

## MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – December 2012

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

### WEATHER SUMMARY – DECEMBER

Maximum temperature (°C)	17
Minimum temperature (°C)	36
Mean maximum (°C)	31.3
Mean minimum (°C)	20.9
Rainfall (mm)	109
Days of rain	9

\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF DECEMBER 2012

### LIONS

#### STYX PRIDE = 11

1 ADULT FEMALE	17 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	9 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 11 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	1 YEAR 11 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	1 YEAR 11 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	5 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	5 MONTHS
MARTHLY, MALA MALA, EYREFIELD (26 sightings)	

The oldest and most established pride of MalaMala enjoyed a busy month. Up twelve sightings from last month, they were viewed on twenty-six occasions! They spent a great deal of their time around the Campbell Koppies, which provides an excellent hiding place whilst the adults are on the hunt. The oldest member of the pride is still hanging in, but it is sad to see her losing condition at a rapid rate. By now her canines are so terribly worn that even eating must present a difficulty. There was a brief moment of worry when the mother of the three young cubs was injured in a buffalo hunt. The lioness had taken a horn to her thigh and the open wound was causing her some trouble. She found it difficult to keep up with the pride and was often found lagging behind along with the lioness with the limp. These animals have incredible healing power and toward the end of the period, it appeared as she had recovered well. The sub adults from the pride abound with energy and we have had some interesting viewing of them stalking rhino and other large animals which are no doubt a source of much fascination for them as well as providing them an opportunity to hone their skill. Toward the end of the month, the pride approached a buffalo carcass that the Manyelethi males had killed. The pride moved in with caution and there was initially some resentment from the males. They eventually allowed the young cubs to feed with them and it took some more time for them to let the lionesses feed. The Manyelethi male with the three canines was being particularly severe on the sub adults males and chased them off more than once. It was good to see the pride in the company of the males since a gathering of this nature has not been recorded for almost two months now.

#### EYREFIELD PRIDE = 11

1 ADULT FEMALE	14 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	5 YEARS 6 MONTHS

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>5 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 MALE CUBS</b>	<b>10 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 FEMALE CUB</b>	<b>10 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 MALE CUBS</b>	<b>7 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 MALE CUBS</b>	<b>5 MONTHS</b>

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD  
(21 sightings)

A dramatic turnaround from last month when the pride was only seen three times. The cubs are all faring well and seem to be in healthy condition. A seven month old male cub has been sporting an interesting growth of sorts from his head. It appeared to be a cyst or build-up of fluid. Over the past weeks the protusion has reduced in size and the cub is almost back to normal now. Of the seven cubs, six are males which is not ideal as they will eventually disperse and that means that there is only potential for the single female cub to bolster the pride numbers. The last time that a large group of males were produced by these females was very significant since the males went on to form one of the fiercest coalitions ever seen. These were of course the notorious Mlowathi males otherwise known as the 'Mapogo'.

The lionesses have a reputation for their ability to hunt large game and this month was no different. At the beginning of the month the pride managed to bring down a full sized buffalo bull which was fed off for four days in the Matshipiri River. We also witnessed a dramatic sight when the oldest lioness tackled a female waterbuck in the Sand River. The water was flowing strongly at the time and it took her a full thirty minutes of struggle to drag the antelope to the shore, only to be stolen by the dark maned Manyelethi male. It was a highlight of his dominance when he fed off the carcass alone for the following two days, not allowing any of his brothers or pride members near. Toward month end the pride crossed the Sand River eastwards, once again attracted to the area by a large herd of buffalo. They did not enjoy any success chasing the buffalo and eventually gave up when the buffalo moved off and out of the pride's territory. This offered the buffalo a short respite before they found themselves in the territory of the Styx pride who also attempted to hunt them. The Eyrefield pride also killed a female wildebeest around the airstrip. They were able to get two for the price of one as the wildebeest was pregnant. The oldest lioness remains to be the only female without cubs at the moment. Last month we recorded that she was lactating. There is not as much evidence of any pregnancy but we are still hoping she will be able to have some cubs soon!

