.
- With the difficult conditions and the movement of lions, the cheetahs have to be weary, often exploring the gaps between the prides in favourable hunting areas.

**Elephants:**

- The elephant sightings this month have been phenomenal. We have experienced some fantastic elephant herds moving through the Grumeti Reserve. Very large aggregations of many different breeding herds have, at times, gathered in great numbers, rolling gently across the plains.
- There have been some lovely sightings of elephants utilising the Sabora drainage line for the whole month. The low ground adjacent to the drainage line has remained wet with lovely drinking holes and many herbs, grasses and juicy climbers which the elephants have been making the most of.

**Buffalo:**

- The great resident herds of buffalo remain etched into the grasslands of the reserve. They fend off the lion prides day and night as the seven young Nyasirori males make a habit of bringing down buffalo regularly. The buffalo herds in general are looking in excellent condition with many calves within the herds.

**Rhinos:**

- All rhinos are healthy and accounted for, despite some extensive movements.

**A bush story follows as well as the May Gallery of images.**

The Jackson's widowbird is an incredibly striking individual, especially when the males are in breeding plumage and are seen dancing in the tall grass, doing their very best to impress the females. The name "widowbird" comes from the lovely, long, dark tail plumage that somewhat resembles a funeral veil.



The Jackson's widowbird. Photographed here on the Sabora plains by Charles Semchaa

The Jackson's widowbird is found only in Kenya and Tanzania. Its favoured habitat is subtropical highland grasslands. Where the grass species are to their liking you may be lucky enough to see them breeding.

The male is a phenomenal showman, he chooses his spot well, this is known as the bird's "arena" or "lek". This is his stage essentially and where he will perform his displays. These displays include jumping up and down like Maasai warriors doing their very best to out jump each other! The birds also make lovely short flights in circles, showing off their beautiful tail feathers. A real sight to see when there are many flying together over the golden grasses.

This season we have been fortunate to have the perfect conditions for many of these breeding beauties, very close to Sabora Tented Camp, and it is so worth taking the time to watch the dancing festivities.



Left: A male in breeding plumage as depicted by the wonderful illustrated book, 'Birds of East Africa'.  
Right: A male's body shape and form as they jump up and down in the tall grass.



## May Gallery



A mother and young keep a lookout from a termite mound in the central Grumeti Reserve.  
Picture by Bernard Hosea



A Butamtam lioness rests through the heat of the day. Picture by Andrew Kavenga





A Nyasirori youngster is drawn to movement in the long grass on the plains beneath.  
Picture by Andrew Kavenga



A Butamtam pride member climbs above the tall grass to scan the open plains.  
Picture by Charles Semchaa.





A striped kingfisher perches on a guy rope at Sabora Tented Camp. Picture by George Tolchard



Topi gather at the edge of Sabora Tented Camp. Picture by Godson Birdi





A leopardess lying in a marula tree on Sasakwa hill. Picture by George Tolchard



Beautiful light on this cheetah as she poises on a termite mound. Picture by Bernard Hosea





Elephants drinking in the Grumeti River. Picture by Gadimel Kimaro



Children from the local community, participating in nature education. Picture by Calson Luka





James Ikamba's guests enjoying a Butamtam lion pride sighting. Picture by Calson Luka



A little fun in the hot air balloons.... Pictures by Calson Luka