

# Singita



**WILDLIFE REPORT**  
**SINGITA GRUMETI TANZANIA**  
**For the month of April, Two Thousand and Twenty Five**

**Temperature**

Average minimum: 15°C (59.0°F)  
Average maximum: 29°C (84.2°F)  
Minimum recorded: 14°C (57.2°F)  
Maximum recorded: 30°C (96.8°F)

**Rainfall Recorded**

Grumeti: 122.3 mm  
Lamai: 105.0 mm

**Sunrise & Sunset**

Sunrise: 06:40  
Sunset: 18:42

April is usually known for heavy rains, but this year the rains were lighter than they had been in the past four years. Instead of strong storms, we had soft showers with clear skies in between. The ground stayed green and full of life. Wildflowers began to bloom across the plains, bright yellows, purples, and whites adding beautiful colours to the landscape. It looked like a painting, with flowers stretching as far as the eye could see. This made it a perfect time for guests to go out and enjoy the landscape and plains game. Animals were everywhere, zebras, topis, gazelles, and elands filled the open areas. Elephants walked slowly across the hills and plains, while giraffes moved between the trees, enjoying the fresh leaves. The lighter rains also meant better road conditions. Guests could travel easily and see more wildlife in a single day. Each morning brought cool, fresh air as the sun rose, perfect for early game drives. In the afternoons, clouds sometimes gathered, but the rain was light and didn't last long.

Predators were active too and stayed close to the herds, always looking for hunting opportunities. The mix of sunshine, wildflowers, and gentle rain created beautiful skies and stunning sunsets. With such perfect weather and so many animals around, April gave our guests an unforgettable safari experience. Each day felt special, full of amazing sights and moments to remember.

### **April sightings snapshot for Grumeti:**

#### **Lions**

April was full of thrilling lion activities, with sightings of six different prides across the concession. The presence of these majestic cats brought excitement to every corner of the reserve, making it a fantastic month for game viewing. A special highlight was seeing five out of the six prides feeding on buffalo kills, an impressive display of strength, strategy, and teamwork.

- Kombre Pride gave us some great sightings along the Kombre drainage, near Arab Camp Road, and even close to Sasakwa Airstrip. They were also seen up on Sasakwa hill and around Serengeti House, often resting or keeping an eye on the plains below.
- Butamtam Pride didn't move much this month, they stayed in the central areas, from Sasakwa Dam to the southern side of Koroya hill. The new males seem fully settled now, clearly claiming the territory as their own. Their presence has brought stability to the pride, and they looked strong and healthy.
- Ridge Pride was seen quite a few times up in the Sasakwa hill, along Villa Access Road, along Mak Link and around Ridge hill. They moved around the hill during the night and kept away in the day.
- Sabora Pride stayed close to the camp and gave us plenty of good moments. They were often spotted around Sabora drainage, near Nyuki BB site, Morum Pit area, and along the Sabora Access Road. Guests at the camp enjoyed watching them relaxing and moving through the area.
- Nyasirori Pride made a return this April after been away in the Serengeti National Park for about two months. It was great to see them again, all members looked well fed, strong, and in good condition.

#### **Leopards**

April certainly did not disappoint when it came to leopard sightings. Our guests were treated with some unforgettable moments, with leopards continuing to thrive, especially in the eastern parts of the concession. The tall grasses still dominate the landscape, encouraging these elusive cats to climb trees. From watching them draped elegantly across branches to witnessing their graceful descents, it's been a privilege to share such breath-taking encounters with our visitors.

- Mbogo drainage female and her two cubs had gone missing for two months and we saw all three animals in their territory and in good shape. The two cubs have grown close to their mother's height now.
- Raho female was seen alone in mid-month walking from Serengeti Road heading to Raho drainage.
- A male was seen near German Bridge and more interestingly he was feeding on a civet!
- Another big male was seen lying up in the balanitis tree along Eagle Nest drainage.
- A shy male was observed up in the tree on the open plains north of Sabora camp. He seemed new in the area and may be establishing his territory.
- A male was seen with a warthog kill in the sausage tree along Sand Road west of Grumeti River.

#### **Cheetahs**

Cheetahs were elusive this month. No doubt sightings will improve as the grass diminishes.

