

Botswana 16/10 – 8/11/2013

Introduction

This report is based on a 23 days trip to Botswana, including a short side trip to the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Places visited were Moremi, Chobe, Nxai Pan, Magadigadi Pan and the Central Kalahari. It was not a bird watching trip as the others – we were more interested in mammals and nature/scenery in general. On this vacation I was accompanied by my friends Joachim and Thomas Weiss and Ralf Schmeisser.

Climate

Throughout our stay the weather was hot and dry, reaching 36 or 38 degrees centigrade during the day. As the rainy season was slowly approaching, we could sometimes witness rainfall in the distance or there were a few drops of rain once in a while. Only during our boat trip near Kasane we got into heavy rain for about 20 minutes.

Visa

As Germans we did not need a visa for Botswana and Namibia. Entering Zimbabwe to see the Victoria Falls we received our visas at the border post. They charged 30 US dollars. Be prepared to spend 2 or 3 hours with formalities, especially when travelling with your own/rented car.

How to get there

We had booked a flight with British Airways from Frankfurt to Windhoek via London and Johannesburg (back via Cape Town and London) for 1000 euros, but in fact never flew with the British. Both times they booked us on other flights, because they had problems or were delayed. This was to our advantage, as those flights were more direct and not via London. We flew with excellent South African and with Namibian Airlines.

Getting around

We had booked a Toyota Hilux through Kea (Britz) with two roof tents. They have an office near Windhoek Airport. We paid 3200 euros for 23 days,

including all taxes, insurances etc.. Renting a car in Botswana would have been more expensive. It is possible to find 4x4 cars at a lower price, but then you get less security and services and an older vehicle.

Please note that you have to pay various insurances and taxes when entering Zimbabwe (more than 100 US dollars in total) and renew your road tax when reentering Namibia.

The price for diesel was 90-95 cents per liter.

Money

The local currency is the Botswana Pula. The exchange rate was 12 Pula for one euro or 9 Pula for one US dollar. It is possible to pay with credit card (Visa, Master Card) at petrol stations, modern supermarkets or better hotels. You may get cash from ATMs in bigger cities or exchange dollar or euro into Pula at banks or money changer offices.

Safety/People

Botswana is a very safe country to travel and we found people to be friendly and relaxed.

Language

English is widely spoken in Botswana.

Food

We had few good meals (game!) in restaurants outside the national parks. But usually we filled up our stocks in supermarkets (in Maun or Kasane they have got everything, like in Europe) and prepared the meals ourselves. Before entering Moremi GR and Chobe NP, we had to buy food and drinks for 9 days, which brought the capacity of our vehicle to its limit. Though we had a fridge we ended up eating tinned food with pasta or rice after 2 or 3 days without shopping opportunities.

Accommodation

Camping in national parks is expensive. Per night we paid 30 – 60 euros, mostly between 35 and 40 per person including the fee for the car. The campsites are best booked and paid in advance, thus you avoid wasting time in Botswana. In addition, some campsites are very small and might be fully booked until you arrive in Botswana. Except in the central Kalahari, all campsites have basic facilities like toilet, shower and tap water. In the Central Kalahari Game Reserve you have to carry along all water you need for drinking, cooking, cleaning dishes (we did it with sand) or having a shower (we survived 3 nights without any).

Booking the campsites is not that easy, as they are managed by different companies like Bigfoot, Xomae, SKL or Kwalate. We had to make several phone calls to go through the process of getting a reservation, of being able to pay our bill or receive a voucher in advance.

Outside the national parks camping is much cheaper. The price was 9 to 12 euros per person. Usually the campgrounds also had bungalows and a restaurant.

All campsites, especially those in the national parks, were spacious, had a fire place and were in a really beautiful setting, e.g. close to a river or overlooking a salt pan with lots of wildlife around.

Park Entrance Fees

The park entrance fee was more or less 10 euros per person for 24 hours. We also paid in advance.

Books

I used Ian Sinclair's "Birds of Southern Africa" as a field guide.



