

Singita



WILDLIFE REPORT SINGITA GRUMETI TANZANIA

For the month of September, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four

Temperature

Average minimum: 16°C
Average maximum: 30°C
Minimum recorded: 15°C
Maximum recorded: 32°C

Rainfall Recorded

Grumeti 212mm
Lamai 45 mm

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise 06:49
Sunset 18:48

September has been a relatively dry month with only one large 30mm soaking at the very end of the month. The Grumeti river is still flowing, although at a much lower level, but still providing drinking water for elephants and other herds of buffalo and zebra.

Huge numbers of wildebeests are coming back onto the property coming from the North (Lamai and Kogatende).

With the Wildebeest passing through, heading south-west deep into the Serengeti National Park, we have seen fantastic plains wildlife in general across the reserve. Many thousands of Zebra continue to roam the Grumeti Reserves, with lovely Gazelle numbers, Giraffe and Eland.

The scorched ground from recent fires has started growing new shoots, attracting Gazelles in good numbers and providing great open and short grass plains grazing for zebras and topi.

A sightings snapshot for September

Lion:

- Lion sightings this month have been nothing short of awesome. We have had some great viewing of different lion interaction on the property.
- The once shy Momukomule pride are now fully relaxed within the presence of game viewers and have been establishing themselves with confidence a short distance away from the north-eastern side of the hill, on the drainage line. The pride is growing, with nine cubs of different ages.
- The Butamtam pride have been observed this month in the Koroya Hill region, further south towards Chui drainage and the Pundamilia Acacia woodlands.
- The Lions have fed well with the great number of Zebras on the property which makes a change of feeding dynamics, from mainly Buffalo to Zebra and Wildebeest.
- The Nyasirori pride continue to be sighted south of the Sabora plains, offering some lovely sightings close to Sabora Camp.
- The Ridge pride has moved to the ridge hills and Sabora plains where they been spending most of their time.

Leopard:

- Leopard sightings this month have been great.
- The Mbogo drainage female has been sighted more frequently around Faru Faru lodge and south of the lodge.
- The Serengeti Hill male leopard was sighted on the scrapes and at Serengeti Hill.
- The Grumeti N male was sighted on several occasions at Grumeti North drainage.
- A shy male has been sighted frequently on the Grumeti River at the German Bridge area.
- The Momukomule male has been sighted east and south of Sasakwa Hill.

Cheetah:

- Cheetahs have started to establish themselves on the property with the returning of their favourite prey species which are Thomson and Grants gazelles.
- The resident male has been sighted between Sasakwa plains and Sabora plains.
- A female has been sighted at Kawanga plains.
- A female has also been sighted close to Sabora Tented Camp.

Elephant:

- Elephant numbers have been outstanding again this month.
- We have seen incredible numbers strolling across the Sasakwa plains and at Sasakwa Dam, drinking and bathing.
- As water levels continues to drop, elephant activity in the Grumeti river has provided great viewing as they have been utilizing the river more frequently during the heat of the day and visiting at night too.

- Aggregations of breeding herds have been seen up to 100 strong in the Eastern regions of Ikorongo and in the western rain tree woodlands.
- Good breeding herds sighted in the Lamai triangle and Romoti.

Buffalo:

- Fantastic Buffalo numbers sighted all over the reserve.
- Lovely sightings of herds of 300 scattered in different areas of Ikorongo.
- Again, catching the buffalo herds coming to drink on the river during the heat of the day providing some exciting stuff! Throw a herd of zebras and giraffes into the mix too, with lions waiting in ambush and you've got your work cut out for you!
- Large breeding herds have been sighted all over the property.
- Some great buffalo bulls also observed with varied horn sizes, shapes and breadth.
- Good number of buffalo bulls grazing up on Sasakwa Hill.
- Many young calves sighted within the herds, testament to their success over the years of great conservation efforts.

