

3.10.2019 Mudumu National Park

In the early morning it is rather windy, the usual dust clouds fly by. Later the weather gets unbearably hot again. Just in front of our camp the hippos are frolicking in the water and Dewi gets really jealous. A bit of a cool down would be so nice now. The hippos are eating, chewing and smacking quite loudly; a hippo needs to eat approx. 130kg of feed per day.



The Mudumu Park is unfenced and Conservancy Zones are bordering the park acting as buffer zones. Elephants can cross without any “border formalities” between Namibia and Botswana. How relaxing, the entire day we can watch wildlife from our camp without having to bump over bad roads.





In this park, the campsites remain unfenced as well and one elephant bull, whom we watched earlier came for a visit in the afternoon all the way to our ablution. We found it a better idea to retreat into the car and wait in what direction he would move on.



For our evening game drive we go straight to our favourite viewing platform at the Kwando river. A guided safari group is having their sundowner Gin Tonics served here, for which the tour guide brings even ice cubes carefully packed in tumblers. It's a great evening as we can witness many herds of elephants who are even very active today. They cross the river left and right of us in both directions, we don't know where to look first.



Once all the elephants have departed the tourist group leaves as well. We stay for another 45 minutes however without seeing another animal. Unbelievable, it seems as if the tour guide had booked the animals just for his sundowner with clients.



4.10.2019 Mudumu National Park, Namushasha River Lodge

Our morning game drive proves to be extremely lucky, we see a Leopard! We only once were so lucky to see a Leopard so close and clear, many years ago in Botswana. Well, it was absolutely worth getting out of bed so early.



We continue to the Hippo Pool, there is always some wildlife action happening there.





Indeed, we suddenly discover a huge crocodile in the water, it has something in its jaws. We can't really see what it has caught and assume it is a warthog, as the carcass is grey with a few hairs on its backside. As the croc turns around, we can clearly see that it is an elephant baby in its jaws... How sad, but that's the course of nature...



We watch the crocodile for a long while as it seems to look for a place to put down and feed on the carcass. However, two different groups of school children arrive and make a lot of noise. Then a really not-so-smart German family arrives in their rental car. The father gets out of the car and walks(!) quite a far distance along the shore to get a better view of the hippos. His wife even jokes that he has a good life insurance... Well, enough is enough, the croc disappears out of sight.



Watching the croc was so exciting that time flew by and now it is already noon before we continue our drive. The Namushasha Lodge, located near the Mudumu Park, is such a very popular place that last time it was fully booked and we didn't get to stay there. This time we booked early enough and so we do not have to drive far today.

As we return from the pool in the afternoon, we discover a rather unwanted wildlife experience: Monkeys broke into our car! They came through the roof window, found our

sugar stock, stole our Papaya and ate all our tomatoes. Earlier we did not see any monkeys, otherwise we would not have left the windows open. Everywhere are traces of the monkeys, dirt, sugar and remains of the tomatoes. Instead of being able to enjoy our sundowner, we now have to clean the car and change bed sheets...



5.10.2019 Namushasha

During the morning we still find corners full with sugar and dirty monkey prints. We clean the mosquito net, fix it and re-install it. Luckily, it is not ripped apart but was rather pulled out of the frame. As a consolation we tell ourselves, that it could have been much worse, the monkeys could have eaten and smeared the papaya on our bed or do their small / big business inside the cabin...

As we are already in 'active mode' due to all the cleaning and repairing, we turn our attention to the headlights as well. Actually, we do not intend to drive during night time, but during the many to-be-expected police checks we do not want to give any reason for a fine.

It turns out that both light bulbs on both sides are broken, but we are happy that there are not any major electrical issues. Still it is strange that they are broken, as we have hardly used the headlights at all.



In the evening we finally get to our sundowner on the terrace and are treated with a picturesque sunset. In addition, on the horizon a huge heard of elephants is passing by slowly. As we can see, there must be more than 100 animals.