Barn Owl at our camp at night

a rather tame Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill





African Skimmer at Chobe River near Kasane

Lilac-breasted Roller (above)

Itinerary

- 16/10/2013 Train to Stuttgart. Flight booked on British Airways (1,000 euros) but due to delay from their flight from London switched on a flight from Stuttgart to Munich with Lufthansa. Then with South African (excellent) to Johannesburg. From there with Air Namibia to Windhoek.
- 17/10/2013 14:00 arrival in Windhoek. Took our pre-booked Toyota Hilux from KEA (Britz) near the airport, 3,200 euros for 23 days!!!! Trip to Gobabis, one hour before the border. Camping and late dinner at Goba Lodge (nice and friendly).
- 18/10/2013 Excellent breakfast at Goba Lodge. Border crossing without any difficulties. Long drive to Maun, where we had to buy food and drinks for 9 days. Kept on driving until dark. Dinner and night at Kaziikini Community Camp.
- 19/10/2013 After a short drive we entered Moremi GR. Night at Campsite "Third Bridge". Game drive and first birds.
- 20/10/2013 Game drive. Siesta at Mbona Boat Station. Did not take a Canoe. Game drive until dark. Night at "Third Bridge". Hyenas seem interested in our steaks.
- 21/10/2013 Drive to our next Camp called "Xakanaka". Elephants walk by. Boat-Trip (2h,45 US-dollar) into the Okavango-Delta. Beautiful, good observations, spectacular sunset.
- 22/10/2013 Looking for wild dogs around the airstrip without success. Visit of the Paradise Pools and other pools and wetlands. Afternoon I stay alone in the Camp. Birding on foot.
- 23/10/2013 Drive to "Khawai", our last camp in Moremi Game Reserve. Hippos at dusk under the wooden bridge.
- 24/10/2013 On our way out we discover a pack of hunting wild dogs. Fantastic observations!!! Long drive to "Savuti", Chobe NP. First lions. Camp directly at the river, with elephants and antelopes nearby.

- 25/10/2013 Game drive. We find more wild dogs and lions and my first leopards. Visit of the rock paintings. Yellow-throated Sandgrouse on the way!
- 26/10/2013 6h drive on deep sandy tracks to Camp “Ihaha”. Beautiful campsite at Chobe river, but extremely hot. My first sable antelope. In the afternoon I stay with Ralf S. at the camp.
- 27/10/2013 Game drives in the morning and afternoon. Caspian Plover.
- 28/10/2013 Game drive on the way to Kasane. Fill up our stocks. Have one tire repaired as well. Campground of the expensive “Chobe Safari Lodge”. Dinner (buffet, 210 Pula) in their tastefully furnished restaurant overlooking Chobe river. 15:30 3h boat trip on Chobe river (70 dollars). Very touristy, an awful guide, but Slaty Egret + African Skimmer.
- 29/10/2013 Early morning birding around the camp and lodge premises. 2,5 h for the border crossing to Zimbabwe. 30 USD for a visa plus 105 USD for the car (road tax, insurance). Slow and inefficient bureaucracy. Night at friendly “Rest Camp” in Vic Falls. We find a nice spot at the Zambesi river where I take a bath at a safe place (Hippo + Croc free). Dinner at “Mama Africa”, not bad.
- 30/10/2013 At 6:00am we are already at the entrance to the Victoria Falls. The fee is 30USD p.p. and we spend 3 h at the impressive waterfalls. Rock Pratincoles at the rapids. By accident we do drive 70km in the wrong direction towards Hwange. We turn and leave Zimbabwe via Kasane and drive via Pandamatenga (lunch break at a simple food stall) and Nata to Gweta, where we stay at the beautiful Camp “Planet Baobab”. Dinner in the restaurant. Vegetable Curry, OK.
- 31/10/2013 Early morning drive to the Gate to Nxai Pan NP. Strong wind carries sand so that we have almost no sight until midday. Night at “South Camp”. Lions, antelopes and elephants at the only waterhole around. Game drive, Baobab Drive.
- 01/11/2013 Lots of wildlife at the waterhole early in the morning. Drive to camp “Baines Baobab”. Beautiful camp overlooking a salt

pan, not far from those 7 famous old and huge baobab trees. Afternoon game drive on my own. Orange River Francolins and Banded Martin.