Rhino:

- Rhino sightings in the IPZ have been lovely this month.
- The bull (Eric) has been frequently sighted browsing on the hill side.
- Zaituni, the orphaned youngster, continues to do very well. She is fully grown now and we hope to see her, in the not too distant future, return to the wild.
- Other Rhino individuals on the reserve are fit and well. All young calves are accounted for, fit and strong.
- The Rhino teams continue to keep a close eye on these individuals as they disperse over considerable distances including in areas of the Serengeti National Park.

Other Interesting Sightings:

- This month has been rather a special month for the early arrival of intra African migrants.
- A Caracal was sighted at Sasakwa plains.
- A Serval cat has been sighted at Nyati plains and South of Sasakwa hills.
- Great numbers of Wildebeest and Zebra surging through the reserve this month.
- Huge herds of Topi sighted out on the Kawanga plains and West of Gambaranyera plains.

Some short bush stories to follow as well as the September gallery of images.

“Nature drama unfolds” by Silas Jurawa

At midday sun, a lion and lioness stealthily approached Sasakwa Dam, teeming with the large congregation of Wildebeests and Zebras. With synchronized precision, the lion and lioness made the herd to panic and then targeted the strugglers at the fringe of the herd. As the lioness burst forward with full throttle and a purposeful, powerful sprint the herd of Wildebeest and Zebras erupted into chaotic flight, but the lions teamwork prevailed and they managed to secure a victorious meal that sustained them through the harsh heat of the day on the plains of Grumeti.

The scene was a dramatic testament to the unforgiving dance of survival in the wild.



Picture by Silas Jurawa.



Sasakwa dam has been a good spot for sightings of the Great Egret as it has been spending most of its time fishing and frogging.

Picture by Paulo Kivuyo.



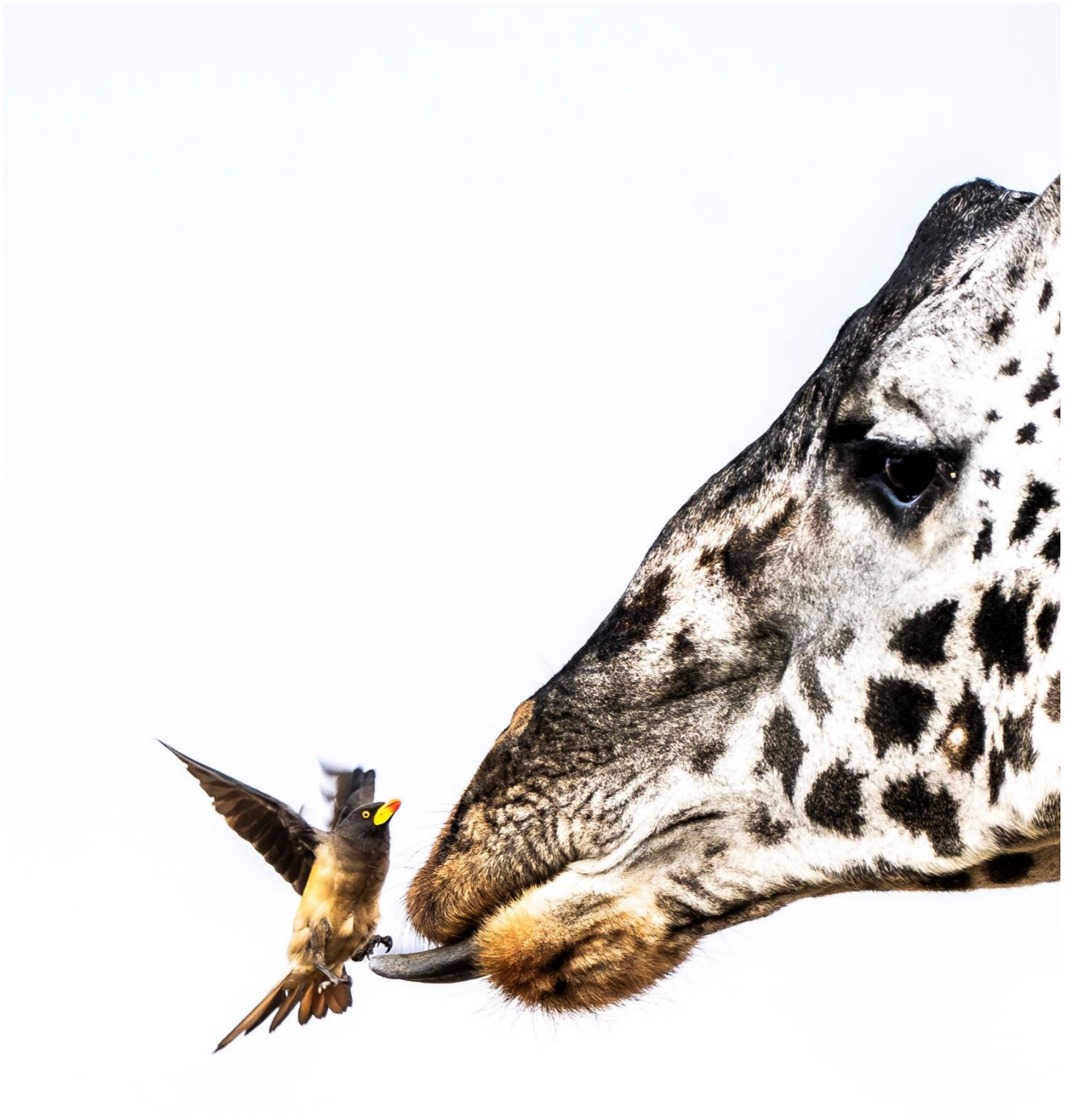
The big feast. Picture by Silas Jurawa.