#### **Elephants**

April brought not only rain and greenery, but also a noticeable increase in elephant numbers across the reserve. With plenty of food and water available, herds could be seen roaming freely throughout the concession from the far corners of Ikorongo to the central and western plains. Their peaceful presence and gentle movements added a calm beauty to the vibrant, rain-soaked landscape.

- Raho drainage, Kawanga, and the Explore sites area had large herds of elephants enjoying the open plains. These giants offered fantastic viewing opportunities.
- Sabora Plain continued to be one of the best spots for elephant viewing, with larger herds scattered across both sides of the camp. Guests enjoyed watching families of elephants move slowly across the plains, often with playful calves in tow.
- In Ikorongo, both east and west of Bangwesi hill, decent herds were seen moving between the woodlands and open clearings. Their slow, steady movements created wonderful scenes, especially in the soft light of morning and late afternoon.
- The central areas of the reserve also had very large herd movements. Sasakwa and Nyati plains, Kombre drainage, and Mazingira hosted medium sized herds, often seen moving quietly across the green landscape.
- There were also herds seen in front of Faru Faru Lodge, Grumeti River, Grumeti north and Mbogo drainage which was the highlight of guests at Faru Faru Lodge in the month.

### **Buffalo**

With just a small amount of rain in April, the Grumeti plains turned greener and greener, providing the buffalo with an abundance of fresh grass. This rich supply of food allowed the herds to grow stronger, healthier, and more active. Their presence across the concession was impressive, creating countless memorable wildlife experiences for all who ventured out.

- Sasakwa plain had the largest herd of the month, moving gracefully around Sasakwa Dam, Koroya, Pundamilia hills, Chui Link, and the Old School area. The sheer number of buffalo in this region created an unforgettable experience throughout the month.
- A very large herd was frequently seen across Fisi plain, Sabora Camp, Rubana Link, and the Raho drainage. These groups were often seen grazing peacefully in the open plains.
- A large herd was recorded moving along Grumeti West, the German Bridge, Balloon Lodge site, Romoti area and Grumeti River.
- A small herd was seen west of Faru Faru Lodge, within the Grumeti North area, Biribai, and Mbogo drainage, a more secluded group thriving in the dense vegetation.
- The Albizia woodland hosted one of the most impressive gatherings, with a very large herd moving through Kombre drainage and into the marsh area, taking full advantage of the moisture-rich grazing grounds.
- A herd roamed through Gambaranyera plain and near the Explore camps, offering beautiful views of buffalo on these wide, green plains.
- Lastly, a bachelor herd of bulls stayed close to the Sasakwa Airstrip, feeding throughout the month on the eastern edge of the runway, offering a nice welcome to our visitors on their arrival.

### **Rhinos**

Two animals in the enclosure were observed a few times moving around together on the eastern side of the sanctuary, and both animals are in good condition.

**Some bush stories follow, as well as our April Gallery.**

In the quiet hours of the morning, as the first rays of sunlight stretched across the open grasslands of the Grumeti Reserve, I had the privilege of coming face to face with one of nature's most magnificent creatures, a large elephant bull. He stood tall and calm in the distance, his massive frame blending into the golden light. It was a powerful sight, one that made me pause and genuinely appreciate the beauty and strength of the wild.

This bull wasn't just any elephant. He was one of 15 bulls that the Grumeti Fund and Government partners collared to help monitor their movements, especially as they roam close to community lands. The collars are fitted with GPS and linked to geo-fencing technology. If one of these elephants crosses into a designated boundary, getting too close to farms or villages, an alert message is sent to the Ops room. That way, the human wildlife mitigation unit can act quickly to prevent any conflict and guide the elephant back to safety. It is a simple but effective tool that's helping to reduce tension between humans and wildlife.



Standing there watching him, I felt a sense of quiet pride. The collar around his neck was hardly noticeable, but it represented something powerful, a new way of living together, a bridge between two worlds that often find themselves at odds. For years, these giants have wandered freely, following ancient paths through the savannah. But as human settlements grow, those paths are increasingly interrupted. These collars help us protect not only the people living nearby but also the elephants themselves.

