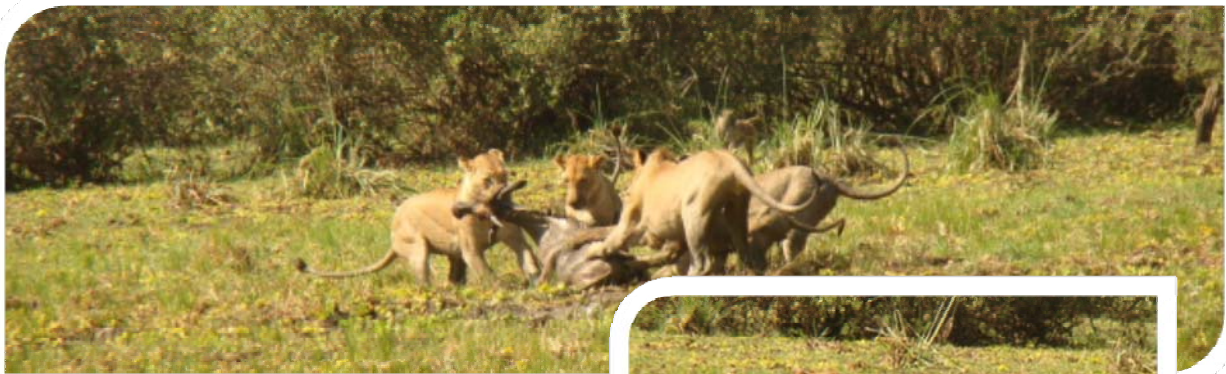
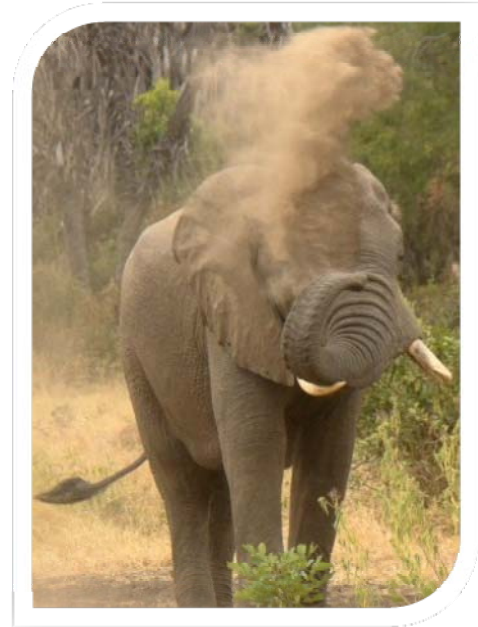


Beho Beho

Bushmail

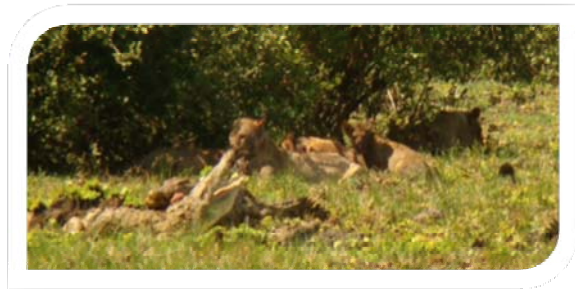
July-August 2011

July has passed, we move into August and it becomes apparent that the dry season is here. The bush thins out as the grassy plains turn golden yellow and silver white and the wilting trees lose their leaves. The familiar smell of the dry season bush fills the air – of parched grass and baked earth. As the vegetation dries out – so the resident wildlife move into larger herds and congregate around the water bodies of the Selous. So the predators follow suit and the cats have started to move closer to the lakes – where they will wait to pick off weak and thirsty prey. It is an exciting time of year full of drama and excitement and July has been a month of unique and interesting sightings.



Salum and his lucky guests were able to capture one such incredible moment. One that could rival any one of National Geographic's famed action shots! On reaching Lake Manze,

Salum spotted a lion close to the water's edge and watched as this female pawed something in the mud. It was a Wildebeest that she had just taken down. She was shortly joined by the rest of the pride and thereafter much growling and fighting ensued over the small tit-bit. Next, the eyes of spying crocodiles emerged from the water as they watched the commotion from within their safe haven. Slowly one by one their confidence grew and they crept from the murky waters edging closer to the fresh kill. One of the bravest crocodiles came extremely close to one of the feeding lions and grabbed a chunk of flesh and swallowed it whole! Crocodiles are nature's deadliest and most efficient killing machines. From an evolutionary perspective – they have remained unchanged for millions of years – and are perfectly suited to hunt and or scavenge. With very tiny brains – a crocodile thinks of only three things – eating, reproducing and sleeping. It's a simple life lived, but with staggeringly successful results – the average crocodile can live up to 100 years.



