

Singita



Waiting for the lodges to open after the refurbishment... Photo by Damin Dallas

WILDLIFE JOURNAL SINGITA KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA For the month of March, 2026

Temperature

Average minimum: 22°C (71.6°F)
Minimum recorded: 20°C (68.0°F)
Average maximum: 28°C (82.4°F)
Maximum recorded: 33°C (91.4°F)

Rainfall Recorded

For the month: 411 mm
Season to date: 1236 mm
(*Season = Oct to Sept)

Sunrise & Sunset

Sunrise: 05h50
Sunset: 18h00

March arrived on the heels of an already generous rainy season but wasted no time in reminding us of nature's abundance. Early in the month, a dramatic downpour delivered over 140mm of rain in just two days, sending the N'wanetsi River and its tributaries surging through the landscape. The bush responded with soils being saturated to the brim, groundwater pushing to the surface, and every drainage line brimming with life. The reserve feels deeply replenished, its rhythms guided by the steady presence of water.

Amid this lush resurgence, the lodge has taken on a vibrant energy of its own. Like a hive in full motion, teams have been hard at work with refurbishment efforts, preparing every detail for our reopening in April. The combination of renewed landscapes and renewed spaces creates a palpable sense of anticipation. March has been a month of both natural abundance and purposeful transformation

This March journal consists of a couple of bush stories, and a gallery of the smaller wonders we find here:

When the rivers rewrote the land: the floods of early 2026

By Damin Dallas

The opening months of 2026 will be remembered as one of the most extraordinary hydrological events in the history of the Kruger National Park. From early January through March, relentless rainfall transformed the familiar rhythms of the Lowveld into something far more dramatic, an unfolding reminder of nature's raw and ungovernable power.

Driven by a slow-moving weather system and compounded by already saturated landscapes from late 2025, the region experienced sustained and often intense downpours. In some catchments, rainfall totals exceeded what is typically expected in an entire year, within the span of a single month.

Within the Singita concession, long-term observations suggest that this may well be the highest rainfall recorded in the first three months of any year since operations began. Floods are not merely destructive forces, they are also architects of renewal. Rivers, when in flood, reclaim their ancient paths. They erode, transport, and deposit, cutting into banks in one place while building new landforms in another. This process, fundamental to fluvial systems, is what keeps riverine environments dynamic and ecologically rich.

Nowhere is this more evident than along the N'wanetsi River. In the wake of the floods, entire sections of riparian vegetation have been transformed. Dense stands of shrubs, mature trees, and thick reed beds have been uprooted and swept downstream. In their place, vast quantities of sand have been deposited, creating new sandbanks in areas where none existed before.

What was once a tightly vegetated river channel has, in places, opened into wide, pale expanses of sand, freshly sculpted and still shifting. These new formations will alter water flow patterns, influence grazing opportunities, and reshape habitats for years to come. The N'wanetsi, like many rivers in the park, has effectively been reset.



Such events highlight an essential truth: the wilderness is never static. The landscapes we come to know – familiar crossings, well-trodden game paths, shaded riverbanks – are temporary expressions of much longer ecological processes. Floods accelerate these processes, compressing decades of gradual change into a single season.

In the aftermath, the concession and the park as a whole has entered a phase of renewal. The veld is exceptionally green, nourished by abundant water, and wildlife has dispersed widely across the landscape, no longer bound to predictable water sources. Although visibility may be more challenging in the dense vegetation, the richness of life is undeniable.

For those who know and love this place, the floods of early 2026 will stand as both a disruption and a reminder: that the true character of the Lowveld lies not in permanence, but in its ability to change, adapt, and endure.

As the rivers settle and the land begins to stabilise, what remains is a landscape subtly, and in some places profoundly, rewritten by water.



Tracking and walking in the rain

By Coman Mnisi



Whenever there's a learning opportunity we take it into consideration, because there is always something new to gain or master.

During the last three months our lodges were being refurbished, and we made use of this time to further enhance our knowledge of tracking and guiding. We had couple of days with one of our amazing senior trackers – he was very patient with each one of us and reminded us how important it is to use all our senses in the bush and to showcase our skills to our guests while including them in the tracking experience.

