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Greetings from Arathusa!



Happy New Year everyone. We hope you have an awesome one and manage to come and spend some time with us here at Arathusa during 2009.

The year has started off really well with some great sightings already. The New Year has also brought with it much-needed rain, and it is good to have at least one hippo back in the dam.

General game has been very good, and there are still a lot of little ones “popping up” everywhere. The large herbivores have also been plentiful. A large herd of about 200 buffalo have been on our property for about two weeks now, and they don't look like they will be going anywhere soon. Rhino have also been plentiful and we have had some awesome sightings with them playing in the mud.

The elephants that have been missing for the last few weeks are also back. We have seen herds numbering up to 150 individuals...a spectacular sighting in itself. There have been “musth” (hormonally charged) bulls around, which has also been cause for a bit of fun for rangers and guests alike. It is always entertaining to sit with the herds and watch the little ones which are always over-confident bullies until they realise mom isn't right behind them!

Lion sightings have also been good - we had the Kahuma Pride come in from the Manyeleti Game Reserve. The pride consists of 5 lionesses and 5 youngsters. They killed a young giraffe a few days ago. While we were sitting watching them feed, a herd of elephants walked into the sighting. The elephants weren't too happy with the lions and we watched as they chased them around. Eventually things calmed down, and the lions were left to get back to their meal. The Mapogos have been a little scarce, but we did have three of them on our airstrip for a while.

Leopard sightings have been good as usual. The main news is that Andre managed to get a view of Safari's almost-month-old cub again. He followed Safari for a while before she headed to a termite mound. When she arrived, the little one came out to greet its mother and those in the vehicle were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of it. Other good news is that White-Cloth has a young cub, and Karula has two little ones. Last time we saw Ntima she was also looking very pregnant, and so hopefully in the

next few months we are going to have a lot of little "spotties" running around. The other leopards are all also doing well.

We can only hope that things continue the way they are. We wait while we all think of these new little leopards in the world - that their mothers will look after them well, and for them to grow big & strong ...

Kind regards

Andre & Rufus | Ryan & Morris | Jason & Roy