

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – JUNE 2014

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

WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE 2014

Maximum temperature (°C)	29
Minimum temperature (°C)	3
Mean maximum (°C)	26
Mean minimum (°C)	9
Rainfall (mm)	0
Days of rain	0

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF JUNE 2014

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 9

1 ADULT FEMALE	11 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	3 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	3 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 FEMALE CUBS	7 MONTHS
1 MALE CUB	7 MONTHS

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD
(3 sightings)

There were three sightings of the Styx Pride during June. They were first seen during the month on the 22nd in the Nwanananontshameni Donga. It was evident that they may have killed something the night before a bit further to their south as the lions were very well fed. The sub-adults were seen on their own a couple days later hunting buffalo on Emsagweni. They followed the herd throughout the night but no kill was made. They were seen the following day with the rest of the pride on Nyathi Road. There was also a close call with the Manyelethi Males towards the back end of the month. The males camped in their territory and were heard roaring in the north. The cubs did a good job of hiding and although there was initially a cub missing, all three were seen at the end of the month. The pride is in really good condition and the sub-adults look to be providing a great addition to the prides strength in hunting scenarios. There were reports of them killing a few buffalo to our north throughout the month.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 8

2 ADULT FEMALES	7 YEARS
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 11 MONTHS
2 SUB-ADULT MALES	2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	1 YEAR 10 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD
(10 sightings)

The Eyrefield Pride were seen ten times in June. It was good to see them spending more time on the eastern bank of the Sand River as is their norm in the dryer winter months. On the first of the month they were seen with a buffalo kill on northern side Ngoboswan. They slowly moved back west off the property until they returned on the 7th, being viewed at Pete's Bridge. One of the males was seen on his own on the Airstrip on the 12th and the next morning the entire pride was seen crossing the Sand River eastwards. They killed a young nyala bull on northern side Ngoboswan on the 14th. They were seen hunting buffalo around the Tamboti Thickets for the next couple days until they moved back west without a successful kill. On the 23rd we found the pride along with two Manyelethi Males and a large buffalo bull kill at the prominent pans on Jeremias Loop. They fed off the carcass for the following three days before heading to drink at Wildebeest Crossing on the 26th. They were seen once again in central Flockfield towards the end of the month. The pride is in good condition and we believe that the females will be ready to mate in the near future as the sub-adults near the 3 year old mark.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE	UNKNOWN AGE
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	4 YEARS

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

There were six sightings of the Fourways Pride in June. All six sightings were on consecutive days as we watched them feeding off an adult bull giraffe that they killed on the KNP break north of the Split Rock Donga on the 17th of the month. One of the males look to have sustained an injury from the hunt and was seen limping quite badly. Time will tell whether it's a fatal injury. There was also an encounter with three unknown lionesses one evening at the kill. We think that they might have been the lionesses from the Tjellahanga pride, no serious interaction was viewed and the lionesses moved off into the KNP.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES	11 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALES	3 YEARS 2 MONTHS
3 MALE CUBS	12 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	12 MONTHS

MARTHLY
(2 sightings)

There were two sightings of the Marthly Pride in June. They spent most of the month to the north and west of our borders where there is ample territory for them to occupy. The entire pride was seen twice early on in the month, around Jeremias Loop on the 4th and then at Manyelethi Crossing on the 12th. We haven't received any reports of the tailless lioness's apparent cubs as of yet and we await to see if she has given birth and whether the cubs are still alive.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE
2 SUB ADULT MALES
CHARLESTON
(6 sightings)

9 YEARS 5 MONTHS
3 YEARS 1 MONTH

There were six sightings of the Charleston Pride in June. They were seen as far north as the confluence of the Kapen and Sand Rivers. They were seen twice around Sibuye Drive and once in south-west Charleston. The young males are colossal for their age and seem to be always looking well fed. The lioness was reported to be mating last month and we wait to see if anything develops. They have an extensive territory and could be putting pressure on the Tjellahanga Pride to move further north.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4

± 9 YEARS 10 MONTHS

MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN
CHARLESTON
DOMINANT OVER THE EYREFIELD, MARTHLY AND BREAKAWAY
MARTHLY PRIDES
(6 sightings)

There were six sightings of the Manyelethi Males in June. All four of the Males were seen at Dudley Dam on the 7th. Three of the males caught a young buffalo at New Rocks on the 18th and then tracks indicated that two of the males moved north and one west the following day. The hip-scarred and 3-toothed Males were with the Eyrefield Pride on the 23rd where they fed off the adult bull buffalo kill for three days. Towards the end of the month the dark-maned and hip-scarred male were seen in northern Eyrefield. Reports indicated that they were roaring north of our boundary and chasing the Styx Pride. The Pride managed to elude the Males but interaction could be amplified in the future if the Males look to extend their already large territory. Little competition is present at the moment and these brothers are relishing their new success in the western sectors after they ousted the Selati Males last month.

