

Game Sightings yearly report - January 2008

Sunday, 30th December

A cool overcast morning as we set out on a morning drive. It was a quiet morning out in the bush but there was lots of general game to be seen and this morning we also stopped to learn a little bit more about the amazingly colourful birds in Mashatu. Our ranger pointed out the Lilac breasted roller, the carmine bee-eater, Woodland kingfisher, Temericks courser, several of the stork species including the amazing coloured saddle billed stork. Near Eric's Donga we had a glimpse of a young male leopard as he made his way up the White Cliffs, while the baboons in the area shouted out a warning to everything that would listen. At Crocodile pool in the Majale River we were surrounded by nearly 200 elephants as they came down from all directions to converge on the pool for a morning drink.

Our afternoon drive delivered again several herds of elephants and two different groups of hyenas. The highlight and most unusual sighting in a while was that of a lone gemsbok spotted by Richard and his guests at the Tented Camp. Another great sighting on route back to camp was a porcupine scurrying across the road in front of the game viewer.

Monday, 31st December

A beautiful, sunny morning as we set out with Jeanetta, an elephant researcher in the Tuli to find and learn more about her research project and the elephants she studies. Leaving from the Tented Camp our ranger pointed out two small raptors sitting high up in a Leadwood tree. They were two tiny little owls named Pearl Spotted Owls. Close to the Nyaswe borehole we spotted yet another raptor, this time a Brown Snake Eagle. We met up with the elephants along the Majale River near Hamerkop Crossing as they were scooping up bundles of devil's thorn flowers. There was probably close to a 100 elephants in the area with different herds moving in different directions with some unsure of where they would like to go. Amongst the herds were the small family of Diana and the much larger group of Pond. On the opposite side of the Majale River, near Braai Koppie, we came across one of Jeanetta's collared females, a 40-year-old cow named Agatha. Close to her family was the family of Charge, a well-known cow. During the morning we watched the young bulls play fight, the babies chasing each other and sometimes mock charging the vehicle. Near Eric's Donga two hyenas were spotted on route to the hyena den along the Matabole River.

Hyenas and more hyenas! Near Moddergat we came across no less than 8 hyenas feeding on an unfortunate zebra, while at Beacon Hill another four hyenas were heading in the direction of Moddergat most likely to join up with the rest of the group already feeding. Again we saw elephants, a small group drinking at Fraser Jones weir on the Matabole River and a much larger group walking up the Matabole River near Beacon Hill. General game was amazing with a great sighting of a few jackal pups, honey badger on route back to camp and a bush baby to end off the evening's entertainment.

Tuesday, 01st January

This morning we once again set off with Jeanetta, the resident elephant researcher to learn more about the elephants of the Tuli. But first a stop at the hyena den along the banks of the Matabole River. Here we encountered a whole group of hyenas consisting of two adult females, three juveniles suckling from one of the females and another tiny baby peeping in and out of the hole in the ground. Another young male tried to get into the den but kept on being pushed out by the alpha female. We came across several herds of elephants just below Main camp along the banks of the Majale River. As the herds moved further along the river, we followed ending up at Crocodile pool where several of the herds stopped for a drink. A safe distance away in the riverbed we stopped and enjoyed a morning cup of coffee watching the elephant's drink and mud wallow a few hundred meters away. Near Eric's Donga two young male leopards were seen along the White Cliffs.

It was a different game drive this afternoon as we set out to the Mmamakwa ruins on the west of the game reserve. Grant Hall, an archaeologist, joined us for the excursion. Grant studied the Mmamakwa ruins for several years and this afternoon he spoke about the people that lived on this amazing site. On route to the site we encountered a herd of nearly 50 elephants mud wallowing. Joining the herd were 5 huge bulls! Giraffes, lots of zebras, a pair of ostriches with 12 chicks all filled our drive to the ruins. With all the rain we've had this season Mmamakwa looks like a little paradise. We spent the whole afternoon walking and looking at everything Grant pointed out and then after an exhausting climb to the top of the hill we enjoyed a welcome sundowner drink overlooking miles and miles of Africa.

