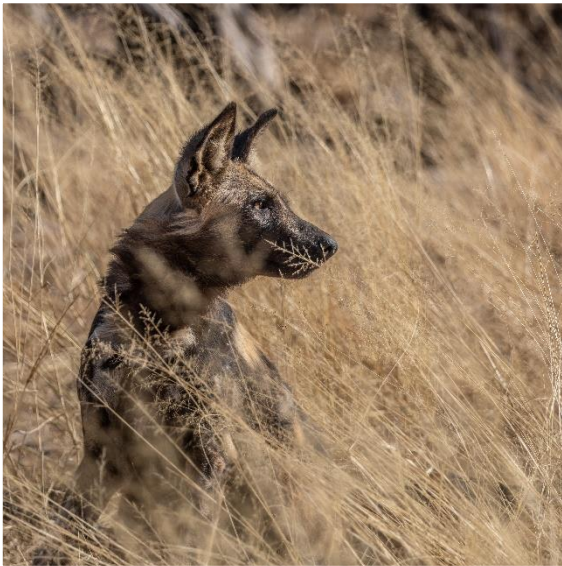


## Tour Report

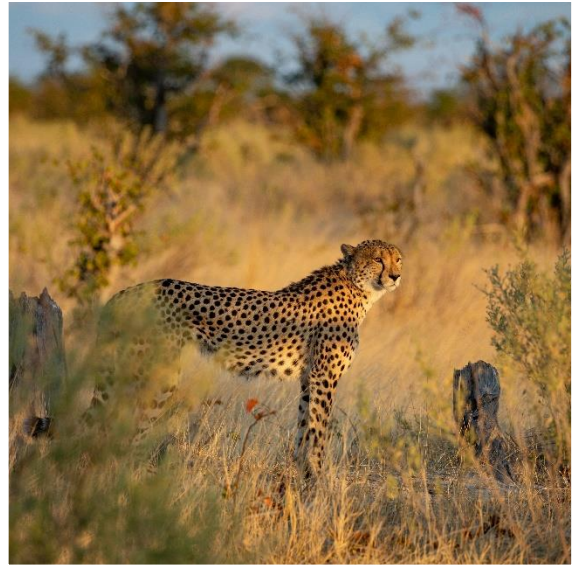
# Botswana – Okavango Delta Safari

18 – 29 June 2022

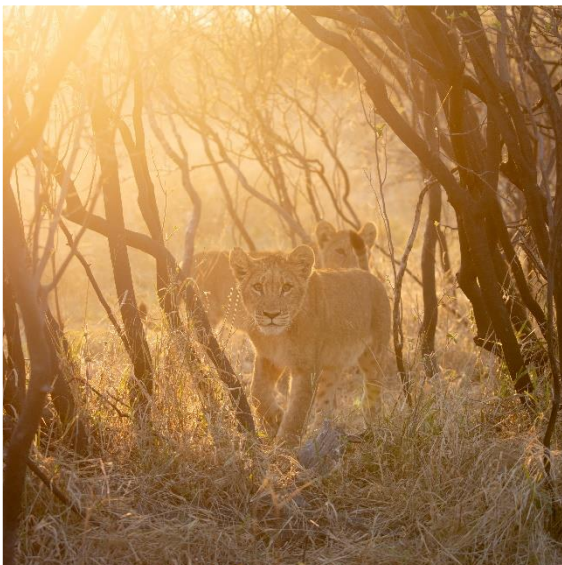
Wild dog



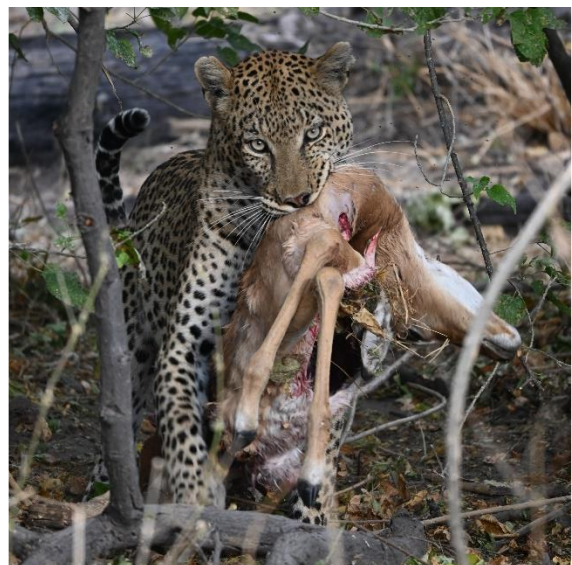
Cheetah



Lion



Leopard



Compiled by Dan Free  
Images by Dani Free, Helen Pinchin and Nicola Grieve

## Day 1: London Heathrow to Johannesburg

Saturday 18 June 2022

After arriving at London Heathrow and checking in with minimal fuss, British Airways decided to get the adrenaline going with a series of delays at the gate leading to us departing just over three hours late. Plenty of apologies once on board with the pilot promising to put the pedal to the metal and make up some of the lost time en route to Johannesburg.

## Day 2: Arrive Johannesburg, fly Maun and transfer to Khwai Community Reserve

Sunday 19 June 2022

The pilots were good to their word and we made up nearly an hour, touching down in Johannesburg with approximately 90 minutes to connect with our onward flight to Maun. It proved ample time and before long we'd touched down in Maun, cleared immigration, collected our bags, met our guides, Disho and Katembo, and were loading up the game viewing vehicles ready for the 170-kilometre drive to Khwai.

With stretches of the road a little bumpy in places our journey had to be undertaken at a considerate pace, but this worked well, allowing ample time to familiarise ourselves with some of the region's bird species and even a few mammals. Lilac-breasted rollers, magpie shrikes, soaring fish eagles, little bee-eaters, fork-tailed drongos, small flocks of red-billed pytilias and iridescent starlings were among over 30 species seen. Mammal interest included our first elephants, impala, greater kudu, zebra, steenbok and giraffe, all seen between the two vehicles.

