



Female Black Rhino in the company of a male Eland

Black Rhino Kills Lioness

The famous Mara Triangle Black Rhino cow killed yet another member of KTC pride (a lioness this time). On the morning of 22 April we spotted a lioness lying down just across the bridge near the airstrip. We drove closer and noticed the animal was weak but couldn't establish the cause. The situation was reported to the Area Warden who went there to find the Lion dead. There was a large open wound on the left side of its chest. During the animal's post-mortem, it was concluded that she had been impaled by a rhinoceros, so deep that the heart was damaged. This is the second lion killed by the famously beligerant Kichwa rhino.

Kichwa Rangers

Scavenging Warthogs

In September 2002 two adult Warthog and one piglet were observed feeding on the intestines of a fresh Wildebeest kill, which was being fed upon by about 30 vultures (FL). At 9h00 on 17 January 2003, two families of Warthog — each a mother with four piglets aged five months — were observed squabbling over the carcass of a dead Thomson's Gazelle fawn. The adult warthogs tugged at the body, ripping it in two. One ate an ear. The group fed for about 15 minutes before retreating into cover. No jackals or vultures were present.

Francis Leboo & Joseph Sigei

Python preys of Warthog

A massive African Rock-Python has been resident at Kichwa Tembo for several years and has been recorded with many large prey items in the past. On 7 August 2002, I encountered the large snake in the process of constricting a sub-adult Warthog. The young Warthog was squealing loudly while its mother and siblings first scampered off and then returned to watch the scene. The python took approximately one hour to swallow its prey and remained prostrate in the same area for three days. This python has a regular route through the forest undergrowth as evidenced by a well-worn trail.

Joseph Ole Kindu

Hippo kills Gazelles

At about 17h30 on 1 September, a herd of Wildebeest crossed the Mara River. We watched as they swam energetically to the far bank. No sooner had the wildebeest made it across, than two Thomson's Gazelles followed their lead. Upon reaching the middle of the river, the two gazelles were confronted by three Hippos. One Hippo snapped its jaw to catch one of the gazelles on its snout. It killed the gazelle instantly and then tossed the unfortunate animal into the river. A second Hippo attacked the other gazelle, killing it in a similar manner. The herbivorous hippos made no attempt to feed on the gazelles and we have no explanation for this extraordinary behaviour.

Benson Ndungu, Daniel Memusi, Lucas Leboo, Stephen Owino and Daniel Ouma

