# Tanzania Wildlife Intelligence Brief 2026

FIELD INTELLIGENCE

*A source-grounded editorial briefing on wildlife seasons, conservation context and responsible safari planning.*

## How to read a wildlife report

Wildlife reports are planning tools, not guarantees. Animal movements respond to rainfall, forage, water, temperature, breeding cycles, disturbance and the wider ecosystem. A useful report explains context and uncertainty rather than promising sightings.

## Serengeti as a connected ecosystem

TANAPA describes Serengeti as a globally important wildlife landscape with open grasslands, riverine forests, swamps, woodlands and kopjes. These habitats support different species and influence how wildlife uses the landscape through the year.

The Great Migration is a seasonal movement rather than a single event at one fixed location. The wider Serengeti–Mara ecosystem is dynamic, so routing should be based on current field intelligence rather than a static calendar alone.

## Dry-season planning

During drier periods, wildlife can become more concentrated around permanent or reliable water sources, improving some game-viewing opportunities. The strength and timing of local conditions vary from year to year.

For travellers, the practical response is to build flexible game-drive days and allow guides to adjust the route according to current observations.

## Conservation and research

TAWIRI is Tanzania’s national wildlife research institution and publishes research and management material intended to support wildlife conservation and management. Its catalogue includes work on the Greater Serengeti ecosystem, elephants, vultures, human–wildlife interaction and other priority topics.

The Serengeti Wildlife Research Centre coordinates research covering the Serengeti and several surrounding northern ecosystems, reinforcing the importance of treating wildlife landscapes as connected systems rather than isolated park boundaries.

## Responsible wildlife viewing

TANAPA’s Mara River migration-crossing guidance highlights the need for vehicles to remain in designated areas and avoid approaching animals during crossings. Responsible viewing protects both the wildlife experience and the integrity of the ecosystem.

AMT recommends following park regulations, guide instructions and designated viewing practices at all times.

## Planning implications for AMT journeys

Keep wildlife expectations evidence-based rather than guaranteed.

Use current field observations when finalising routing.

Allow enough time in priority landscapes.

Avoid compressing multiple major parks into an unnecessarily rushed schedule.

Treat conservation rules as part of the travel experience, not an inconvenience.

## Source basis & editorial note

Sources: Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Serengeti wildlife and habitat information and Mara River Migration Crossings Guideline; Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), published reports and Serengeti Wildlife Research Centre information. This is an AMT editorial synthesis and is not an official government report.