A sunset stop comfort-break near a large lagoon revealed the eye-shine of a small crocodile and some partially submerged hippos in the fading light. Continuing with the aid of the spotlight we encountered bat-eared fox, small-spotted genet, pearl-spotted owlet and a serval hunting in a small area of parched grassland. A surprise stop at a spotted hyena den revealed approximately a dozen animals of mixed ages including some very young and inquisitive cubs.

On returning to the main road we stopped to listen to the call of black-backed jackals in the distance, possibly indicating the presence of a kill, before both Disho and Katembo heard the soft contact calls of wild dogs. No sooner had they alerted us to this than four individuals appeared on the road ahead. Clearly in the process of regrouping after a hunt, this number soon swelled to 13 as more and more individuals joined the road and greeted one another in the light of the vehicle headlights. It made for a fabulous welcoming committee for our time in Khwai.



We arrived in camp a short time later and after a little operational administration were able to enjoy our first of many delicious bush-cooked meals under the stars.

Over dinner, Disho offered the option of a post-dinner night drive which, given that we'd be travelling for over 24 hours, initially seemed like a joke, but there was clearly an appetite for it and seven hardy members of the group headed out for what proved to be a very successful drive with countless views of spring hare,

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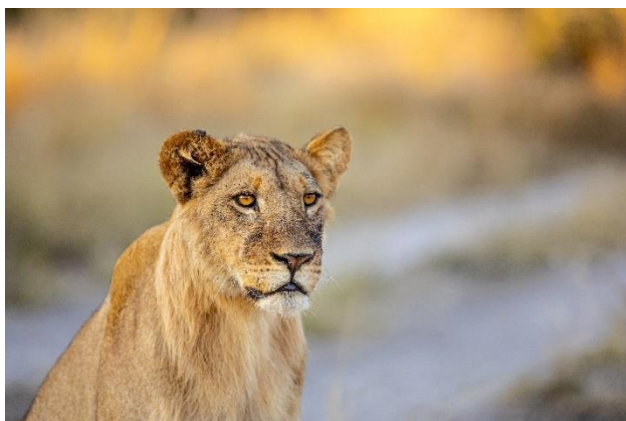
several small-spotted genet, ranging hippos, an African wild cat, and lesser galago, culminating in two impressive male lions that we'd been tracking throughout the drive.

Arriving back in camp sometime after midnight, we retired to our tents, exhausted but delighted with what we'd seen on our 'transfer' afternoon!

### Day 3: Khwai Community Reserve

Monday 20 June 2022

After a light breakfast of toast, porridge and cereal around the fire, we headed out just as the sun was clearing the eastern horizon and it wasn't long before we were into some action. In fact, we were still within sight of the camp when we located two subadult male lions and a lioness showing interest in a mixed herd of giraffe, zebra and impala who were emerging from a thicket to venture out across the plain. Whilst the lions didn't follow up on their interest, they did pose beautifully in the morning light allowing the group to get some wonderful photos before we left them in search of other quarries. A single tsessebe, a new species for many in the group, was found with a herd of impala before we located a lilac-breasted roller that was consuming a tiny fat mouse. The roller had bitten off more than it could chew and whilst deceased the mouse was proving difficult to swallow, with its tail and hind legs protruding from the roller's mouth. Initially, it wasn't clear if the mouse was firmly stuck but the roller eventually regurgitated it and then set about 'tenderising' the meat. As morbid as it sounds, we sat watching this spectacle for nearly an hour before the roller left the scene, still with the mouse protruding from its bill.



A mid-morning tea/coffee break in a scenic spot by the river afforded time for a little birding with pied kingfishers patrolling the waterway, sacred ibis, African spoonbill and egrets stalking the shallows and coppery-tailed coucal, grey lori (go-away bird) and little bee-eater in the thickets. All set to a backdrop of elephant and giraffe.

Returning to camp we were greeted by two large bull elephants feeding on the fallen seed pods of a camel thorn tree, the pods dislodged by a troop of vervet monkeys feeding in the canopy. It was fascinating to watch these gentle giants following the scent of the fallen pods, carefully lifting them from the ground with their dexterous trunks and consuming them – all within a stone's throw of our tents.

Over lunch, another impressive bush-cooked buffet, we observed multiple vultures soaring and landing in one particular area so set out to investigate on the afternoon drive. On route, we encountered the lions from earlier in the day as they disappeared into the mopani, before arriving at the 'vulture site', complete with white-backed, hooded and enormous lappet-faced vultures densely packed in the surrounding trees. The source of their interest was an old elephant carcass that had been present for several weeks and was now half devoured. The stench was indescribable and not for the faint of heart, and the brief appearance of a spotted hyena hinted at the evening to come.

Needless to say, sundowners were not taken in this area and instead, we ventured to a beautiful spot by the river where we were treated to a breathtaking sunset with hippos, bats of several species and fiery-throated nightjars for company.



Returning to the elephant carcass after dinner we found at least half a dozen spotted hyenas in attendance, chewing their way through rotten flesh, bone and sinew. With the aid of the spotlights, we were able to watch this spectacle at close quarters, not more than a couple metres from the vehicle, allowing us to fully appreciate the sheer size of the hyenas and the power of their jaws.

#### Day 4: Khwai Community Reserve

Tuesday 21 June 2022

This morning we headed back to the 'main' road where we'd seen the wild dogs on our first evening. Whilst we were unsuccessful in locating the dogs, we were fortunate to locate three cheetah in a stretch of open grassland. The cats, believed to be a mother and two sub-adult cubs, were skittish so we didn't push to get close, but they were wonderful to see.

