

six year old lioness giving birth to three cubs, and although they spent a fair amount of time on MalaMala, it wasn't until late in the month that we got a very brief look at two of her cubs. They look around 10-12 weeks old and in good condition. The oldest lioness also seems to have given birth to cubs as she is showing evidence of suckle marks and is lactating as well. It looks as if they could be hiding them in steep drainage lines along Sibuye Rd or in the Nwanananontshameni Donga in northern Eyrefield. The cubs have been sired from another, nomadic Male from Gowrie and if the Manyelethi Males were to come into any interaction with this pride and their young, there is sure to be blood spilt. Sightings of this pride often consisted of a few members and the entire pride was only all seen together, without the new cubs, on four occasions.

The sub-adults turned three years old this month and the time is coming for the two males to be ousted from the pride. We wait to see if the young females will leave with the males or remain with the lionesses when the time comes, we hope the latter.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 8

2 ADULT FEMALES	6 YEARS 7 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 6 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 11 MONTH
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 11 MONTH
1 MALE CUB	1 YEAR 8 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS (1 DECEASED)	1 YEAR 5 MONTH

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD
(17 sightings)

There were seventeen confirmed sightings of the Eyrefield Pride during January! We were pleased to have viewed them more often this time of year as historically they tend to spend more time west of our boundaries during the wetter summer months. They have been receiving some pressure from the Marthly-Breakaway Pride to our west and this could be forcing them further east onto our property. The young male that was badly injured last month died in the early parts of January from his wounds. The pride battled to kill large animals and he struggled for food to an extent when he became too weak to challenge for meals and keep up with the pride. His body was found west of MalaMala.

On the 5th of the month we found the pride on western side Kapen feeding of an adult female giraffe that they had killed the day before. They gorged themselves for three days around the carcass and eventually went back west towards the river where they slept at Flockfield Boma Crossing for two days.

The Manyelethi Males are still spending a good amount of time with this pride and we saw them with the pride on five occasions, mostly around the Airstrip.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 4

2 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 7 MONTH
1 SUB ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 7 MONTH

EASTERN MALAMALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD,
EASTERN CHARLESTON
(3 sightings)

There were three sightings of the Fourways Pride during January. They were found on the 3rd close to the Windmill and then towards the end of the month around Matshapiri and Clarendon Dams. The two

young males, that the pride seems to have adopted, are maturing strongly and the pride has great strength with these males. They have plenty of competition for dominance over territory with the Manyeleti Males to their west and another mighty coalition of six large males to their north. They could look to challenge these lions in the future if they wish to leave the lionesses, but for now it seems they must do all it takes to elude the two coalitions. All three of these sightings were in the very eastern parts of the property and we suspect that they are spending most of their time in the Kruger National Park and in Gowrie.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES

11 YEARS 5 MONTHS

1 SUB ADULT FEMALES

2 YEARS 9 MONTHS

4 CUBS

±7 MONTHS

MARTHLY

(1 sighting)

There was just a single sighting of the Marthly Pride this month. The lionesses were found at Elephant Rock in south-eastern Marthly on the 11th. We believe that their relatives in the Marthly-Breakaway Pride have shifted further south giving the Marthly Pride more space north of the Sand River to inhabit. Reports indicate that the four cubs are doing well and are in good condition and that the sub-adult female is further gaining acceptance from the Manyeleti Males.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE

9 YEARS 1 MONTH

2 SUB ADULT MALES

2 YEARS 9 MONTH

CHARLESTON

(3 sighting)

There were three sightings of the Charleston Pride in January. All sightings were along the Sand River in southern Charleston and Toulon. The young males are in excellent condition and the lioness is also in great shape. We will see if she is able to produce more cubs in the future and bolster the pride's numbers.

Other lions encountered: (3 sightings)

- **The Break- Away Marthly Pride (0 sightings)**

There were no sightings of this pride during January. We believe that they are spending most of their time to our west and are putting pressure on the Eyrefield Pride, forcing them east onto MalaMala. Reports indicate that the nine cubs are in great shape.

- **Selati Pride (0 sightings)**

There were no sightings of the Selati Pride in January. We have heard from our neighbours to the south of lionesses giving birth to new cubs and this, already large, pride is further increasing in numbers. Their movements are fairly erratic and the pride is split for most of their time, reports indicate. The single Kruger Male lion still seems to have dominance over this pride but he is receiving tough competition from two other coalitions, time will tell whether he is able to maintain his reign over this pride.

