

Email from Neels van Wyk, Section Ranger Crocodile Bridge, confirming the death of Duke:

“Dear All

It is with sadness to announce that our legendary tusker Duke the elephant had passed on. I got worried when I saw that his collar signal stayed in one place the last couple of days. I took the motorbike and started searching late afternoon along the Makambeni spruit west of the S28 tourist road about five kilometres from Crocodile Bridge camp and eventually found his five day old carcass along the Makambeni stream. According to the collar information he remained in one place from the evening of 01/10/2011. He was lying on his side and according to the scene it looks to be a natural death. I could not see any signs of a fight or any other out of the ordinary tracks. Unfortunately being five days old most of the tissue and organs were already gone to do additional sampling.

I am in the process of recovering the head and tusks and also see if we could recover the skeleton as it is fairly well preserved.

Regards

***Neels van Wyk
Section Ranger: Crocodile Bridge”***