We continued in a westerly direction enjoying the sight of a large herd of giraffe, wildebeest and zebra tentatively crossing the road. In the distance, an elephant could be heard trumpeting repeatedly. With this commotion continuing on and off for nearly half an hour we decided to investigate, venturing off-road into the mopani until it was too thick to drive any further. Disho and Katembo continued on foot but unfortunately were unable to determine what was distressing the elephant.



None the wiser we left the scene and followed a meandering route back along the river enjoying views of a large herd of zebra, our first side-striped jackal and rufous-bellied heron. We'd had a full morning in the field and approaching 13:00, as we homed in on camp, we encountered our first leopard of the trip, a young female sitting on a fallen tree in plain view. The cat was very comfortable with the vehicles we were able to enjoy some fabulous views of her posing in a variety of positions.

Remarkably, after lunch, we returned to the leopard and found her in exactly the same position, however within a few minutes of arriving we saw vultures dropping down on a site a few hundred metres from our position and leaving one vehicle with the leopard, the other set off to investigate. We very quickly found a

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fresh but almost entirely consumed impala carcass that the vultures were now finishing off. There was no sign of what had predated the impala, but on exploring the wider area we just caught sight of a cheetah disappearing into the thicket, very likely one of the three that we'd seen earlier in the day.

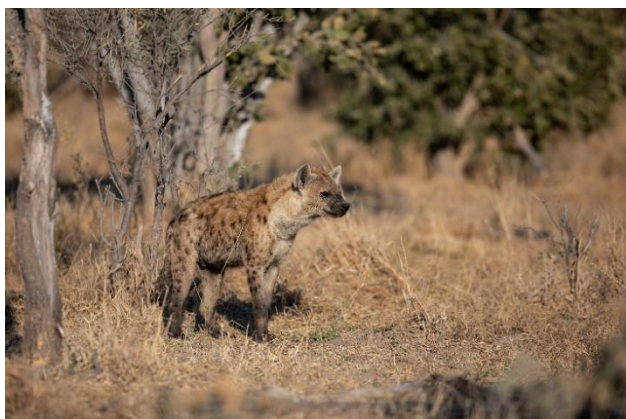


Mystery solved, we returned to the leopard and remained with her through the final hour of golden light before she moved off, just as the sun dipped below the horizon. We followed, hoping that she may be going to meet her mother, but after giving us the run-around, she eventually began to make her way back to the fallen tree at which point we left her to begin the journey back to camp, enjoying excellent views of African wild cat, southern white-faced owl and, for one vehicle, Verreaux's eagle owl perched in the open.

#### **Day 5: Transfer from Khwai Community Reserve to Moremi Game Reserve**

**Wednesday 22 June 2022**

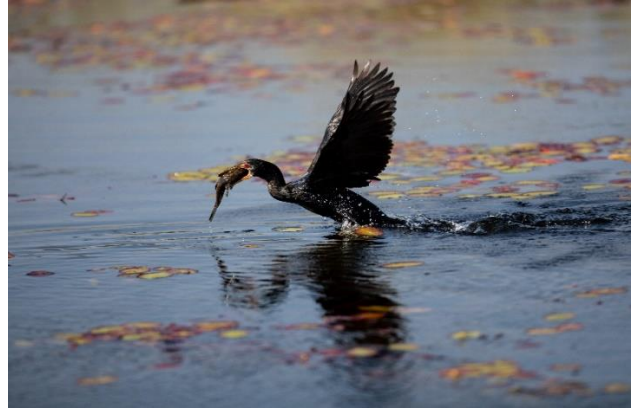
Today was a transfer day as we relocated the camp from Khwai to Moremi. With the camp crew doing all the hard work, ours was an extended safari and began with two hyenas loping through the grasslands near camp. Something had obviously got their attention, but despite our best efforts we were unable to ascertain exactly what this was, so instead we enjoyed some lovely views of the plains game in the early morning light before continuing down to the river where a magnificent male waterbuck posed for photos and a large flock of guineafowl scabbled around in the dust.



Continuing westwards, we encountered a large herd of buffalo in the mopani before joining the main track out of Khwai. A quick comfort break at North Gate and we were into Moremi, enjoying some beautiful stands of mopani woodland where an alarm-calling troop of vervet monkeys alerted us to the presence of a male leopard in the undergrowth. Very shy, we were only afforded brief views, but it was nevertheless a welcome introduction to Moremi. We then passed through another beautiful area of seasonally flooded plains enjoying our first views of hadada ibis.

An extended stretch of mopani followed, before passing through a delightful grove with baboons in attendance as we arrived at the shores of Xakanaxa Lagoon. Here we took to the water for a short private boat trip over lunch. It was a fabulous way to spend an hour or so, photographing the many pygmy geese, little bee-eaters, lily hopping African jacanas and a reed cormorant struggling with its catch, an unfortunate syndontis catfish.

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Back ashore we retraced our steps through the mopani before turning south and venturing down to South Gate. This route was necessary due to Third Bridge being out of action and in the mid-afternoon, the journey was a relatively quiet affair with wildlife interest largely limited to Arnott's chat, a specialist of the mopani habitat, African hoopoe, and several families of dwarf mongoose. It's fair to say that after the boat trip and a good lunch, there were a few nodding heads throughout the drive, but fortunately, everyone remained in the vehicles!

Arriving at South Gate we completed the necessary paperwork and enjoyed an early sundowner while viewing a barn owl tucked in the rafters, before continuing into Moremi and on to our next camp, where we arrived to find the fire roaring, tents erected and cold drinks waiting.

#### Day 6: Moremi Game Reserve

Thursday 23 June 2022

Leaving camp at first light, we set out to explore the surrounding area of Xini Lagoon, soon picking up both leopard and lion tracks. Each vehicle set off in pursuit of their chosen quarry and it wasn't long before we'd located three lionesses lying out in the open. As the only vehicles in the area, we were able to stay with them, enjoying the soft morning light and excellent photographic opportunities it afforded. Much to the annoyance of Paul, we decided to name the three cats Scarlet (owing to her missing eye), Emily (named after Nicola's pregnant daughter) and Lara (denoted by a small L-shaped scar on her muzzle). Whilst only a bit fun, it proved to be remarkably helpful when we relocated the girls later in the day.



