

Massive floods of 2019/2020

Ruaha River Update October 2020



This year March 14th 2020 the Ruaha River reached **epic levels. The rushing water was flowing just under the bridge,** the person who took the photo said:-

“These photos have reminded me how impressive it was that day ... the booming noises and shaking bridge”





This was January 28th 2020 at Ibuguziwa the flooding was well underway and continued to flow at extremely high levels through to the end of April. However, as you can see from the previous page, the river reached **its peak in March**. Thankfully the bridge survived the pounding water.



The photo below was also in January, taken at Culvati 8.

This drift had to be mended several times over the following months, rendering Msembe HQ, and Ruaha National Park inaccessible for short periods of time. With the severe damage from the incessant rain, the Parks' staff were working round the clock to keep roads open.





The photo above shows the the state of the **river on September 23rd 2020.**
Despite the monumental rain and massive flows, the river looks like just the same as in
 previous years at this time!



The photo above shows the **flow for last October, 20th 2019, at Ibuguziwa.**
 In **October last year**, the river managed to sustain a small flow as far as Ibuguziwa Bridge.
This was better than in previous years **AND** the **rainfall was lower than previous years.**
Examine the two photos:- the one at the **top of the page** **was taken in September this**
year, after monumental rains, this is a **whole month earlier than the one above taken**
last year, October 2019 after poor rains!

How can it be? Despite the monumental rains we had this year, and now the subsequent high water table we see everywhere, **the river has only managed to sustain a small flow as far as the Ibuguziwa Bridge!**

It can only point to the fact that a MASSIVE amount of water is being taken off upstream for growing rice and small crops!

What about Mtera Dam? It appears not to be functioning at this time! What has happened to that marvellous resource of clean energy for Tanzania! How can a few farmers be allowed to take off so much water that it cripples the livelihoods for the rest of the population that live along its banks? This river flows all the way to the Indian ocean, and along its course it used to sustain thousands of people. And Now? How can this be a good thing?

**It is not hard to rectify,
all it needs is for the GATES on the rivers UPSTREAM OF IHEFU SWAMP
to be CLOSED from May-November.**

**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.**