Wednesday, 2nd January

This morning was wonderful and sunny as we set out to explore the reserve. Suddenly our ranger pointed out lion tracks and indicated that the tracks were made some time this morning and so the search for the lions started with ranger and tracker working as a team stopping, looking, discussing, and off we set again. Our search was not in vain, near Fig Tree Crossing we came across two lions, a young lioness and a male fast asleep in the morning sun. What magnificent creatures they are with their gold coats shining in the morning sun. Elephants were also all around this morning, with tiny babies and cheeky young bulls to entertain us as we watched them up close and personal. We also watched a group of about 10 eland bulls lying down. A herd of zebras near Main Camp has a new foal which was a delight to see with its fresh black and white striped coat.

What an afternoon drive. At Fig Tree crossing we visited the lions again, and this time they were on the move. Not far from the lions we spotted a young female leopard, also on the move, but not before we had a good look at her. The hyenas were also out and about and we spotted a female on the hunt near Crocodile pool. A small herd of elephants was drinking at Dispute Corner and it is here that we enjoyed our sundowner drinks before exploring the reserve at night.

Thursday, 3rd January

Near Fig Tree crossing we found our first herd for the morning with nearly a 100 elephants to watch all around us - a little intimidating. From here we set out to the central section of the reserve near Majale Island where we first found a magnificent male leopard resting high up in a Leadwood tree. Not too far from the leopard we came across the two lions we spotted the day before, they were quite a long walk from where we saw them the previous evening – no wonder they were now fast asleep and could not bother lifting their heads as we arrived. Another herd of over a hundred elephants was seen scattered on the Island placing large clumps of green grass in their mouths. A highlight for the morning was two bush pigs which suddenly came rushing out of the long grass just long enough for us to have a good look at them, before they disappeared again.

What an amazing afternoon drive with a stop at the Majale Island pride to encounter the young male mating with the female he has been spending a lot of time with. One of the highlights of the drive was watching a large herd of elephants near Braai Koppie swimming and mud wallowing in the Majale River. They make it look like so much fun playing in the water! After sunset we encountered a beautiful female leopard on the prowl near Nel's Windmill and our last stop for the evening was the hyena den on the Matabole River where we were lucky enough to see three of the little cubs running around outside with two females keeping a watchful eye on both the babies and ourselves.

Friday, 4th January

Today was an amazing morning for elephants! Driving from Crocodile pool towards Dispute Corner along the Majale River we came across more than 300 elephants. There were more elephants on this morning's drive than impala! We sat amongst the herds with elephants all around us, watching young males test their strength and older bulls paying more attention to the cows and possible mating opportunities. In one herd we were lucky enough to see a bull chase an oestrus cow, but she ran and it was the last we saw of the mating couple... High in a Mashatu

tree safe from the chaos below a young male leopard was fast asleep, paying little attention to the elephants or the vehicles watching him from beneath the tree. Driving back to camp 2 hyenas were also spotted at two different locations, one hyena was making its way to a pool in the Majale River for a quick splash in the cool waters.

This afternoon some of the guests at Main camp set out to the archaeological site to the west of the reserve named Mmamakwa. On route there we spotted several game species including lots of giraffe, zebra, a common duiker and of course lots of impala. The site is situated in a valley surrounded by sandstone hills and in the late afternoon sunlight the sandstone reflects in shades of red and yellow. It is here in a small riverbed we learned more about the cultures of the people that have occupied this area since 900AD. As we walked on the site we picked up several pieces of pottery and even beads that could be a hundred years old or maybe even a 1000 years old! We ended our tour on top of Mmamakwa Hill overlooking miles and miles of Africa. The time to walk down the hill came way too soon and reluctantly we made our way down the hill with a night drive back to camp.

Saturday, 5th January

This morning we set out with Jeanetta, the resident elephant researcher, to learn more about the elephants of the Tuli. We did not have to drive far to encounter the first of many herds for the morning. A cool summers day with a strong breeze blowing the elephants were all out in the open. We had an amazing sighting watching all their antics learning about their habits and their behaviours as they went about their business. Several different herds were in the area, with different behaviours and attitudes towards the vehicles. Jeanetta interpreted the different behaviours and as the morning progressed we started seeing more and more of the behaviours she explained. During the morning several different groups of hyenas were seen and yet another extremely large group of elephants near McKenzie Koppie. One of these groups of hyenas was feeding.

Sunday, 06 January

Elephants, elephants and more elephants! All the way from Crocodile pool in the Majale River to the Wallow herds and herds of elephants were seen totalling over 300. Elephants were seen grazing, mud wallowing and sleeping under several of the Mashatu trees along the river. A beautiful male leopard was spotted near Crocodile Pool resting comfortably high up in a big Mashatu tree. Along the Matabole River, near the hyena den, four hyenas were seen on the move towards the den.

