

Singita



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

Temperature

Average minimum: 20°C (68°F)
Average maximum: 29°C (84°F)
Minimum recorded: 17°C (62°F)
Maximum recorded: 31°C (87°F)

Rainfall Recorded

Faru 0 mm
Sabora 0 mm
Sasakwa 0 mm

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise 06:48
Sunset 18:48

July was a very dry month with large herds of the migratory animals moving across the plains in long lines heading northeast of the concession, and predators continued to feast on the buffet of the Serengeti ecosystem.

The long grass has been trampled by wildebeests and zebras this month as they made their way through Grumeti Reserve, and with the grass being shorter we saw more cats including lions, leopards and cheetahs all looking very healthy as food supply was abundant.

Grumeti River water level has gone down but is still gently flowing. Migratory animals drink whilst crossing and making their way north. We are privileged though, as not only migratory animals come to drink, but also resident species like elephants, buffalos, giraffes, impala, and waterbuck are regularly found enjoying the steady flow.

Here's a sightings snapshot for July:

Lions

- Three Nyasirori male lions were seen on the burnt section at Nyasirori area.
- Butamtam pride spent most of their time at Manangai drainage, south of Sasakwa Lodge where the migration passed for most of July.
- Nyasirori pride have 14 new cubs, seen at Raho drainage. They are approximately two months old.
- Butamtam pride have three new cubs seen at Chui drainage. They are approximately two months old.

Leopards

- Grumeti North female daughter was seen often west of Grumeti North Hill, Sand Road and Watershed area.
- A big male was seen around Eagle Nest drainage.
- A female sighted at Old School, Chui drainage and Pundamilia Hill.
- Mating pair, male and female sighted at Serengeti Hill.

Cheetahs

- Sasakwa male was seen regularly, south of Arab Camp thicket.
- Nyasirori female was seen southeast of Nyasirori Ranger Post.
- New female with three cubs of about six months old were seen west of Sabora. This female is new in the area. The cubs are still very shy at this stage.

Elephants

- Elephants continue to be seen in small herds in Ikorongo, Marula Explore and Sasakwa areas. Due to migratory animals being around, elephants separated into smaller herds as they gave space to this annual magic of the Serengeti/Mara ecosystem.

Hyenas

- Hyenas were seen in good numbers at Rhino Rocks, Sabora plains, Nyasirori area and Gambaranyera plain.

Buffalos

- Different large herds of over 300 buffalos were seen in Gambaranyera plain, Sabora plain, Ikorongo and Sasakwa plain.
- With most areas being dry, Sasakwa Dam was flooded with buffalos early in the morning and late in the afternoon.

Rhinos

- Eric the black rhino is doing well, and he was seen often feeding around the edge of the fence.

Plains game

- Plains game have spread through many areas of the concession, and this brings a nice balance of small antelopes like gazelles, which are now seen in abundance unlike April, May and June.

Some bush stories follow, as well as the July Gallery.

Hyenas attack a wildebeest amidst a herd of buffaloes

Story and photo by Bernard Hosea

As the wildebeest migration is currently occupying the western corridor of the Serengeti National Park we were very lucky to experience one Nature's best interactions. A clan of eight spotted hyenas managed to hunt down a male wildebeest, within a group of five old buffalo bulls.

This dramatic scene, begun with only a single female hyena who chased the wildebeest for approximately 1.5 km. The endurance of this hyena was exceptional, and she chased the wildebeest until it was exhausted and in desperation, joined a group of five old bull buffaloes.

Amazingly, the buffaloes tried to protect the wildebeest and backed him up for a short time, but then the hyena started to call for help from other members of her clan. Within ten minutes, the number of hyena multiplied into eight individuals. Suddenly there was a mighty threat to the old buffaloes, and they decided to turn on the lone wildebeest and chase him away from their position.

He was injured at this point and suffered some flesh wounds; his legs and other parts of his body were bleeding due to being horned and kicked so badly by the buffaloes.

The hyenas took advantage of the severely injured wildebeest. Once they smelt the blood they teamed up and moved into the middle of the buffaloes and managed to single out the wildebeest. They then started to attack and kill the wildebeest. A savage and sobering sighting – all a part of the cycle of life.



Unexpected visitor at Grumeti

Story by Peterlis Kibwana

African mornings have always been a special part of the day. On this special day the sunrise was swiftly rolling its beauty, a little hazy from the burns of grass on the Serengeti plains, and it was a magical morning. The Sabora plains never disappoint. I had one lovely guest, and she was very talkative. Whilst on game drive, we came across something which I never thought could happen, especially on the Sabora plains. I, as a guide, was shocked beyond measure! I had to ask the guest if what I was seeing in front of me was a black rhino and she said it was! She was so surprised with how I reacted, and we both looked at each other and just said, "Really? Truly?". The animal was very skittish and ran towards the woods, so unfortunately, we had no chance to take a picture. According to the history of the area the last black rhino was spotted over 50 years ago. And still today no one believes this story!

Zito the elephant

Story and photo by Robert Kibwana

Zito the elephant will move and roam the greater ecosystem, only reappearing in Grumeti Reserve from time to time.

I have known this big tusker for some time, and every time I lay my eyes on him my soul explodes with happiness knowing that his genes are still being passed on. Africa has lost many of his big tusker kind – the Serengeti being one of the places suffering these losses.

Big tuskers have been massively affected and taken from the ecosystem by hunters, ivory traders and recently, illegal game harvesters.

Having a chance to see Zito is always a privilege, and this is also noticed by matriarchal herds when he is in their vicinity or around them. There will be excited cows and young running around him, touching and trumpeting which indicates happiness.



This picture of him was taken late May this year, after having not been seen for almost a year. His tusks have grown so much they are almost touching the ground. He is one of the last big tuskers still roaming the plains of the Serengeti ecosystem.

I personally congratulate all the stakeholders of the Grumeti Fund and Tanzanian conservation that are making sure Zito survives to see another day and pass his precious genes onto future generations.

July Gallery



New Butamtam cubs sighted at Chui drainage. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.



Nyasirori cubs sighted at Raho drainage. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.



Male sighted along Eagle nest drainage. Pictured by Raymond Grumeti North female daughter. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.





One of the Nyasirori pride lions. Pictured by Calson.
Wildebeests walking across Sasakwa plain. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.





Tower of giraffes sighted near Faru. Pictured by Godson Birdi.
Grumeti River water level. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.

