

Ruaha River Update January 2022



The same
two trees



January 25 2022- (above)

Ibuguziwa

January 1st 2022 - (right)

Ibuguziwa

This year (2021) the river managed to sustain a small flow as far as the Ibuguziwa Bridge till early November. However it was completely dry until 20th of January 2022. The fact that the river trickled along from October through to early November surprised me as rainfall was much lower than last year.

The heavy rain we had in 2019/2020, filled up the water-tables and springs so the rainfall we enjoyed in 2020/21 was able to top up what was already there.

This increase to underground water levels has helped to maintain water flows in rivers this year. Perhaps, also, this higher rainfall in 2019/2020 helped fill up the Ihefu, which in turn has assisted this years more sustained flow despite the lower rainfall. It is also possible, (something that I would love to hear) that this is from the improvement in the Ihefu wetland itself. Since, the vast herds of cattle were removed in 2008, and made part of RNP, I understand that the swamp has begun to restore some of its important, spongy properties. (due to regeneration of the swamp itself.)

**However, I will continue to repeat what I have been saying since 1995:-
If we do not curtail the illegal abstraction of water in the catchment area
during the wet and dry seasons, Ruaha National Park will not survive.**

Comparisons 2020/2021



July 10th 2020

Ruaha River Ibuguziwa

As you can see the July flow was good after the amazing rains of 2019/2020



Last year June 3 2021

Ruaha River Ibuguziwa

As you can see here, though the rain of 20/21 was not massive the flow in June 2021 looked promising.



November 10th 2020

Ruaha River Ibuguziwa bridge

The rainfall for 2019/20 was the highest on record, but despite this the river was sadly the same very low level by November.



November 9th 2021

Ruaha River Ibuguziwa bridge

This is how it looked in the same period 2021 Not much different, however it dried up a few days later and had ceased flowing by the end of November.

I understand that the rainfall this year was late in arriving in Ruaha. Both Jongomero and Lunda sent me photos of when their rain finally arrived in late January.

Lunda was getting desperate with not a blade of grass for the animals to eat.

It is very strange not to be with you all in Ruaha at this time, we miss our home!

However, stay well and let us all work together,

We are all connected, by the river, by the weather and by our compassion for each other.

Let us embrace our differences, and co-create a bright new future.

‘Together we stand - divided we fall’

Everything is possible!