This afternoon we set out to the west of the reserve where lion tracks were spotted. After tracking for sometime an unknown lioness was spotted west of Naledi, while two young lionesses and a young male were seen near the Majale Cocktail spot. Both these groups were very wary and we followed from a distance so as not to scare them.

Monday, 07 January

This morning we set out in search of the elephants of the Northern Tuli with the elephant researcher Jeanetta. We found our first herd near McKenzie Koppie. It was Charge's group, a herd of about 30 elephants. We stopped close to the herd and watched them scoop up big bunches of grass stuffing it into their mouths. Broken Tusk was closest to the vehicle and started walking towards us extending her trunk towards the vehicle smelling the vehicle determining who was watching them. For the rest of the morning we drove from herd to herd meeting and watching several of the known herds and getting to know some of the slightly less known groups. Near Moddergat a beautiful male leopard was seen moving amongst the trees giving us just enough time to watch him and get some pictures. North of Cheetah's Koppie an enormous group of over 200 eland was seen.

It was a quiet evening out on the reserve but again lots of elephants near Dispute Corner. However, the big cats were nowhere to be found. The sounds of thunder rumbling in the distance followed us on the drive but the rains stayed away. On the night drive back to camp we came

across one of the smaller cats – an African wild cat. What an amazing little creature with their big ears and long front legs.

Tuesday, 08 January

It was definitely an elephant morning with herd after herd arriving at Crocodile pool on the Majale River for a drink and a mud wallow. During the morning more than a hundred elephants came down to the river. Some of the herds could be identified while others are strangers to the area. The elephants were not alone at Crocodile pool. The two young lionesses and the young male lion seen earlier in the week appeared on the bank of the river, but the sight of the vehicle and the elephants sent the lions running. Another visitor to Crocodile pool during the morning was a lone hyena making its way back to the hyena den. At the hyena den on the Matabole River two females hyenas were seen sleeping outside the den with two of the little cubs suckling from one of the females. A large herd of wildebeest and zebra were seen close to the Main Camp.

Another magnificent herd of elephants was seen near Pole Hill walking to the west this afternoon. The herd consisted of more than 70 elephants with several young babies in the herd. As the sun set we watched the elephants move slowly through the open green landscape covered in yellow flowers. What a magical sight! On the night dive back to camp we came across a bush pig with piglets. A very rare sighting in deed!

Wednesday, 09 January

What a morning! During the night the Main Camp received a 100mm of rain while the Tented Camp received 95 mm. The Majale River was in full flood limiting the area the rangers could drive in during the morning drive. Driving this morning was another challenge. The rain had not yet stopped and the earth was very wet and muddy making it a true 4x4 course as the rangers manoeuvred on the wet roads. Close to Cheetah's Koppie we came across a herd of about 30 elephants feeding on the grass out in the open. With the temperatures as they cool as they are and the wonderful soft rain the elephants were in no hurry to get into the thick riverine. We watched for a long time as they slowly moved along stuffing trunk full after trunk full of grass into their mouths. The young teenage bulls, however, were more interested in playing than eating and several youngsters could be seen sparing and pushing each other around to the annoyance of the females.

It was still raining in the afternoon but this did not deter us and we set out to explore the reserve. Yet more elephants were found this time at Beacon Hill and lots of general game was around to keep us entertained. A large herd of eland with all their babies was seen, lots and lots of zebra and for once they were black and white and not brown and black as normal! A beautiful herd of wildebeests was seen with several new babies in the herd. The babies look so different from their mothers with their light brown coats and pretty faces. On our night drive back to camp we were lucky to spot a Giant Eagle owl and close to camp an African wild cat!

Thursday, 10 January

This morning, still over cast and drizzling! In total the Main Camp received about 20mm of rain by 7h00 this morning. This morning we set out mainly looking for the mainly different bird species on the reserve at the moment. During the drive we saw more than a hundred white storks feeding on numerous little frogs at the vlei. We spotted common quails running in front of us in the road, a black headed oriole, a very wet crimson breasted shrike, pied babblers, an African hawk Eagle, wood sandpiper, knob billed ducks (even one sitting in a tree) and many more magnificent bird species.

