

Singita



WILDLIFE REPORT SINGITA GRUMETI & LAMAI, TANZANIA August 2026

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

Grumeti 32.23 mm
Lamai 58.0 mm

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise 06:45
Sunset 18:47

August remained much like July, with little change in the weather and the reserve firmly in the grip of the dry season. The landscape grew drier by the day, and as the seasonal water sources disappeared, the few remaining pools and Grumeti River became important gathering points for wildlife.

Sasakwa Dam was the main water source in the central part of the reserve, attracting a steady flow of animals throughout the day. At Sabora, the small water point in front of the camp was often crowded with wildlife, while along the Grumeti River, the great herds gathered to drink. These concentrations provided exceptional game viewing, with different species sharing the precious water and creating scenes of constant movement and activity.

August therefore brought together some of the most defining moments of the dry season: scarce water, vast herds, busy gathering points and the continued movement of the migration. Across the reserve and beyond, wildlife continued to follow the ancient rhythm of the seasons. Always moving, searching, and following the instinct of better grazing. After all, the grass is always greener on the other side.

August sightings snapshot for Grumeti:

Migration

Across the open plains, mega herds of wildebeest and thousands of zebras stretched across the golden landscape, filling the reserve with movement and life. Topi and gazelles were also widespread — particularly across the short-grass plains. At this time of the year, the older and more experienced individuals played an important role: leading their groups towards the remaining grazing areas and waterpoints.

Lions

Lions continued to be seen across the reserve throughout August, from the eastern woodland to the western open plains. Several prides were encountered during the month, ranging from small groups to larger family units. Their regular presence across different parts of the reserve provided guests with exciting and memorable sightings, making lion viewing another highlight of the month.

- The different prides seen were: Butamtam, Albizia, Colobus, Sabora, Sabora West, Ridge, Mkuyu, and Kombre.

Leopards

August was an eventful and memorable month for leopard sightings.

- Earlier in the month, the Raho female was found along the Raho drainage with one cub that had sadly died, while her other cub was still alive. The female also had a fresh wound on her shoulder. Thankfully, we continued to see her and her surviving cub throughout the month, and by the end of August, she had made a remarkable recovery.
- In the middle of the month, we were also fortunate to find the Mbogo drainage female with her two cubs, estimated to be around ten months old. The cubs were in excellent condition and appeared strong and healthy.
- A female, Maridadi, was seen along Sabora drainage just south of Sabora camp.
- Sabora dominant male was found with a zebra fawn up in the Balanitis tree, north of Sabora camp.
- German Bridge skittish male was seen north of German Bridge.
- Kombre male was seen walking across the Sasakwa plain.
- Mbogo Drainage male was found with a warthog kill, north of Faru Faru's Suite 9.
- A male was sighted along Fungo Road.

Cheetahs

August was a relatively quiet month for cheetah sightings.

- The dominant male was the only individual consistently observed throughout the reserve. He covered a remarkably large home range. Ranging from Sasakwa Plain and Nyati to Sabora Plain and the Marula Explore camp areas. Making for occasional sightings across a vast area.

Elephants

August delivered an extraordinary experience of elephant encounters, with sightings recorded almost daily across every corner of the reserve. From quiet woodland and riverine stretches to the wide-open plains, larger herds and smaller groups were constantly observed feeding in different areas and gathering around water points. Their remarkable presence added a wonderful sense of energy to the landscape, with countless opportunities and memorable observations. It was a particularly special month for elephant enthusiasts, as their abundance made them one of the defining highlights of the reserve's wildlife experience.

- Due to the dry conditions, Sasakwa Dam became a prime spot for elephant viewing, with different herds arriving at various times from around 10:00 onwards to drink and wallow, offering wonderful sightings throughout the late morning and afternoon.

Buffalos

Buffaloes were observed in very large, medium, and small herds throughout the month, reflecting the continued growth and stability of their population within the reserve. Their increasing numbers and consistent presence are encouraging indicators of the positive impact of ongoing conservation efforts, demonstrating that the reserve continues to provide a safe and suitable habitat for wildlife to thrive.