**FOURWAYS PRIDE = 5**

<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>UNKNOWN AGES</b>
<b>2 SUB ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>2 YEARS 6 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB ADULT MALE</b>	<b>2 YEARS 6 MONTHS</b>

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(7 sightings)

The Fourways pride had a good month. As recorded in November, the pride was again prepared to venture far and wide, traversing vast distances. They were viewed on three occasions around the lower reaches of the Matshipiri River. This is the core territory of the Eyrefield pride but those lions were absent during that time which allowed the Fourways lions the opportunity to trail a herd of buffalo in that region. They did not have any success but more than made up for it later during the month when they killed a mature female buffalo in the vicinity of Clarendon Dam. The young males are maturing fast and one in particular is set to become a fine specimen. We also viewed these lions feeding off the remains of a large warthog. The lions are in excellent condition and it would seem the sub adults are making a huge impact on the hunting ability of the pride. It is pleasing to see these lions faring well which has not always been the case in the past. We are still to record a Manyelethi male visiting the pride, the last occasion being almost a year ago. These sub adults are the first lions to be sired by the Manyelethi males and it will be an

interesting confrontation with the sub adult males when they eventually meet up again.

**MARTHLY PRIDE = 5**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>14 YEARS 4 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>10 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 SUB ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>1 YEAR 9 MONTHS</b>
MARHTLY	
(2 sightings)	

The Marthly pride was viewed on two occasions, once around Elephant Rock and another near the Old Airstrip. Both times a member of the Manyelethi coalition was in attendance. We caught a surprise during Christmas time when two of the lionesses showed up in pursuit of some waterbuck in front of the Main Camp in full view of lookers on viewing from the deck!

**BREAKAWAY MARTHLY PRIDE = 4**

<b>4 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>3 YEARS 11 MONTHS</b>
MARHTLY	
(0 sightings)	

No confirmed sightings of this pride for the period.

**MANYELETHI MALES = 4**

**± 7 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

MATRHLTY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD  
DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, FOURWAYS AND MARTHLY AND  
BREAKAWAY MARTHLY PRIDES  
(17 sightings)

The kings of MalaMala provided some incredible viewing in December. Seen on seventeen occasions, an increase of eleven sightings from last month. This can mostly be attributed to the increased presence of the Eyrefield pride with which the males seem to enjoy spending much of their time. The male with the missing canine has been spending all of his time with the Eyrefield pride and leaves the duty of territorial patrolling to his brothers. Toward month end, three of the males killed a buffalo around the Ngoboswan Donga. We have not recorded these males making their own kill of substance for some time and it was good to see they have not 'lost their touch'. An interesting sequence unfolded when the Styx pride approached the area of this buffalo carcass. Initially showing some aggression toward the Styx lions, the males eventually allowed them to feed. The Manyelethi male with the missing canine was particularly severe on the sub adult males from the Styx pride and chased them off more than once. This was the first sighting of any of the males with the Styx pride for some time.

The most significant development during the month was of the Manyelethi males needing to sort out some intruders to their territory. This involved the male with the scarred hip actively chasing the nomadic males from the Eyrefield pride. Read below for details of the event.

**CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>8 YEARS</b>
<b>2 SUB ADULT MALES</b>	<b>1 YEAR 8 MONTHS</b>
SOUTHERN CHARLESTON	
(0 sightings)	

No confirmed sightings of this pride for the period. They have been spending more of their time to the south of the Sand River.

**SELATI PRIDE = 17**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>13 YEARS 11 MONTHS</b>
<b>3 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>±9 YEARS 11 MONTHS</b>
<b>3 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>UNKOWN AGES</b>
<b>4 SUB ADULT MALES</b>	<b>1 YEAR 11 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 SUB ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>1 YEAR 11 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 CUBS</b>	<b>±7 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 CUBS</b>	<b>3 MONTHS</b>
<b>WESTERN CHARLESTON</b>	
<b>(0 sighting)</b>	

No confirmed sightings of this pride for the period.