From the lions, we continued to the lagoon where a wealth of wildlife awaited us, with large herds of red lechwe, impala, hippo, crocodile, a breeding herd of elephants and a variety of waterbirds present, including great white & pink-backed pelicans, black-winged stilts, little grebe, African spoonbill, white-faced whistling duck, Hottentot teal and, new for the trip, lesser jacana, African marsh harrier and martial eagle. We spent some 'quality time' with all before taking a drive through the grasslands, spying several giraffes en route and enjoying close views of coppery-tailed coucal.

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After lunch, we returned to the lionesses, who hadn't ventured far from where we'd left them but were now strategically in the path of an approaching herd of buffalo. We could only see two of the three, with one intent on hunting, taking up position in the long grass. We spent the next three hours on the edge of our seats, waiting for the lionesses to make their move. Herds of elephant, giraffe and zebra came and went, marabou storks and African fish eagles flew into roost and it was only when the sun just started to dip below the horizon that the lioness made her attack, darting into the herd to try and snatch one of the youngsters. Unsuccessful, the dominant bulls quickly rounded on her and drove her off. The herd, now acutely aware of the lioness's presence huddled together, bringing the young into the centre, creating a defensive wall of muscle and horn around them.



With the light fading the other two lionesses were emboldened and joined their companion in attacking the herd, making several failed attempts and a cloud of dust. We were only able to use the spotlight sparingly, not wanting to affect the outcome for either predator or prey, but sitting in the dark, listening to the bellowing and breathing, and stomping of hooves of the buffalo along with the rustling of the dry grass as they moved around us only enhanced the experience. The tension was palpable, and you couldn't help but feel for the buffalo calves. With the aid of a thermal imager in one vehicle and some high-quality binoculars in the other, the rest of the vehicle was given a running commentary of what unfolded. The lionesses encircled the herd and sat just a few metres away from our vehicles. A further unsuccessful attack led to the herd bolting into a nearby stand of woodland where we amazingly lost both the lionesses and the herd, drawing an end to a fascinating afternoon.

#### **Day 7: Moremi Game Reserve**

**Friday 24 June 2022**

Beginning the day convinced that we'd quickly locate the lions with a buffalo kill, we were surprised that there was no sign of the lionesses or the buffalo herd so we instead ventured south in search of the dominant male lions in the area that had been sighted the previous day. Our search for the males was positively interrupted when we came across a creche of eight lion cubs of mixed ages playing in the early morning light. In a way that only cubs can, they provided much entertainment stalking each other, play fighting and even carrying sticks around in a manner more typical of a pet dog. The cubs were later joined by several lionesses and the pride swelled to 16 animals that, after pausing to drink, moved off as a single unit, an imposing sight for anything co-habiting the area!



With the pride having moved off into the thicket we travelled north to Bodumatau where a coffee break was taken in a delightful spot next to a lagoon with hippos, a goliath heron and red lechwe all on view. From here we circled the lagoon, a route that took us to some truly beautiful areas with a fantastic assortment of species present, including three adult giraffes head down licking up minerals from the soil against a backdrop of red lechwe, openbill storks, black heron, darters and an enormous breeding herd of elephants dotted with numerous tiny youngsters. The area was heavily flooded necessitating careful navigation, on occasions Disho waded in to assess the depth of various channels before taking the vehicles across. Completely off the beaten track, we didn't see another vehicle for several hours and at times felt like we'd arrived in the Garden of Eden.



Our final afternoon drive in Moremi saw us heading back out into the grasslands where we encountered the usual suspects of elephant, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, red lechwe and impala – one of the vehicles even picking up the tracks of two honey badgers that were seen briefly. They were not the only new species for the day with a small herd of reedbeak sighted, appropriately in a stand of reeds, and Bennett's woodpecker in a tract of mopani woodland.

The day concluded in a delightful spot beside a stand of water with hippos emerging against a setting sun and the entire Bush Lark team in attendance with drinks and nibbles to celebrate our last evening with them. Bats of several species along with both Mozambique and fiery-throated nightjar flew frantically overhead as we posed for a couple of group photos before coming together and reflecting on our wonderful time camping in the bush.

#### Day 8: Moremi Game Reserve to Mma Dinare

Saturday 25 June 2022

It was time to bid farewell to the Bush Lark team and leave Moremi, travelling first to South Gate and then on to the veterinary fence line where we'd agreed to meet the team from Mma Dinare, our lodge base for the remaining three nights of our stay in the Delta.

The journey took us first out onto the plains where we encountered an enormous herd of buffalo in the morning light and even an African wild cat hunting in the grasslands. Heading through the dry scrub we

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encountered a stunning male sable at a watering hole, the first of the trip, before picking up the tracks of another pair of honey badgers, and with a determined effort from Katembo, both vehicles were able to enjoy good views of these characterful mustelids. Nice views of African hawk eagle, bateleur, tawny eagle and dark chanting goshawk followed alongside herds of elephant and giraffe.



Arriving at our meeting point, the lodge team of Aldo, Grass and Chris were already in attendance and after making our introductions and having a quick coffee break, we wished Disho & Katembo well and continued for the second part of our trip. Driving first along the veterinary fence line before heading into the dry appletree & mopani scrub, the heat of the morning meant mammal activity was largely limited to black-backed jackal, mud-bathing elephants and a giraffe that, owing to its recent visit to a mud-filled watering hole, had the appearance of wearing black socks.

