



Posted May 08, 2008 for the period 15 – 30 April

**B**ush greetings from Arathusa Safari Lodge.



Styx pride Eating a kudu bull; Karula on drive, and having a stretch; lioness from the Styx Pride

Once again another two weeks have passed and the time has come for the Arathusa Safari Lodge's rangers' diary. Since we last posted our updates, winter has really started to settle in with the early mornings being a bit on the chilly side. However the animals have not ceased to amaze us with their awe-inspiring splendour.

One of the best sightings we had over the past two weeks was the Kahuma pride of lions on a buffalo kill.

The kahuma's came across a dead buffalo in the mud at a waterhole. This buffalo had been seen limping badly a few days before his fate. It is believed that he had a broken leg which is a fatal injury for most wild animals.

After dragging the carcass from the mud they began to feed ferociously. Remember that lions do not share easily and at a scene like this it is "every lion for him or herself". Even the cubs have to fight to get a bite. However buffalos are large animals and there was enough for all to go around. Even the weakest of the litter were fat and round at the end of the day.

While these large cats were feeding they were very vocal and aggressive towards one another and we kept a good distance from them to stay out of harm's way. We even put the trackers in the vehicle with us, so they were not exposed to the lions on

the front of the car. For those of you who were here to share it with us - a sighting to remember and relish.

**Other highlights were:**

- A pack of 13 wild dogs came through our area and spent a few days here. They were very relaxed and spent a lot of time in one place which is a pleasure as these canines are usually quite nervous, and always on the move.
- We saw 4 leopards in one sighting. Mafufunyane, Karula and the two cubs on a baboon kill.
- Many large herds of buffalo in the area and also in front of the camp at the waterhole.
- We have had a small group of lions called the Tsalala's around with a small cub.
- As always many excellent leopard sightings.
- We had the Mapogo lion coalition on our airstrip and they walked right past the lodge at night while we were sleeping.



Black-backed jackal; a buffalo cow; Matimba jumping out of a tree

Until next time....  
The Arathusa Team.