TJELLAHANGA PRIDE = 9

2 ADULT FEMALES
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE
6 SUB-ADULT MALES

UNKNOWN AGES
+/- 2 ½ YEARS
+/- 2 ½ YEARS

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

There were two sightings of this newly-named pride during June. Both sightings were in eastern Flockfield towards the end of the month. We believe that they spend most of their time in the KNP and traverse a large lateral line in eastern Charleston, Flockfield and MalaMala. They must be experiencing territorial pressure from the Fourways pride as they wouldn't match up to the strength of their large males. The sub-adults are relatively average in size and the lionesses are also relatively small. We will see where they will look to establish themselves in the future.

Other lions encountered: (12 sightings)

- **Male lion from the Marthly Pride (0 sightings) 8 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

There were no sightings of this nomadic male during June. We believe that his days are numbered without the help of his companion, the Eyrefield Male, who was presumed dead a few months back.

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

There were no sightings of this pride during June. We believe that they are spending most of their time to our west and are receiving pressure from the Marthly and Eyrefield Prides. Reports indicate that the nine cubs are in great shape and that the Manyelethi Males have been spending a lot of time with them.

- **Selati Pride (0 sightings)**

There were no sightings of the Selati Pride in June. Reports tell us that some of the lionesses have been mating with a coalition of three males in the south and that the Kruger Male has not been seen with the pride for some time now.

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

There were no sightings of these males during June.

- **2 young male lions with Fourways Pride (6 sightings)**

These two young male lions were seen with the Fourways Pride all six occasions in June. One of the males looked to have sustained quite a bad injury in a giraffe hunt. We are unsure whether he will heal. Time will tell if he can get back to normal condition.

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

There were no sightings of these adult male lions in June.

- **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 June. He was seen mating with the Styx lionesses last year and we assume that the new Styx cubs have been sired by him

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JUNE	45
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LEOPARDS

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

12 YEARS 6 MONTHS

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

There were five confirmed sightings of the Bicycle Crossing Male in June. All of the sightings were in western Flockfield and we believe that he has more competition in winter now with more males eager to challenge for territory. He was seen around the confluence of the Kapen and the Sand Rivers on the 15th. He sat on the eastern bank looking over the river until a young male emerged at Charleston North on the western bank. He swiftly chased the young male across the river and back west. He is also bearing a new scratch-mark on his nose, most probably delt to him by the Treehouse Male, who has been seen more regularly in his territory. He has been looking to expand further north and was seen close to West Street during the month. He is still in great condition and we wait to see if how long his reign will last with all these new young males challenging him. The River Rocks Male was also seen in western Flockfield, but we are sure that the Bicycle Crossing Male will easily deal with this relatively small male.

AIRSTRIp MALE

8 YEARS

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLy
(12 sightings)

There were twelve confirmed sightings of the Airstrip Male in June. He was seen twice in Marthly in the beginning of the month and then around Campbell Koppies in the following days. On the 20th he was seen with the Tamboti Female and her cub on the western bank of the Sand River. It appears he chased the two females off a bushbuck kill around the old Wildebeest Crossing. On the 28th we found him with an impala kill close to Maurices Pan. He remained there for a couple days before heading back north into Marthly. His regular visits to the west was explained when we saw him and the Gowrie Male having a stand-off around small Paraffin Drift on the final day of the month. Eventually a pack of Cape Hunting Dogs run-in and chased the two male leopards away from each other. Little resistance was shown by the two leopards and we wait to see if this interaction increases in the future.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE

13 YEARS 6 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA
(11 sightings)

There were eleven confirmed sightings of the Princess Alice Pans Male during June. He is looking very well and continues to dominate the other leopards within his territory. All of his sightings were on the western bank. He was seen a few times around the area of the Tamboti Female and cub and is providing a very safe environment for the female to raise her cub as well as joining them at kill sites. He also killed an adult nyala bull around the Sand Pit on the 16th.

MARTHLy MALE

± 12 ½ YEARS

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLy
(1 sightings)

There was one sightings of the Marthly Male during June. He was seen on the southern bank of the Sand River around Bicycle Crossing where he walked in front of main camp. Tracks suggested that he moved back west past the booms the following day. We believe that he is spending most of his time to our north-west.

