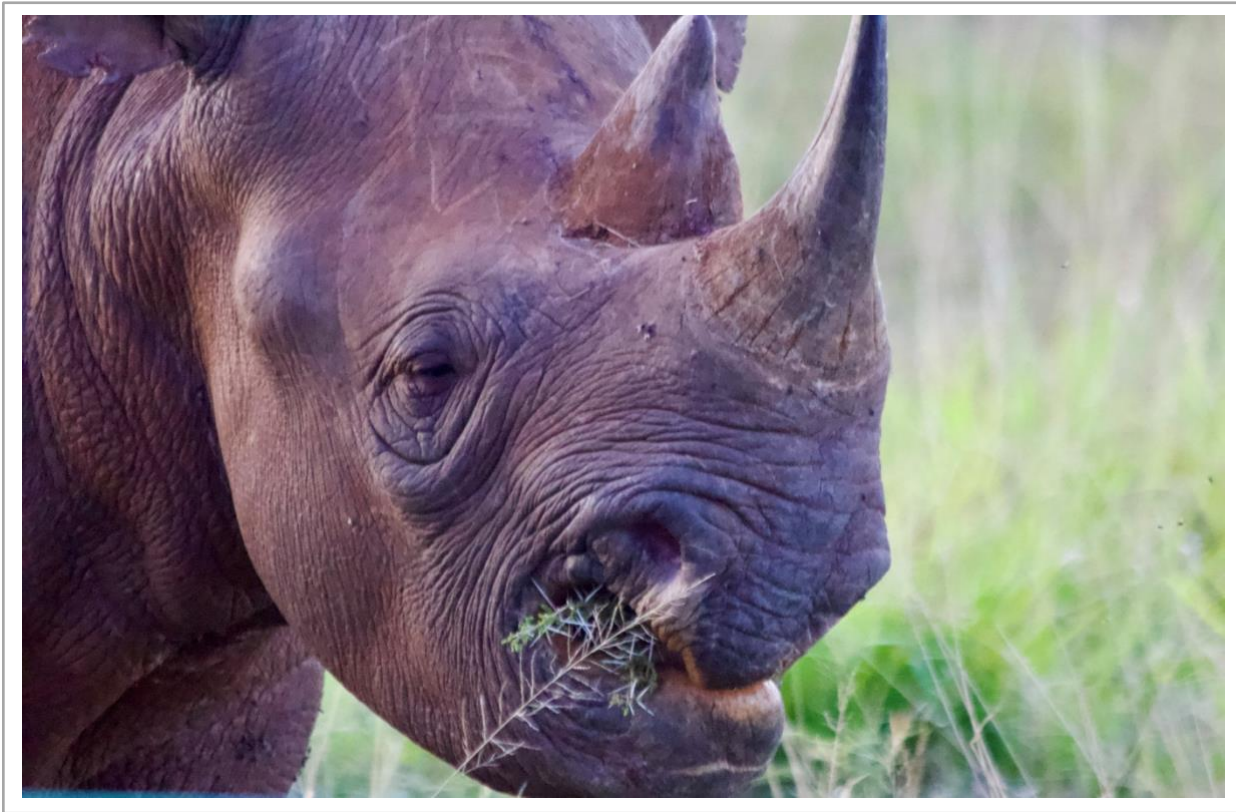


# Singita



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

**Temperature**

Average minimum: 17°C (62.6°F)  
Average maximum: 31°C (87.8°F)  
Minimum recorded: 16°C (60.8°F)  
Maximum recorded: 36°C (96.8°F)

**Rainfall Recorded**

Grumeti: 30.6 mm  
Lamai: 18.9 mm

**Sunrise & Sunset**

Sunrise: 06:46  
Sunset: 18:46

In March, the rainy season began with just a light drizzle at first, but as the month went on, the rainfall increased steadily. This brought a refreshing change to the landscape. The areas where we set controlled burns started to turn green and lush as new grass began to grow. The vibrant transformation of the land was a clear sign that nature was waking up.

This sudden growth of fresh vegetation attracted large numbers of plains game. The once dry areas turned to paradise for animals. Thousands of zebras and topis roamed these plains grazing on the new grass. Alongside them, hundreds of gazelles joined in, creating a stunning scene of wildlife in abundance.

The combination of the rainfall and the lush new grass brought about a game-changing experience for wildlife viewing. The atmosphere became alive with the sight of so many animals, all in one place.

## March sightings snapshot for Grumeti:

### Lions

March was a month to remember when it came to lions. We had five lion prides that we saw throughout the month, which provided the best game experience.