This bull looked strong, healthy and calm, but with a quiet authority. He was clearly in his home, moving confidently through the grasslands, enjoying his food. At one point, he turned slightly toward me, ears flapping softly in the breeze. There was no fear, no aggression, just a peaceful presence that filled the space around him.

I watched him for a while as he slowly made his way across the plain, disappearing into the brush with the grace only such a large animal could carry. It was a moment that stayed with me long after he was gone. Seeing this bull out here, free and safe, reminded me of why we do this work. Every collar tells a story not just of tracking movement, but of understanding, protecting, and learning how to share this land. This gentle giant is a symbol of hope, showing us that with care, respect, and the right tools, we can find a way for both people and wildlife to thrive side by side.



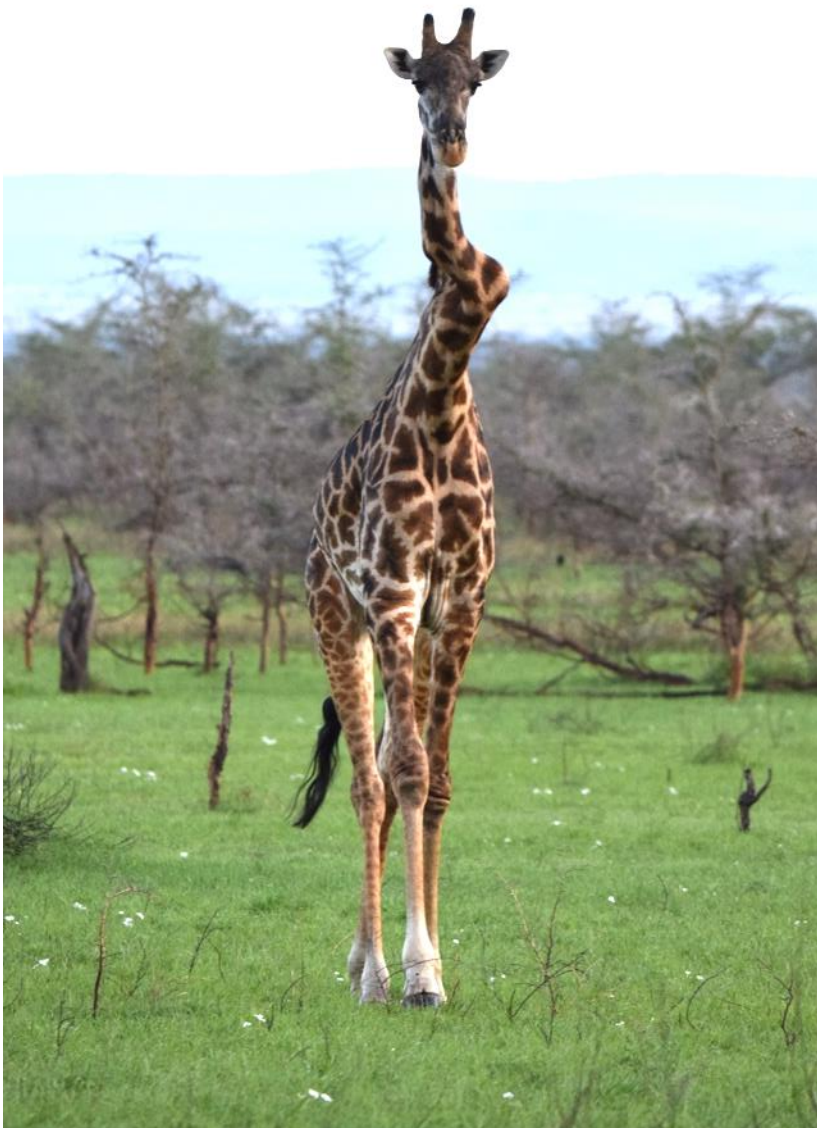
## The famous male giraffe with the bent neck

Story by Edward Kaaya

Over 15 years ago a giraffe was born - he looked like any other baby giraffe, tall legs, big eyes, and a soft, patchwork coat. But something happened when he was still small. Maybe he fell, or perhaps he got hurt while playing. No one knows for sure, but his neck broke. Though it healed, it healed crooked.

