

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – JANUARY 2015

AREAS COVERED: MARTHLY / EYREFIELD / MALAMALA / FLOCKFIELD / CHARLESTON

WEATHER SUMMARY – JANUARY

Maximum temperature (°C)	38
Minimum temperature (°C)	20
Mean maximum (°C)	31.8
Mean minimum (°C)	22.5
Rainfall (mm)	23
Days of rain	5

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF JANUARY 2015

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 9

1 ADULT FEMALE	12 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	7 YEARS 0 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	4 YEARS 0 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	4 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 2 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 2 MONTHS

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD
(19 sightings)

Although the pride was represented on 19 days during January, there were eight days when various members of the pride were seen in different locations. Seven of these occasions, the two sub-adult females were found in a different location to the pride and once the two sub-adult males were found separately too.

The sightings of this pride started on the first day of the year, when all nine were seen. However, seven of the individuals were seen lazing in the sand around West street bridge, while the two sub-adult females were found much further north on the property around Sibuye road. It was not until three weeks into the month when all of the members of the Styx pride were seen together. They remained in each other's company for three days. The last day of which they were all seen working together; stalking and capturing an impala around the white cloth. This was the last the entire pride was seen together for the remainder of the month.

The next time the females were seen, was around Fred's tree and they were in the company of one of the Clarendon males. We have had reports from the north of these two young females spending time with these impressive males, where they have been seen mating. Although they were not seen mating on this day, there was evidence that they had been doing so, as the females had bite marks on their necks. The females covered quite a bit of ground in the last week of the month and were seen three more times between; Mlowathi dam, Wild dog rocks open area and Fred's tree.

The remaining seven members of the pride, were seen every day after their successful hunt and the end of the month. Over the next ten days they moved north and westwards from the white cloth, eventually ending up at the quarry on the last day of January, after spending some time at the old airstrip. For a pride

which had never ventured onto the western bank a few months ago, they are looking very comfortable on the western side of the river of late.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES

7 YEARS 7 MONTHS

1 ADULT FEMALE

7 YEARS 6 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT MALE

2 YEARS 11 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

2 YEARS 11 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT MALE

2 YEARS 8 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT MALE

2 YEARS 4 MONTHS

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD

(3 sightings)

The Eyrefield pride was seen three times during January, with the entire pride being seen in each other's company. The first sighting of this pride was on the second of January when they were found around the white stones. They spent the day lazing around in the shade of the acacia trees, with the pride getting active under the cover of darkness and looking interested in a herd of impala. Their interest waned fairly quickly as the moon was two days shy of full, the area was very well illuminated, and any attempts would have more than likely been futile.

The pride was not seen for two more weeks, until they were found on the 21st January on Campbell road, south of Flockfield drift. The next and last sighting of the Eyrefield pride for January was once again on Campbell road, however this time – they were seen further north, around Pete's bridge.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 4

1 ADULT FEMALE

UNKNOWN AGE

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE

4 YEARS 7 MONTHS

2 SUB ADULT MALES

4 YEARS 7 MONTHS

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD

(6 sightings of the two sub-adult males; 0 sighting of the two females)

Once again, the two young males from the Fourways pride were not seen with the two females from the pride. January is the sixth month which the males have been separated from the two females, in July 2014 they were seen apart fairly frequently. However, in the last 5 months they have not been seen together once. A majority of the sightings of these males was in the south of the property, on Charleston. However, they were seen around the Kruger National Park and Mala Mala – Flockfield boundary as well as on the western bank of the sand river, around Charleston North.

They were not seen with the female from the Charleston pride as they were numerous times in the latter half of 2014.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES	12 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 9 MONTHS
3 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 7 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 7 MONTHS

MARHTLY
(1 sighting)

The Marthly pride was seen once in January, in one of their favourite places in Marthly – Small Paraffin Drift. All of the members looked in good condition and well fed. The cubs are now over a year and a half old and are looking like they are doing very well.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4

± 10 YEARS 5 MONTHS

MATRHLY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD
DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, FOURWAYS, MARHTLY AND
BREAKAWAY MARHTLY PRIDES
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Manyalethi males during the month of January.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 0 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT MALES	3 YEARS 8 MONTHS

CHARLESTON
(4 sightings of the female; 1 sightings of the two males)

The female from the Charleston pride, was seen with the two young males from the pride during January. This trio has not been seen in each other's company for quite some time now. It was good to see the pride, reunited and looking so good.