This afternoon we visited the hyena den along the Matabole River and came across three adult hyenas fast asleep outside the den. Unfortunately we could not see any of the babies. At Quelea colony we came across a herd of about 30 elephants and watched them go about their business as we enjoyed our sundowner drinks from on top of Quelea Colony hill. Driving back with the spotlight long after sunset, our tracker pointed out eyes scurrying quickly away from us in the

distance. Our ranger headed in the direction of the eyes and soon we could see a lone honey badger in the bright light of the spotlight.

Friday, 11 January

This morning we set out once more with the resident elephant researcher, Jeanetta to learn more about her charges. After several days of good rains the reserve was very wet making driving a challenge, but Bashi, our ranger, did an excellent job of getting us right to the elephants and we could spend our whole morning watching them feed and ultimately swim in the Majale River. We met up with several of Jeanetta's known herds including one of her favourites – Hestelle. She described Hestelle as one of the oldest matriarchs in the reserve, leading a group of about 30 elephants. Several of the other members of her family were known and Jeanetta pointed out all of them. Within the herd there were also three new babies born from November onwards. Close to Dispute Corner we met yet another group Jeanetta knows well, namely the family of Segole, a big one-tusk female with a clubfoot. One of the young bulls within her herd was in the middle of the river enjoying a wonderful swim. Several others were drinking on the side or throwing mud on themselves. Reluctantly we left the elephants and made our way back to camp. On route we encountered a herd of eland, reaching nearly 200 in size, grazing below Disappointment Koppie. Below Braai Koppie we came across a lone hyena guarding an impala kill. On inspection Bashi informed us that based on the tracks it looked like the hyena had stolen the kill from a leopard. Several other groups of hyenas were seen during the morning drive by rangers out in the field.

As the rain disappeared the sun came out, warming up the reserve. Near Crocodile pool we came across three unknown lions. These lions have been seen on and off for a few weeks, but are still very shy and not often seen by the vehicles. Another visit to the hyena den was more successful with three adults and a very curious little baby coming right up to the vehicle for a closer inspection of the ranger's shoe.

Saturday, 12 January

During the early morning hours the three lions had killed a big eland and were enjoying their meal near Beacon Hill, quite a distance from where we saw them the night before. Being on a kill seemed to relax the three lions a bit and we had a great sighting of them before we continued to see what else we could find this sunny morning. Near the lions a group of 9 hyenas was also found feeding on either something they stole or killed the night before. Yet another group of 15 hyenas was seen feeding on an eland kill near Disappointment Koppie. In total this morning four different herds of elephants were seen ranging from 30 to over 200 elephants near Quelea Colony.

13 January 2008

This morning was filled with sightings of elephants. As we drove around the stunning landscape Mashatu has to offer, we came across a total of 150 elephants. In between the sightings of these gentle giants, we saw plenty of other game such as zebra, giraffe, warthog, kudu and plenty of impala. We did see something to do with a leopard though – for we came across a leopard tortoise! The only predator seen on this drive was that of an adult female hyaena crossing a riverbed. With the stands of tall grass, it seems to be more difficult to find those secretive, nocturnal predators such as leopards... But this was only the beginning of our stay.

Our evening drive was very exciting since we found the king of beasts – lions! We came across 3 lions, two sub-adult males and a female, but they were very shy and it was hard to follow them. Elvis, our guide, told us that these lions are new to the area and that is why they are so shy. The rest of the drive was filled with plenty of game and we also saw jackal, Vervet monkeys, baboons and steenbok.

14 January 2008

On our morning drive we came across 15 spotted hyaenas! They were resting in a riverbed and didn't seem to be bothered by our presence. That made our day, since we could get beautiful pictures of them. We also found a leopard resting in the shade near a riverbed, but unlike the hyaenas, this male leopard did not stay around for too long. We did, however, get some stunning pictures of this elusive big cat. Other sightings included zebra, wildebeest, giraffe, warthog, impala and many bird species.

15 January 2008

Our afternoon drive was action packed, and we started off with a sighting of a young male leopard walking along a riverbed searching for his next meal. We followed him as he weaved through the bushes and finally caught something small. It looked like he had caught a cane rat or rabbit. It happened too quickly. We then watched him as he casually lay down in the tall grass enjoying his little snack. A herd of elephants also came down to drink from one of the many pools of water in the riverbed. They were oblivious to our presence and only focused on the fresh water. With the setting of the African sun in the background, it made for some amazing pictures. Other sightings included kudu, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, impala and many baboons.

