

## **Ruaha River Update**

### **October 2019**



**This October 13 2019 - (above)**  
**Ibuguziwa**



**Last October 27 2018 - (right)**  
**Ibuguziwa**

**This year the river has managed to sustain a small flow as far as the Ibuguziwa Bridge till the middle of October. This surprised me as rainfall was lower than last year.**

It is possible, that this is from the improvement in the Ihefu wetland itself. Since, the vast herds of cattle were removed in 2008, and made part of RNP, I understand that the swamp has begun to restore some of its important, spongy properties.

Also, last year there was heavy rain falling in the catchment area in March and April, which helped increase the river's flow levels. Perhaps, also, this higher rainfall helped fill up the Ihefu, which in turn has assisted this years more sustained flow despite the lower rainfall.

(due to regeneration of the swamp itself.)

**However, it must be noted that, the river ceased to flow in the Lunda area at an earlier date.** As the rainfall this year was markedly less than the previous year, Lunda has suffered enormously, with the lack of pools along the rivers course, and water pans drying early. **If the wet season flows cease to flood the river it will have catastrophic consequences on its wildlife. 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.**

## Comparisons 2018/2019



**This year January 17 2019**

**Ruaha River Ibuguziwa**

As you can see the January flow is pretty much the same trickle as last year, despite having a massive amount of early rain in November. **The rainfall was poor until March.**

**It did not flow well until the middle of March.**



**Last year January 3 2018**

**Ruaha River Ibuguziwa**

As you can see the river last January was a similar trickle. Though last year we had the benefit of **unusually high rainfall falling in March and April in the catchment areas** which gave it an **added boost later on.**



**This year May 16 2019**

**Ruaha River Ibuguziwa bridge**

May this year is lower than last year. However, **surprisingly, despite a lower rainfall** this year, there did seem to be a **sustained flow, (though very marginal) till the middle of October.**



**Last year May 22 2018**

**Ruaha River Ibuguziwa bridge**

This is how it looked at the same spot last year at almost the same time. You can see it is a higher level. **Last year there was heavy rain falling in the catchment area in March and April,** which helped increase the river's flow levels.