



Wildlife Report

For the month of June, Two Thousand and Fourteen

An elephant paradise

It's no surprise that the Lamai and Kogatende areas of the Serengeti around Mara River Tented Camp are home to many elephants. The mighty Mara River itself provides a seemingly endless supply of fresh water, flowing year-round. In addition, countless smaller rivers and estuaries stem off from the river at a rate of about one every 500 metres. The result is not only the amount of water available, but also that it is easily accessible – you don't have to travel far to find a source of water.





Elephants love water and an adult elephant drinks about 80-90 litres per day, so the surrounds of Mara River Tented Camp are the perfect place to be. One day in June about eight separate breeding herds were spotted on the Lamai side of the river alone!

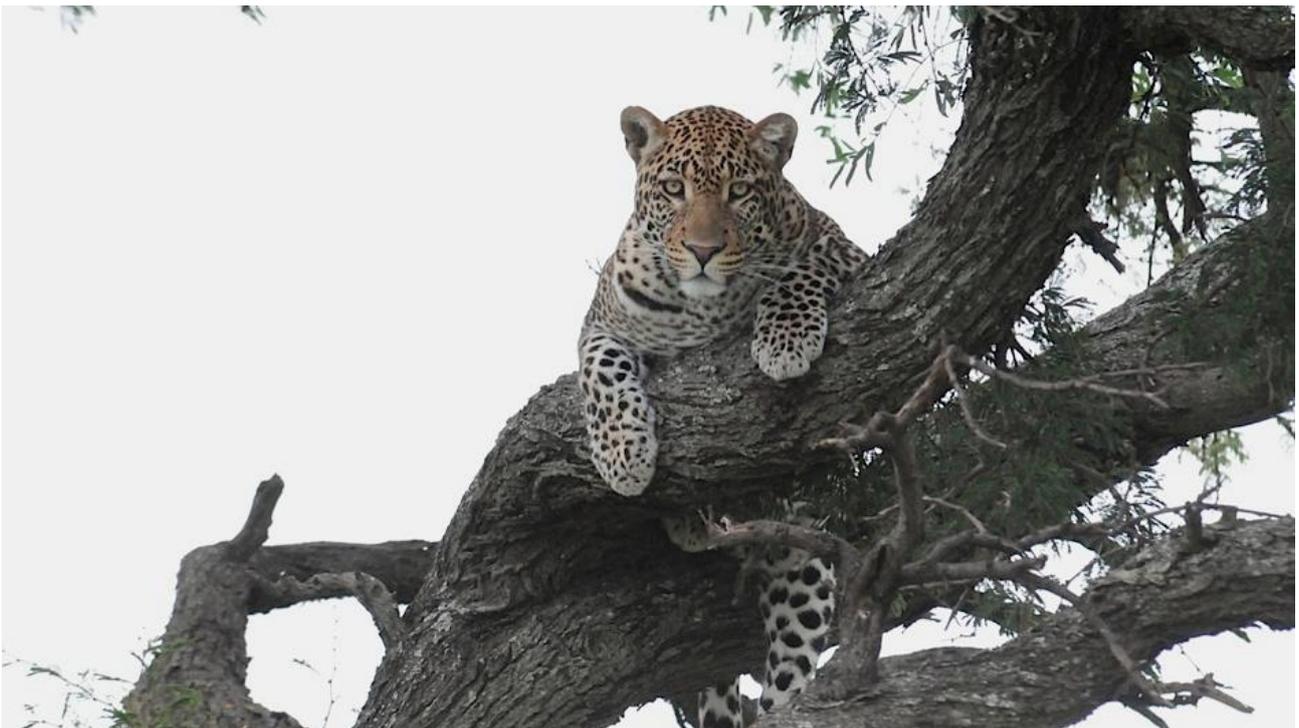
Another advantage to all that water is the lush vegetation that grows as a result of its presence. If you thought elephants drink a lot, they eat even more! An elephant eats about 5% of its body weight per day, that's about 200 kg (441 lb) of food a day for an average-sized adult.



Less shy



Before Singita opened Mara River Tented Camp in the last quarter of 2012 as the first permanent camp in the area, the Lamai Triangle was a place seldom frequented by tourists and safari vehicles. Animals such as leopards are at times still very shy of vehicles, but they continue to get used to the new big, square, noisy and most un-agile creatures roaming their territories. As such, seeing relaxed leopards, such as the two pictured here, that were spotted by guides and guests in June, is always a great treat. These instances are increasing as time goes by and we continue to be a presence in the area.



