

Ruaha River Update July 2018



**July 12 2018 - (above)
Ibuguziwa**



**July 16 2017 - (right)
Ibuguziwa**

Despite EXCESSIVE rainfall during March and April there is little difference to the flow this July 2018 to last July 2017 when we had normal to moderate rainfall.

(Compare the photos for early April 2018 and end of March 2017 on the bottom of the next page to see the big contrast in flows.)

The huge drop from April to July this year is solely due to excessive abstraction of water up stream.

So from these visual records **it appears that when the catchment area has a ‘normal’ rainfall the Ruaha river cannot attain a bank to bank flow but merely manages a constant trickle. This is an extremely alarming development.**

With the reduction in dry season flows, Ruaha National Park has become dependant on the annual wet season, bank to bank floods to clean out the old stagnant pools and refresh them with clean water. **If the wet season flows cease to flood the river it will have catastrophic consequences on its wildlife**

Comparisons 2017/2018



**Ruaha River Ibuguziwa
January 3 2018**

As you can see the river in January was just a trickle, **it did not flow well until the beginning of March when unusually high rainfall for that time of year fell in the catchment areas.**



**Ruaha River Ibuguziwa
January 12 2017**

In January last year the river was in the same state - barely a trickle. Last year the rainfall was normal in some areas and slightly lower in others but the river never attained a proper bank to bank flow



**Ruaha River at Ibuguziwa bridge
April 1 2018**

You can see that the river was flowing bank to bank. Some years ago this is what we would call '**normal**' flow for March - May. However this year it is **due to excessive rainfall** in the catchment area.

**If we do not curtail the illegal abstraction of water in the catchment area
Ruaha National Park will not survive.**



**Ruaha River at Ibuguziwa bridge
March 27th 2017**

This is how it looked at the same spot last year at almost the same time. The river last year never attained a bank to bank flow as water abstraction was excessive, **despite normal rainfall.**