



The Bush Telegraph

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“The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man”

— Charles Darwin

Festive greetings to all our guests!

We trust that this finds you well, enjoying the festive season and getting some well-deserved rest as we enter 2017!

As you can see from our rainfall figures, we have had some fairly good rainfall in Nov and Dec. However the rainfall figures for the season are still low and it has been reported that the pattern that was meant to form off the Mozambique coast and bring us large amounts of rain, is failing to form.

Rainfall areas are sporadic and Nzumba/Dundee area is definitely getting more rainfall than Kitara/Nyeleti.

As typical for this time of the year, we are experiencing extreme high temperatures of late 30's / early 40's.

The Klaserie River rose largely but briefly after the first week in November, from rainfall on the escarpment. It stopped flowing just as quickly again. With high rainfall figures on the escarpment and surrounds just before New Year, we had the pleasure of seeing the river rise again for a period of time. Not to sound fully doom-and-gloom, the bush is looking beautiful and lush, with vast areas of String of Stars wild flowers.

As per the norm for a drought stricken area, there are more wild flowers than there is grass, but we are seeing a change with the rain that we are getting.



Photo: Danny Kongos

Rainfall figures (mm)	Oct	Nov	Dec
2014 : Nyeleti	26.5	17.5	92.5
Nzumba	36	33	91.5
2015 : Nyeleti	10	76	12.5
Nzumba	10	58	26
2016 : Nyeleti	10.5	72	64
Nzumba	25	76	97

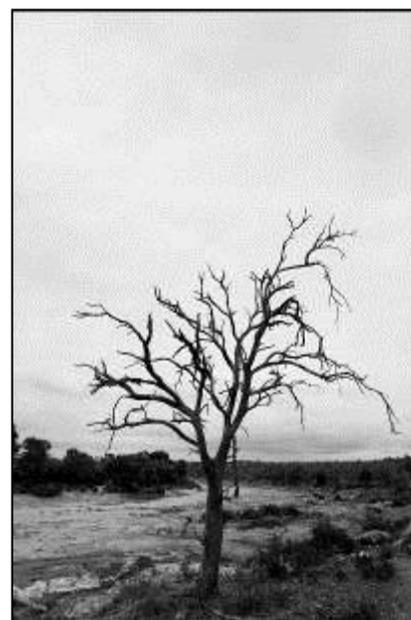


Photo: Jonny Marlow

GENERAL GAME SIGHTINGS



Photo: Takis Kasimiotis



Photo: Bumper Graham



Photo: Bob Reeve (Vine Snake)



Photo: Jenny Sullivan



Photo: Kevin Penrose



Photo: Dieter & Karin Burgert

With new growth leaves on the trees, and some grass coming through, our general game sightings have been great. We didn't see a huge decrease in sightings prior to the rains, but there are larger herds of general game on the property again.

This is such a special time of the year, with a lot of impala calf nurseries everywhere, and some really tiny warthog piglets seen periodically.

The two resident Klipspringers at Nyeleti are still doing well and seen often.

We were all very surprised to see how well the wildebeest fared with lack of food, quite remarkable.

We continued to find hippo carcasses from time to time during the last three months, close to waterholes, dying from starvation.

BIRDING



Photo: Raf de Borgher

Many of you who have stayed at Nzumba will remember this fella knocking tirelessly on the windows (usually at room 1 bathroom) – causing much confusion to begin with!



Photo: Bob Reeve

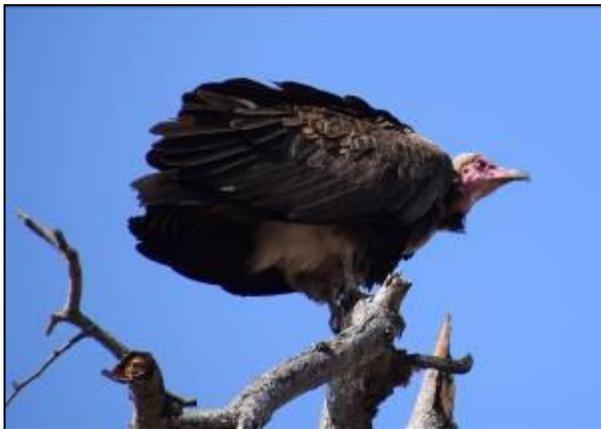


Photo: Bumper Graham

Bird sightings, especially raptors, have been really good. We have also seen quite a few migrants return as well. Our very special migratory Woodland's Kingfisher arrived back with many happy chirps on the 23rd November, always a special occasion.