Last minute arrival

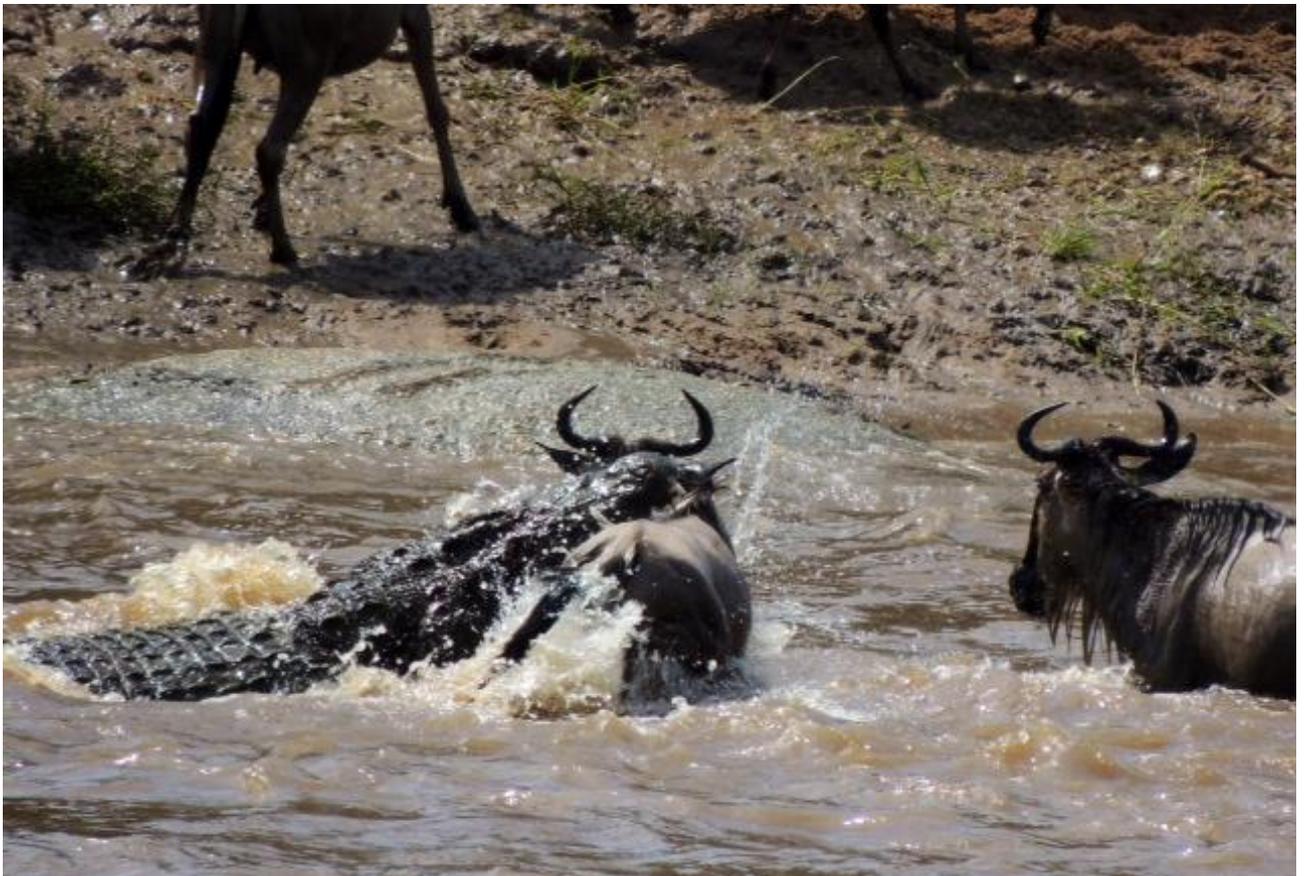
The migratory herds arrived and left Singita Grumeti Reserves early in 2014. By the third day in June there weren't any left, and for that reason we expected them in Lamai at Mara River Tented Camp by about the 20th of the month. But the month was almost over, and still no sign of the beasts.



On the last day of the month, a report from a guide to Camp Manager Kevin Pongola came over the radio, "The great migration has arrived!" 80 000 wildebeest were crossing the Mara River to the northern side at crossing point 7, which is about 8 km upstream of Kogatende.

The crossing lasted about an hour, and four kills made by crocodiles were witnessed. What a way to end the month!





Sightings report



Lion:	16
Leopard:	2
Cheetah:	3
Elephant:	15
Buffalo:	Multiple sightings daily

Special sightings

- 80 000 wildebeest crossed the Mara River.
- 4 crocodile kills took place during the above crossing.
- A pod of 200 hippos upstream of Kogatende Bridge.
- 3 female hyenas with 4 small cubs, 5 km upstream from the camp.

By Lizzie Hamrick
Singita Grumeti
Serengeti
Tanzania
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