

Ruaha River Update

July 2017

The photo below was taken on the 16 June 2017.



The last update sent out early April, was grim, with little water in the river at all. But thankfully, a few weeks later, more water began to flow from the Usangu Wetland and the dire situation was salvaged, at least for the short term. However, never before has the Ruaha river been essentially dry this long.

Comparisons 2017/2016



Ruaha River at Ibuguziwa bridge
July 16 2017

This is a very interesting water level. Considering how little water came through the river this wet season compared to last years massive rains, the river level is not that different at this time.



Ruaha River at Ibuguziwa bridge
August 4 2016

It is interesting to note that despite the massive rains incurred in 2015/16 the level of flow is almost identical to this year, which was very poor rainfall.



Ruaha River at Ibuguziwa bridge

This photo was taken

July 26 2014 - 3 years ago

Please note how much more water was flowing in July 2014 than 2016 and 2017

The question is this:- The river flow for 2015/16 was **the highest** wet season flow for 9 years, however, this larger than normal flow did not last longer than this year, 2016/17 which had record **LOW** flows.

By contrast the flow of the Ruaha river in July 2014 was much healthier, despite ordinary rainfall, and wet season flow so what is going on?

Could it be that the off take which becomes most obvious after the rains have stopped is growing at such a rate that each year the river level continues to drop lower and lower earlier and earlier into the dry season?