

# Naibor

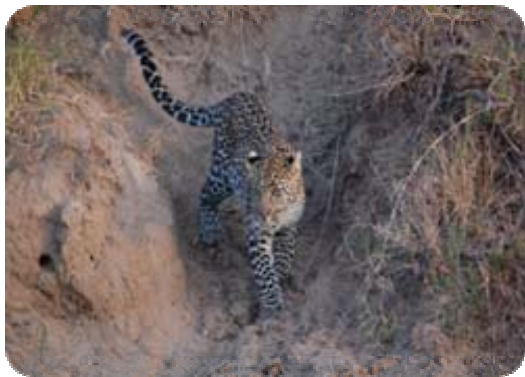
## Game Report December – February 2009

Naibor has had an excellent start to the year, with a new addition being added to the resident pod of hippos on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December. Our new Hippo, Rudolf, was named by the clients staying at Naibor at the time he was born - a fitting name as it was just before Christmas! We have been lucky enough to have several visits by Rudolf and his mother, sometimes during lunch and other times sitting down by the campfire at night.



Recently we have had some of the Mara's spectacular thunder and lightning storms. These have brought large amounts of water through the camp and down into the Talek. Sadly one unlucky Hippo did not survive the rising water and ended up in front of our fire place. At first we thought this was going to prove to be a problem, however the Mara always has ways of surprising us all. On the first night nothing happened, but for the next three days after this we had some of the infamous Nile Crocodiles from the Mara River and packs of 20 plus Hyena came and cleaned up. These made for some spectacular photo opportunities as the Crocodiles feasted during the day and the Hyena emitted eerie acoustics throughout the night.

January has proven to be the month of the leopard with several sightings daily by our clients. Viewings have included rare sightings like seeing three Leopards feeding on a 4 day old Giraffe after hunting it the night before. Moments of brilliance have



included watching single male Leopards (are) on the hunt, and a mother with her adorable 1 year old cub calling to each other and cuddling in front of the cameras. Most of the sightings have all been within 10 minutes of the camp. At the end of the month almost as if to say good bye we had a special visit from our resident female Leopard who walked right in front of the Mess Tent. She came down to the water's edge and then proceeded to walk from the Mess all the way down to Tent 7 on the opposite bank of the Talek River. Probably one of the best sightings Naibor has witnessed. At the beginning

of February we had a unique moment where another Leopard walked into our camp, followed by several safari vehicles. She walked across open ground before disappearing into the croton bushes just past our last Tent.

We have seen the infamous female cheetah Shakira from the Big Cat Diaries and her cubs on several occasions. There are only 2 left from the original 5 cubs but they are growing up well and proving to be strong survivors. Shakira has had her fair share of problems and at the moment it seems to be the three brother Cheetahs who have been following her are eagerly awaiting for the right



time to increase their blood line. Nothing seems to bother these brothers; they walk across the plains as if they own them, hunting and eating regularly and often have been seen in close proximity to the great Marsh Pride lions. At the end of January one lucky set of clients had a special and unique experience, and I have to say a first for Naibor, as a lone female cheetah jumped on to the front of their vehicle. She was using the vehicle as a vantage point, trying to scout out Impalas over the long grass; she stayed on the car for about ten minutes before disappearing into the golden savannah to continue her search for food.



There have been many new additions to wildlife in the Mara with new born Elephant, Impala, Topi, Zebra and most of the other plains game too. The Mara is teaming with life and has proved to be very interesting for the predators. All the

predators have also had young and with an endless supply of food being available they are growing fast and strong. Our clients have come back after seeing Hyena pups, Lion Cubs, Leopard Cubs and recently some Black Back Jackel have had young.

If the last month is anything to go on for the rest of the year, Naibor is in for a real treat. We look forward to keeping in touch, and keeping you up to date with all the ins and outs of the Mara. Best regards from all of us at Naibor and we hope to see you in the near future.