The entire lodge team greeted our arrival with a fabulous song and the Lodge Manager Onks, welcomed us to the prayer room (bar!) with its incredible views of the Gomoti River. The river was in full flow with the luxuriant marginal vegetation attracting a wealth of mammals including elephants, hippos and red lechwe. A delicious lunch was enjoyed in the company of a pair of crested barbets and African grey hornbills, while an African fish eagle called from the far side of the river.

Post lunch, Onks continued our tour of the lodge and we were shown to our very comfortable rooms where we had time to unpack and relax before gathering for our afternoon drive. With three vehicles now available to us, we were able to spread out between them, but by popular request, continued with the seat rotation scheme that had worked so well during the camping segment of the trip. On leaving the lodge we hadn't travelled far before we encountered two lions and a lioness, individuals unknown to the lodge guides but thought to be following the large herds of buffalo that were present in the surrounding area.



From there we continued to the Gomoti River and the surrounding flooded plains that were teeming with red lechwe, elephants, buffalo and, inland, impala and giraffe. This area is known to be a magnet for wildlife at this time of year as watering holes in the surrounding areas dry up, and so it proved. The elephants put on a particularly good show with individuals of both sexes and all ages displaying a range of captivating

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behaviours, many calves curious of the vehicles, alongside a wealth of birds including black heron, slaty egret, African spoonbill, hunting pied kingfisher, squacco heron and great egret.

When a call came through on the radio, alerting us to the sighting of a leopard, we responded, driving past the lions we'd seen earlier in the afternoon, arriving at an area of scrub where a female leopard was passing through the undergrowth, pausing occasionally to scent mark. The animal was quite nervous therefore we didn't remain with her for long, instead reconvening for sundowners before returning to the lodge for a delicious evening meal.

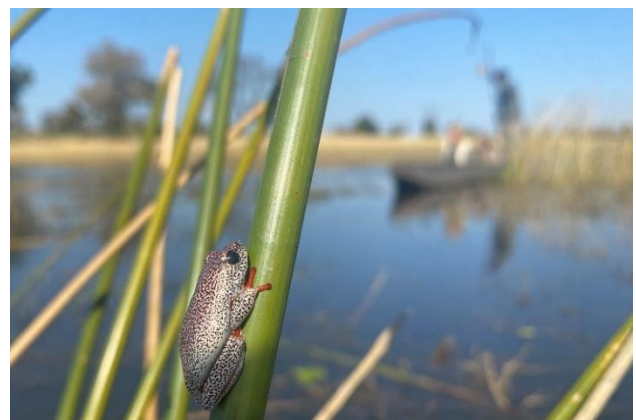
## Day 9: Mma Dinare

Sunday 26 June 2022

After a light breakfast, we opted to undertake a short mokoro ride, with a game drive on either side. Similar to yesterday, we hadn't long left the lodge when we heard a male lion calling, quickly locating him in a clearing not a kilometre from the lodge. With the sun rising slowly above the eastern horizon, he was cast in a beautiful light and posed magnificently for the photographers in the group. He then proceeded to roar, a full-bodied effort that, from five metres away, reverberated through us and the vehicle – an incredible experience and undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip. Moving off into the scrub, we positioned the vehicle to get a view of him walking towards us, passing by within touching distance.



Leaving the lion sighting, we slowly made our way to the river where we undertook our mokoro rides, staggering the time on the water between the three vehicles. With strong crosswinds, it was far from straightforward for the guys punting, but for us passengers it was a very enjoyable and relaxing experience, with time to stop and photograph the Angolan reed frogs, noting the markedly different colouration of the males and females. A single hippo was present for the majority of the rides whilst a breeding herd of elephants put in an appearance for a lucky few.



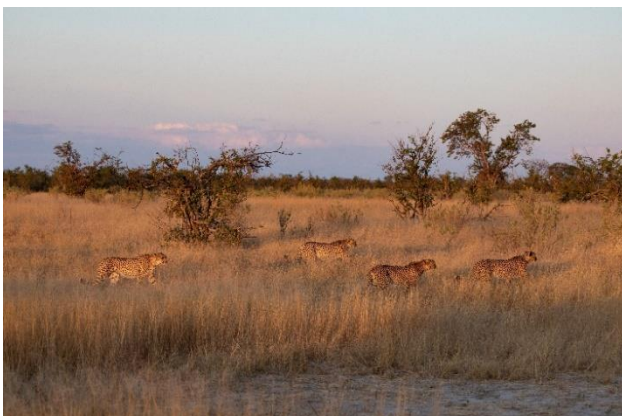
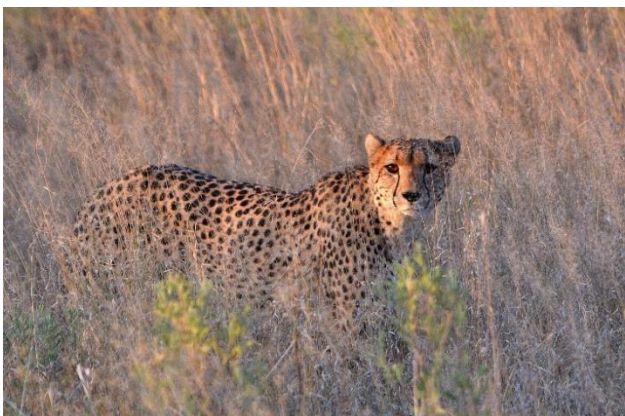
Encountering gagar goshawk, Dickenson's kestrel and African fish eagle within minutes of leaving the lodge on the afternoon drive, we took bets on how many raptors we were going to see throughout the afternoon, before getting distracted by an enormous herd of buffalo that were grazing on the edge of the floodplains. A full spectrum of ages was present, from shaggy brown calves up to the dagga boys, teetering on the brink of

being too slow to keep up with the herd and driven out by the younger males, keen to take on sole responsibility for 'reproductive responsibilities'! Cattle egrets and oxpeckers of both species flitted between hosts, providing an opportunity to observe the contrasting feeding techniques employed; the yellow-billed plucking the ticks out, whilst the red-billed combed and scratched the ticks loose, often drawing blood.

