

# THE CONSERVATIONIST

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## Holiday news from Pamushana and Grumeti

### PAMUSHANA

Before the rains encouraged a carpet of green on the burnt open areas of Banyini we spotted a female cheetah. She has mysteriously lost the tip of her tail but what a survivor she is for she soon introduced us to her three sooty-spotted fluffy cubs! Cheetah cubs have an alarmingly high mortality rate and cheetah are listed as Vulnerable on the UCN Red List of Threatened Species, so you can imagine our delight on repeatedly seeing this healthy family over the past few weeks. Notice how well they blend in to the bare burnt surroundings and earthy colors. You'd expect cubs to be hidden in dense foliage but this barren landscape is the perfect camouflage for them!

Step aboard the carpeted deck of our new luxury Sun Catcher and recline on the blonde leather seats with a sundowner in hand and sunshine on your cheeks.

Viewing wildlife from the craft is ideal for low-impact game viewing as the animals seem relaxed when they come down to the water's edge for a drink.

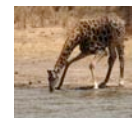
Sunbathing on the banks could be a crocodile or two, and you're bound to see other wildlife quenching their thirst. There are few safari lodges in Africa with access to a private dam, and here you are guaranteed a sunset cruise where the only other visitors are the animals.



Photo: Jenny Hashin



Photo: John Gimble-Wright



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6 weeks old



26 month old

## Grumeti Reserves

The four sub adults from the Butamtam Pride are frequently seen together, away from the adults, roaming the Sasakwa Plains. This photo of the cubs was taken in early November 2007, when the cubs were about 6 weeks old. Look at them now - some 26 months later. When all together, the pride totals 14. This included the addition of 4 new cubs, approximately 8 week old. Unfortunately no photo's of the cubs yet as they have only been seen once. Below is Eugen Shao's account for events that occurred on November 14th. The Butamtam Pride were 8 members strong.

'It was another beautiful morning with members of the Butamtam pride... One lioness started roaring before we left Sasakwa this morning for a game drive. We couldn't see the lioness from the lodge so we decided to drive down the hill to try and find her. We came across a couple of giraffes and a few impala

sounding the alarm and that was when we saw the lioness walking on the plains, singing her beautiful song... After a short while we had an addition female and two sub adult males a little east of the lioness and two Black Backed jackal moving in close. Far south of the lions a big breeding herd of African buffalo was grazing. One Buffalo had a very new born calf and was lagging behind the herd trying to catch up. The lioness was up and started following the herd, the rest of the pride stood up and prepared for battle.

Minutes later, they were all chasing that buffalo with the calf. The mother was trying so hard to protect her calf from five hungry lions but to no avail. In a matter of minutes the pride had finished the calf. By now the herd of buffalo had come charging back at full speed to try and rescue the calf, but it was too late.'

## ELEPHANT RESCUE FROM THE RHINO BOMA grumeti reserves

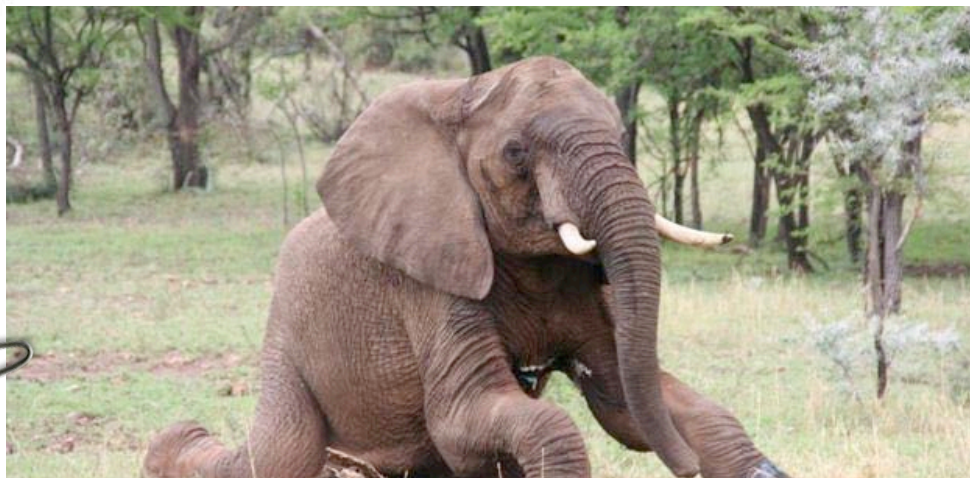
Thanks to Glenton and the chopper, our Wildlife team was finally able to capture and relocate the young bull elephant out of the Rhino Boma and reintroduce him back onto the open plains.

He had been inside the fenced area for the last three weeks and prior attempts to drive him out with vehicles had been unsuccessful.

With the help of the SNP veterinarian, Dr Richard Hoare, collective efforts from the workshop, guides, wildlife department and a bit of technology in the form of a crane truck, the operation was a great success, and to date the bull has not returned to the area.

The Elephant and Rhino Bull had been involved in a few skirmishes; his

treatment included a colourful antiseptic spray and a long life antibiotic injection.





*This young leopard had a narrow escape a few days ago when he was cornered by the two male Cheetahs, the same two territorial males who killed one of their own in October.*

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THE CONSERVATIONIST  
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