

Newsletter

Tamboti Lodge



Summer | Issue 3 | 2026

Another summer has drawn to a wet, rainy close and what a whopper of a rainy season it was. We have had 819mm in total. The Park is green and lush and the soil is soaked. All of the dams, pans and seasonal streams are full, and the game are all fat.

As I write this report in the late summer, all I can hear around me is the sound of rutting Impala and Wildebeest. When the animals are healthy and happy, they breed, which means lots of calves in the Spring, early Summer.

We have had some great sightings of nocturnal animals this summer. Lots of Porcupines, Caracal, Serval, Spring Hares, African Wild Cats and even Jamesons Red Rock Rabbits. We spent an hour and a half with a Honey Badger one morning while he was raiding an underground bee-hive close to the Lodge. He became more and more relaxed and eventually went about business, unperturbed.

Wild Dogs

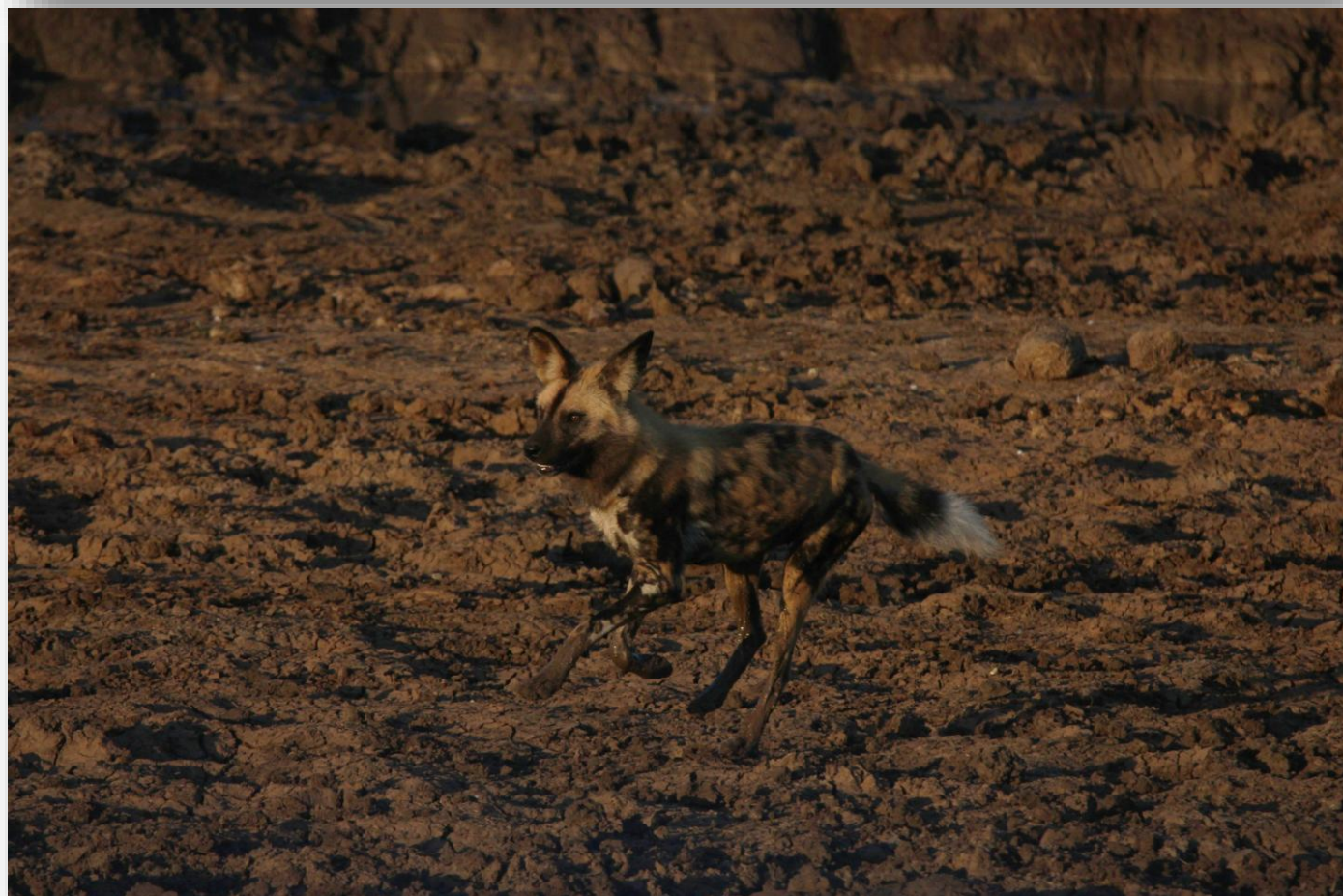
The migrant birds have come and gone, and the Wild-Dog alpha females have started denning. This is usually a good indication that winter is upon us.

The larger pack of 15 has split, with 3 females having broken away from the main pack. They haven't yet found a male to join them, but over time this will likely happen. They move around between our section of the Park and the Wonderboom Ridge area.

The main pack is denning near the water tower in the East and the other pack of 11 is denning somewhere near Jaci's camp.