- The Ridge Pride was seen mostly along Sabora Access, Ridge Hill, and Farasi Road. The pride was accompanied by six cubs, and were all in good shape.
- Butamtam Pride lionesses were seen with the Kombre males, as the Butamtam males had been defeated and moved south of the Sasakwa plain towards the Serengeti National Park.
- Kombre Pride lionesses stayed in their territory, even though their males were gone. They were often seen at Sasakwa Hill during the night and would return to Kombre drainage in the mornings. All members, including the cubs, were healthy and strong.
- Sabora Pride respected their boundaries and didn't move far from the morum pit area just west of Sabora camp. They would leave to hunt and return to the area, as the new cubs were not able to move far, especially in the long grass.
- Mkuyu Pride members were seen south-west of Faru Faru Lodge and the German Bridge area. They explored both sides of the Grumeti River as they searched for food.

### Leopards

In March, we had some amazing leopard sightings, especially on the eastern side of the concession. With the grass being so tall that side of the reserve, the leopards love to climb up into the trees, giving them a perfect vantage point. This makes it much easier for our guests to spot them, and it's such a special experience to watch these magnificent creatures lying along branches.

- The famous male known as Mapengo was the highlight of the month, he was seen very often near the Faru areas.
- Maruru male seems to have extended his territory further east of Maruru drainage as he has been seen in the Ikorongo area and is in very good condition. He had not been seen for about three months.
- A female was seen west of Grumeti north drainage, resting up in a balanitis tree and taking full advantage of the surrounding view.
- There was a very big but shy male leopard seen twice around Koroya Hill and the balloon site areas.

### Cheetahs

This month we didn't see as many cheetahs compared to the past months, and we think the competition from the other predators, especially lions and hyenas, are limiting their presence in the area.

- A new male was seen along Nyati plain near the Serengeti boundary area, and we think he came from the park. He moved in between the boundary border and Sasakwa plain.
- Female with one cub were seen on the eastern side of the concession, south of Bangwesi Hill. These two animals were in excellent condition.

### Elephants

In March, we continued to see elephants spread out in small groups across the concession. These magnificent creatures were seen in different sizes ranging from 10 to over 100.

- Small herds were seen throughout the month in the open plains of Sabora, Fisi, and the high ground of Nyasirori.
- Sasakwa plain had small herds moving around, and in the afternoons, they gathered at Sasakwa Dam to drink.
- The Grumeti River was the top spot to watch elephants as they came to drink and feed along the riverine vegetation.
- On the Ikorongo side, small herds were seen on both sides of Bangwesi Hill and along the Rokare River in the afternoons.

- Later towards the end of the month, we saw very large herds of about 100 each on the western side of the reserve.

### **Buffalo**

We must highlight that the buffalo population is steadily expanding across all areas of the concession, with some herds growing as large as 400 individuals in a single group. This remarkable increase in numbers ensures that the game viewing experience remains vibrant and dynamic.

- There was a very large herd moving between Sasakwa airstrip, Serengeti House, Kombre drainage, and the marsh area. This herd was impressive in size and covered quite a distance.
- As usual, Sasakwa plain had a very large herd roaming around the Old School, Helmetshrike, and Chui Link areas. These animals gathered at Sasakwa Dam to drink mid-morning, a perfect spot for a drink and rest.
- A medium-sized herd was spotted around Biribai areas, Mbogo drainage and watershed areas. It was not as large as the others but still a wonderful sight to see.
- Another medium-sized herd was seen west of Faru Faru Lodge and Grumeti North areas. This herd would either drink along Grumeti River or in the waterhole in front of the lodge.
- A very large herd roamed Sabora plain, Fisi, and Rubana Link areas. These are areas known for their rich open plain vegetation, of which the herd took full advantage.
- As expected, Gambaranyera plain had a very large herd, moving between the Raho drainage and Rubana River just west of the Explore camps. It's always a beautiful sight to see the herd moving through these scenic areas, creating an unforgettable view.

### **Rhinos**

The male eastern black rhino (photographed in the cover picture) was seen often walking on the eastern, northern and southern side of the boma and he appeared in good condition.



Male Thomson's gazelle on his temporary territory at Sasakwa plain. Pictured by Paulo Kivuyo

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

## An unforgettable safari

Story by Jeremiah Morris

On the morning of March 14, 2025 we had an eye-opening experience at Sabora. The day started with a stunning sunrise that made us linger a bit longer than usual, which delayed our morning drive. We left about 30 minutes later than planned, at around 7:00. Just as we set off, we got a call from a colleague saying that a coalition of four male lions was near the camp, watching a bachelor herd of buffaloes. I explained this to my guests, and they were excited to investigate further.

We drove back to the location and when we arrived, we found that only one male lion was showing interest in the buffalo herd. We sat quietly and watched as the lion slowly moved closer, staying hidden from the buffaloes. He managed to get within 30 yards without being noticed. Then, he suddenly sprinted toward one of the buffaloes. The buffalo noticed him just in time and fought back, chasing the lion away for about 40 yards. But in doing so, the buffalo unintentionally separated himself from the rest of the herd. As soon as he turned around, he realized that the other buffaloes had already run away. That's when the lion turned back, chased the buffalo, and quickly jumped onto his back. Within moments, the other three male lions appeared, rushing to help, and together they managed to bring the buffalo down.