In the wild, being different can be a hard fate, and a deformity is often a death sentence. Yet, this young giraffe didn't give up. He learned how to walk, eat, and live with his bent neck. Slowly, year after year, he grew stronger. He kept moving, never letting his condition stop him.

To the other giraffes, he was just another tall, quiet individual among them. He moved calmly through the grassy plains and tall trees, joining different groups as he pleased. Young calves would pause their games to look at the gentle giant, while older giraffes made space for him without question. There was something about his presence, peaceful, strong, and steady, that made him unforgettable to those who observed him. As time passed, people began to talk about him. Rangers, guides, and visitors alike would all say the same thing: "He's strong. He's brave. He's still here."



He walked across the western corridor of the Serengeti, traveling from the open woodlands near Grumeti to the banks of the Mara River in the north. He became a constant figure, crossing dry lands and rivers, surviving predators like lions and crocodiles. He wasn't just surviving; he was thriving. By now, he had become a strong, grown male. Like all giraffes, he moved from one group to another, always in search of breeding opportunities. He stood tall, challenged other males when necessary, and courted females with the same determination he had shown throughout his life. His bent neck did not stop him from living fully, just like any other giraffe.

Then, in the middle of April, I saw him again with a journey of about 40 giraffes south of Sasakwa Lodge. He looked healthy and strong, quietly feeding and socializing with other giraffes. He may not know he is famous. He may not realize how many people love his story. But he has become a symbol of hope to many.

He shows us that even if we are different, even if we are hurt, we can still live a full life. We can still walk proudly.

Known across the African savannah for their cunning nature, resilience, and complex social structures, hyenas play a vital and often underappreciated role in the ecosystem. Their presence ensures a delicate balance is maintained between predator and prey, scavenger and hunter, life and death.

Here at Grumeti we see hyena clans gather near their dens, nestled amid acacia trees or in the open grasslands. At the centre of each matriarchal society stands the alpha female, a powerful and intelligent leader. Her dominance is not just earned through strength, but through strategic thinking, social bonds, and experience. With a commanding presence, she signals the start of the evening's activities with a series of whoops, giggles, and cackles that echo across the plains. These vocalizations serve not only to communicate with her clan but also to mobilize each other.



As night falls and the temperature drops, the hyenas set off into the darkness in search of sustenance. Their movements are purposeful and efficient. Though often stereotyped as mere scavengers, these animals are highly capable hunters. In fact, in the Grumeti ecosystem, hyenas are responsible for a significant portion of their own kills. Working together in close coordination, they pursue prey such as antelopes and young zebras. Their endurance is unmatched and their ability to strategize as a unit makes them formidable adversaries on the hunt.

When scavenging, hyenas perform a vital service for the environment. By consuming remains left behind by larger predators like lions, they help prevent the spread of disease and contribute to the recycling of nutrients. Their powerful jaws, capable of crushing bone, allow them to extract nourishment that few other carnivores can.

As the first rays of dawn begin to stretch across the horizon, the hyenas begin their slow return to their dens. There, they rest, groom each other, and care for their young. These moments of quiet bonding are crucial to the cohesion of the clan and the passing on of knowledge from one generation to the next. In the quiet morning hours, guests may catch a glimpse of these fascinating animals in action. Such encounters leave a lasting impression, reminding us of the incredible complexity, intelligence, and importance of these often-misunderstood creatures.

## Abdim's stork feasting on the grassland

Story by Gadmel Kimaro

This month has been truly special in our concession. With the rainy season in full swing, the land has come alive. The grass is green, the ponds are full, and insects are everywhere. This abundance of food has made it a perfect time for birds, both our resident birds and the special guests who travel from far away. The resident birds seem very happy. You can see them flying around, chirping and calling each other, picking insects from the grass and the trees. Their bright colours stand out against the fresh greenery, and their songs fill the air with life. But what made this month even more exciting was the arrival of many migratory birds.

One of the biggest highlights has been the arrival of the Abdim's storks. These elegant birds have visited us in large numbers this season. In fact, we saw hundreds of them, much more than in previous years. They came flying in flocks, gliding smoothly through the sky. It was a beautiful sight, their wings spread wide, flying in perfect formations.