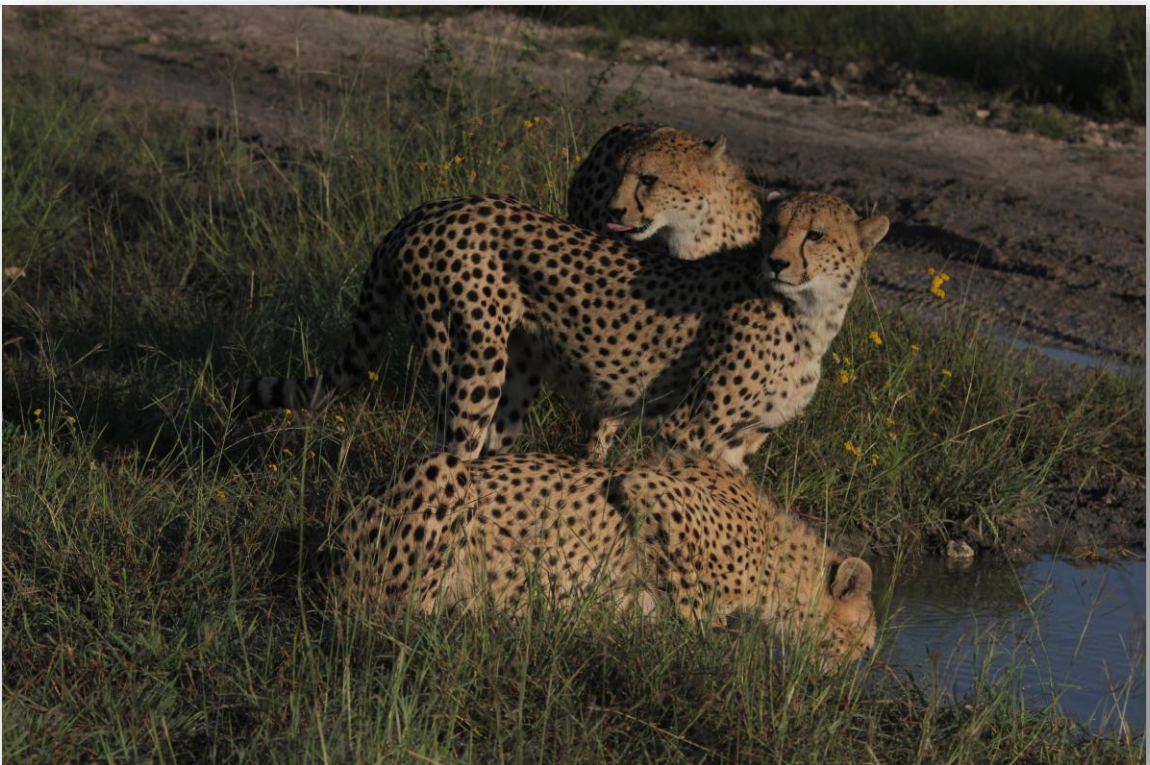
My favorite Wild-Dog sighting of the season was, after tracking them in the rain for about 2.5 hours, locating them in dense bush. The tracking entailed being away from the vehicle for extended periods. My sincere gratitude for the patient guests, having to wait it out on the vehicle.





Cheetah

The Cheetah males are all doing very well, especially the 5 young male coalition. We had the extreme privilege of being the first to witness their hunting skills one afternoon shortly after being released from the boma. We were having sundowners in a beautiful spot when they decided to chase an Impala lamb straight at us. They killed it meters from us and continued to feed without showing too much interest in us. We also had an amazing sighting of these 5 early one morning. While tracking the Tchaba pride, we came across a young Lioness walking down the road with one of these boys following her. She looked disgusted each time she turned to look at her “tail”. We later found all 5 Cheetah and the rest of the Lion pride, who had stolen not 1 but 2 young Zebra kills from the Cheetah boys.



Cheetah





Lion

The Tchaba pride structure has changed somewhat. The family now consists of the two males (Tswalu and Tsimega), 4 Lionesses including the now 20 year old Bolakega female, 2 sub-adult Lionesses, 1 (soon to be) sub-adult male cub, and 5 x small cubs. The 5 cubs belong to the 2 Matsumi female (2 cubs) and the Poloso female (3 cubs) .

The Tsimologo female (with the limp) was removed as were a few other individuals from this pride to balance the Park's Predator to Prey ratios.

The Ketumetsi pride break-away group is now an almost permanent fixture along the Tchaba pride boundary. They move between Nare dam, Tlou dam and Tholo dam. We found a Lioness with 2 tiny cubs eating a Zebra on Marula Plains one afternoon and have seen them hunting several times at Old Windmill site at night. This pride consists of 1 Male (Kagiso male), 4 Lionesses, 2 sub-adult males and 2 cubs.





Slightly smaller



They might be small, but these Dwarf Mongooses make up for it in ferocious tenacity.



Sighting Of the Season

The sighting of the season was watching 5 jackal attempt to kill an adult Impala ram at Moakeng pan one morning. This highly unusual sighting was also a first in my career. The Jackal were savage, intense and coordinated. In all honesty, the Impala was skinny and may have had a pre-existing health issue. After over an hour we left but they were still surrounding him and running in trying to immobilize him by biting off the hamstrings.





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ature is full of infinite causes
that have never occurred in
experience.” – Leonardo da Vinci



Till next time...