Passing through the mass of buffalo we immediately encountered an enormous number of elephants coming down to drink. Numbering close to 200 animals, the gathering almost certainly represented the culmination of several breeding herds. Whilst the adults were keen to drink, the youngsters put on a comical show with their playful antics, chasing blacksmith plovers, tiptoeing around the water's edge and generally charging around being a nuisance.



We spent a good amount of time watching the elephants, gradually easing forward when gaps in the herd allowed and weaving our way through. This process hastened somewhat when we received a call suggesting that one of the other vehicles had found a cheetah and we rushed to the scene, finding not one, but four cheetahs, a coalition of males pacing through the open grasslands. Walking in single file they strode forward, illuminated by the soft pink glow of the evening sun before disappearing into the mopani. It was a stunning sighting, and we were all buzzing as we arrived at a watering hole for sundowners, taking in yet another spectacular African skyscape.



Arriving back at the lodge, John Neelo, a Senior Researcher from the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust (BPCT) was waiting for us and, grabbing a drink from the bar, we gathered around to watch John's presentation on the excellent work of the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust (BCPT).

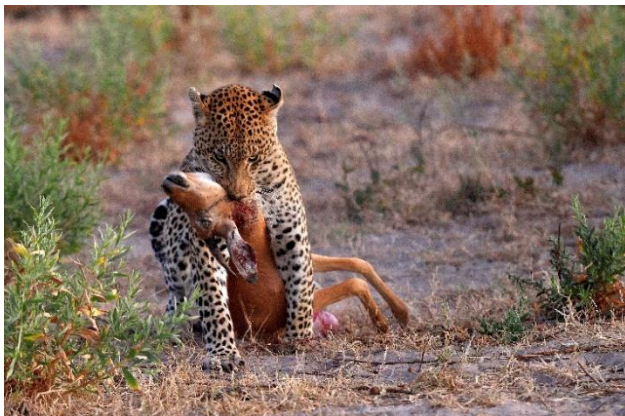
## Day 10: Mma Dinare

Monday 27 June 2022

Today we hit upon something of a purple patch, picking up where we'd left off the previous evening. Within seconds of leaving the lodge, we were tracking a leopard that was soon found with a recently killed impala. The young male proceeded to drag the kill over 130 metres of open ground and into the cover of a thicket where it hauled the carcass up a densely foliated tree. No sooner had it done this than a second leopard

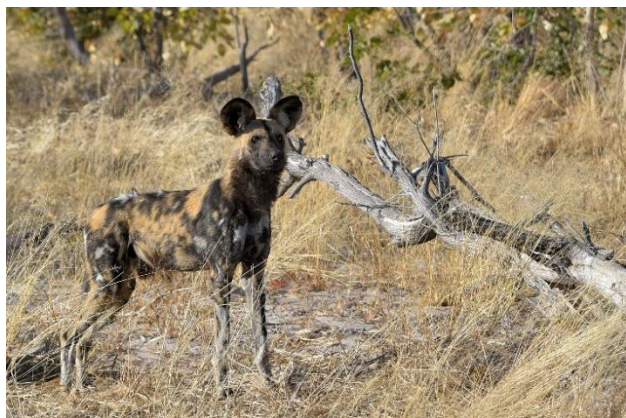
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arrived on the scene, the skittish female that we had seen on our first evening. Unlikely to be sharing a meal, we surmised that the larger male must have stolen the kill from the female. She remained in the area briefly before moving off, leaving the male to enjoy his prize.



Whilst watching the male tucking in, albeit partially obscured by the branches, we heard a male lion calling, seemingly not too far off and decided to follow up in the direction of the source, pausing briefly to photograph a saddle-billed stork grappling with a catfish. We soon located the male and this time he was accompanied by three cubs and a lioness. They were on the move, but we were able to keep pace a short distance away, snatching views and photographs whenever they stopped to scent mark and sniff at trees and termite mounds. By chance, the cats encountered a herd of kudu and with the nervous animals fixated on the male, the lioness passed unnoticed and set about stalking them, getting within about 10 metres before her cover was blown by one of the cubs. As the kudu fled the lioness gave chase, but it was only a half-hearted effort and didn't amount to anything. Hunting over, the family rested on and around a large termite mound, affording nice views of the cubs as they played around, before continuing off into the scrub.

We took the moment to return to our principal target for the day, which was, in the company of John to try and see the small pack of wild dogs at their den site. The site was tucked away in the middle of nowhere and we wouldn't have stood a chance of finding it, were it not for John's assistance. As we homed in on the den, we saw the unmistakable form of several large pairs of enormous satellite-dish ears in the grass. Pulling up alongside, there were five adult dogs, a pack of four and a recently joined female interloper, an individual from a disbanded pack that had been roaming on its own for six months and was now trying desperately to win favour with the other dogs.



It was fascinating to watch the pack dynamics with the outsider repeatedly trying to demonstrate her submissiveness, whimpering, rolling on the ground and generally trying to avoid any form of confrontation. Whilst her continued efforts seemed to have worked on the males who were quite accepting of her presence the alpha female was far warier. The reason why soon became apparent as she moved to the den entrance and was greeted by eight tiny pups thought to be around five weeks old. John indicated that we could reposition the vehicle closer to the entrance and as we pulled up, the front two vehicles were treated to brief

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views of the pups suckling before they retreated into the den – it was only the second or third time that they had ever seen a vehicle.

We stayed with the dogs for approximately an hour before stopping for a brief tea/coffee break where we were joined by a thirsty warthog, before continuing to the lodge. Except we never reached the lodge, as we were diverted to a beautiful spot by the river where the lodge staff were waiting with a magnificent buffet spread – a fabulous way to end an incredible morning.

