

**Extract from the ranger diary of Neels van Wyk, Section Ranger
Crocodile Bridge**

“On the 20th August 2007 Dirk Human, Matthew Harding and Jonathan Heger avid Duke followers had spent time taking photo’s of Duke upstream of the S28 along the Mbyandzwu drainage line. Within a few hours of being with Duke in the morning (still with both tusks) they returned in the afternoon and noticed that Duke still close to where he had been seen in the morning had broken his left tusk approximately 30cm below the lip. After an intensive search by foot by myself and field rangers was unsuccessful in locating the tusk I decided to request the assistance of the Bantam.

On the 23rd after being picked up at Tenbosch airfield we flew the Bantam to the co-ordinates as provided by Jonathan where they had been parked on the S28 when they first noticed Duke with his tusk being broken, as described by Jonathan, Duke was on the opposite side of the Mbyandzwu vlei.

After a short search I noticed the tusk lying amongst the roots of a small Leadwood tree on the western edge of the vlei. We returned to Tenbosch airfield and the returned to the area by vehicle and foot to recover the tusk. Duke had broken his tusk while digging up the roots of a small Leadwood.

As far as can be established this is the first time that a tusk which has been broken off/lost by one of the renowned and named big tuskers in the Kruger National Park has actually been recovered.”

**(Extract from an email from Neels van Wyk, Section Ranger Crocodile
Bridge to Raymond Travers, Media Liaison)**

Confirmation Duke broke his other tusk. He was spotted by Mpanamana concession game drive early this morning. I went out to confirm that it was in fact Duke. It was him, by the looks of it he broke the tusk a couple of days ago. He was walking with four other bulls this morning. See attached photographs.

The last time he was spotted with his one tusk was on the S28 tourist road last week some time. We started back tracking his spoor low and behold lady luck was on our side and we found the tusk were he was again digging up tree roots. The outside curve measured approximately 1.56m and it weighs approximately 32kg. His condition still looks good and he was happily feeding along.

addo elephant

agulhas

augrabies falls

bontebok

golden gate highlands

karoo

kgalagadi transfrontier

knysna lake area

kruger

mapungubwe

marakele

mountain zebra

namaqua

table mountain

tankwa-karoo

tsitsikamma

|ai-|ais/richtersveld

vaalbos

west coast

wilderness

Article from the Beeld 2008/09/03, Page 3, Buks Viljoen

Duke se ander tand bly in die slag

En nou is hy slagtandloos. 'n Jaar nadat Duke, een van die Krugerwildtuin se bosreuse, se een slagtand afgebreek het, het sy oor-blywende tand die naweek in die slg gebly. Duke se een slagtand is in Augustus 2007 ná 'n soektog met 'n vliegtuig in die bosse naby die S-28 pad by Onder-Sabie opgespoor.

Eergister het gidse van Shishangeni Lodge in die Panamana-konsessie in die wildtuin gesien dat die reuseolifant se ander slagtand ook af is.

Mnr. Neels van Wyk streekveldwagter van die Krokodilbrug-afdeling, en van sy veldwagters het na Duke begin soek en hom naby die pad opgespoor. Nadat hulle 'n foto van dié kolos geneem het, het hulle sy spoor gevat en ná sowat twee uur op die afgebreekte tand afgekom.

Die stuk tand is 1.56m lank en weeg 32kg. Dit is in dieselfde omgewing gekry as die tand wat verlede jaar afgebreekek het.

“Vrese date Duke dalk nou na aan sy einde is, is in hierdie stadium ongegrond, “ sê Van Wyk.

He sê die dier is rustig, sy kondisie goed, hy vreet goed en is tans saam met vier ander bulle in 'n trop.

Die tand wat verle jaar afgebreek he, is 1.7m lank en week 38kg. Albei tande gaan in die Olifantsaal by die Letaba-rus-kamp uitgestal word.

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