Towards the end of November, there was a pair of Barred Owls nesting in a dead leadwood tree at Kitara. Nzumba still has its African Fish Eagle fishing from time to time. The Fish Eagle pair has also returned to the river very quickly when the waters came up, wonderful to hear their calls again. A Carmine Bea Eater was seen outside Kitara at the end of Dec. Hopefully with there being more insects around again, we will begin to see an increase in a wide variety of species.

BIG GAME SIGHTINGS



Photo: Raf de Borgher

Hyena sightings have been infrequent, but there is a lot of audio around Nzumba / Dundee.

In October, a pack of 5 were seen at Balule Dam and a pack of 3 at Nzumba waterhole on the same day.

With the large lion pride around Kitara/Nyeleti surrounds, we believe that they hyena have moved off as they feel threatened.

There were tracks of hyena at a lion kill carcass on our neighbor's property towards the end of December.

They are present, just not seen too often.



Photo: Lina Cheeseaman

We've had three wild dog sightings in the last 3 months:

Towards the end of November, the pack ran past in front of Nyeleti and Kitara, and were seen at Wild Dog Dam by our guests.

Towards the end of December, the pack were seen on Shabalala Drive, then in front of our neighbours camp, as well as on the Balule property.

And at end December, they attempted to hunt an impala at the entrance of Kitara, and could be seen from the deck by the river.



Photo: Bumper Graham



Photo: Julian & Louise Emery (Black Rhino)

Our rhino sightings are consistent, frequent and wide-spread throughout our properties.

The sightings vary between lone bulls, cow & calf and a couple of bulls together.

The rhino bull around Kitara/Nyeleti is still resident, but sometimes also joined by a female and calf.

At the beginning of Oct, some of our guests enjoyed a rare sighting of a black rhino on our Balule property.

Accurate rhino poaching figures are still unobtainable but people in the conservation industry say that there has been no improvement in the amount of rhinos poached.



Photo: Dieter & Karin Burgert

With reserves in the south (eg. Timbavati, Kruger Park) having received substantial rains to prompt good grass growth, we saw the big herds of buffalo leave our area and head for more sustainable areas.

We did still have sightings of small breeding herds, and single bulls.

Sightings were mostly at our waterholes.



Photo: Peter Muller



Photo: Hallbert & Kallstenius group



Photo: Danny Kongos

Elephant sightings have been excellent, with some sightings of herds of up to 150 large.

Before the rains arrived, they were under extreme pressure to find food whilst having suckling youngsters. This pressure made a few cows quite aggressive, which made for some “interesting” sightings for our guides and adrenalin rushes for our guests.

We are still finding that some of the herds are still unsettled, which is strange with the amount of food around for them.

Sightings have varied from lone bulls, to small breeding herds, to large breeding herds.

One bull decided to assist Werner with his Nzumba landscaping, and figured out that if you push over the wooden poles with the electric fence you won't get shocked. Of course Werner was not too charmed with the elephant's landscaping ideas which usually took place late at night.

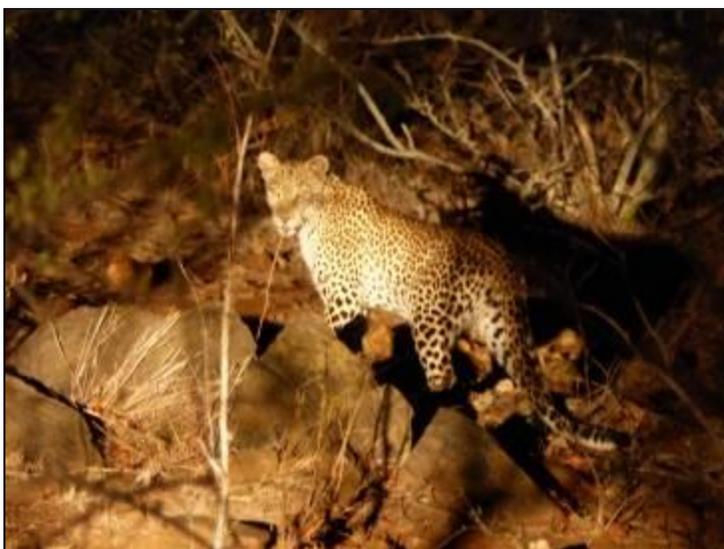


Photo: Raf de Borgher

Leopard sightings have been sporadic.

