

# Singita



## WILDLIFE REPORT SINGITA GRUMETI TANZANIA

For the month of October, Two Thousand and Twenty-One

### Temperature

Average minimum: 20°C (68°F)  
Average maximum: 32°C (89°F)  
Minimum recorded: 18°C (64°F)  
Maximum recorded: 35°C (95°F)

### Rainfall Recorded

Faru Faru	48mm
Sabora	47mm
Sasakwa	58mm

### Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise	06:22
Sunset	18:31

October has been a fabulous month here on the Singita Grumeti Reserve. Fantastic plains game numbers have been rolling across the plains. Thousands of zebra and wildebeest were observed on the banks of the Grumeti River, as well as buffalo herds, elephants and great nursery herds of eland - sometimes two hundred strong. The grasslands are alive with a hum of activity as the great herds resonate over the endless horizon. It has also been a great month for many migratory birds moving back through this area.

The Grumeti River continues to flow but only just, and the water is crystal clear. A walking adventure down the river is simply breath-taking!

**Here's a sightings snapshot for October:**

### Lions

- The Butamtam pride of the central region continue to go from strength to strength. Many youngsters observed within the social structure and the young are looking fit and strong.

- With the return of many prey species, the lions are hunting successfully, almost daily.
- Great Nyasirori pride interactions closer to the Sabora Camp.
- Fantastic lion sightings on the Grumeti River. Viewing lions on the river sand is such a lovely dynamic, offering unique opportunities for photography.

### **Leopards**

- Great sightings of both the Grumeti North female and daughter. Both individuals have been spending a lot of their time close to the Grumeti River, hunting on the banks. There is a possibility that the Grumeti North female may have a newly born litter somewhere at the bottom of the Eagles Nest drainage as she appears to be lactating and she was observed calling gently in the thick vegetation at that location. Incredibly exciting!
- Many animals have been using the river as a valuable water source and the leopards have been ambushing prey close its banks in the good cover.
- We've been observing a mother and two young cubs on the Mbogo drainage, upstream of Faru Faru Lodge. The animals are rather shy and so we embark on a very gentle habituation process as we begin getting them used to the vehicles from a distance.

### **Cheetahs**

- Cheetah sightings have been lovely this month with action on the Sasakwa plains, balloon launch site area and the Sabora region.
- A mother and her 4-month-old cub have been utilising the balloon launch site region. The mother has been hunting impala and Thompson's gazelles in the area and providing some great sightings.
- The Sasakwa male continues to hunt the Sasakwa plains and, with his bulk and strength, we have been fortunate to see this impressive cat bring down wildebeest and their calves.
- A single female cheetah continues to hunt just southwest of Sabora.

### **Elephants**

- Large herds of elephants have been sighted moving through the reserve recently.
- Ikorongo region has seen some incredible herds in the area and on the Grumeti River.
- Single large bull elephants have been observed during the heat of the day staying close to the river, bathing and drinking.
- Large aggregations have been seen in the west, close to Marula and Balanites Explore camps.

### **Hyenas**

- The spotted hyena clans have been keeping busy out on the western plains, the Nyati high ground and in the vicinity of Sasakwa hill.
- Strong clan numbers have been seen close to the large herds of Topi in the western regions. Over the last four weeks the Topi have been giving birth and the hyena work the herds patiently, ever looking for an opportunity to hunt.

### **Buffalos**

- The buffalo herds here on the Grumeti Reserve are larger than ever.
- There has been a wonderful breeding herd visiting the Grumeti River most days, to drink, offering awesome viewing as the herd moves down into the riverbed.
- Great herds on the Sasakwa plains and western areas. Ikorongo also offering great herd numbers.

### **Rhinos**

- Rhino are dispersing throughout the region. Some individuals have begun their more extensive movements. Others have taken to the Grumeti River and neighbouring drainage lines within the greater Ikorongo area. Animals are doing very well. Physical conditions are very good and all calves seem to be doing very well which is fantastic news.

