

Ruaha River Update



May 2015

The photo above, taken 16th May, 2015, shows how the river looks at the moment. It is not only lower than it was in April, but it is considerably lower than it was this time last year.

As usual the river is dropping very fast, and though rainfall was sporadic this year, Ruaha itself received almost its average amount, with unusually heavy rains the end of March and early April, which helped to top up the water table in some, but not all areas. This though, has nothing to do with topping up the Ruaha river.

Basically, the river is in a pretty sad state.

Monthly comparisons



March 18th, 2015 Ibuguziwa

For March the river is horribly low. Whilst we can say the rains up to this point were poor, it is still no excuse for the low flow



March 15th 2014, Ibuguziwa

Whilst the comparison to last year does not look that drastic, notice how the grassy islands are much more plentiful this year.



April 20th 2015, my old camp

It is far more obvious in this setting to see how much lower the flow of the river is this year as opposed to last year. It is very distressing to see how each year it gets worse.



April 3rd 2014, my old camp

This is how well the river looked at the same spot this time last year. Bare in mind that we had excessive rain in 2014. However, having monitored the river for 21 years this is still much lower than it should be.

Some interesting views



This is the Usangu water arriving at Ibuguziwa, on February 25th, 2015. One can see immediately due to its dark, clear colour, like black tea as opposed to the, milky brown water from local rainfall.

Photo kindly supplied by Paul Banga, Ruaha Park ecologist.



This is a great view of the Ruaha River at Ngiriama, which is where it exits the Ihefu wetland.

February 6th 2015

Paul Banga, who took the photo, says that it is exceptionally low this year at this point.



This is the Ruaha River as seen inside the Ihefu wetland on February 6th 2015.

An exceptionally beautiful area, and is just another example of why we need to save the Ruaha River from dying.

Thanks for this great pic Paul!