Our local hyena den is still well populated and we often see many family members sunning themselves or relaxing around the den. Hyenas are often thought to act only as scavengers – stealing what they can off the successful hunt of another but here in the Beho Beho are our hyena clan is not something to be sniffed at! They regularly hunt together in a group with rather

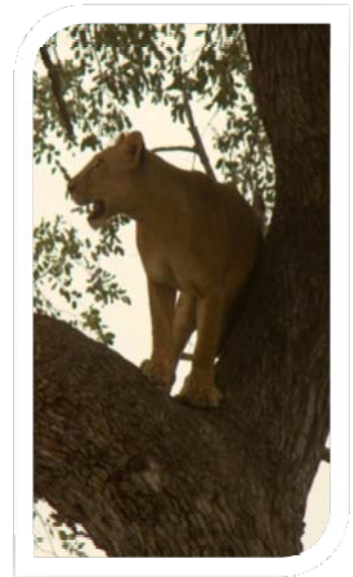
alarming success rates! Over the last month, the large herds of buffalo have returned to the Beho Beho area and herds of up to a couple hundred pass through in search for fresh water and new grazing. There have already been a number of instances



where young buffalo have fallen prey to the hyenas. And we have also seen them feeding on a fresh young giraffe kill not far from camp which we are sure they hunted themselves. And yet, the helpless youngsters of 'prey' animals never cease to amaze us as Salum and his guests learnt one day. They were happy to find a new-born baby giraffe on the plains – under a week old and new to the world. Whilst watching him with his fluffy horns and still hanging umbilical cord they saw a hyena come skulking up from behind and try to attack. But this little giraffe with a brave heart was having none of it, and ran full speed towards the very surprised hyena who very quickly turned on his tail and fled! Giraffe mothers' often leave their young in a wooded or bushy area for cover for most parts of the day, whilst they feed elsewhere so they have to fend for themselves.

An interesting and recurring spectacle for guests and guides have been lions in trees. We are regularly seeing them perched in the comfortable branches of a large crocodile barked tree and other trees. Most often in the lower branches but in a few instances even the higher branches. Watching a 200kg lion struggle to climb down a tree has been very amusing for the guests and guides who waited patiently for it to chose to come down. Why is the king of the bush deciding to climb trees? We are unsure – but there

are many suggestions. Perhaps to get away from the incessant flies that bother them on the ground or perhaps to simply get a better view of their surroundings!



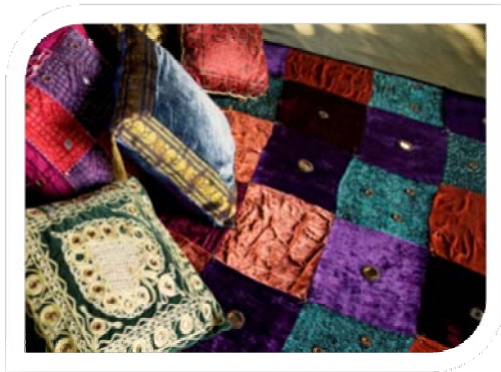
We have seen a lot of lion activity from mating pairs to injured sisters. There has been some pride wars between two local prides and we have seen the aftermath of terrible injuries on both sides – with broken paws and deep bite wounds. We have also noted that our two old Manze boys – the brotherhood mature and wise but who are ready to call it a day have seen and heard the presence of some new young males in their territory. This is bad news for them – but good news for

us, as these new males have passed through camp twice and roared especially loudly both times – staking claims to the Beho Beho area as their own! This would make for exciting nighttime activity and also allow a much needed pride to develop and split up the extensive territory previously patrolled by the Manze boys. We hope this new pride decide to call Beho Beho their home too!

The elusive leopard is being seen from time to time – and often when one is least expecting it. Twice leopard have been spotted jumping down from trees – not too far from camp. And twice the large male living around camp has come boldly strolling past the main area watering hole – both times while lucky guests were seated at the bar!



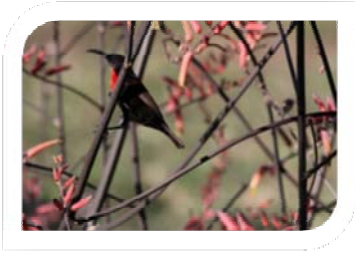
Morning and afternoon walks are still full of excitement and a flurry of activity. We've seen wild dogs regularly, sprinting antelope (fleeing from the wild dogs), elephants – both big bulls and breeding herds, buffalo, waterbuck and special rarities such as a medium sized python! We continually search for the remarkable rhino – but with no luck yet. We find tracks and fresh dung of the rhino that 'just passed by this way' but no sightings yet. Never mind – knowing they are frequently around still gives everyone a buzz.



Bush Nights are still a popular supplement for many of our guests and on a weekly basis we are walking the brave out in to the bush to spend the night in our tented bush camp. A



few days ago, a big buffalo herd came around the camp in the night. The family of 4 there at the time had a bush dinner with Onesmo with a chorus of buffalo's grunting and mooing! Thereafter once everyone was snuggled into bed the hyenas settled in next to the tents and whooped loudly for most of the night! Wild dog were seen in the morning as the family departed from bush camp on the morning walk returning to camp.



Birdlife around the camp has been great – with the flowering aloes and birdbath attracting a lot of activity. Scarlet chested sunbirds, Cordon bleus, firefinches, starlings, lilac-breasted rollers and swallows are regularly around the camp and a pair of African Hawk Eagles fly overhead often.

We say farewell to Salum, but only for a brief time as he heads off to Wildlife College to complete his further studies. He will be away from the Beho Beho family for almost a year! Salum is off to study at Pasiansi in Mwanza. Pasiansi is a wildlife college and he will study wildlife management with many subjects covered such as firearms, law enforcement, statistics, administration, fish, reptiles and invertebrates, birds, mammals, plants and peoples conflicts with wildlife in rural areas.

We hope that this Bush Mail finds you well, healthy and happy.

Best Wishes...Ian, Kimberley, Walter, Karin, Onesmo, Heribert, Salum & the entire BEHO BEHO TEAM!