16 January 2008

Our morning drive offered some great sightings. Apart from the loads of bird species we saw, we were also fortunate to see a herd of about 50 elephants feeding along a riverine area. It was amazing to see how these huge animals can use their trunks to not only break massive branches, but pick up the smallest fruits from the ground with pin-point accuracy. It was amazing to sit with them and observe their behaviour. We came across 9 spotted hyaenas that were just lying in the soft riverbed sand. From duiker and steenbok, to eland and zebra, we saw them all. What made our drive extra special was the sighting of a honey badger! It was a great morning drive.

On our evening drive we came across another uncommon species – a large spotted genet. They are said to be arboreal (tree living) and can move around at night with ease amongst trees searching for little birds and other critters to eat. From our small nocturnal predator, we moved on to the serious species, such as male leopard hunting. The leopard did not succeed in catching anything while we were following him, but I'm sure he got something as the night went by.

17 January 2008

On our morning drive with ranger Mothusi, we saw plenty of game species such as wildebeest, zebra, and warthog wallowing in mud, giraffe and stunning bird species. Regarding the giants of Africa, well we saw plenty of them too. We saw a total of 100 elephants moving through a plains-like area towards riverine bushveld where there are large, succulent trees to feed from. The only predator species we found this morning was that of 11 spotted hyaenas. This clan is seen most often and they are very relaxed towards vehicles, which makes photographing them easy and fun.

Our evening drive offered a beautiful sighting of a pair of black-backed jackal. They were found resting amongst a field of yellow flowers and the pictures taken of them will most certainly end up on my desktop PC background. Vervet monkeys, baboons, impala, wildebeest and zebra were also in abundance on this drive.

18 January 2008

What a drive! We found a massive herd of elephants this morning – 200 of them! As we stood on a hill and enjoyed a hot cup of coffee with our ranger Bashi, we were amazed to see this massive herd of elephants gently grazing by. I will not forget that cup of coffee anytime soon... We also saw a beautiful bushbuck feeding along a riverbed and plenty of giraffe. Warthogs, zebra and wildebeest made for some stunning pictures and we also saw the most amazing bird species.

On our evening drive we saw plenty of new born wildebeest calves playing in a field covered with yellow flowers. Although it is difficult to spot smaller animals in the tall grass, it is awesome to see the new born of impala and wildebeest running around and playing. After we also saw kudu, zebra, giraffe, eland, steenbok and plenty of bird species, we were again stunned by the magnificent sunset over the African plains of Mashatu, while enjoying an ice cold Gin & Tonic. Later the evening we came across spotted hyaenas walking along the road, sniffing the air as they went. We could see these guys were out on the hunt and they hardly looked back at us following them. It was a perfect night out in the bush.

19 January 2008

On our morning drive today we saw big herds of elephants. We followed them along the plains and watched as they interacted with one another. They are truly fascinating animals. It was a cloudy day and although the sun wasn't shining to its full potential, we still felt the heat of the bush as the time went by. Kudu, giraffe and zebra was abundant on this drive.

Our evening drive proved to be yet another unforgettable night. We came across a male leopard that at first was resting, but later got up and walked all along the riverbed. These are magnificent predators and although they look relaxed and tame while walking along, they possess awesome strength and power. It was so wonderful to be the only people there to follow this elusive big cat of Africa and see how it went about his leopard-like business. We took stunning pictures of this male.

Sunday, 27 January

What an amazing morning for elephants! Over 200 elephants were seen walking down river from Baboons Bedroom towards the Majale River. Yet another large group of elephants was seen near McKenzie Koppie walking towards the Croton thickets. Later in the morning we encountered the same large group seen near Baboons Bedroom all along the Majale River where some of the elephants were swimming, others drinking and some of the babies were fast asleep under the large bodies of their mothers. The new pride of lion, consisting of one adult lioness and two sub adult females was seen on the move near the Nyaswe borehole. At present no one knows where these lions come from and whether they are previous offspring of one of the resident prides.

This afternoon we did not have to drive far from Mashatu Tent Camp to encounter animals. Just outside of Tent Camp, along the Kwedi airstrip, nearly 50 elephants were seen grazing. We watched as they scooped up one bunch of grass after the other, stuffing it in their mouths with their amazing trunks. Along the Matabole River we came across 3 female hyenas walking quickly, possibly to find food for the pups back at the den - a kilometre or so down stream. After sunset we set out on our night drive in search of the many illusive nocturnal creatures. All the long grass makes it hard to see the little creatures, but this evening we were lucky enough to spot an African wild cat on the hunt.