**NOMADIC MALES FROM THE EYREFIELD PRIDE = 2**

<b>1 MALE</b>	<b>5 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>MARTHLY MALE</b>	<b>7 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>NOMADIC</b>	
<b>(1 sighting)</b>	

Only the one sighting of these lions during the period but it proved to be a very notable one! In previous reports were have suggested that it is time for these males to make their marks or else it would be unlikely that they are ever to become dominant over a pride. Well it seems that making a mark has been exactly what they have decided to do. One morning we followed tracks of three male lions in southern Charleston around Jakkalsdraai Open Area. After some hard work we found the lions. These two nomadic lions were resting and unbeknown to them, a Manyelethi male had been trailing after them and was watching them from a distance. It was the Manyelethi male with the scarred hip who had taken it upon himself to track down these intruders and warn them off. The male from the Marthly pride was the first to notice the Manyelethi male. Both of the nomads took off, with the Manyelethi male chasing the Eyrefield male with great purpose. We lost the lions as they made way through some dense bush. Ten minutes later we found the trio again. The Manyelethi male must have been satisfied he had chased the males far enough and when he reached the Tjellahanga River, he turned and began to saunter casually back north. Meanwhile the Marthly male had decided he was not going to be dominated and he followed the Manyelethi male from behind, roaring aggressively as he went. This was a dramatic tactic from the nomadic lion and it is a sure sign that he is growing in confidence. This is certainly not going to be last encounter between the nomads and the Manyelethi males. The dominant foursome is not by the slightest under threat from these two up-and-coming males, but the brothers could be potentially vulnerable if they are caught alone and without any brother as company. The male from the Marthly pride is similarly aged to the Manyelethi males and is a large lion. He could definitely induce some damage if he could fight one on one.

<b>KRUGER MALE LION = 1</b>	<b>± 7 YEARS 2 MONTHS</b>
<b>SOUTHERN CHARLESTON, WESTERN CHARLESTON</b>	
<b>(0 sightings)</b>	

No confirmed sightings of this male lion that is dominant over the Selati pride.

**Other lions encountered**

- **Unidentified male lion:** (1 sighting)  
A large and ageing male was seen in the very north east of the property. His history is unknown

but it is likely to be an interesting one. We are still working to confirm his identity.

**NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

<b>December</b>	<b>39</b>
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**LEOPARDS:**

**BICYCLE CROSSING MALE** **10 YEARS 11 MONTHS**  
WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON  
(7 sightings)

The Bicycle Crossing male continued where he left off from last month as he was still mating with the female leopard with the stained eye. This leopard is in as good condition as ever. It seems that over the past six months he has shifted his territory further to the east, and is now commonly seen around the Tjololo Road and Zebra Skull areas. This region is also frequented by the Hogvaal male.

**AIRSTRIp MALE** **6 YEARS 6 MONTHS**  
WESTERN MALA MALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(11 sightings)

The Airstrip male had yet another good month and was once again the most viewed of the nine established males on the property. For the most part he managed to stay out of harms way which is slightly out of character for the male! Only on one occasion this month did he join the Kikilezi female and her cub with an impala that the female had killed. He has been spending less time on the western bank of the Sand River and seldom ventures further south than the runway. This could be a result of the Newington and Princess Alice Pans males being more prevalent in that area. Male leopards will try to choose a territory that is as large as possible, dictacted by their ability to patrol their boundaries and defend it against other males. Well the Airstrip male's ability to patrol his boundaries is unrivaled as he covers huge tracts of ground in quick time. This was a common trend this month and it was more than once that he was seen in the corner of his domain, and then in the very opposite extreme the following day!