- 02/11/2013 We leave Nxai Pan and enter Magadigadi Pan. Night at “Kumaga” Campsite directly at Boteti river. Game drive with hundreds of zebras, wildebeest, elephants and antelopes.
- 03/11/2013 We cross the river with a primitive ferry (130 Pula) and leave Magadigadi. We fill up as much water as possible, because in the central Kalahari there is no water available at all. Shopping and filling up gasoline in Rakops, then we continue to central Kalahari Game Reserve. 90 km on good gravel road to our camp “Sunday Pan”, where we stay for 2 nights. Long siesta and short game drive. Mating lions near the waterhole!! 2 bat-eared foxes.
- 04/11/2013 Game drive. Few mammals but lots of larks. Rather lazy day. Evening drive in good light.
- 05/11/2013 100km drive to “Piper Pan”. Observation of 8 Cheetahs on the way!! Scenic pan with small trees. Rain and strong wind at night.
- 06/11/2013 Long drive, leaving the game reserve through Xade-Gate. Then 150km (last 70 on tarmac) until Ghanzi. Campground “Thakadu Camp”. Delicious dinner (Oryx-Steak) in the camp restaurant.
- 07/11/2013 Lazy morning. Breakfast at the restaurant. Then 3h drive to the border. Crossing almost without problems (forgot to pay for the insurance/tax for Namibia). Another 100km until Gobabis. Goba Lodge as before. Dinner at their restaurant.
- 08/11/2013 Late breakfast. Drive to Windhoek Airport with stopover for a drink at a lodge nearby as we were too early. Due to overbooking they put us on a direct flight to Frankfurt with Air Namibia instead on British Airways via London. Good for us.
- 09/11/2013 Quiet flight, but Namibian cannot match with South African Airlines. At 10:00am we land and take the train home.







Birdlist (lifers in bold)

Great White Pelican: two dozen at Chobe

Reed Cormorant: fairly common

African Darter: fairly common Moremi

African Spoonbill: observed at Moremi at different sites

African Sacred Ibis: found at Moremi

Hadedda Ibis: regularly seen at Moremi

Glossy Ibis: seen at Moremi

Goliath Heron: one during Chobe river tour, Kasane

Purple Heron: few Chobe river, Kasane

Grey Heron: at several sites

Black-headed Heron: seen at Moremi

Great Egret:

Intermediate Egret:

Little Egret:

Western Cattle Egret:

Rufous-bellied Heron: 2 Moremi

Black Heron: singles at Moremi

Slaty Egret: one bird seen flying at dusk during Chobe River Boat-Trip, Kasane

Squacco Heron. seen at Moremi

Black-crowned Night Heron: some birds during Chobe river-trip, Kasane

Striated Heron: few at Moremi

Black Stork: a single bird at Moremi

Yellow-billed Stork: small numbers at Moremi

Saddle-billed Stork: 3 of those impressive birds seen at Moremi, 4 at Chobe

Marabou Stork: found at Moremi,

African Openbill: small numbers at Moremi

Hamerkop: seen at Moremi

Little Grebe: seen in small numbers

White-faced Whistling Duck: fairly common at Moremi

African Pygmy Goose: 8 birds found on boat-tour Xakanaka, Moremi GR

Spur-winged Goose: fairly common at Moremi

Egyptian Goose: common Moremi

Red-billed Teal: fairly common

White-backed Vulture: the commonest Vulture

Lappet-faced Vulture: seen in small numbers on few occasions at Chobe NP and at Central Kalahari GR

