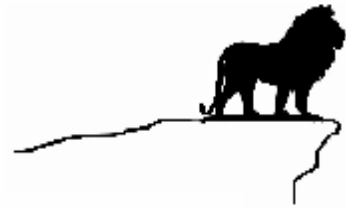


Lions Bluff Lodge Newsletter Jan 2010



Our first New Years Eve, a full blue moon.

It is already six months since we started Lions Bluff.

The most dramatic change at the Lodge is the glassing in of the whole of the Taita Hills side of the public area. This has cut down the wind without spoiling the panoramic view and allows separate dining and lounge areas with comfortable arm chairs giving a lovely cosy atmosphere. .

The staff have responded well to our new demands and service levels continue to improve. The kitchen now produces the most delicious food.



In July and August the chilly nights meant that hot water bottles were the order of the night. Then the drought, which devastated Amboseli, the Chyulus and West Tsavo, drove vast herds of game and livestock into LUMO, reducing the already meagre grazing. At last the rain arrived, accompanied by spectacular lightning shows, transforming the landscape into a verdant green carpet littered with wild flowers.

A small family of elephant visited the water hole outside the lounge most evenings during the drought



Lumo Community Wildlife Sanctuary in drought (Lions Bluff is just visible) and verdant green

The community have been very supportive of our efforts to revive the lodge and improve its image. With the increase in Sanctuary fees from visitors to Lions Bluff the rangers' salaries are now paid on time and a road and water upgrade program is the priority. Managing water by rehabilitating dams and sinking boreholes will enable the Sanctuary to control the livestock and wildlife movement. This requires the support of donors and friends of the community wildlife project and will mean that residential herds can once more be the norm in this part of the Tsavo eco system.

The wildlife has laid on some fantastic shows and photographic opportunities. Lions, a must for any traveller, had suffered poisoning along with jackal and vultures. As more income is realised within the community, these incidences are no longer reported. We have seen many new lion cubs, the latest two pictured here on Lion Rock.



Cheetah are regularly seen near Lions Bluff, a dozen Lesser Kudu have adopted the site and three bat eared fox pups born at Christmas, all contribute to the huge variety of wildlife seen in this very special part of Africa. We look forward to seeing you again at Lions Bluff Lodge.



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