A male olive baboon strolling along the Sasakwa dam wall at dusk. Picture by Dani Sam.



The number of Zebra is increasing as it is the foaling period. Picture by Dani Samwel.



The incredible symbiotic relation between the two species. Picture by Dani Samwel.



Breeding herd of Buffalo with aerial view from Intermediate Egret. Picture Dani Samwel.



Manchira pride Male. Picture by George Tolchard.



A curious Lion cub from Momukomule pride. Picture by Peterlis Kibwana



Wandering zebra at dusk on the plains. Picture by Clinton Sengenge.



The Arrow Marked Bbler on the foraging mission. Picture by Paulo Kivuyo.



A pensive look from the new shy male along Grumeti river. Picture by Silas Jurawa.



The resident male on the patrol. Picture by Paulo Kivuyo.



Small group of Maasai Giraffes stop for a snapshot before proceeding into the woodlands. Picture by Baraka Mtalo.



A Butamtam male on the prowl. Picture by Dani Samwel.



A young elephant showing who will be the next boss. Picture by Saitoti Olekuwai.



The lion cubs of the Momukomule pride. Picture by Dani Samwel.



A Momukomule pride male taking a break before the night shift patrol. Picture by Dani Samwel.



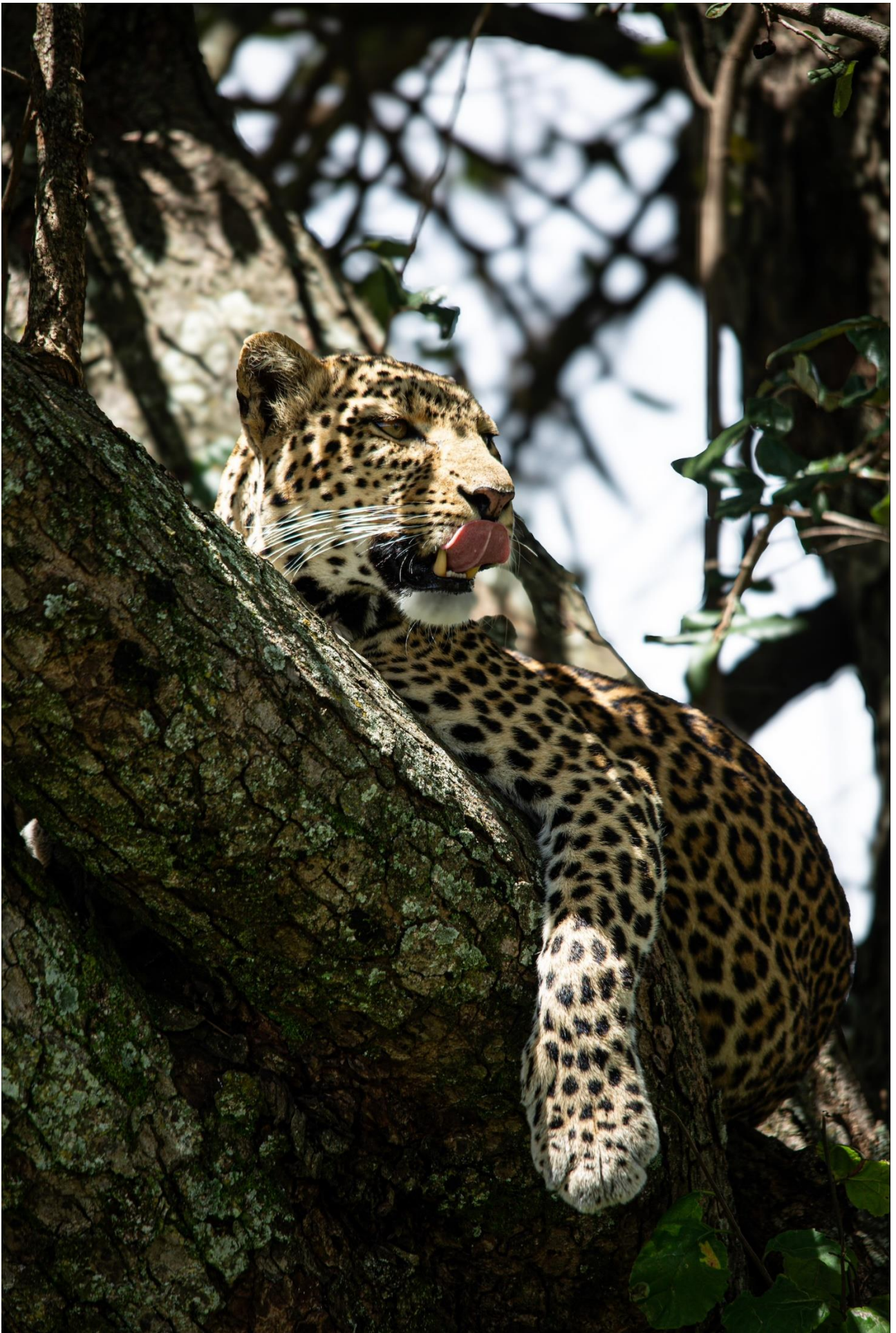
A Grey-headed Kingfisher calmly waiting for the insects to start flying. Picture by Paulo Kivuyo.



Staring into the future – a lion cub from the West pride. Picture by Dani Samwel.



Inquisitive hyaena cub. Picture by Saitoti Olekuwai.



The Mbogo drainage female, very relaxed in a tree. Picture by Clinton Sengenge.



Uncommon sighting of an ostrich nest. Picture by Clinton Sengenge.



Getting hot - the lioness from the Butamtam pride leading a cub into the shade. Picture by Paulo Kivuyo.



A Rüppell's Long Tailed Starling looking for an insect and ready to pounce. Picture by Paulo Kivuyo.



Lion cubs from the Momukomule pride. Picture by Peterlis Kibwana.

Lamai Triangle.

The wildebeest migration has been moving steadily into the Lamai Triangle and the open plains on the northern side of the river.

Huge herds have been crossing both ways, north to south and south to north.

The open plains have also been a refuge for other herbivores like Topi, Elands, Buffaloes, Elephants, Gazelles and Zebras.

The cat sightings have been incredible with almost daily sightings of Lions, Cheetahs and Leopards.

Report Compiled by Saitoti Olekuwai.