**CHARLESTON MALE** **6 YEARS 6 MONTHS**  
EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON  
(0 sightings)

No confirmed sightings for the period.

**WEST STREET MALE** **3 YEARS 8 MONTHS**  
WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(7 sightings)

The West Street male is still not showing any signs of becoming territorial. During the month he was seen with an impala kill that he had hoisted into a Marula tree. On one occasion, we were watching this male stalking impala. He was still a way off when the impala began to alarm call. Thinking his cover was blown; the leopard lost interest and revealed himself to the antelope. Meanwhile the impala had actually spotted the daughter of the Kikilezi female, and not the West Street male. The West Street male made a move toward the female but she was quick to dart off out of his way. We also viewed the male with

another impala kill around Ostrich Koppies. He tussled with a hyena that tried its best to steal the kill but the leopard was able to enjoy most of it to himself.

**NEWINGTON MALE**

**4 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA  
(4 sightings)

The Newington male continues to do well and like his father, the Princess Alice Pans male, he is a large leopard. He is still to cross paths with the Airstrip male and it is a matter of time before this happens. It is interesting that his father is so tolerant of his presence, quite happy to have the Newington male scent marking and hunting within his own territory.

**HOGVAAL MALE**

**6 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD  
(1 sighting)

Just the single sighting of the Hogvaal male in December. He was found around the Windmill. This is an area where we have not seen him before. He now has one of the largest territories on the property extending from the Matshipiri River to the northern reaches of the Tjellehanga River. His core areas are not as often traversed by our game drive vehicles, and therefore do not get viewed too regularly. He is no doubt in his prime and it is likely that at his age he has sired at least a few cubs. Could it be that he is the father of the Flockfield female's previous litter? Or even perhaps father of the Matshipiri female's cub?

**TSLEBE ROCKS MALE**

**± 7 YEARS**

NORTHERN EYREFIELD  
(1 sighting)

Once again this male was seen on our very northern border.

**PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE**

**12 YEARS**

WESTERN MALAMALA  
(6 sightings)

Six sightings of this powerful male is considered a good month since the core of his territory lies to the west. All of the sightings were recorded on the western bank and he was not prepared to move further eastwards as we have seen previously. This can no doubt be attributed to the river being higher at this time of year and crossing the water channel presents more of a challenge.

**GOWRIE MALE**

**± 5/6 YEARS**

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD  
(1 sighting)

The Gowrie male was found resting around the Mlowathi River and we followed him as he began to move westwards. At one stage, he was unknowingly heading straight toward where the Airstrip male was laying, and we were sure they were set for yet another interaction. The Gowrie male then changed direction slightly and the leopards did not cross paths.

**KIKILEZI FEMALE**

**11 YEARS 3 MONTH**

**1 MALE CUB**

**9 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALA MALA, MARTHLI  
(5 sightings of female, 9 sightings of female and cub, 5 sightings of cub without female)

Once again this fabulous duo was the most viewed leopards on the property. The female has been prepared to leave her cub alone for increasingly long periods as she goes on hunting excursions and territorial patrol. This provides the cub with an ideal time to explore his environment and hone his skills. This young leopard has an extraordinary character and has provided us hours of entertainment. He has a disregard for danger much like his father, the Airstrip male. He could really reign in his recklessness or he is bound to run into trouble at some stage. At his age he should be able to catch small prey items such as birds and lizards, but the cub has different ideas and is going big. He has been seen stalking large kudu, warthog and even hippo! One particular sighting was incredible as we watched the cub trailing behind a huge bull elephant.

The Kikilezi female continues to show off her amazing skill, consistently providing kills for her cub and keeping a stronghold on her large territory. She had yet another interaction with her daughter when both leopards had set their sights on the same herd of impala. The Kikilezi female was able to catch one which attracted her daughter to investigate. This prompted the Kikilezi female to chase her daughter off as we have seen many times.