White-headed Vulture: few birds seen at Moremi and Chobe

African Fish Eagle: a common sight near water

Western Osprey: one at Moremi, one at Chobe

Bateleur: a fairly common sight throughout

Martial Eagle: a single bird was observed perched on a tree at Moremi

Wahlberg`s Eagle: 2 individuals at Chobe NP, 2 at Central Kalahari

Tawny Eagle: found at Moremi and Central Kalahari

African Hawk Eagle found perched on a tree at Moremi GR

Brown Snake Eagle: one observation at Moremi NP

Black-chested Snake Eagle: 1 at Magadigadi NP, 1 at Central Kalahari GR

Yellow-billed Kite: very common

African Marsh Harrier: one or 2 birds seen

Pallid Harrier: 2 at Nxai Pan

Pale Chanting Goshawk: fairly common Nxai Pan, Magadigadi and Kalahari GR

Shikra: 1 at Moremi

Red-necked Falcon: one individual at Kalahari GR

Dickinson's Kestrel: 2 observed at Nxai Pan NP, 1 at Central Kalahari GR

Greater Kestrel: 2 seen at Nxai Pan, more at Magadigadi and Central Kalahari GR

Amur Falcon: one bird flying at Moremi

Secretarybird: 2 at Moremi, 1 at Nxai Pan

Common Ostrich: found at most sites

Helmeted Guineafowl: abundant throughout the trip

Orange River Francolin: 2 observed at Nxai Pan, near Baines Baobab

Crested Francolin: small numbers at Moremi, Chobe

Red-billed Spurfowl: one of the commonest and most vocal birds in Botswana

Swainson's Spurfowl: fairly common Moremi, Chobe

Red-knobbed Coot:

Common Moorhen:

Black Crake: fairly common at Moremi

Wattled Crane: 2 of these beautiful birds found at Moremi GR

Kori Bustard: fairly common Moremi, Chobe. Common Nxai Pan and Central Kalahari.

Black-bellied Bustard:

Red-crested Korhaan: fairly common Nxai Pan and esp. at Kalahari GR

Northern Black Korhaan: common Moremi, Chobe, esp. at Nxai Pan and Kalahari

Black-winged Stilt: seen at Moremi,

African Jacana: a common bird at wetlands

Spotted Thick Knee: 3 at Central Kalahari GR

Water Thick Knee: few at Chobe NP, waterholes and river

Red-winged Pratincole: several on Chobe River Tour, Kasane

Black-winged Pratincole: 6 birds observed at Moremi

Rock Pratincole: five birds seen at Victoria Falls rapids

Temminck's Courser: several in the dryer parts of Chobe NP, fairly common Nxai Pan,
Central Kalahari GR

Double-banded Courser: 5 individuals at Central Kalahari GR

Blacksmith Plover (Lapwing): very common in Botswana

Long-toed Plover (Lapwing): found at Chobe

Crowned Plover (Lapwing): seen at Moremi

Caspian Plover: some found on barren ground at Chobe

Common Ringed Plover: seen at Chobe

Common Greenshank: seen at Chobe

Marsh Sandpiper:

Wood Sandpiper: seen at Chobe

Common Sandpiper: small numbers at different places

Ruff: 2 birds at Moremi

Grey-headed Gull:

African Skimmer: about 15 birds incl. a few young observed during Chobe river
cruise, Kasane.

Yellow-throated Sandgrouse: 4 birds on the track at Chobe NP, on the way to the
Rock Paintings.

Double-banded Sandgrouse: fairly common at Moremi, Chobe

Burchell's Sandgrouse: found at Chobe, Magadigadi and Nxai Pan NP

Rock Dove:

Red-eyed Dove:

Cape Turtle Dove:

Laughing Dove:

African Green Pigeon:

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove:

Namaqua Dove: fairly common

Meyer's Parrot: few Moremi, Chobe and near Windhoek airport

Grey Go-away-Bird: fairly common throughout Botswana

African Cuckoo: one seen at Moremi Game Reserve

Jacobin Cuckoo: a single bird at Chobe

Coppery-tailed Coucal: one seen Moremi (Third Bridge)

