



Tuli Elephant Diaries

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250 Elephants & Plenty of Water!

It is fantastic to still see large pools of water in most of the rivers within the reserve and even the Limpopo River was still flowing in the beginning of the month. Food is plentiful and as a result for the first part of the month large herds of elephants were seen walking along the Nyaswe and Matabole rivers. On one such morning I counted close to 250 elephants walking in group formation past our vehicle near Fraser Jones weir

along the Matabole River. Several of the migratory herds also joined us for a



Youngsters playing on the banks of the Majale River

bit this month with Giselle and Scarflank spending several weeks in the cen-

tral section of the reserve. As the winds and the temperatures picked up towards the end of the month the groups got smaller and the time spend within the Acacia areas along the Majale and Limpopo rivers increased.



Matings and babies

Even though elephants can have babies throughout the year the majority of babies are born during the wet season from about January to April/May but this year several babies have been born during July and August. A new baby was spotted in Ilze's group and in

Hestelle's family.

On a morning drive we also came across a big musth bull guarding a young tuskless female in Hestelle's herd very closely. The herd disappeared into the riverine thicket and not long after trumpets and rumbles could be heard. Big bull has

mated with the young female and by the time we got close to the herd he was making sure that none of the other bulls get close to the herd. Hopefully in 22 months the young tuskless female will have her first baby.