- The hotspots for buffalos were along the Grumeti River, Sasakwa, and Sabora plains.

Plains game

The plains game provided excellent and memorable wildlife viewing throughout the month. Topi and gazelles were seen mingling among large herds of zebra and wildebeest. The sight of these diverse species sharing the open plains created a vibrant and dynamic scene. It offers visitors an especially interesting game-viewing experience and highlights the richness and diversity of wildlife within the reserve.

Rhinos

- Zaituni and Laikipia continued to be seen regularly this month, often moving and feeding together within the boma. They were most active during the cooler hours, with frequent sightings in the early mornings and late afternoons as they moved along the edge of the fence.

August sightings snapshot for Lamai:

Migration

The migration was at its peak on the Lamai side. The famous river crossings provided some truly remarkable experiences for our guests, as great herds gathered along the banks before making their way across to the other side. It was a powerful display of instinct and determination, driven by the search for water and food.

Lions

August continued to offer outstanding opportunities for lion sightings, as three different prides were observed throughout the month. With the grass grazed and trampled down by the migrating herds, the lions were much easier to spot, creating incredible viewing opportunities for our guests and allowing them to enjoy some truly memorable encounters with these magnificent predators.

- The prides seen were: Kenyangaga, Boundary and Korongo La Minazi.

Leopards

August brought another exceptional month for leopard viewing in the Lamai Triangle. Guests had memorable encounters with several individuals across the area, often enjoying relaxed sightings as the leopards moved through the drainage systems, open areas, and along the Mara River. The quality and frequency of these encounters made August a particularly rewarding month for leopard sightings in Lamai.

- A mating pair was seen upstream of Kenyangaga drainage.
- A female leopard was seen along the Kenyangaga drainage as well as a young male.
- There was a male that was often seen near the Mara River Tented Camp.
- A female leopard was seen near Mara River crossing points 6 and 7.
- A female leopard, with one cub, was seen moving along the boundary area and Chaka la Kigelia areas.

Cheetahs

During August, guests enjoyed wonderful cheetah sightings across the Lamai Triangle, with both the two-brother and three-brother coalitions being regularly encountered. Their presence and activity highlighted the Triangle as an exceptional place to enjoy these remarkable cats.

- The two male cheetahs were regularly seen around the Alex Walker area and the open plains, where they continue to patrol and hunt across their familiar territory.
- The three brothers were frequently observed around the higher ground of the plains and are also known to range across into the Kenyan side, making use of the wider Mara ecosystem.

Elephants

Lamai's elephants continue to move gracefully across the landscape in both large and small herds.

- Breeding herds made their way through key drainages, open plains, along the banks of the Mara River, and around the camp perimeters. Their movements bring a remarkable sense of wilderness to the area, as family groups travel between feeding grounds and water sources.
- Bachelor bulls were scattered across the Kampikampi plain, quietly roaming the open grasslands and adding to the diverse and dynamic elephant presence we experience here.

Buffalos

- Large herds were observed moving across the open plains near the Maasai Mara and Serengeti boundary areas.
- Smaller herds, as well as bachelor herds, were also spotted within the woodland areas along the Mara River, moving through the area both upstream and downstream of Mara River Tented Camp.

Plains game

Kampikampi open plain and Korongo la Fisi areas were the best locations for observing Topi and gazelles during the month. The presence of short, fresh grass in these open areas created favourable feeding conditions, attracting large numbers of plains game and making these areas particularly productive for wildlife sightings.

In the wilderness, no reign is permanent. For lions, power is measured in territory, prides controlled, cubs sired, and ultimately in how long a coalition can defend what it has conquered. The story of the Momukomule Pride is a remarkable illustration of this ever-changing balance of power.

It began in 2022, when five young males arrived and successfully took over the Momukomule Pride. Their reign, however, was tested almost immediately. During the takeover, one of the brothers was lost, leaving a coalition of four. The remaining four settled into their new territory, eventually siring cubs and establishing themselves as the dominant males of Momukomule.