I remember heading out one morning on foot, it was drizzling and despite that, no one in the team wanted to stop the walk. This was a sign that each one of us was committed to learning and finding out more about tracking and experiencing the rain as well.

I also had the opportunity to go primitive camping for two nights on our concession. That was an outstanding experience, and I have learned so much from the rest of the team. Unity stood out, every team member was helpful and engaging in every task and play, and we learnt so much from nature itself.

We took a walk one morning from our camping site and headed up into the mountains. It was a challenging hike trying to negotiate the rocks while the sun and humidity weighed heavily on us. We endured and were treated to a few hours at a secret waterfall. It was comforting to know that we had an amazing campsite next to the river, and knew that once we got back there it would feel like home from home.

The feeling of being in a supportive team that felt like family was truly special.



March Gallery:

Tracks, signs and small things: ashift in perspective during times of change



Zambezi Emperor. By Fern Bain



Lunar Moth. ByDamin Dallas

Striped policeman caterpillar. By Fern Bain



Common hook-tail dragonfly. By Bernard Stiglingh

A dragonfly is an ancient flying insect belonging to the order Odonata and the infraorder Anisoptera, characterised by large, compound eyes, two pairs of strong transparent wings, and a long body. Evolving over 300-million years ago, they are among the oldest winged insects, having existed before the dinosaurs. These agile predators thrive near freshwater habitats, and the Kruger National Park is a biodiversity hotspot for them, with roughly 103 species recorded in the region.



Orange-winged dropwing. By Damin Dallas

While dropwings are technically a type of dragonfly, specifically from the *Trithemis* genus, the main difference lies in their resting posture: dropwings lower their wings forward and downwards when perched, whereas most other dragonflies hold them out horizontally. Both are highly effective predators, serving a vital role in the ecosystem as natural pest control, feeding on mosquitoes and small flies, and acting as a food source for birds, frogs, and fish.



African green lynx spider with spiderlings. By Damin Dallas

Giant burrowing cricket. By Damin Dallas

Turquoise longhorn beetle. By Fern Bain





African bullfrog. By Bernard Stiglingh



Green dung beetles (*Garreta wahlbergi*). By Fern Bain
Rear-horned baboon spider. By Bernard Stiglingh

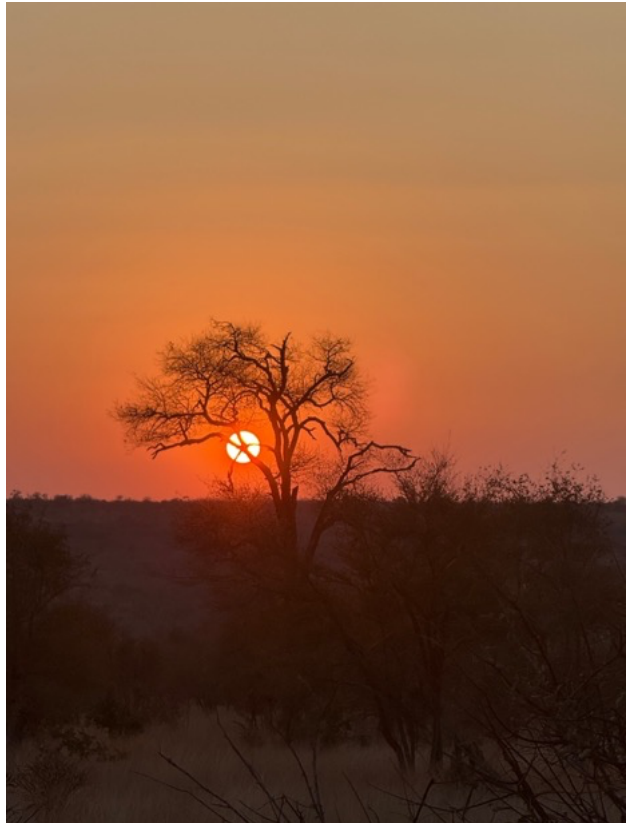


Mopane caterpillar. By Bernard Stiglingh



Green-apple tree in bloom. By Damin Dallas

African foxtail grass, and sunrise behind the 'Africa-tree'. By Monika Malewski





The night sky over the Lebombos. By Monika Malewski

Night waterlily. By Monika Malewski



Compiled by Monika Malewski