**TAMBOTI FEMALE** **5 YEARS 2 MONTHS**  
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA  
(5 sightings)

We were pleased to record five sightings of the Tamboti female. This especially after last month where she was not even viewed at all. Most of her sightings were in the beginning of the month and still only seen on the western bank of the Sand River. Could it be that she has been laying low investigating potential den sites? This could explain her absence last month and time will tell if the beautiful female is expecting her first litter. This would certainly be a tremendous occasion. She appeared from nowhere when we were viewing the Newington male, who has been a partner of the Tamboti female in the past. The female was quick to show her distaste at the male before moving off again. One sighting of her was with a young wildebeest calf that she had killed. Even though the calf was young and mostly helpless, it still requires great skill for a small leopard to bring one down and steal it from the clutches of a defensive mother.

**MLOWATHI FEMALE** **5 YEARS 11 MONTHS**  
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the report period.

**JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE** **13 YEARS 1 MONTH**  
**1 MALE CUB** **1 YEAR 5 MONTHS**  
CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER  
(0 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There were no confirmed sightings during the report period. Reports from the south suggest that the female has been mating with the Charleston male. This is an interesting development and is a clear indication that the female is forcing her cub into independence. Another possibility is that the cub has passed on and she is keen to try again. This is perhaps a bit drastic but is a possibility since we have not had a confirmed sighting of the cub for some time and its status is unknown.

**CAMPBELL KOPPIES FEMALE** **13 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

WESTERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sightings)

There were no sightings during the report period.

**OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE** **8 YEARS 3 MONTHS**  
EYREFIELD  
(1 sightings)

Still early days but this well-known female is still not showing any signs of pregnancy from her mating with the Airstrip male.

**MATSHIPIRI FEMALE** **12 YEARS 2 MONTHS**  
**1 FEMALE CUB** **1 YEAR 2 MONTHS**  
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD  
(1 sighting of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 2 sightings of cub without female)

Three sightings combined is considered a relatively good month for these leopards. The cub was viewed on two occasions, both without her mother being present. The young female is very relaxed around the vehicles and it is always a treat to see her. These leopards can be seen throughout a large range: from the Hogvaal Donga to Matshipiri Dam and extending to the east to the Kruger National park.

**DUDLEY FEMALE** **14 YEARS 3 MONTHS**  
**1 CUB** **8 MONTHS**  
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(0 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

No confirmed sightings of these leopards for the period.

**FLOCKFIELD FEMALE** **8 YEARS 8 MONTHS**  
**1 CUB** **1 YEAR 6 MONTHS**  
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON  
(0 sighting of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

No confirmed sightings of these leopards for the period.

**WESTERN FEMALE** **14 YEARS 11 MONTHS**  
WESTERN MALA MALA  
(0 sightings)

There were no sightings during the report period.

**Other leopards encountered:**

- **Daughter of the Kikilezi female 2009:** (9 sightings)  
This young female continues to do well and she had yet another good month. Her mother is still showing aggression toward her when they cross paths, and it is clear that she would like her daughter to shift her territory further off. The daughter of the Kikilezi female can be seen frantically scent marking throughout her new range where she is thriving. Now that she is well on her way to establish a territory, it is just about time for her to make more serious attempts at

producing some cubs. Perhaps the Airstrip male will take her more seriously now that she has matured.

- **Son of the Dudley female 2009:** (4 sightings)

The younger brother of the Airstrip and Charleston males has been doing some exploring. In the past we have only recorded sightings of him close to the Sand River and mostly on the western bank. In December he had a dramatic change of range, and has been seen around the Kapen River as far upstream as Hyena Waterhole. He has also been seen further north around the Ngoboswan Donga! It is good news that he is prepared to venture to new areas but trouble is looming since there is such a high population of larger, more mature males in these regions.

- **Female leopard with the blemish in eye:** (3 sightings)

This petite female has once again been seen mating with the Bicycle Crossing male. While viewing mating leopards is a fabulous event to view, there was an element of sadness on this occasion as it confirms that her young cub is no longer surviving and she is now starting over again.