Most sightings at Nzumba / Dundee, including a mating pair.

Although sightings have been infrequent, the actual sightings have been beautiful



Photo: Lauren Bernitz (Balule pride cub)



Photo: Raf de Borgher (Balule pride male)



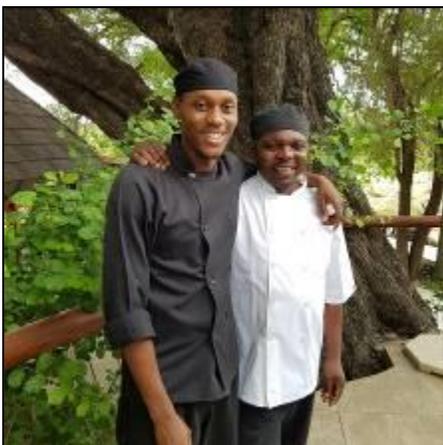
Photo: Bumper Graham (Balule pride male)

Our lion sightings have been excellent!

We haven't had as many sightings of the Balule pride as the previous quarter, but still quite a few sightings of them, mostly on our Balule property. One of the Balule males was seen at Dundee waterhole at Christmas time.

At the end of November, we had our first sighting of the Dundee pride's latest cubs with Moriti Safaris. There are 8 cubs in total, all approximately 5 months old now. This takes the Dundee pride up to 28!! Because of the size of the pride, they often split up and move around in 2 prides. There have been some quite incredible sightings at Hot Spot, at Nyeleti and between Kitara and Nyeleti, as well as on a hippo kill on our neighbour's property. (apologies, I don't have photos of the cubs but a video is posted on facebook & instagram)

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Moxe & Rems – our power team chefs! In March, we decided to hire another senior chef to work with Moxe As many of you can vouch for, this talented team produces some delicious dishes that leave you feeling so happy! Moxe & Rems complement each other in the kitchen and there are endless jokes and laughter, whilst working at bringing you the best possible cuisine that they can! High five to a great team!!

Photo: Hallbert & Kallstenius group



..... MAKING MEMORIES



Reading back on last year's newsletter, I reported that we had been so much busier in 2015, than in 2014 well here I am again *what a year!!!!*

It has been an incredible year of change and growth within Klaserie Camps, and we are so incredibly proud of the team that we have, who have worked really hard during this very busy year.

It was great to welcome Wiseman back to the team, adding his excellent tracking and guiding skills to the fold.

We believe that the Klaserie Private Nature Reserve, a real gem for a unique wildlife experience, has been discovered by many as a go-to destination. The ethos of the reserve is to remain as untamed as it always has been by limiting access, which is the best news.

Thank you to Shaun, Moriti Safaris and Carol, On Track Safaris for all your support during this past year & for your belief in our product.

Last but not least to each of you that have visited us, re-visited us & shared special occasions with us this year – thank you for sharing our little piece of paradise with us.

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

From the Fred, Manuela & family, Donovan, myself & Werner & Rika, we wish you all the best for 2017!



Photo: Danny Kongos



Photo:
Hallbert &
Kallstenius group

GUESTBOOK PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE!!!

Please check out our website www.klaseriecamps.com

Please write in our on-line guest book, your feedback is much appreciated!



For those of you who would like regular updates on exciting happenings and aren't already on our Facebook, please "like" our Klaserie Camps page. We look forward to seeing you there!



We are now also on Instagram, so for all the Instagramers out there, please follow us.
klaseriecamps

Photos:

Thank you Bob Reeve, Lina Cheeseman, Jenny Sullivan, Julian & Louise Emery, Bumper Graham, Danny Kongos, Jonny Marlow, Lauren Bernitz, Takis Kasimiotis, Peter Muller, Raf de Borgher, Hallbert & Kallstenius group, Dieter & Karin Burgert, Kevin Penrose for sharing all your fantastic photos with us – much appreciated!

Please feel free to share your pics with us; we would love to include them!

Written by: Lee-Anne Detert (unedited, apologies for errors)

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