

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – JULY 2014

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

WEATHER SUMMARY – JULY

Maximum temperature (°C)	31
Minimum temperature (°C)	4
Mean maximum (°C)	25.7
Mean minimum (°C)	9.5
Rainfall (mm)	1ml
Days of rain	1

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF JULY 2014

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 9

1 ADULT FEMALE	11 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	3 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	3 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 FEMALE CUBS	8 MONTHS
1 MALE CUB	8 MONTHS

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 8

2 ADULT FEMALES	7 YEARS 1 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	7 YEARS
2 SUB-ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 2 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	1 YEAR 11 MONTHS

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD
(14 sightings)

The Eyrefield pride was viewed on 14 days in July. On the 14th the Eyrefield pride killed a bushbuck to the East of Maxim's lookout. They were seen hunting buffalo two days later, but were unsuccessful. On the 18th they managed to kill a giraffe within a kilometre from the main camp and on the 30th they killed a large buffalo bull on the airstrip.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE

1 SUB ADULT FEMALES

1 SUB ADULT MALE

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD

(9 sightings)

UNKNOWN AGE

4 YEARS 1 MONTH

4 YEARS 1 MONTH

There were nine sighting of the members of the Fourways pride during July. They were most commonly found in the North-Eastern corner of the property. The three males were frequently seen on their own, once as far South as 1st Turning Jakkalsdraai. After obtaining injuries in a fight, one of the males broke away from the rest of the pride and were seen around Matshipiri dam on the 28th, 29th and the 30th. He was reported as being “in a very bad way”.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALE

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

3 MALE CUBS

1 FEMALE CUB

MARHTLY

(5 sightings)

11 YEARS 11 MONTHS

3 YEARS 3 MONTHS

1 YEAR 1 MONTH

1 YEAR 1 MONTH

The Marthly pride was seen on 5 different occasions during July. They spent most of the month to the North and West of our property where there is ample territory for them to occupy. Despite reports, we do not believe that the tailless lioness gave birth as she was seen with the rest of her pride on all accounts. If she did give birth to cubs, then they most likely did not survive.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4

± 9 YEARS 11 MONTHS

MATRHLY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

**DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, FOURWAYS AND MARTHLY AND
BREAKAWAY MARTHLY PRIDES**

(3 sightings)

The Manyelethi males were seen on only three days during July. They were seen for the first time during July on the 11th in Eastern Flockfield. They were seen for a second time at the junction of River rd and Track to Hyena waterhole close to both the Eyrefield pride and a large herd of buffalo on the 15th. The Eyrefield pride attempted a number of hunts, but were unsuccessful. Without any easy pickings they could take over from the Eyrefield pride, the four Manyelethi males moved Eastwards where they were viewed on the 16th.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE

2 SUB ADULT MALES

CHARLESTON

(7 sightings)

9 YEARS 6 MONTHS

3 YEARS 2 MONTHS

There were seven confirmed sightings of the Charleston pride. They were most often seen around Sibuye drive. The pride were also seen on South-Western Charleston where they were seen feeding off a giraffe. One of the males were viewed fighting with a male from a neighbouring property at the giraffe carcass. The young males are massive for their age and always seem to be well fed.

TJELLAHANGA PRIDE = 9

2 ADULT FEMALES

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

6 SUB-ADULT MALES

UNKNOWN AGES

± 2½ YEARS

± 2½ YEARS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA

(2 sightings)

There were only two sighting of the Tjellahanga pride. They were seen on the 10th in Eastern Flockfield and on the 17th in Charleston.

Other lions encountered

- **Unidentified male lion** (2 sighting)
- **Two unidentified males and one female** (1sighting)
- **Two unidentified males** (1 sighting)

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

July	39
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LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

12 YEARS 7 MONTHS

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

As always, the Bicycle Crossing male showed face on numerous occasions, resulting in good leopard viewing. The most memorable sighting was of him feeding off a Nyala that he had killed and hoisted up a tree on the 26th. He spent three days on the Eastern bank of the Sand-river feeding off the Nyala.

AIRSTRIP MALE

8 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN MALA MALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(14 sightings)

There were fourteen sightings of the Airstrip male during July. He was seen twice on Marthly in the beginning of the month and then around Campbell Koppies in the following days. He spent a lot of time in the lower regions of the Mlowathi. On the 22nd he was seen sharing a kill that was made by the Kikilezi female with the Kikilezi female as well as the two cubs that he had sired. While feeding off the impala carcass the Princess Alice Pans male showed up resulting in a fight between these two male leopards. The bigger of the two, the Princess Alice Pans male came out as the victor, leaving the Airstrip male with a slightly injured ear.