Senegal Coucal: fairly common Moremi

Pearl-spotted Owlet: 1 at Moremi, 2 at Chobe during the day

Spotted Eagle-Owl: 2 found at night at Central Kalahari GR

Barn Owl: 1 excellent observation at South Camp, Nxai Pan

Nightjar spec.:

African Palm Swift: seen at Moremi

Red-faced Mousebird: few birds at Central Kalahari GR

Giant Kingfisher: 2 birds seen

Pied Kingfisher: fairly common Moremi

Malachite Kingfisher: found at Moremi

African Pygmy Kingfisher: seen once

Striped Kingfisher: a single bird observed at Moremi

European Bee-Eater: some wintering birds at Central Kalahari GR

White-fronted Bee-Eater: few individuals seen

Southern Carmine Bee-Eater: this gem is rather common at most sites. Had fantastic observations.

Swallow-tailed Bee-Eater: found at Central Kalahari GR

Little Bee-Eater: a common sight in Botswana

Lilac-breasted Roller: a beautiful and common bird. Not shy at all.

Broad-billed Roller: few birds seen at Moremi

Southern Ground-Hornbill: some birds found at Moremi and Chobe

Trumpeter Hornbill: one bird flying at Victoria Falls

African Grey Hornbill: few birds at Moremi

Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill: common at all sites

Southern Red-billed Hornbill: common at all places visited

Green Wood-Hoopoe: small numbers at Moremi

Common Scimitarbill: seen at Chobe

African Hoopoe: seen in small numbers at Moremi

Black-collared Barbet: fairly common Moremi. Also seen at Vic Falls

Crested Barbet: few birds seen at Moremi

Lesser Honeyguide: one bird at our Campsite at Third Bridge, Moremi GR

Golden-tailed Woodpecker: few at Moremi

Bennett's Woodpecker: one bird observed when it flew from the ground to a tree at Nxai Pan

Bearded Woodpecker: seen at Moremi

Cardinal Woodpecker: seen at Moremi

Red-capped Lark: few at Nxai Pan

Spike-heeled Lark: good views of 5 individuals at Central Kalahari GR

Sabota Lark: fairly common at Nxai Pan

Fawn-colored Lark: few birds seen

Monotonous Lark: few at Nxai Pan and Kalahari

Rufous-naped Lark: fairly common at Chobe, Nxai Pan

(Eastern) Clapper Lark: seen at Nxai Pan NP

Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark: fairly common at Nxai Pan and Central Kalahari