There were no additional sightings of the full complement of this this pride in January, however on three other occasions the female from the pride was seen with male lions which a in a coalition and hold a territory south of our property. During the three days which the Charleston female was seen with these males, they were all seen feeding off the carcass of a buffalo.

TJELLAHANGA PRIDE=9

2 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	± 3 YEARS 0 MONTHS
6 SUB-ADULT MALES	± 3 YEARS 0 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride during December.

Other lions encountered

- **The Clarendon males** (4 sightings):
 - These two male lions continue to make their presence well known on Mala Mala. Making four appearances during January, two in the first half and two in the second.
 - Reports from our neighbours in the north indicate these two have been spending some time, with the two sub-adult females from the Styx pride. We were witness to this on the 26th when one of the Clarendon males was seen with the two females around Fred's tree.
- **No ID males** (5 sightings):
 - Four unidentified males were encountered in January, during five sightings. Three of the male lions were in Charleston and are a coalition which hold a territory south of Mala Mala.
 - The fourth unidentified male lion was around West street bridge.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

January	34
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LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

13 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON
(3 sightings)

Four months in a row now, the Bicycle crossing male has been seen three times during the month. The first sighting of this dominant male leopard was in the Kapen river, east of Picadilly crossing. This sighting got better and better. Initially the Bicycle crossing male was found, a short while later a kill of his was found – which turned out to be a kudu bull. It was not too long before several hyena arrived and the bicycle crossing male watched his quarry get carried off into the nearby bushes. This male leopard was seen again the following day, once again in the Kapen river, further south from his previous position at Kapen rocks.

He was not seen again for almost three weeks until he was located, much further north from either of these positions. This time the bicycle crossing was in the Matshapiri river, around Donald's crossing.

AIRSTRIP MALE

8 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(6 sightings)

Seen half as often in January, as he was in December, the Airstrip male was seen a total of 6 times. The furthest north and west he was seen on the property was around Mlowathi pans, while the furthest south he was seen was on the island south of the causeway. The remaining four sightings of this male leopard were around the Mlowathi river, Picadilly triangle and Rhino pens.

CHARLESTON MALE

8 YEARS 8 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

WEST STREET MALE

5 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(1 sighting)

The West Street male leopard was seen once during January, on Calabash drive. He was not alone at this sighting and was seen with a young, unidentified, female leopard. Leopards are generally solitary animals, so it is always interesting seeing the two of them together and their behaviour. In addition to seeing these two leopards at this sighting, there was also some interaction between them and a few buffalo bulls, who chased the leopards for a while. Initially the leopards sought refuge on a fallen over tree, but when the buffalo continued to bother them they both moved away from the area.

NEWINGTON MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(6 sightings)

6 YEARS 3 MONTHS

Of the six sightings of this leopard during the month of January, four of which were in the first week of the month. The Newington male leopard was seen between the track which leads to the parking bay, the causeway and Northern Break West Street. It was at this last location where he was seen capturing and killing an impala lamb, on the second of the month. He remained in this area for two days until the carcass was finished. The Newington male was not seen from the fourth until almost three weeks later, when he was seen around the old airstrip. He stayed in and around this area for another day – which was the last sighting of this male for the month of January.

HOGVAAL MALE
EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD
(0sighting)

7 YEARS 2 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE
NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

± 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(11 sightings)

14 YEARS 1 MONTH

During the first three weeks of January, the Princess Alice Pans male was seen 10 times. This legend of the western bank, was seen once on the opposite side of the river to which he is normally seen, around elephant rock lookout, on the 21st. He was seen a week later, for the last time of the month, back on the western bank around the causeway.

During one sighting of this male leopard, on the old airstrip, he was walking through some very thick vegetation. In the few moments it took the Princess Alice Pans male to walk through a thicket of Guarri bushes, he must have come across a young impala ram, as he emerged the opposite side with his recently acquired quarry secured in his jaws.