**A short bush story to follow as well as the October Gallery of images.**

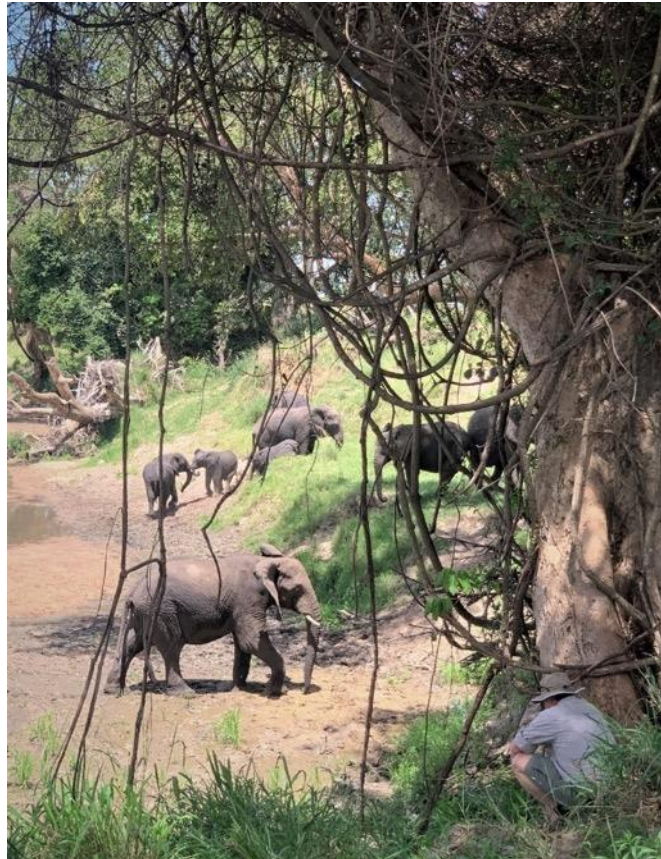
## The banks of the Grumeti River

Story and photos by George Tolchard

What a time of year to be exploring the banks of the Grumeti River! The flow of water has reduced to a gentle clear trickle, making traversing the river incredibly interesting. Large sandy banks await you with the tracks and signs of thousands of animals. The sheer numbers of zebra and wildebeest thundering through the riverbed as the great herds move from one side of the river to the other is astonishing.



Elephants stroll on by as we sit in the cover and cool of the trees.







Towering fig trees in groves along the watercourse offer shelter and shade for animals, birds and us during the heat of the day. There are some incredible spots to relax with a packed breakfast on the white sands in the shade of the trees and a cool breeze. Kick your boots off and walk through the clear water... what a refreshing, cooling experience as your mind wanders with nature.



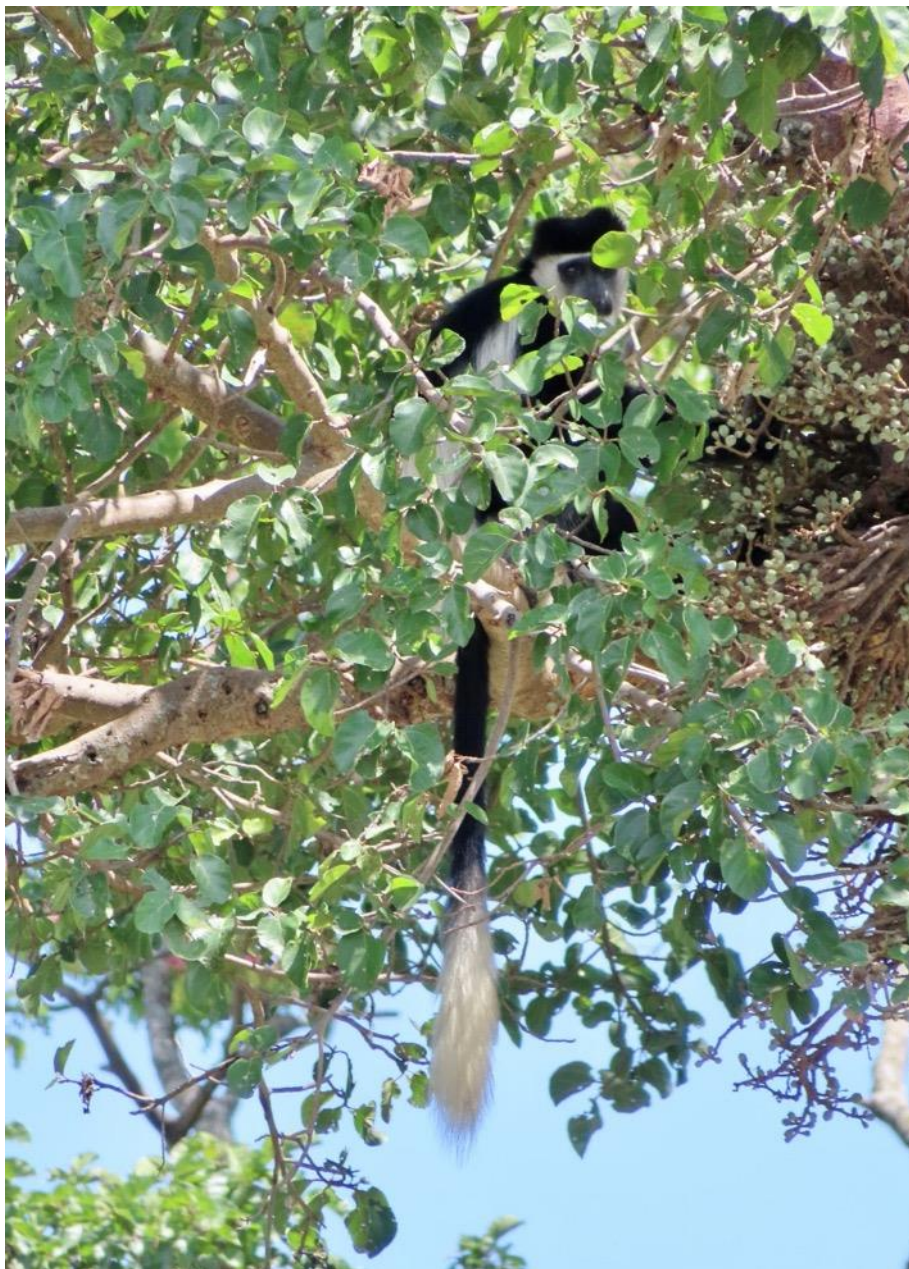
A young male lion roams the Grumeti riverbed.

