November 2003

The dry season of 2003 was the most desperate. Even elephant could not find water below the dry surface of the Great Ruaha River bed (as they do below sand rivers in the dry season), indicating the extent to which the entire water table has fallen. Scores of hippo died, forced to mass together in muddy pools; this is not what tourists want to witness! The distribution of some of the mammals has changed markedly as a result of their search for water, leading them into conflicts with the villagers around the park.