Monday, 28 January

Early on in the drive we came across a herd of elephants. Our ranger pointed out one of the females in the herd as Hestelle – one of the oldest matriarchs we have on the reserve. A young female in the herd was behaving oddly. She started urinating and in the urine blood could be seen. Fascinated and a little worried we kept watching the female as she started moving about in a funny manner. Suddenly the ranger exclaimed “she’s giving birth!” Sure enough as we watched more and more of the baby could be seen. The trunk appeared and then the front feet, body and as the female hunched back the baby dropped to the ground. Immediately other females were there to assist and cover the baby with dust. A few young bulls curious about the new baby tried to get a better view but were told off in no uncertain terms by the adults. The whole birth took about 45 minutes to an hour. What an amazing thing to witness out in the bush!

This afternoon we came across two of the lionesses of the new pride near Braai Koppie. For once they were not too bothered with the vehicles and we had an amazing sighting of the lionesses

sleeping in the late afternoon sun. A large herd of elephants was spotted drinking at Dispute Corner with some of the youngsters enjoying an afternoon swim. Just after sunset we spotted a male leopard resting near McNiel's pool. What an amazing creature with the most beautiful coat.

Tuesday, 29 January

The new pride had joined up with two sub adult males and the lions were seen all the way near Moddergat. One of the females is in oestrus and the young males were doing their best to impress her. Not far from the lions a female leopard and her tiny little cub were seen high up in a tree. General game was plentiful. A large herd of wildebeest was seen grazing just below Main Camp, while several herds of impalas were seen on the drive. Near the Majale River we spotted a small family of warthogs feeding on their knees with tails straight up in the air.

The new pride was still at Moddergat resting in the warm afternoon sun. One of the males was mating with the young female in oestrus. Near Kanda Rock Camp a big bull elephant was seen tracking a herd that had passed that way earlier in the afternoon. Several very big eland bulls were found resting under a shepherd's tree near the Majale River. As we approached the males walked away with just the sound of the clicking of their hooves to be heard (or is it the tendons on their knees?). A curious small jackal pup entertained us while enjoying our sundowners as the sun set in the west. Our night drive delivered sightings of porcupine and a small spotted genet.

Wednesday, 30 January

It took a bit of tracking on the side of the ranger and tracker this morning but at long last we found the lions once more. The pride had moved down towards the Majale River and was found near Dispute Corner. The males were still guarding the one lioness closely making sure she never left their sides. The lions were going to have a tough time near the river as several herds of elephants started approaching the water for their morning drink and mud wallow. Sure enough not long after, the lions started moving away from the river, leaving it to the elephants. Along the Matabole River we came across a female hyena and her tiny pup not far from the hyena den. The little baby was still pitch black and very curious about the game drive vehicle.

The lions did not move too far from the river and by the time we set out on our afternoon drive they were fast asleep in the shade of the riverine trees. Elephants were still in the area but as the sun set the elephants started making their way towards the open mopane veld where they will spend most of the evening. After dark we tracked an illusive leopard for some time but this time the leopard won! As a reward for all our hard work a porcupine scurried across the road in front of us.

Thursday, 31 January

This morning we set out with Jeanetta, the elephant researcher, to learn more about the elephants of the Tuli. As we set out from camp Jeanetta told us about the amazing history of the elephants and the interesting things she has learned over the years. Along the Nyaswe River we met up with a big bull elephant scooping up bunches of grass. While watching him we learnt all about the amazing social structure of a bull elephant and how to differentiate between bulls and cows. We met up with Ilze the elephant and her family along the Majale River. There were several bulls off all ages and sizes with the herd - the reason: a young female in oestrus. Watching the bulls interact with such subtle body postures was amazing. It was amusing to watch a very young female, too young to be having babies, trying to get the attention of a magnificent bull that was guarding her older sister.

Once again we set out to find the illusive leopard and this time we succeeded! We found the most beautiful female leopard near White Cliffs. She was on the move and we followed her for a while before setting out to find other interesting animals. A small group of elephants was seen feeding near Fig Tree Crossing and as usual general game was plentiful.