- **No ID males:** (4 sightings)

- **No ID females:** (5 sightings)

One sighting of unconfirmed identities was of a mating pair in the south west.

- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed):** (1 sighting)

This sighting was of an unknown leopard cub around Matshipiri Dam. The cub was slightly nervous and we are unsure of who it belongs to! It must have come from the north and the mother is not likely to be resident on MalaMala.

#### **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

<b>December</b>	<b>26</b>
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#### **CHEETAH**

December 2012 will long be remembered as an incredible month of cheetah viewing. Our statistics of cheetah sightings over the past while has been exemplary. Considering the species number fewer than three hundred in this vast six million acre expanse, and that the Sabi Sands does not provide ideal cheetah habitat, it is incredible that we are able to see as many as we do. The two cheetah brothers were seen throughout the month around their usual hunting grounds at Clarendon Dam. With some lions sightings in that area during the month, it may have deterred the cheetah from visiting on some occasions and they were less often seen toward month end. We also recorded a sighting of **five** young adult cheetah. They were seen five times around the West Street Bridge and White Cloth areas. Three of these cheetahs were males, and two females. It seems that they are of the age that they would have become independent from their mother during the past year or two. The males are well placed to establish a coalition and we hope to see more of them in the future. The females will eventually have to split from their brothers and each other in their quests to become successful. The award for the cheetah sightings of the month must surely go to the female with her four young cubs! These cheetahs were first seen on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December and were viewed three other times as well. What a treat to see these four cubs of around three months old. They have surely not been viewed too many times by vehicles but they were very relaxed in our company and we were sure to give them plenty of space. The identity of the mother of the cubs is unknown at this stage and she certainly has not been viewed on the property during the last three years. Toward month end these five cheetahs were viewed around the Windmill which is an ideal area for them with many wide open spaces.

#### **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED**

December	12
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### CAPE HUNTING DOGS

The familiar pack of seven adults and four pups visited MalaMala on four occasions in December. All of the sightings were recorded toward the beginning of the month and mostly in the northern parts of the property. This is a time of plenty of the dogs as they have their way with the many young antelope species which are abundant. There was one instance when the dogs were lucky to escape without harm after they accidentally sped into the Styx pride of lions that were resting near Mlowathi Dam. One of the lionesses was very close to catching a pup that made a narrow getaway.

### **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

November	11
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### CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

A large herd of Cape buffalo of around six hundred individuals has been seen throughout the month. This is the same herd that stayed on the property throughout the winter and it seems their movements have been somewhat limited due to lack of rain. The dams and waterholes are not as full as they usually are at this time of year. This means that the buffalo are still frequenting the Sand River daily to drink, which provides excellent viewing. Newborn calves started to arrive toward the end of the month and it makes for much entertainment watching the youngsters moving about their new worlds and trying to steady themselves on their wobbly legs. As always, elephant sightings were consistent throughout the month. As with the buffalo, there are also plenty of elephant calves to be seen. Sightings of some impressive bulls are still been recorded. These old boys have been around for the past few months and are mostly seen in the vicinity of the Sand River.

### OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

Two sightings of Serval were observed. Many Ostriches were seen which is always a treat to see the world's heaviest and largest bird. Ostriches were not native to this area and have been introduced from the Cape. There is not a high population of them in the region, which makes sightings even more enjoyable. We also recorded a rare glimpse of the stunning Sable antelope! We have not seen these special animals for some time and this was a view of two mature bulls around the Clarendon Dam. A Cape Clawless Otter was also seen around the Causeway in front of the Main Camp. We were stunned watching the relaxed critter move about his business and it was amazing to see it successfully catching a large catfish that was eaten on the bank.

### TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2012

Lion:	63
Leopard:	89
Elephant:	213
Buffalo:	98
Cheetah:	12
Cape Hunting Dog:	4