



THE INFINITE HORIZON

Safari Consultants Tanzania

SAFARI NEWS

Newsletter

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Tanzania's Serengeti has continued to have the "lion's share" of the wildebeest and zebra migration with only a fraction of them moving into Kenya so far this year - this is still a result of the extra rain we've been having.

However, the Mara River in both countries has seen some spectacular crossings. Tens of thousands of animals have been building up on the banks before the intrepid or unfortunate first few are pressurised into making a leap for it. This is the perfect time for lions in the northern Serengeti woodlands who wait all year for this wildebeest bounty. Lions hunt more successfully in the woodlands, so with so much to choose from they can hardly fail, even the hyenas have had trouble finishing up their leftovers.

We spotted one lion with two wildebeest meals to defend even while he was mating and looking out for the next kill! Truly the cat that got the cream.

In fact every cat seen was eating! It was good to see a whole cheetah family flourishing and able to finish a meal without being chased off by the larger predators, as so often happens

CONSERVATION

Last issue we were pleased to tell you about our work in Mahale Mountains; a project to help protect the chimpanzees from human disease.

Due to last year's tragic chimp deaths, people have been taking the issue of chimp health more seriously by increasing the viewing distance and wearing masks when viewing chimps.

It seems that this is the first season in more than 10 years when no chimpanzees from the habituated group have died of respiratory disease. This is very good news and bodes well for the success of our project as we aim to formalise and add to these protective measures.

PLANNING AHEAD

This is a good time for arranging a safari in next year's low season - March and April.

Not only are there less tourists, but the wildebeest should be calving, many bird species are in their spectacular breeding plumage and some areas like the southern Serengeti are at their most beautiful.