These storks are not just passing through by chance. They migrate every year, traveling from north of the equator to the south during summer, and then returning north during winter to breed. This time of year is perfect for them because the rains have brought a great supply of insects, which are their favourite food. You can spot them moving from one pond to another, walking through the wet grasslands, carefully searching for their next meal.



Watching the Abdim's storks was a true joy. When they fly together, they form amazing shapes in the sky, like waves or arrows. It feels like they are dancing with the wind. Their flight is graceful, calm, and somehow magical. They don't rush. They take their time, as if enjoying the beauty of the land as much as we do.

It's not every day that we get to witness such a wonderful natural event. The mix of rain, life, movement, and sound has made this season unforgettable. Nature is truly at its best right now, and our concession has become a paradise for birds. We feel honoured to be able to observe this moment and share it with others. As the rains continue and the days stay green and full of life, we look forward to seeing even more of these special visitors, and to watching how the story of this season continues to unfold.



Twitter



Secretary bird couple on the Sasakwa plain. Pictured by Adas Shemboko



White-faced whistling duck and helmeted guineafowl at Sasakwa Dam. Pictured by Calson Luka



April Gallery



Ridge Pride lioness and her cubs. Pictured by Adas Shemboko



Sabora Pride lions on the Sabora open plains. Pictured by Adas Shemboko





Elephants socializing to strengthen family bonds by using gentle touches. Pictured by Calson Luka



A male leopard with its warthog kill up in the tree. Pictured by Calson Luka



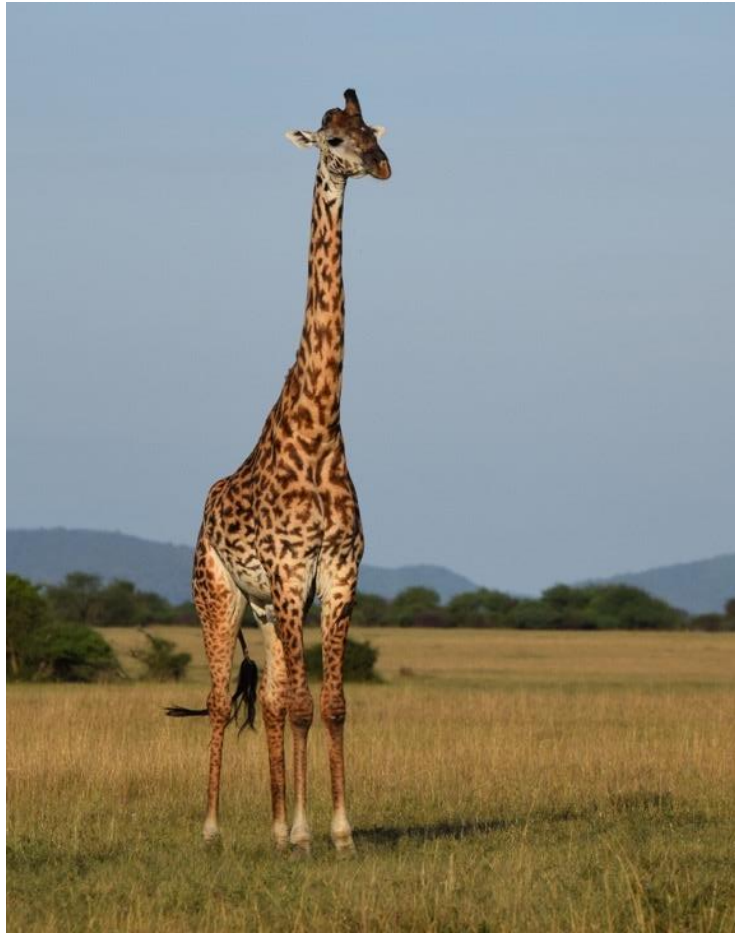


A male leopard up in a tree, during a beautiful sunset. Pictured by Calson Luka



A male rhino inside the boma. Pictured by Edward Kaaya





Giraffes in their element. Pictured by Edward Kaaya







Zebras on the Pundamilia short green grass plains. Pictured by Edward Kaaya



A breeding herd of buffalos. Pictured by Edward Kaaya





Sunrise image taken at OP 8 in the Ikorongo area. Pictured by Edward Kaaya