There are many hidden gems on the banks of the Grumeti River - the black-and-white-colobus monkeys are a truly magnificent find. Without a shadow of a doubt, one of the most beautiful primates I have seen to date. The striking white mantle, the beautiful fluffy tail and lovely facial markings make this monkey unlike any other and they are very much at home in the riverine trees along the river course.

Colobus monkeys are rather shy, not moving far from the cover of the thick vegetation. One of the best times to spot them is after a cold night when they are warming themselves in the morning sun. The colobus can often be seen out in the open, basking in the warm rays on the outer branches of the larger trees.

Here on the Grumeti we may see small troops of up to seven or eight individuals, and there are a number of different troops that occupy the 50 km stretch of river.

Listen out for their distinctive calls booming out over the river as neighbouring troops advertise their presence in the area.



The black-and-white-colobus monkey.



The banks of the Grumeti River hold treasures for all at this special time of year. If it's sitting with an elephant herd as they descend into the riverbed for a drink or watching lions lying on the cool, damp sand to the phenomenal bird activity and the edible fruits of the forests.

There is something special for all our guests, from all walks of life, to connect to, whatever their interests and passions in the natural world may be.



The incredible patterns left on this fallen sycamore fig tree, made by little borer beetle larvae. As the bark of the tree comes loose and falls it exposes these wonderful mosaics in the wood.

Many of the adult beetles are important pollinators of flowers, and the larvae themselves provide food for some of the many bird species that may be seen on the river such as green wood hoopoes and various woodpeckers.



October Gallery



A Nyasirori lioness lies in the branches of a sausage tree close to Sabora Camp.  
Pictures by Charles Semchaa







An Ikorongo mating pair of lions captured just downstream of Bangwezi.  
Picture by George Tolchard



Two lappet faced vultures make short work of the remains of this wildebeest carcass.  
Picture by Charles Semchaa



