



MACHABA SAFARIS

CLASSIC SAFARI CAMPS
BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

Est. 2012

MANA RIVER

May 2026 Sightings Report

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The start of season for MRC was marked with the bush easing into its early winter flow — mild winter mornings, warm midday light, and cooler evenings that slowly crept in as the month progressed. It was a calm but active start to the season.

Early in the month, a young female leopard was found resting close to the road shortly after guests arrived from the airstrip. Still relaxed and unfazed by movement around her, she remained in view long enough for a quiet, close encounter before eventually melting back into the landscape.



A few days later, the river corridor delivered more action when a lioness was seen attempting to stalk warthogs among thick vegetation. Using the cover of *Indigofera* bushes, she moved carefully before a sudden wind shift gave her position away, sending the warthogs scattering and ending the hunt.

Painted dogs were also recorded in the same period, moving through the wider area.



As the month moved deeper into May, lion activity continued. A mating pair was encountered in the late afternoon near camp. Not long after, white-tailed mongooses were spotted in the same general area—an uncommon daytime sighting that added a more delicate moment to the drive.



A large male leopard was pushed into view by alarm-calling impala and a nearby troop of baboons. What began as subtle tension quickly escalated as the leopard moved into the open before retreating into a tree as the baboon calls intensified.

In the dash of a moment, a crocodile launched from the water in a sudden ambush, taking down an unaware impala into the river's depth. The briefness of the encounter contrasted sharply with the stillness of the surrounding sunset.