- **3 young male lions in South Western Charleston (0 sighting)**

There were no sightings of these males during January.

- **4 unidentified young males seen inconsistently so far in 2013.** (0 sighting)

These same lions did not appear on MalaMala in January. They were last seen in July.

- **2 young male lions with Fourways Pride** (3 sightings)

These two young male lions were seen with the Fourways Pride on three occasions in January. The larger of these two males has bigger mane and a large scar on his back. The younger has a very blonde mane and a mature looking face for his size. All three sightings of them was in the company of the Fourways Pride and it seems that the pride has adopted them as their own.

- **3 adult male lions in Charleston** (0 sighting)

There were no sightings of these adult male lions in January. We believe that they spend most of their time in the south-western parts of the Sabi Sands and are competing with the Kruger Male for dominance over the Selati Pride.

- **1 Male Lion seen with the Styx Pride** (0 sighting)

One male lion between 5 and 7 years old was found with the Styx Pride on one occasion in November, but there were no confirmed sightings of him during January. He was seen mating with the Styx lionesses last year and we assume that the new Styx cubs have been sired by him.

- **A pride of 7 lions seen in December 2013.** (0 sightings)

There were no sightings of this pride in January. We think that they are spending most of their time south and east of our borders.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JANUARY	33
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LEOPARDS

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

12 YEARS

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

There were seven confirmed sightings of the Bicycle Crossing Male in January. He was seen four times around the Tamboti Thickets, once in eastern Flockfield and twice along Sibuye Drive. He is still in great condition and continues to show his dominance throughout his large territory that expands south from Rattray's Camp towards the Charleston/Toulon Boundary in the very southern parts of MalaMala. He was seen around the Treehouse with a young kudu kill on the 30th. There are two young male leopards that are roaming into parts of his territory, namely the River Rocks Male and the Treehouse Male. It will be interesting to see how this large male deals with these youngsters in his land. Currently the younger leopards are relatively submissive towards the commanding male but we doubt that he will tolerate them

for much longer.

AIRSTRIp MALE

7 YEARS 7 MONTHS

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLy
(7 sightings)

There were seven confirmed sightings of the Airstrip Male in January. It appears that his left eye is slowly beginning to heal. He is still healthy despite this minor setback and continues to display dominance as he patrols his large territory north of the Matshapiri River. He is receiving territorial pressure from the older, larger Marthly Male to his west but encounters are few and far between to our knowledge. He was seen at Buffalo Pans on the 11th walking behind the Newington Male and ushering him back west towards West Street and out of his territory. He clearly has little fear of these young males.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE

13 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA
(11 sightings)

There were eleven confirmed sightings of the Princess Alice Pans Male during January, the most of any leopard in the month. All of the sightings were on the western bank of the Sand River, mainly around the Old Airstrip and along the Sand River. The Marthly Male was seen twice in the northern parts of his territory and we wait to see if these two heavyweights challenge each other. It is bound to be a brutal encounter.

MARTHLy MALE

± 12 YEARS

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLy
(4 sightings)

The Marthly Male was seen four times during January. This large male was seen twice in eastern Marthly and twice on the western bank of the river close to main camp, the very southern reaches of his territory. He is a direct threat to the Airstrip Male to his east and the Princess Alice Pans Male to his south and should this male look to expand, he will have to confront one of these leopards.

CHARLESTON MALE

7 YEARS 7 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(1 sighting)

A sighting of the Charleston Male in January! He was only seen once in 2013 in May around Jakkalsdraai Open Area. This time he was seen at Rocky Crossing and rangers followed him for over an hour as he walked west along River Rd eventually disappearing into thick bush at Ingwe Donga. He is in good shape and very relaxed around the vehicles. He has little competition that we know of besides the Bicycle Crossing Male and River Rocks Male who spend most of their time to his west.

WEST STREET MALE

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD
(2 sightings)

4 YEARS 8 MONTHS

The West Street Male was seen on two occasions in January. It is clear that he is spending most of his time in the eastern parts of the property and could be taking over the Hogvaal Male's territory (a leopard that we havn't seen for more than 18 months.) He was seen once along Tshabalala Rd and then spotted close to Paddy's Pools later in the month.

NEWINGTON MALE

WESTERN MALAMALA
(5 sightings)

5 YEARS 3 MONTHS

There were five confirmed sightings of the Newington Male during January. This is less than normal and we think that the decrease in sightings was because of the greater presence of the Princess Alice Pans Male. The young male was seen twice on the eastern bank, on one occasion being chased back west by the Airstrip Male. He spends his time wedged between three very dominant male leopards and we will see whether he will look for territory elsewhere or wait for his father, the Princess Alice Pans Male's time to pass and look to take over from him.