Barn Swallow: common

White-throated Swallow: few Chobe River, Kasane

Lesser Striped Swallow: seen at Moremi

Greater Striped Swallow: few at Kasane

Banded Martin: few Sunday Pan, Nxai Pan NP

Rock Martin: found at Vic Falls, Zimbabwe

Fork-tailed Drongo: a common bird

Pied Crow: fairly common

Cape Crow: fairly common

Southern Black Tit: few at Moremi GR

Arrow-marked Babbler: common throughout

Hartlaub`s Babbler: seen at Moremi

Southern Pied Babbler: seen at Moremi

Terrestrial Brownbul: small groups found at Chobe

African Red-eyed Bulbul: common

Dark-capped Bulbul: common

Yellow-bellied Greenbul: few at Chobe

Groundscraper Thrush: found at Magadigadi Pan and Central Kalahari

Ant-eating Chat: fairly common at Nxai Pan and Central Kalahari GR

Arnot`s Chat: small numbers Chobe

Capped Wheatear: few at pans of Central Kalahari GR

African Stonechat: few birds found at Moremi

White-browed Scrub Robin: few at Chobe

Kalahari Scrub Robin: fairly common Nxai Pan, Magadigadi and the Kalahari

White-browed Robin Chat: fairly common Moremi, Chobe, Kasane and Vic Falls

Collared Palm Thrush fairly common Kasane

Long-billed Crombec: few seen at Moremi, also at South Camp, Nxai Pan

Yellow-bellied Eremomela: found at Moremi

Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler: 2 at Chobe NP

Icterine Warbler: seen at Moremi

Willow Warbler: common

Great Reed Warbler: few

Neddicky: 2 birds at Moremi, another 2 at Kasane campground

Red-faced Cisticola: 2 at Kasane

Rattling Cisticola: the commonest Cisticola in Botswana, seen at most sites

Luapula Cisticola: observed during our boat-tour on Chobe river, Kasane

Tinkling Cisticola: 2 birds at Chobe

Tawny-flanked Prinia: seen at Chobe

Grey-backed Camaroptera: found throughout our trip

Southern Black Flycatcher: fairly common at different sites

Spotted Flycatcher: seen at different places

African Paradise Flycatcher: fairly common at Moremi,

Chinspot Batis: 4 birds at Xakanaka Campsite Moremi GR, some at Nxai Pan

African Yellow White-eye: a group observed at Safari Lodge Campground, Kasane

African Pied Wagtail: seen at different sites

Plain-backed Pipit: few at Kasane, during our boat-tour

Buffy Pipit: first seen at Chobe, then again at Central Kalahari Game Reserve

African Pipit: seen at Moremi

Bushveld Pipit: some of those birds found at Nxai Pan

Magpie Shrike: quite common at Moremi

Southern White-crowned Shrike: seen on few occasions like at Chobe NP

Red-backed Shrike: seen at Nxai Pan

Lesser Grey Shrike: seen at Chobe and Central Kalahari

Common Fiscal: seen at Moremi

White-crested Helmetshrike: some birds found at Moremi

Retz`s Helmetshrike: only seen at Moremi GR

Brubru: seen at Xakanaka, Moremi GR

Black-backed Puffback: fairly common at Chobe, Nxai Pan or Kasane, VicFalls, Kalahari

Tropical Boubou: seen at Victoria Falls,

Swamp Boubou: found at Moremi and Chobe

Crimson-breasted Shrike: regularly seen at Moremi, Chobe, Nxai Pan and C.Kalahari GR

Brown-crowned Tchagra: 2 birds at Chobe NP

Cape Glossy Starling:

Greater Blue-eared Starling: seen at various sites, for ex. Chobe

Meves`s Starling:

Burchell`s Starling:

Red-winged Starling: several at the Victoria Falls

Yellow-billed Oxpecker: seen at Moremi

Red-billed Oxpecker: found at Moremi

Scarlet-chested Sunbird: observed at Chobe

Marico Sunbird: seen at Moremi

White-bellied Sunbird: found at Moremi GR

Collared Sunbird: seen at Chobe

Great Sparrow: seen at Central Kalahari

Yellow-throated Petronia: only found at Moremi GR

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow a common bird

White-browed Buffalo-Weaver common

African Golden (Holub`s) Weaver:

Southern Masked Weaver:

Lesser Masked Weaver:

Red-headed Weaver: only seen at Xakanaka, Moremi GR

Scaly-feathered Finch: common at Chobe, Vic Falls, the salt pans and the Kalahari

Blue Waxbill : a common bird in Botswana

Violet-eared Waxbill: few of those pretty Finches found at Moremi and Chobe

Common Waxbill: found at Moremi, Vic Falls

Black-faced Waxbill: seen at Moremi

Green-winged Pytilia: seen at Chobe, Kalahari and Nxai Pan in small numbers

Red-billed Firefinch: few at Chobe,

Yellow Canary: some at Sunday Pan Campsite, Nxai Pan NP

Golden-breasted Bunting: some at Chobe

Mammals:

Gemsbok/Spießbock: found at Nxai Pan, Magadigadi and Central Kalahari GR

Roan Antelope/Pferdeantilope: 6 at Chobe

Sable Antelope/Rappenantilope: 3 at Chobe NP

Greater Kudu/Großer Kudu: common

Impala/Impala: common

Springbok/Springbock: common Nxai Pan, Magadigadi and Central Kalahari Game Reserve