Some people believe that only lionesses hunt, but this moment showed that male lions hunt too, especially when working together as a coalition.

After a few minutes, five lionesses arrived, likely drawn by the buffalo's final cries. They began feeding on the kill, but after a short time, two of the lionesses walked away. I guessed that they might have cubs hidden somewhere and were going off to fetch them. We followed them, and they led us to a den where we were lucky enough to see the touching reunion between the mothers and their cubs. Afterward, the lionesses returned to the kill, and the entire pride gathered to feed together.

My guests were overjoyed. They mentioned that this was their 10th trip to Africa, but it was their first time witnessing a kill. They described it as the "Best safari ever!" We were all grateful for such an incredible experience

## A day of miracles, the lion pride's triumph

Story by Francis Gagiri

About a week after the sighting described in the last story, we had a very similar series of sightings. The sun's rays lit up the grasslands, casting a golden glow over our concession. We were out on a morning safari, listening to the sounds of birds singing, and taking in the beauty of the natural habitat. The air was filled with excitement and wonder.

About half an hour into our drive from Sasakwa Lodge, something incredible happened. We spotted a lioness walking along the road. Her face and mouth were stained with blood, and as she walked, we couldn't help but wonder if she had just made a kill. She moved purposefully, as if guiding us toward something special.

We followed her, driving along the road for about five kilometres. Then, to our amazement, she came across the rest of her pride - 11 members in total. There were six playful cubs, four adult lionesses, and one subadult male. The pride was overjoyed to be reunited, and they immediately began to move as one unit, excited to be led on an adventure.

The lioness who had walked alone led the pride further, and we followed them for another five kilometres. The atmosphere was charged with energy as the pride moved with purpose, eager to find the source of the excitement.



After some time, they reached their destination, a large male lion and another lioness were guarding the carcass of another buffalo they had killed. The pride's reaction was pure joy. They roared in excitement, running and leaping with energy as they approached the carcass. It was a triumphant moment for them, a testament to the power and unity of a pride.

The lionesses and their cubs began to share the feast. It was a rowdy, sometimes tense, display of success, survival, and togetherness.

## The tale of Mapengo

Story by Jeremiah Morris

It was a Sunday afternoon, and we were on a game drive when we heard on the radio that Mapengo, one of our famous leopards (whose name means "toothless"), had been spotted up in a Balanitis tree. I told my guests, and since it was a bit of a drive, we set off to see him. After 25 minutes we arrived and, luckily, he was still up in the tree. My guests were thrilled because it was their first time seeing a leopard.

We spent some time watching him, and as the sun started to set, Mapengo began to yawn. I explained to my guests that when leopards yawn, it usually means they're waking up and getting ready to come down from the tree. After he yawned three times, he climbed down and started walking, looking curious as he scanned the area.



I looked around to see what had caught his attention and saw two big male warthogs fighting. This behaviour sharpened the leopard's focus, and he started stalking them. I told my guests to get ready because witnessing a leopard hunt is one of the top highlights of a safari. We followed Mapengo as he got closer to the warthogs, but then the wind changed. The warthogs caught the leopard's scent, stopped fighting, and quickly ran off into a thicket.

To my surprise, Mapengo didn't give up. He ran to the side of the road, crouching low, and waited. After some time, one of the warthogs came back and walked right past the leopard. We all expected Mapengo to pounce, but instead, he stayed still and didn't attack. The warthog walked by without fear and not running.

That's when I remembered that Mapengo had lost his two upper canine teeth, so hunting a large warthog with such big tusks would be a risky challenge for him. I realized that animals, like Mapengo, are smart and can assess the risks of their hunts. They know when it's too dangerous to attack, and in this case, the leopard decided it wasn't worth the risk.

Later in the month this same leopard was seen with a female warthog kill, that he had hoisted in a tree.

Twitter



Cattle egret in the long grass looking for insects. Pictured by Paulo Kivuyo  
Grey heron resting on a dead log. Pictured by Adas Shemboko



March Gallery



Sabora Pride members drinking. Pictured by Adas Shemboko



A breeding herd of elephants drinking and swimming at Sasakwa Dam. Pictured by Paulo Kivuyo





A single buffalo bull out on the Sabora plain. Pictured by Paulo Kivuyo



A male cheetah scanning for a potential prey. Pictured by Clinton Kilite



The famous male leopard known as Mapengo with his female warthog kill. Pictured by Silas Shayo



A dazzle of zebras on the Nyati open plains. Pictured by Paulo Kivuyo



A buffalo herd on the new grass after a controlled fire and rains. Pictured by Paulo Kivuyo



A giraffe strolls into the sunset. Pictured by Adas Shemboko