This afternoon we returned to the leopard kill and found the young male leopard on the ground, sitting in the shade of the tree. He made his way down to the river's edge to drink, only a short distance from the lodge before returning into the thicket where we lost sight.

From there it was back out exploring some of the now familiar areas around the lodge, travelling through the luxuriant riverine areas and drier stands of mopani. Elephants, buffalo, hippo, impala, red lechwe and giraffe were out in force and whilst fresh cheetah tracks were found, we weren't able to locate the animals on this occasion. As dusk fell, we gathered for our final sundowners of the trip, soaking in the bush atmosphere before returning to the lodge, spotlighting en route. It was on this journey that one of the vehicles had the briefest of views of brown hyena as it crossed the track ahead – a rare mammal of these parts.

Dinner was enjoyed next to the campfire and under the stars, serenaded by the entire lodge staff who had turned out to sing a few songs and wish us well for our onward travels. It was a wonderful way to conclude our time in Botswana and also allowed us to thank the team for their superb hospitality.

Whilst some settled down to a nightcap or two around the fire, approximately half the group opted for a final night drive, with two vehicles heading out for an hour. The drive proved very successful, and across the two vehicles, we saw crested porcupine, scrub and spring hare, large-spotted genet and African civet.



**Day 11: Depart Botswana**

**Tuesday 28 June 2022**

Sadly, it was time to bid farewell to Mma Dinare and return to Maun for a flight to Johannesburg and then on to London. The journey back proved trouble-free, and we arrived at London Heathrow safely the following morning.



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# Checklist



	Common Name	Scientific Name
	<b>BIRDS</b>	<i>AVES</i>
1	Helmeted guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>
2	Red-billed spurfowl	<i>Pternistis adspersus</i>
3	Swainson's spurfowl	<i>Pternistees swainsonii</i>
4	White-faced whistling duck	<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>
5	Spur-winged goose	<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>
6	Yellow-billed duck	<i>Anas undulata</i>
7	Egyptian goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>
8	African pygmy goose	<i>Nettapus auritus</i>
9	Cape teal	<i>Anas capensis</i>
10	Red-billed teal	<i>Anas erthorhyncha</i>
11	Hottentot teal	<i>Anas hottentota</i>
12	Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
13	Yellow-billed stork	<i>Mycteria ibis</i>
14	Saddle-billed stork	<i>Ephippiorhynchus senegal.</i>
15	Marabou stork	<i>Leptoptilos crumenifer</i>
16	African openbill stork	<i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>
17	Hamerkop	<i>Scopus umbretta</i>
18	Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
19	African sacred ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
20	Hadedda ibis	<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>
21	African spoonbill	<i>Platalea alba</i>
22	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>

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23	Goliath heron	<i>Ardea goliath</i>
24	Squacco heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
25	Rufus-bellied heron	<i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>
26	Western cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
27	Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
28	Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
29	Intermediate egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>
30	Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
31	Slaty egret	<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>
32	Black egret	<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>
33	Reed cormorant	<i>Microcarbo africanus</i>
34	African darter	<i>Anhinga rufa</i>
35	Great white pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
36	Pink-backed pelican	<i>Pelacanus refescens</i>
37	Common ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>
38	Hooded vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>
39	White-backed vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>
40	Lappet-faced vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotos</i>
41	African fish eagle	<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>
42	Tawny eagle	<i>Aquila rapax</i>
43	African hawk-eagle	<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>
44	Martial eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>
45	Brown snake-eagle	<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>
46	Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>
47	Yellow-billed kite	<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>
48	African marsh harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>
49	Shikra	<i>Accipter badius</i>
50	Gabar goshawk	<i>Micronisus tachiro</i>

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51	Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
52	African harrier-hawk	<i>Polyboroides typus</i>
53	Dickinson's kestrel	<i>Falco dickinsoni</i>
54	Black-bellied bustard	<i>Lissotis melanogaster</i>
55	Wattled crane	<i>Grus carunculata</i>
56	Black crane	<i>Amaurornis flavirostra</i>
57	Spotted thick-knee	<i>Burhinus capensis</i>
58	Water thick-knee	<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>
59	Black-winged stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
60	Blacksmith lapwing	<i>Vanellus armatus</i>
61	Crowned lapwing	<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>
62	Kittlitz's plover	<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>
63	African jacana	<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>
64	Lesser jacana	<i>Microparra capensis</i>
65	Double-banded sandgrouse	<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>
66	African green pigeon	<i>Treron calvus</i>
67	Red-eyed dove	<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>
68	Ring-necked dove	<i>Streptopelia decipiens</i>
69	Namaqua dove	<i>Oena capensis</i>
70	Emerald-spotted wood dove	<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>
71	Grey-go-away-bird	<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>
72	Coppery-tailed coucal	<i>Centropus cupreicaudus</i>
73	Senegal coucal	<i>Centropus senegalensis</i>
74	African barred owlet	<i>Glaucidium capense</i>
75	African Scops-owl	<i>Otus senegalensis</i>
76	Southern white-faced scops owl	<i>Ptilopusus granti</i>
77	Pearl-spotted owlet	<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>
78	Verreaux's eagle-owl	<i>Bubo lacyeus</i>