GOWRIE MALE
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

± 7 YEARS 5 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

RIVER ROCKS MALE
(0 sightings)

5 YEARS 5 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**KIKILEZI FEMALE
2 FEMALE CUBS**

**13 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 YEAR 2 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALA-MALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(1 sightings of female, 9 sightings of female and cubs, 8 sightings of cubs without female)

January was another great month for us of viewing this trio of leopards, as the Kikilezi female and her cubs were seen a total of 18 times during the month. All of these sightings were within this well established female leopards territory, and included almost an equal number of sightings of the Kikilezi female with her cubs, and the just the cubs on their own. There was one particular sighting in January of the Kikilezi female and one cub on the very southern parts of Western Side Mlowathi, the second cub was found in the Manyaleti river, between two and three kilometres away from them.

Twice during the month, the Kikilezi female was made a kill, which we were fortunate enough to see. The first was on the 9th of January, the second kill was just shy of a week later. Both times this female leopard sought out impala, which she and the cubs shared.

TAMBOTI FEMALE

7 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA
(3 sightings)

During the last half of January, the Tamboti female made three appearances. She was first seen midway along Kikilezihash, south of the airstrip. During the third and last sighting of the Tamboti female, she was seen at Flockfield camp, with the remains of a bushbuck kill.

DAUGHTER OF THE TAMBOTI FEMALE

2 YEARS 0 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA
(17 sightings)

The daughter of the Tamboti female, was seen a total of 17 times during January - the highest number of sightings of an individual leopard for the month. The first encounter with this adventurous young female was on the second of the January, on the eastern side of the Sand river – exploring new areas outside of those which she usually frequents. The daughter of the Tamboti female was not seen for a few days, and when she was she was back on the western bank, where she seen for the rest of the month.

Twice during January, the daughter of the Tamboti female was successful in her hunting attempts. The first prey for the month was a tree squirrel, on the 15th. This meal obviously did not satiate her appetite and two days later she was found with just under half of the remains of an impala carcass. She remained in the area of this kill for three days in total.

MLOWATHI FEMALE

7 YEARS 11 MONTHS

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

As in December, the Mlowathi female was seen once during January, however she was not seen on her own. She was in the company of her female cub. These two leopards were seen on the Gowrie boundary, at the junction with Western Side Mlowathi.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE **15 YEARS 2 MONTHS**
CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE **10 YEARS 1 MONTH**
TWO CUBS **7 MONTHS**
EYREFIELD
(3 sightings of female, 1 sightings of female and cub(s), 1 sighting of cub(s) without female)

The Ostrich Koppies female was seen three times during January, once with her male cub and the cub was seen once on his own. Three months have passed now, and there has still been no sign of the female cub of the Ostrich Koppies female.

This female and her cub have been seen more and more often around Matshapiri dam, towards the north eastern corner of the property. However, there was one sighting of the Ostrich Koppies female towards the end of January as far west as the Mlowathi river, a very unusual position for this female. She was seen the following day, roaming around her usual territory.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE **14 YEARS 5 MONTHS**
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

The Matshapiri female was seen once during January, on the track which leads from Clarendon dam to the Kruger National Park break.

DUDLEY FEMALE **16 YEARS 3 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

DAUGHTER OF THE DUDLEY FEMALE **1 YEAR 10 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

EMSAGWENI FEMALE **5 YEARS 1 MONTH**
MALA-MALA
(2 sightings)

Both sightings of this female leopard were in the first two weeks of the month. The first of which she was located in Fourways open area on the sixth of the month. Five days later, the Emsagweni female was seen in the western parts of Matshapiri open area. She was watched as she moved through the open area, and deeper into the bush line. It was not long and she noticed a herd of impala which the Emsagweni female began stalking towards. The leopard got closer and closer to the potential prey, ran in and successfully captured and killed a female impala.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE

10 YEARS 9 MONTHS

CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Treehouse male leopard:** this leopard was seen four more times during January, that in December – with a grand total of 11 sightings. By the end of the first week of the month, the Treehouse male had captured an impala kill, which he hoisted into a false marula tree, south of the airstrip.
- **The Marthly male leopard:** this impressive male was seen once during January, three weeks into the month.
- **The Tslebe rocks male:** seen once, in the Mlowathi river south of the Gowrie Boundary. This male leopard was seen mating with an unidentified female leopard from the north.
- **No ID males:** (1 sightings)
- **No ID females:** (3 sightings)
- **No ID cubs:** (2 sightings): A pair of cubs, was seen with an unidentified female from the north on two occasions during January. Both encounters were along the Gowrie boundary, between Old Borehole road and Wild Dog Rocks Gowrie Boundary road.
- **No ID:** (1 sighting)

