



January 13, 2008

**G**reetings from Arathusa!

Well the New Year has come and gone and already everyone is fully into the swing of 2008!

The Old Year was seen out and The New Year was seen in, in true bush style under the stars, around a campfire. No nightly visitors to report – I guess it was just another day & night in Africa for our animal companions ...

The highlights for the past two weeks have definitely been seeing the Mapogo coalition and the Styx female lion prides mating. This is good news as the Mapogo normally kill other lions in our area, as our frequent readers may recall. Hopefully in about 110 days (gestation period of a lion) we will be seeing baby Styx lion cubs.

We have also been seeing a few new leopards in the area. One young male in particular is a really nice specimen and we hope he will stick around. There is also a new female with an approx. 10 to 12 month old cub. A new adult male was also spotted on one of the safaris.

We've just had a spell of not so good weather for our guests but a great bit of rain for our bushveld and the animals. However, soon the Sun shows his face and touches the treetops with golden ray fingers and we know he'll never stay away for too long! The rain is not unusual this time of year and is always welcome by the earth and those that live off it.

On that note, we'll sign off, with the whole Arathusa Safari Lodge Team wishing a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to you all!

Vriendelike Groete (Friendly Greetings)

**All of us at Arathusa Safari Lodge**

**A collection of images from the last few weeks**



Karula – we have had great sightings of this leopard and her two cubs.



White rhino.



Burchell's zebra. We often see these guys on the airstrip which we need to chase off before a plane can land or take off!!!



One off thee Styx lionesses. Here she is feeding on a freshly killed gnu calf.



Corkscrew. This is one off the bull elephants that frequents our part of the park. He has a corkscrew like tusk, a birth defect, which is genetic. Hence his name.



Mapogo male lion. This coalition of 6 male lions has been seen mating with the Styx female pride in our area.