CHARLESTON MALE

8 YEARS 1 MONTH

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(1 sightings)

On the 5th the Charleston male was seen on South-Western Charleston close to Trollip's camp.

WEST STREET MALE

5 YEARS 2 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(4 sightings)

Four sightings of this male were recorded, three of which were in the first three days of the month all on Charleston. He was seen with a kudu kill on the 3rd of the month around Ingwe donga. He was seen again on the 16th, but this time in Eastern Flockfield.

NEWINGTON MALE

5 YEARS 9 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA
(2 sightings)

The Newington male was seen on 2 occasions. Both occasions within the territory of his father on the Western bank of the Sand-river. Once on Kikilezihash and then again on Bushbuck drive.

HOGVAAL MALE

6 YEARS 8 MONTHS

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

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE
NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

± 8 YEARS

Once again this male was seen on our very northern border to the East of Eastern side Mlowathi.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(7 sightings)

13 YEARS 7 MONTHS

The Princess Alice Pans male was seen on 7 different occasions. He was seen around Northern break West street on 3 occasions and once in the lower regions of the Mlowathi-river where he took over a kill from the Airstrip male.

GOWRIE MALE
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sighting)

± 7 YEARS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

KIKILEZI FEMALE
1 MALE CUB
1 FEMALE CUB

12 YEARS 10 MONTHS
8 MONTHS
8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALA-MALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(3 sightings of female, 9 sightings of female and cubs, 3 sightings of cubs without female)

The Kikilezi female made numerous kills during July, confirming her status as a very competent mother. The two cubs are now 8 months old and as time goes by, their chances of reaching adulthood increases. They seem to be in very good condition and their nervous nature will most likely benefit them in the near future.

TAMBOTI FEMALE

6 YEARS 10 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA
(2 sightings)

The Tamboti female was viewed on two occasions. She was seen hunting on the 6th around the junction of Kikilezihash and track past quarry. She was viewed again on the 17th. We believe that she spends most of her time on neighbouring property as she has a vast territory to defend.

MLOWATHI FEMALE

7 YEARS 5 MONTHS

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE

14 YEARS 8 MONTH

CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE

9 YEARS 7 MONTHS

EYREFIELD
(2 sightings)

The Ostrich Koppies female was seen on two occasions, both being around Ostrich koppies. Her pectoral glands were swollen and we suspect that she might have given birth. Time will tell whether she did and if so, how many cubs she has in the litter.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE

13 YEARS 10 MONTHS

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

DUDLEY FEMALE
1 CUB

15 YEARS 9 MONTHS
8 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(5 sightings)

The Dudley female was observed on 5 separate occasions. Her territory seem to have decreased tremendously over the past few months as she receives a lot of pressure from the Tamboti as well as the Emsagweni female. She killed an impala to the North of Flockfield boma crossing and was viewed in that area for a number of consecutive days. She was also viewed in the vicinity of West street bridge.

EMSAGWENI FEMALE
MALA-MALA
(3 sighting)

4 YEARS 7 MONTHS

There were three confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni female in July. It looks as if she is in the process of establishing a secure territory along the Matshipiri river between Donald's crossing and Emsagwen. She should be looking to mate and will hopefully be raising her first litter in the near future.

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

10 YEARS 3 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

Other leopards encountered:

- **No ID males:** (4 sightings)
- **No ID females:** (1 sightings)

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

July	22
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CHEETAH

Three different cheetahs were viewed during July. On the 13th a male was encountered drinking from Clarendon dam. Two more males were seen on the 15th in the same area.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

July	3
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

On the 16th of July a pack of 14 Cape hunting dogs consisting of 14 individuals crossed onto our property. This pack of 9 puppies and 6 adults were viewed on 7 days during the remainder of the month. As

expected with these animals, they proved to be extremely efficient at taking down prey. Consequently the puppies seem to do very well as they were well fed on all occasions that they were viewed.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

July	14
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

A number of medium sized herds of Cape buffalo 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. 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.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

Two sightings of Serval were observed. Three 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 Buffalo Bush 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.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR July 2014

Lion:	48
Leopard:	85
Elephant:	100
Buffalo:	60
Cheetah:	2
Cape Hunting Dog:	7