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

January	26
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CHEETAH

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

As in December, we saw two male cheetahs on a number of occasions during January. These two males were seen six times in the month between the 12th and 31st of January. All of these sightings were in Clarendon open area, in which we saw these two males roaming around, playing scent marking and finding some shade from the summer heat.

January	2
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

January was a good month for cape hunting dog sightings, with five being recorded. The first was on the 7th of the month, where a pack of 14 was seen in close proximity to Princess Alice Pans. The following day, this same pack was seen around Picadilly triangle, and two days later around West Street bridge. We watched this pack of cape hunting dogs repeatedly run in on various prey species, with no luck.

A second pack of seven cape hunting dogs was seen in the southern parts of the property on the 21st of January. This pack was more successful with their hunting and was seen making an impala kill, at the entrance of Sibuye drive.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

January	21
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

January set 2015 off to a good start, with numerous excellent sightings of both buffalo and elephant. During the first 31 days of 2015, we had 87 sightings of buffalo and 142 encounters with elephants.

The buffalo sightings consisted of 17 herds being seen and 281 individual animals being seen. In a few cases the numbers of buffalo in the herds exceeded 300 individuals.

In terms of the 142 elephant sightings, we were fortunate enough to enjoy seeing 116 herds around the property and 62 individuals. In one case, there was a herd of elephants which consisted of over 70 different animals.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR JANUARY 2015

Lion:	45
Leopard:	103
Elephant:	142
Buffalo:	87
Cheetah:	6
Cape Hunting Dog:	5

MalaMala Big Five monthly analysis:

JANUARY 2014

	LION		LEOPARD		ELEPHANT		BUFFALO	
	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings
1	9	2	6	5	4H + 2	6	1 LH + 12	5
2	15	3	4	3	4H + 3	6	3	2
3	9	3	3	3	4H + 1	4	12	3
4	0	0	6	5	5H + 2	6	12	4
5	2	1	1	1	3H + 2	4	2H + 6	3
6	5	1	8	7	3H + 6	5	4	3
7	16	3	4	4	3H + 2	4	5	2
8	7	1	4	4	4H + 5	6	1H	1
9	0	0	5	3	4H + 7	4	16	4
10	0	0	5	3	5H + 3	7	1H + 18	6
11	3	1	8	7	4H + 2	5	2H + 16	6
12	2	1	2	2	5H	5	12	2
13	0	0	5	4	5H	5	12	4
14	2	1	4	4	4H	4	12	3
15	0	0	7	5	4H + 3	5	6	1
16	0	0	6	5	5H + 2	7	19	2
17	9	2	7	5	5H	5	3	1
18	9	2	7	4	2H + 2	4	10	2
19	9	2	4	3	5H	5	12	2
20	0	0	5	3	5H	5	15	2
21	16	2	3	3	3H + 4	5	2H + 14	5
22	16	2	6	4	6H + 3	7	1H + 13	5
23	9	1	2	2	3H + 2	4	1H	1
24	7	1	3	3	3H	3	10	2
25	11	3	1	1	2H + 2	2	11	1
26	13	3	2	1	2H + 2	4	2H + 6	4
27	15	4	3	1	2H + 3	4	5	1
28	7	1	4	3	4H	4	2H + 10	4
29	3	1	3	3	2H + 2	3	6	1
30	9	2	2	2	1H + 1	2	1H + 6	2
31	9	2	0	0	1H + 1	2	1H + 5	3
	212	45	130	103	116H + 62	142	17H + 281	87

MalaMala Kill Analysis**January 2015**

	Lions	Leopards	Wild dog	Cheetah	Total
Impala		6			6
Duiker					
Buffalo	1				1
Bushbuck		1			1
Warthog					
Nyala					
Wildebeest					
Kudu		1			1
Giraffe					
Other					
Total	1	8			9