TREEHOUSE MALE

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(2 sightings)

+/- 3 ½ YEARS

This newly named leopard is slowly becoming a regular on MalaMala. He was seen on two occasions in January. He was viewed as far east as the Zebra Skull where he was in the company of the Toulon Female and an impala carcass that the male looked to claim ownership of. He was brought up to indepence in the south western parts of the Sabi Sand Reserve and now is in a stage where he is exploring new land where he will eventually look to establish territory. Most of his visits have been within that of the Bicycle Crossing Male's territory and we wait to see if there is any physical interaction between these two males. The young leopard is large for his age and could pose a genuine threat to other males if he decides to push further east.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE

NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

± 8 YEARS

A sighting of the Tslebe Rocks Male in January! He was seen in the very northern parts of Eyrefield close to the Mlowathi River. He was looking slightly more scratched and mature than the last time that he was seen on MalaMala, but we expect that being a dominant male in a land teaming with competition. He was last seen in March 2013 in the company of the Ostrich Koppies Female.

GOWRIE MALE

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

± 6/7 YEARS

There were no sightings of the Gowrie Male in January.

KIKILEZI FEMALE **12 YEARS 4 MONTHS**
2 CUBS **+/- 2 MONTHS**
WESTERN MALAMALA, MARTHLY
(5 sightings of female, 1 sighting of female and cubs)

An exciting month for the Kikilezi Female as our patience finally paid off when one of the rangers followed her as she headed towards Campbell Koppies, where she revealed two tiny cubs tucked away beneath the rocks. However, the joy was short-lived as the following days she wasn't seen at all at the den-site. We believe that she has moved them to another den, possibly somewhere further around Campbell Koppies or in the southern parts of the Mlowathi River. She was seen a further five times between Sand Pit Crossing and Steenbok Drive but never lead us to her cubs.

TAMBOTI FEMALE **6 YEARS 3 MONTHS**
1 CUB (FEMALE) **11 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA
(1 sightings of female, 5 sightings of female and cub, 2 sightings of cub without female)

More excellent viewing of the Tamboti Female and her captivating cub throughout January. Her and her daughter were the first leopards on the new West Street bridge. They curiously walked half-way across the bridge and then turned back to walk towards the western ramp. The cub is developing well and is extremely content around the vehicles, a pleasure to observe. She was seen twice on her own, both around Flockfield Tower. The Tamboti Female is looking healthy and impressing us with her first attempt at motherhood. They were seen with a young impala kill on the 28th.

MLOWATHI FEMALE **6 YEARS 11 MONTHS**
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sighting)

There were no confirmed sighting of the Mlowathi Female during January.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE **14 YEARS 2 MONTHS**
CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Jakkalsdraai Female in January. If her courtship with the River Rocks Male was successful then she may have given birth to cubs. We look forward to our next interaction with her to see if she is with young.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE
EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

9 YEARS 3 MONTHS

There was one confirmed sightings of the Ostrich Koppies Female in January. She was seen on Matshapiri Dam Rd in Eyrefield. We presume that she is spending most of her time in Gowrie.

MATSHAPIRI FEMALE
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

13 YEARS 3 MONTHS

There was one confirmed sighting of the Matshapiri Female in January. She was seen on the third of the month west of Paddy's Pools looking at a herd of impala. She showed too much patience and eventually was left closer to the Matshapiri River. She is getting to a critical age and we will see if she continues to thrive into old age. She is currently looking well.

DUDLEY FEMALE
1 FEMALE CUB
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

15 YEARS 3 MONTH
1 YEAR 9 MONTHS

(0 sightings of female, 1 sighting of female and cub, 2 sightings of cub without female)

There was one confirmed sightings of the Dudley Female with her cub and two sightings of her cub on her own in January. It is good to see the young female showing further signs of independence and she was seen once at Mamba Waterhole and then on the final day of the month opposite Rattray's Camp. The two were seen together on Dudley Lookout on the 25th.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

9 YEARS 9 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings of the Flockfield Female during January.

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(3 sightings)

4 YEARS 1 MONTH

There were three confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni Female in January. Her movements are fairly erratic as she looks to establish her own territory and find males that are willing to mate with her. She was seen once on the western bank of the river, possibly seeking out a mate. The other two sightings were along the southern parts of the Matshapiri River. She doesn't look to be bearing cubs and her affair with the Newington Male last year looked to have proved unsuccessful.

