



THE INFINITE HORIZON

Safari Consultants Tanzania

SAFARI NEWS

Newsletter

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We are at the height of the dry season here in Tanzania, with another three months to go before the long rains are due to break.

In a very dry year this has huge effects on the wildlife. Animals have to trek long distances in search of pasture, often to new areas, (the elephant's long memory comes in useful here), green areas recently overtaken by man come into conflict again and predator's hunting tactics change emphasis from chase to ambush.

At the moment this year is not too bad since the short rains have given some respite and the effect on wildlife viewing rather than wildlife per se is more noticeable. The grass is shorter so it is easier to see animals, especially lions in areas like Tarangire. Animals also tend to congregate around water, making them more predictable and easier to see.

There is even an effect on balloon rides! The dust in the air affects visibility. Is this better or worse? I'm not sure. You can't see as far, but the sunrise is more spectacular.

CONSERVATION

It is two years since a new species of monkey was discovered in Tanzania, the "Highland Mangabey". This was the first in Africa for 20 years.

However it has recently been discovered that this isn't just a new species but actually a new genus.

A genus is a higher level of difference than a species and since this is the first genus discovery since the end of the First World War it is highly significant.

This has led to the conclusion that it is not a Mangabey at all. It is something half way between a Mandrill and a Baboon. Almost a missing link. It has been renamed the Kipunji from the local Kinyakyusa tribal name for it.

A Kipunji stands about three foot tall, has a crest on it's head, produces a "honk-bark" and lives in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania near Kitulo National Park.

Very rare at less than 500 individuals in scattered, threatened locations it reminds us there is still an unexplored wilderness out there ... just.

[Click the links below](#)

PLANNING AHEAD

Writing and researching the Conservation article has inspired me to go in search of the Kipunji

If you would like the chance to search for this new species we will run two Southern Highland Safaris next year.

Each will be small scale and personal so that we have time to observe and learn as we go.

The best time of year for these will be September.

We will include some game drives in the better known southern National Parks and then push on into the Kitulo forest region.

If you would like to find out more about what we might see and what's involved, then drop us an email.

