

Ruaha River Update



April 2017

Please observe the above photo taken on the 3rd of April 2017.

I have never, in the 23 years of monitoring the Ruaha river seen the river look this low in April, there is no sign of the Usangu water!

This is a disaster.

The day has arrived when we can no longer pretend that the river issue is not really a problem.

Do we want Ruaha National Park or don't we?

That is the question Tanzania needs to ask.

We are on the brink of losing something very precious indeed.

Actually it is priceless.

Comparisons 2017/2016



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

March and April are usually the rivers highest flow months ! This March, the river is hardly flowing, plus, the color of the water is brown, indicating it is from local run off only . **The low level seen here is NOT due to lack of rain.**



**Ruaha River at Ibuguziwa bridge
March 7 2016**

Last year we enjoyed a full, flowing river thanks to heavy rain. But **until the year 2000, the level seen above was NORMAL for the wet season.**



**Ruaha River my old camp Jongomero
area March 27 2017**

**That the river looks like this in MARCH is really shocking and Extremely alarming.
What will our children do for water?**



**Ruaha River my old camp Jongomero
area March 7 2016**

This is how the river looked this time last year. **This flow is what we used to consider as 'normal' for high wet season flow.** When you compare the photos on the left to those on the right **you can see clearly how much is being abstracted during the wet season. All of it!**