CALABASH FEMALE
1 CUB (Potentially more than 1 cub)
WESTERN CHARLESTON

± 6.5 YEARS
11 MONTHS

(0 sightings, 0 sightings of cub without female, 0 sightings of female with cub)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Calabash Female in January.

TOULON FEMALE

CHARLESTON, TOULON

2 YEARS 6 MONTHS

(3 sightings)

Another newly named leopard. The previous *Daughter of the Jakkalsdraai Female* was seen three times this month. Once in the vicinity of the Treehouse Male in southern Flockfield and then again at KK Crossing and Sibuye Drive, where she was being followed by the River Rocks Male.

Other leopards encountered:

• **RIVER ROCKS MALE**

4 YEARS 3 MONTHS

(1 sighting)

The previously-known *Son of the Dudley Female 2009*, earned himself a new name this month as he looks to become a regular on Mala Mala. He was seen just once this month. We viewed him following the Toulon Female in the southern parts of Sibuye Drive in western Charleston. His movements are within the heart of that of his dominant father's (the Bicycle Crossing Male) and we wait to see if this male tolerates his son's presence for much longer.

• **SHAWS FEMALE**

+/- 18 YEARS

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of this old female in January. We believe that she spends most of her time west of our boundaries.

• **DAUGHTER OF THE MATSHAPIRI FEMALE**

2 YEARS 3 MONTHS

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of the Daughter of the Matshapiri Female in January. She hasn't been seen in a few months and could be exploring new area outside of MalaMala.

• **No ID females:**

(2 sightings in total)

There were two No ID female leopard sightings during December. One was a brief visual of a female leopard opposite Rattray's Camp that was most probably the Tamboti or Dudley Female. The other sighting was in the Nwanananontshameni Donga in Eyrefield. No proper ID could be made.

• **No ID males:** (0 sightings).

There were no unidentified male leopards this month.

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

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

JANUARY	22
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CHEETAH (5 sightings)

There were five cheetah sightings this month. One of the sightings were of a male cheetah at Clarendon and the remaining four sightings were of the female cheetah with two sub-adults. They were first spotted in eastern Flockfield on the 5th, which implies that they have been spending time in the Kruger National Park. They slowly moved north where they were then seen at Clarendon and Mlowathi Dam on consecutive days. The sub-adults are almost fully grown now and will most probably leave their mother in the following months. Since one is male and one is female, they will move off seperately and most probably live solitary lifestyles.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

JANUARY	4
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS (8 sightings)

The Cape Hunting Dogs were active during January with a total of eight sightings. The pack of eight was seen six times. They were found on the 4th around Matumi Rocks in Marthly and then the following day at West Street. They then re-emerged on the 11th at Flockfield Boma Crossing and were seen on another two occasions on the western bank. Rangers did see a pair of dogs attempting to mate, and they could be looking to have a litter this winter as the alpha female was barren last year.

The pack that originally consisted of 15 members looks to have lost one of their pups and are now down to 14. They were seen twice towards the end of the month. The first occasion was in front of main camp on the 24th. They ran right in front of camp and continued west towards Marthly. The second occasion rangers found the pack hunting impala around Flockfield Tower. They managed to kill a single impala before they headed back west off of our property. All the pups are growing steadily and are looking healthy.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JANUARY	24
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

January brought less rain than expected. The last week we saw some healthy rain but overall a far dryer January than previous years. Saying that, we did get a lot of rain that fell to our north and so the Sand River did full up and some of the tributaries were saturated for a day or two. The water is still fairly spread out and thus the herds of elephant too. The elephant herds are at their regular small sizes for this time of year with multiple herds occasionally joining up to drink or cool down at various water sources throughout the property. The hot summer days are evident as we view herds of elephant running, jubilantly, to pans and rivers to cool down as the sun begins to lash out its powerful rays.

The buffalo herds have been viewed quite regularly, mostly in the northern parts of the property. Herds of up to 300 have been seen around Tslebe Rocks and along the Mlowathi River. There were also two separate herds seen on a day on a number of occassions. The hot days mean that the buffalo are remaining close to water sources and their daily movements are less than that of a cooler winter's day. The larger variety in water sources mean that the buffalo bulls are more widespread throughout the property.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

Civet: 6

Cape Clawless Otter: 1

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR JANUARY 2013

Lion: 53

Leopard: 66

Elephant: 138

Buffalo: 80

Cheetah: 5

Cape Hunting Dogs: 8