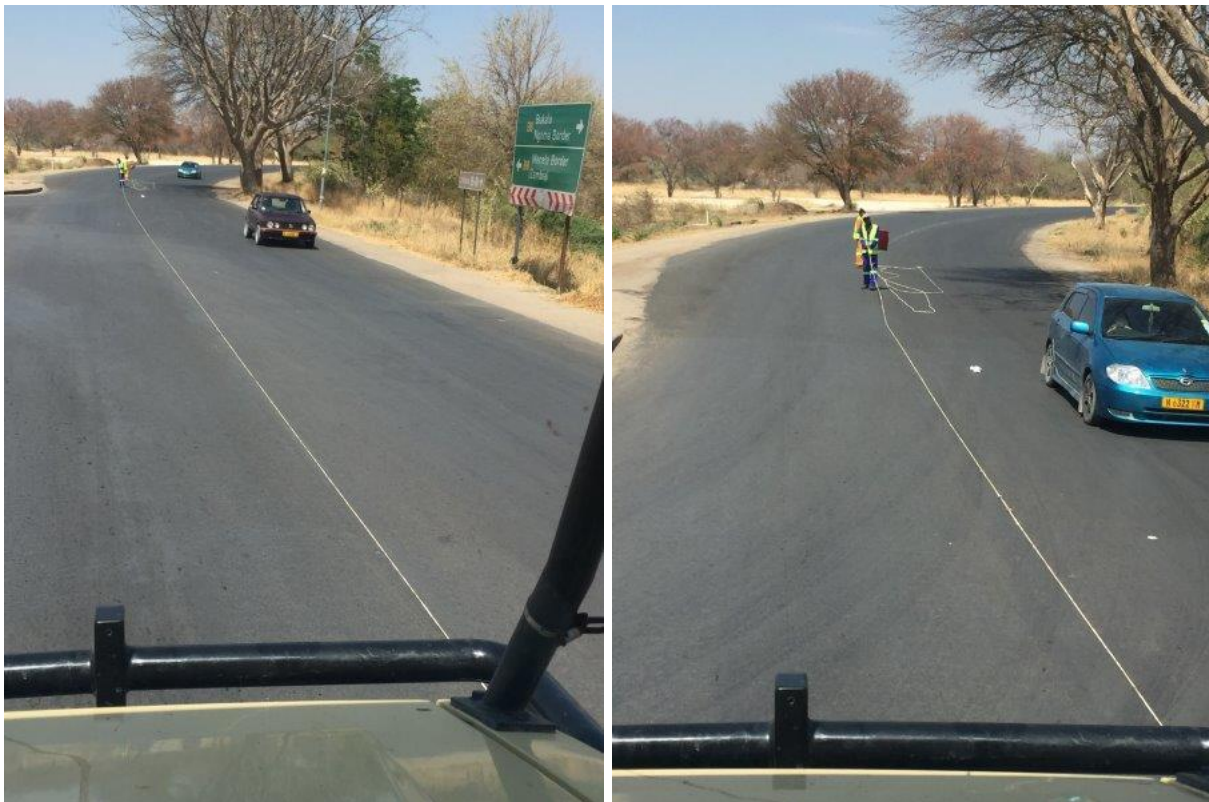
7.10.2019 Katima Mulilo

Today we drive to Katima Mulilo, our last stop before we enter Zambia.



Again, we stay at the Protea Marriott Hotel campground. Although last year our camping chairs and table were stolen there it is still the best campsite in town. The hotel is treating us kindly, as a compensation for the theft we do not have to pay this time for our stay. As we turn into the camp ground we can hardly believe our eyes, as there stands the car of Ela and Heinz. They both have been robbed at the same time last year and lost their kitchen box. Now they are sitting on their usual place just like last year.

The road markings in Katima are still prepared and done by hand and with string...



We have a few last preparations to do in Katima Mulilo; try to get spare bulbs for the truck, „monkey laundry“, shopping for provisions for Zambia and filling up the car. The town is quite big and as a border town offers a good selection of everything.



In the evening we are invited by the Hotel General Manager for dinner as a compensation for the theft last year. Since our incident last year nothing else was stolen, she said... We are very pleased about the friendly gesture by the Hotel and enjoy a nice evening together.

