



MARCH 2006

Well folks, it is official. The Okavango delta (the world's biggest oasis) is now even bigger! The Limpopo Valley is at the time of writing just as green and water-rich as its northern neighbor. Old timers in the area only remember vaguely a time when it was as wet and as lush as it is now. In fact there is a lot of talk about weather cycles and the next 800 years should all be wet. I guess the only way to find out is to stick around! What I do know is that with the rain, came tones of babies of all kinds, and lots of flowers of all shapes colors and sizes creating a true wonderland where you would expect the lion and the lamb to actually lie together. Riding in this unique area has become even more varied with loads of river crossings and a new waterhole around every corner.



Reports from our first safari is that Cor has decided to put a couple of Machetes on his "What to take on safari" list. Apart from the fact that he has to cut down numerous branches he has to shake the trees so that the elephant falls out before riding through an area. Quite strenuous work! Facing elephant is one thing, at least you know what they want, to see you run away, but when a Black Mamba stands up in front of you waiting for a password, now that's totally something else. Not that our guys don't know the password, they do, but they did not recognize that particular Mamba and they all have different passwords.

Tiger Lily, our tame African Wildcat eloped for an amorous weekend with one of the wild males and has subsequently become mother to no less than five bundles of love. Njama, my fearless lion- hunting dog still pursues the love of his life, Brannie. She is as snobbish as ever but if the sparkle in her eye is anything to go by they will have a secret meeting of their own soon we were lucky enough to acquire two more horses for this season. Sahara comes from Equus horse safaris and is an eight-year-old boerperd cross. Rocky is about the same age and about 16hh. They both show great promise and are exceptionally comfortable rides. We were devastated earlier this month when Lobengula, one of our young Shire/Thoroughbred crosses died. He had African horse sickness, a disease that is about ninety percent fatal.

At the fort things have also been happening. We finally finished the new hide in February and guests are now able to get beautiful photographs of elephant virtually from the comfort of their own bedrooms. The fishpond was a huge success until the local kingfishers started using it as a fast food restaurant and it is currently devoid of anything fishy. It is however still a great place to sit and contemplate life.

We have quite a few new faces at LVHS . Hannetjie is an ex Kruger National Park camp manager and has taken over from Jacques. Onyana is a local beauty queen and her assistant Thabo has taken over from Travis as Trail guide and West has been promoted to trail guide as well. To meet all these new and exiting people, animals and fish come and ride with us.

All the best to all of you and hope to see you soon!

Kobus