But with the males reaching their prime and their confidence growing, simply holding Momukomule was no longer enough. Their ambitions expanded. When their cubs were around four to five months old, the four brothers became increasingly territorial and began pushing beyond their established range. Their next confrontation was with the Butamtam Pride, at that time controlled by a formidable coalition of six males. The odds appeared daunting. Yet the Momukomule males prevailed.

One by one, the six Butamtam males were displaced, and the four brothers suddenly found themselves controlling an extraordinary stretch of territory and, effectively, two prides: Momukomule and Butamtam. For a coalition of four males in their prime, it must have felt like the wilderness belonged to them. They sired more cubs. Their territory expanded. Their reputation grew. And perhaps, somewhere along the way, success became ambition.

Their eyes eventually turned towards a third prize, the Ridge Pride. At the time, Ridge Pride was defended by two brothers. The Momukomule coalition challenged them, successfully pushing them out and extending their influence yet again. Three prides. An enormous territory. More females. More cubs. More responsibility.

But there is a price to ruling a kingdom that becomes too large. As the four brothers expanded their reach, their presence around Momukomule gradually became less consistent. Patrols became less frequent. Their movements were increasingly focused elsewhere, and the very territory that had once been the foundation of their reign began receiving less attention. And nature, as it always does, noticed the opportunity.

During this dry season, a new coalition of two males began appearing around Momukomule. At first, their presence may have seemed insignificant compared with the legendary four. But they were persistent. They moved with purpose. They began establishing themselves within the territory, and before long, their intentions became unmistakable. They were not merely passing through. They were claiming it. Recent observations have revealed something particularly interesting: the new males have already been seen mating with females of the Momukomule Pride. It is perhaps the clearest indication yet that the balance of power has shifted.

The four original brothers may still hold influence over vast territories elsewhere, but Momukomule appears to have moved beyond their reach. Whether by circumstance, age, pressure from competing males, or simply the impossibility of defending such an enormous kingdom, their grip on this part of their former empire has weakened. And so, quietly, a new chapter has begun.

Today, two new males stand where four once stood. They are young kings on an old throne, eager to establish their own dynasty. Perhaps the four brothers have finally accepted that this particular land is no longer theirs to defend. And perhaps that is the greatest lesson of the wilderness: The throne is never truly inherited. It is occupied only for as long as you can defend it. Momukomule has new kings. The old rulers have moved on. And somewhere in the open plains, the next chapter of this extraordinary lion dynasty is learning to roar.



Butamtam Pride lions at Sasakwa Plain. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.



Momukmule Pride lionesses. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.

Plants may appear still and silent, but their lives are far from inactive. They are among the greatest providers on Earth. They give us oxygen to breathe, food to eat, shade from the heat, shelter for countless creatures, and places where life can rest and begin again.

Here in the Serengeti, plants face a constant struggle for survival. The endless plains are filled with hungry herbivores like zebras, giraffes, elephants, buffaloes, and many others, all searching for food. For a tree or shrub, being surrounded by hungry animals must be like living in a world where danger can arrive at any moment.

But plants have feelings of survival too. Not feelings like ours, perhaps, but an extraordinary ability to respond to danger. When certain plants are being heavily browsed, they can produce defensive chemicals that make their leaves bitter or less appealing. Some can even release chemical signals into the air. Carried by the wind, these signals may reach nearby plants of the same species, triggering them to strengthen their own defences before the herbivores arrive. It is almost as if one tree is whispering to another, "Be careful. Danger is coming."



The browsing animal may take a bite, find the leaves unpleasant, and move on. The plant cannot escape, but it has found another way to say no. One fascinating example is *Vachellia robusta*, which demonstrates how plants can use chemical defences as part of their survival strategy.

We, too, sometimes find ourselves in situations where we cannot simply walk away from our problems. We may face challenges we did not choose, circumstances we cannot immediately change, or moments when we feel powerless. Yet, like the plants of the Serengeti, we learn to adapt. We develop strength quietly. We protect ourselves. And sometimes, we warn and support those around us.

