**===== Press Release ===== FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 28 September 2022**

# **One of the Biggest Wildebeest River Crossings Ever Caught on Camera**

The team at [HerdTracker](https://www.discoverafrica.com/herdtracker/) were thrilled after getting this video of thousands of wildebeest charging across the Mara River from their regular contributor [Ranger Safaris Tanzania](https://www.rangersafaris.com/).

“This was one of the largest crossings I have seen in over 20 years”, says Emmanuel Mkenda, one of Ranger Safaris’ most experienced guides who shot the footage, and who has been working in the area for 25 years.

**VIDEO**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crnNdcsLuPY>

Captured mid-September in the Kogatende area of Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, this was the largest Great Migration crossing captured on video in recent years. While wildebeest herds are usually scattered, a megaherd like this (estimated at 80,000-100,000 gnu) is extremely rare to see.

“You are recording history as it happens,” wrote Toni Olson on the [Youtube video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crnNdcsLuPY)’s comment stream.

**What drives the Great Migration?**

Each year, more than 1.5 million wildebeest migrate in a gigantic clockwise loop across Tanzania and Kenya. After calving in the southern part of Tanzania’s Serengeti, the animals journey north into the Masai Mara, before returning once again near the end of the year.

These massive herds follow the seasonal rains across the African savanna in search of lush grazing lands, often pursued by predators such as hyenas, lions, cheetah, leopards and, at the many river crossings, gigantic Nile crocodiles. Dramatic scenes unfold daily as thousands of wildebeest are born and killed while the circle of life revolves non-stop.

Recognised as one of the seven wonders of the natural world, this incredible phenomenon also includes hundreds of thousands of other grazing animals like zebra and gazelle.

**What is HerdTracker and how does it work?**

Launched in 2014, [HerdTracker](https://www.discoverafrica.com/herdtracker/) is a free web-app which [plots the location of the Great Wildebeest Migration in real time](http://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/kenya-great-wildebeest-migration/index.html) to a Google map and in a Twitter-style timeline. The crowd-sourced updates (more than 1,500 since inception) are provided by pilots, safari guides, rangers, lodges and even safari-goers from hot air balloons.

“Capturing and sharing these spectacular safari moments is exactly why we developed HerdTracker,” says Andre Van Kets CEO of [Discover Africa Safaris](http://www.discoverafrica.com/).

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**VIDEO EMBED CODE:**

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/crnNdcsLuPY" title="YouTube video player" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crnNdcsLuPY>

**PHOTOS:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/18sGWdIx-iJ9C3ojfhwTQ8ivHSHO-XfE2>

*Includes river crossing photos and profile pic of Emmanuel Mkenda*

Attribution: Ranger Safaris / HerdTracker

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**EDITOR’S NOTES:**

**Emmanuel Mkenda Background**

Mkenda has been working with Ranger Safaris since 2001 and, prior to that, was working with &Beyond as Head Ranger for five years. From 1997, he started working at the Klein's Camp where he visited Mara River for the first time in August 1997 and witnessed his first wildebeest crossing.

**Additional info sent from Emmanuel Mkenda (verbatim)**

*“This video was taken on 14th September 2022 in the morning at 0900hour on my way to the Airstrip. It's at crossing number 7 after witnessing other three crossing two days before which they we big enough but this was the biggest crossing ever as they've been attracted by the rain in the Serengeti National Park and green pastures but also just when it's raining they just confuse with the rain season and start getting ready for the south wards where they normally go during November!*

*I was with two clients in my car waiting. There were fewer vehicles if you compare with the high season that's why I was able to get a good viewing opportunity and record the video. And also it was earlier in the morning. About thirty vehicles witnessed which we can estimate like 120 clients by then.*

*They were in the thousands of them they kept coming and moving without ending just after starting for more than one hour and a half. This is the largest and the biggest crossing ever I have been watching crossing in past 20 years being with Ranger Safaris, I have never seen such an event and opportunities of such a nature.*

*My clients were speechless and overwhelmed by this event they were blown off by this.*

*Three wildebeest were caught on sight and the level of the water was conducive environmental for the Crocodiles to catch up the wildebeest two young ones and one yearling were taken. These are just what I can witness as I was concentrating in video taking. It's was at crossing number 7 before the Bologonja River feeding the Mara River to the west or 500m west of the Bologonja River.*

*Compare to the last year this year is better because it's was a better crop year, better wet condition and rain in general results into great weather conditions and good water and green pastures everywhere in the Serengeti National Park which made them to delay going on the north and stay just shortly to the Masai Mara.*

*Wildbeest population size:*

*The number is normally dynamic and hovers at around 1,600,000 but this year it seems to have grown, it is dynamic, to more than maybe two million or so by thousands increasing in number.*

*The green pastures and as long as we continue efforts made to sustain the environment we give an optimistic chance that these numbers will continue to prevail in the years to come.”*

**What is HerdTracker?**

[HerdTracker](http://www.discoverafrica.com/herdtracker/) is a web-app established in 2014 which plots the location of the Great Wildebeest Migration in real time to a Google map and in a Twitter-style timeline. It’s publicly accessible from any web browser - desktop, mobile or tablet.

The location of the migratory herds was initially sourced from trusted sources like pilots who fly over the Serengeti, safari guides on the ground, Tanzania National Parks Authority rangers and lodges in the Masai Mara in Kenya. These sources frequently share exclusive images and videos of the wildebeest migration to back-up their report.

In 2016 safari-goers started tagging @herdtracker and #HerdTracker in their social media posts while on safari, helping to gather even more data points, videos and photos.

**Anyone can contribute to Herdtracker**

The easiest way to be featured on the HerdTracker website and actively contribute to the live feed is by tagging @herdtracker on social media platforms. To find out more about becoming a HerdTracker contributor, check out the [HerdTracker contributor page](https://www.discoverafrica.com/herdtracker/contribute/).

**HerdTracker Links**

* <https://www.discoverafrica.com/herdtracker/>
* <https://www.discoverafrica.com/herdtracker/contribute/> (safari-goers can submit their own migration sightings)
* <https://twitter.com/herdtracker/>
* <https://www.facebook.com/herdtracker/>
* <https://www.instagram.com/herdtracker/>