Red Lechwe/Letschwe: few seen at Xakanaka boat trip to the Okavango Delta, some more at Chobe NP

Puku/Puku: singles near Ihaha, Chobe

Waterbuck/Ellipsen-Wasserbock: seen at Moremi

Imbabala Bushbuck/Buschbock: seen at Moremi

Reedbuck/Riedbock/: few at Moremi

Oribi/Bleichböckchen: only seen at Moremi

Common Duiker/Kronenducker: fairly common Central Kalahari

Common Tsessebe/Leierantilope: 1 at Chobe NP

Afr.Elephant/Afrikanischer Elefant: common

African Buffalo/Kaffernbüffel: common

Chapman`s Zebra/Steppenzebra: common

Blue Wildebeest/Streifengnu: common

Angolan Giraffe/Angola Giraffe: common

Hippo/Nilpferd: common

Lion/Löwe: 4 at Moremi, some at Chobe, 7 at Nxai Pan, 12 at Central Kalahari GR

Leopard/Leopard: 1 young and 1 adult observed in the open at Chobe NP

Cheetah/Gepard: 4 young and 1 adult with 3 juveniles discovered at Central Kalahari GR

African Wild Cat/Afrikanische Wildkatze: one by surprise at Central Kalahari GR

Spotted Hyenas/Tüpfelhyäne: seen at night at Moremi GR

Brown Hyenas/Schabrackenhyäne: one heavily injured individual (by Lions) seen at Central Kalahari

Black-backed Jackal/Schabrackenschakal: fairly common throughout

African Wild Dog/Afrikanischer Wildhund: excellent observations of 12 dogs hunting at Moremi GR, and another group at Chobe NP from very close range.

Bat-eared Fox/Löffelhund: in total 12 were observed at Central Kalahari GR

Honey Badger/Honigdachs: 2 at Nxai Pan, 3 more at Central Kalahari

Slender Mongoose/Rote Manguste(*Galerella sanguinea*): seen at Moremi, Magadigadi and Nxai Pan

Yellow Mongoose/Fuchsmanguste (*Cynictis penicillata*): few Chobe NP

Zebra Mongoose/Zebra Manguste: seen at Chobe, Kasane,

Dwarf Mongoose/Südliche Zwergmanguste: seen several times

South African Springhare/Springhase: observed at Savuti Campsite, Chobe NP

African Savanna Hare (*Lepus microtis*)/Mosambik-Hase: few at Chobe NP and Central Kalahari

Moholi Bushbaby/Mohol Galago (*Galago moholi*): 1 observed jumping from tree to tree at Kaziikini Camp

Tree Squirrel spec.: fairly common

Cape Ground Squirrel/Kap-Borstenhörnchen (*Xerus inauris*): common at Central Kalahari Game Reserve

Other Animals:

Leopard Turtle/Pantherschildkröte (*Stigmochelys pardalis*): 1 hiding inside a Baobab tree at Picknick site near the Rock Paintings at Chobe NP

Three-lined Grass Snake (*Psammophis tritaeniatus*): 1 Moremi

South Eastern Green Snake (*Philothamnus hoplogaster*): 1 enjoying the morning sun at Victoria Falls

Nile Monitor Lizard (*Varanus niloticus*): Magadigadi

Ground Agama (*Agama aculeata*): seen at Moremi

Southern Rock Agama (*Agama atra*): seen at Magadigadi

Giant Bullfrog (*Pyxicephalus adspersus*): Kasane Campground

Sharptooth Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*): observed at night at Savuti, Chobe NP

Long-striped Swordtail (*Graphium antheus*): found at Victoria Falls

Hawk Moth (*Sphingidae*): Nxai Pan

Pale Hairtail (*Anthene butleri*): Central Kalahari

Meadow White (*Patia helice*): Central Kalahari

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Baines Baobab at Nxai Pan NP



at Central Kalahari Game Reserve



Victoria Falls



Victoria Fall, Zimbabwe



sunset at Chobe river