The trees remind us that communication does not always require a voice. Support does not always require physical presence. And strength does not always mean fighting or running away. Sometimes, strength is simply finding a way to survive where you are. The next time you stand beneath a tree, take a moment to look beyond its branches and leaves. Behind that silence may be a remarkable story of survival, communication, cooperation, and resilience. Nature is speaking all around us. We only need to be quiet enough to listen.

The memory of the herd

Story by Musa Mochomba

The sun was sinking behind the golden grasslands of the Serengeti when the elephant herd stopped walking. For some days, they had travelled together across the dry plains, following the oldest female. She knew the paths to the waterholes and the places where the grass remained green. But that evening, the oldest female suddenly stopped beside a cluster of ancient thorn trees.

There, half-hidden beneath the grass, lay the bones of an elephant. The herd became silent. One by one, the elephants approached. A young calf stretched out her trunk and gently touched the ivory-coloured bones. She lifted a rib, smelled it, and carefully placed it back on the earth. Another elephant rested the tip of her trunk against a weathered skull. They stayed there for a long time. No one called for the herd to move.

The oldest female walked forward and touched the skull herself. She traced the smooth curve with her trunk, then stood completely still. The youngest calf watched her. "Who is it?" she seemed to ask. The oldest female could not answer in words. Instead, she touched the bones again.

Perhaps the elephant had once walked with them. Perhaps it had been a mother, a sister, a brother, or an old friend. They remembered. They remembered the presence that had once been beside them. They remembered the low rumbles that had travelled through the ground.

As darkness spread across the plains, the elephants slowly gathered around the bones. The calf placed her trunk against the skull one last time. Then the oldest female gave a deep, gentle rumble. The herd began walking again. But before leaving, every elephant turned back toward the bones. For a moment, the moonlight shone upon the old remains.

The herd moved on, carrying something invisible with them - not the bones, but the memory of one who had once belonged among them. And in the quiet grassland, the wind seemed to whisper: Those who are loved may leave the herd, but they never truly leave its memory.



A mother's journey cut short by the hungry lions

Story by Juma Kiazee.

It was a beautiful morning on the Serengeti plains, painted in warm golden light as the rising sun spread across the endless savannah. We set off from the camp with excitement filling the vehicle, each of us eager to discover what the wilderness had in store.

The morning chorus of birdsong echoed through the open grasslands, occasionally interrupted by the distant and powerful roars of lions. There was a special sense of anticipation in the air. For the guests, it was their very first safari, and expectations were very high. They were excited, curious, and ready for their first true encounter in the wild.

An hour after we left the camp, we saw a mother African buffalo wandering away, searching for a quiet place to bring her calf into the world. But before she could, the Sabora Pride of hungry lions found her alone and vulnerable. She fought with all that she had, but the lions refused to give up, and she never got the chance to meet her unborn calf.



Nature showed no mercy. Two lives lost in a single brutal sequence. Tears blurred our vision. Out in the wild, nothing is ever guaranteed; a peaceful morning can turn into a struggle for survival, and a promising beginning can take a tragic turn. All must eat.

August Gallery



Wildebeests crossing the Mara River. Pictured by Adas Shemboko.
Dazzle of zebras drinking at Sasakwa Dam. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.





Butamtam Pride lions at Sasakwa plain. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.
Butamtam Pride lion. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.





Elephants captured with sunset. Pictured by Edward Kaaya.
Breeding herd of elephants, west of Grumeti River. Pictured by Adas Shemboko.





Mbogo drainage female leopard and her cub, north of Faru Faru. Pictured by Adas Shemboko.
A well-known male leopard – Kunta. Pictured by Adas Shemboko.





A youngster's elastic leap and fluid grace.





An impala ram.
A buffalo cow.
Pictures by Edward Kaaya.





Western banded snake eagle.
White-backed vulture.
Bateleur eagle.
Pictures by Adas Shemboko.