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79	Western barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
80	Fiery-necked nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>
81	Square-tailed nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus fossli</i>
82	African palm swift	<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>
83	Red-faced mousebird	<i>Urocolius indicus</i>
84	Lilac-breasted roller	<i>Coracias caudatus</i>
85	Pied kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
86	Malachite kingfisher	<i>Corythornis cristatus</i>
87	Little bee-eater	<i>Merops pusillus</i>
88	Swallow-tailed bee-eater	<i>Merops hirundineus</i>
89	Common scimitarbill	<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>
90	Southern yellow-billed hornbill	<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>
91	Southern red-billed hornbill	<i>Tockus rufirostris</i>
92	African grey hornbill	<i>Tockus nasutus</i>
93	Southern ground hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>
94	Crested barbet	<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>
95	Bennett's woodpecker	<i>Campethera bennettii</i>
96	Golden-tailed woodpecker	<i>Campethera abingoni</i>
97	Meyer's parrot	<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>
98	White-crested helmetsrike	<i>Prionops plumatus</i>
99	Black-crowned tchagra	<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>
100	Brown-crowned tchagra	<i>Tchagra australis</i>
101	Swamp boubou	<i>Laniarius bicolor</i>
102	Crimson-breasted shrike	<i>lanarius atrococcineus</i>
103	Long-tailed shrike	<i>Corvinelle melanoleuca</i>
104	Fork-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>
105	Magpie shrike	<i>Urolestes melanoleucus</i>
106	Cape crow	<i>Corvus capensis</i>

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107	Pied crow	<i>Corvus albus</i>
108	Brown-throated martin	<i>Riparia palydicola</i>
109	Lesser-striped swallow	<i>Cecropis abyssinica</i>
110	Red-breasted swallow	<i>Cecropis semirufa</i>
111	Little rush warbler	<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>
112	Zitting cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>
113	Rattling cisticola	<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>
114	Tawny-flanked prinia	<i>Prinia subflava</i>
115	Hartlaub's babbler	<i>Turdoides hartlaubii</i>
116	Cape starling	<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>
117	Greater blue-eared starling	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>
118	Meves's starling	<i>Lamprotornis mevesii</i>
119	Burchell's starling	<i>Lamprotornis australis</i>
120	Yellow-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus africanus</i>
121	Red-billed oxpecker	<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>
122	Arnot's chat	<i>Myrmecocichla arnotti</i>
123	African stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
124	White-browed sparrow-weaver	<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>
125	Village weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>
126	Red-billed buffalo weaver	<i>Bubalornis niger</i>
127	Scaly-feathered weaver	<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>
128	Red-billed quelea	<i>Quelea quelea</i>
129	Red-billed firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta sengala</i>
130	Jameson's firefinch	<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>
131	Blue waxbill	<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>
132	Pin-tailed whydah	<i>Vidua macroura</i>
133	African pipit	<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>
134	Cape wagtail	<i>montacilla capensis</i>

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	<b>MAMMALS</b>	<i>MAMMALIA</i>
<b>1</b>	Chacma caboon	<i>Papioo ursinus</i>
<b>2</b>	Vervet monkey	<i>Chlorocebus pygerythrus</i>
<b>3</b>	Southern lesser galago	<i>Galago moholi</i>
<b>4</b>	Scrub hare	<i>Lepus saxatillis</i>
<b>5</b>	Smith's Tree squirrel	<i>Paraxerus cepapi</i>
<b>6</b>	S. African springhare	<i>Pedetes capensis</i>
<b>7</b>	Cape porcupine	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>
<b>8</b>	Bat-eared fox	<i>Otocyon megalotis</i>
<b>9</b>	Side-striped jackal	<i>Canis adustus</i>
<b>10</b>	Black-backed jackal	<i>Canis mesomelas</i>
<b>11</b>	African wild dog	<i>Lycaon pictus</i>
<b>12</b>	Honey badger	<i>Mellivora capensis</i>
<b>13</b>	Banded mongoose	<i>Mungos mungo</i>
<b>14</b>	Slender mongoose	<i>Galerella sanguinea</i>
<b>15</b>	Yellow mongoose	<i>Cynictis penicillata</i>
<b>16</b>	Dwarf mongoose	<i>Helogale parvula</i>
<b>17</b>	Small-spotted genet	<i>Genetta genetta</i>
<b>18</b>	S.A large-spotted genet	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>
<b>19</b>	African civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>
<b>20</b>	Spotted hyena	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>
<b>21</b>	Brown hyena	<i>Hyaena brunnea</i>
<b>22</b>	African wild cat	<i>Felis silvestris cafra</i>
<b>23</b>	Serval	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>
<b>24</b>	Cheetah	<i>Acinonyx jubatus</i>
<b>25</b>	Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>
<b>26</b>	Leopard	<i>Panthera pardus</i>

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27	Elephant	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>
28	Burchell's zebra	<i>Equus quagga burchellii</i>
29	Hippopotamus	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>
30	Common warthog	<i>Phacochoerus africanus</i>
31	Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardis</i>
32	African buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>
33	Greater kudu	<i>Tragelphus strepsiceros</i>
34	Red lechwe	<i>Kobus leche</i>
35	Waterbuck	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>
36	Southern reedbuck	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>
37	Tsessebe	<i>Damaliscus lunatus</i>
38	Impala	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>
39	Blue wildebeest	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>
40	Sable	<i>Hippotragus niger</i>
41	Steenbok	<i>Raphicerus campestris</i>
42	Pygmy mouse	<i>Mus minutoides</i>
	<b>REPTILES &amp; AMPHIBIANS</b>	<b>REPTILIA &amp; AMPHIBIA</b>
1	Nile monitor	<i>Varanus niloticus</i>
2	Nile crocodile	<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>
3	Painted reed frog	<i>Hyperolius mamoratus</i>
4	Striped skink	<i>Mabuya striata</i>
5	Flap-neck chameleon	<i>Chamaeleo dilepis</i>
	<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>	<b>PAPILIONES</b>
1	African monarch	<i>Danaus chrysippus aegyptius</i>
2	Zebra white	<i>Pinacopteryx eriphia eriphia</i>
3	Green-veined charaxes	<i>Charaxes candiope</i>
4	African-veined White	<i>Belenois gidica</i>

<b>5</b>	Brown-veined white	<i>Belenois aurota aurota</i>
<b>6</b>	Scarlet tip	<i>Colotis annae</i>
<b>7</b>	Bushveld purple tip	<i>Colotis ione</i>