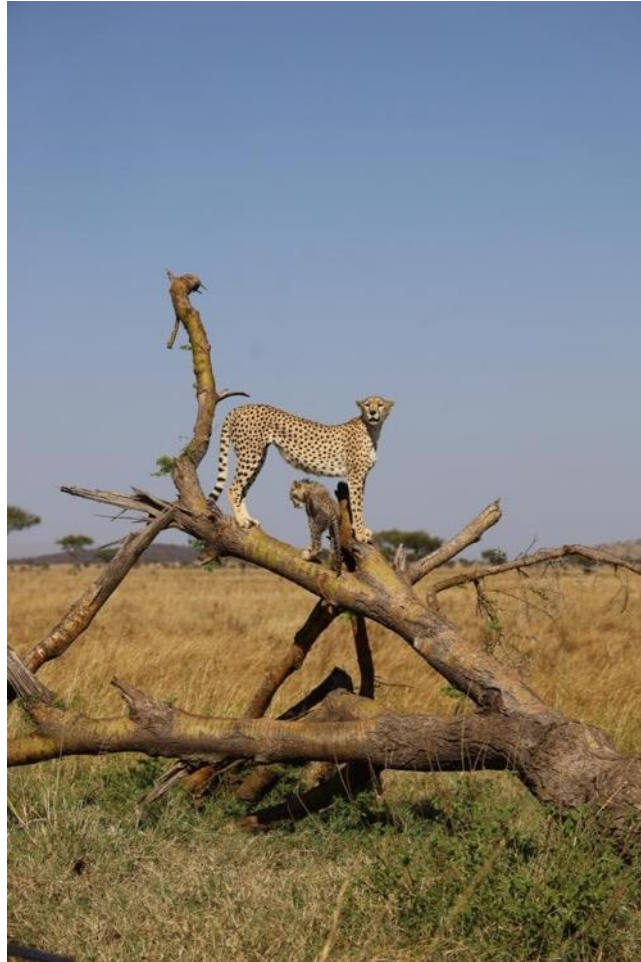


The Grumeti North female leopard resting downstream of the German Bridge, Grumeti River.  
Picture by G Tolchard

The Grumeti North female continues to do very well. Her daughter of two years old is also thriving which is really encouraging. The two can still be seen together from time to time along the banks of the river. The mother has certainly made a little space available within her home range to allow her daughter to settle close by. The mother tends to wander further but always returns to her spot by the river.

We believe the Grumeti North female has recently given birth to yet another litter, possibly of two cubs. However, the youngsters remain very well hidden at the moment. We shall be keeping a close eye on developments and look forward to sharing news, updates and pictures as soon as they are a little older.



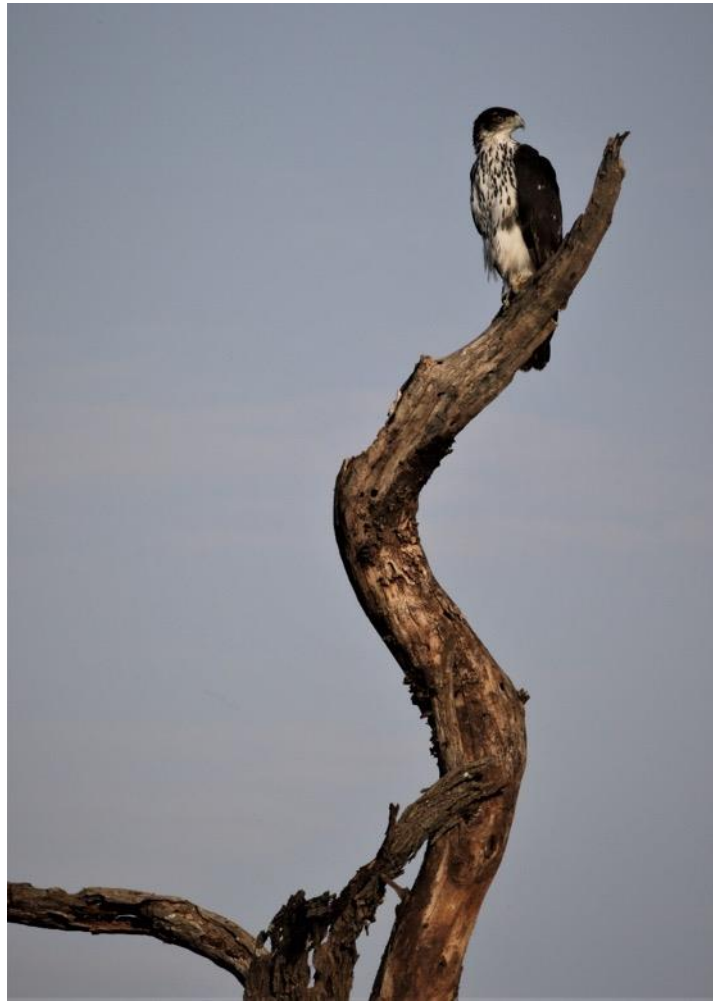


Mother cheetah and youngster here in the central region of the Grumeti Reserve.  
Picture by Gadimel Kimaro



The Grumeti North female leopard's daughter wrestling with a young wildebeest.  
Picture by Gadimel Kimaro





An African hawk eagle. Picture by G Tolchard



A herd of elephants at Sasakwa Dam. Notice the white-faced whistling ducks in the foreground.  
Picture by Calson Luka.





Impressive pressure from this cow elephant as she sprays water through her trunk.  
Picture by Calson Luka



A female leopard sighted on the Grumeti north drainage, close to Faru Faru Lodge.  
Picture by Calson Luka





Elephants passing by field guide Kimaro as guests gaze on. Picture by Calson Luka



Eric the black rhino bull, captured here by Calson Luka.





A beautiful leopard individual captured by Bernard Hosea.



An elephant calf nursing on the Sasakwa plains. Picture by Bernard Hosea





Walking trails on the awesome Grumeti River in the Ikorongo. Picture by G Tolchard