CHARLESTON MALE **8 YEARS**
EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(2 sightings)

There were two confirmed sightings of the Charleston Male during June. He was found with a waterbuck kill at Calabash Crossing on the 8th and was seen in Ingwe Donga on the 18th. He is very dominant in the south with little known threats in his immediate territory.

WEST STREET MALE **5 YEARS 1 MONTH**
MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the West Street Male during June. We are sure that he will eventually turn up somewhere along the Sand River in the near future. We are not too sure where he dwells at present. There have been male leopard tracks seen in eastern Flockfield and Charleston and he could be looking to establish territory in those areas.

NEWINGTON MALE **5 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
WESTERN MALAMALA
(5 sightings)

There were five confirmed sightings of the Newington Male during June. He was found on the Airstrip on the 8th in the morning and then when rangers returned that afternoon he was found with a fresh impala kill at the apron. He was seen on the eastern bank on one occasion and in the presence of the Princess Alice Pans Male towards the end of the month. The relationship between these two is strange as little animosity is shown and the older leopard seems to tolerate his son in his territory.

TREEHOUSE MALE **+/- 4 YEARS**
WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(5 sightings)

There were five confirmed sightings of the Treehouse Male in June. This large male seems to be earning himself a reputation. He was seen stealing a kill from the Tamboti Female close to Rattray's Camp on the 20th. We will also give him credit for the new scar on the Bicycle Crossing Male's nose as they were seen close together a couple times throughout the month.

RIVER ROCKS MALE **4 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON
(1 sightings)

There was one sighting of the River Rocks Male in June. He was seen at confluence crossing on the eastern bank at the end of the month. He must be getting pressure from other male leopards in the south causing him to push further north into the Bicycle Crossing Male's territory. We will see how long he lasts.

TLEBE ROCKS MALE **± 8 YEARS**
NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(0 sighting)

There were no sightings of the Tlebe Rocks Male in June. We believe that he is competing with the Airstrip Male and Gowrie Male for territory.

GOWRIE MALE **±7 YEARS**
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sightings)

There was one sighting of the Gowrie Male in June. He was seen growling and scent-marking at the Airstrip Male in northern Marthly on the final day of the month. A pack of Cape Hunting Dogs eventually ran in and broke up the fight. We believe that he must also be competing with the large Tlebe Rocks Male for territory.

KIKILEZI FEMALE **12 YEARS 9 MONTHS**
1 MALE CUB **7 MONTHS**
1 FEMALE CUB **7 MONTHS**
WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(2 sightings of female alone, 8 sighting of female and cubs, 5 sightings of cubs alone)

Another great month for the Kikilezi Female and her 2 cubs. They were seen throughout the month spending most of their time around the lower reaches of the Mlowathi River. The mother was seen in Marthly a few times. They were viewed with an impala kill around the short-cut between eastern and western side Mlowathi on the 10th and again with a duiker kill around lower Mlowathi crossing on the 16th. The Kikilezi Female is relishing the opportunity of raising her cubs in an area where little lion activity has been present this year. The cubs are maturing well with the male cub more relaxed around the vehicles than the female. We look forward to more incredible sightings of these three leopards.

TAMBOTI FEMALE **6 YEARS 9 MONTHS**
1 FEMALE CUB **1 YEAR 4 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA
(6 sightings of female alone, 3 sightings of female and cub, 4 sightings of cub alone)

More great viewing of the Tamboti Female and her delightful daughter throughout June. The cub is slowly becoming an independent leopard and we think that it wont be too long until she is fully independent. They were seen on the first day of the month at Flockfield Boma crossing with an impala kill in a sausage tree. The Princess Alice Pans Male was also present and was happy to feed in the presence of the two females. He joined them again on the 13th at the Sable Rotunda where the female had killed a young impala. The cub was very playful and pulled the carcass into the highest branches, showing off her strength. She was chased off two kills towards the end of the month, once by the Airstrip Male at Wildebeest crossing and then by the Treehouse Male at Flockfield Tower.

MLOWATHI FEMALE **7 YEARS 4 MONTHS**
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sighting)

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

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE

14 YEARS 7 MONTHS

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

There were no confirmed sighting of the Jakkalsdraai Female in June.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE

9 YEARS 7 MONTHS

EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Ostrich Koppies Female in June.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE

13 YEARS 9 MONTHS

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Matshapiri Female in June. We believe that she is competing against the Emsagweni Female for territory.

DUDLEY FEMALE

15 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(2 sightings)

There were two confirmed sightings of the Dudley Female in June. Both sightings were on consecutive days in the Sand River south of West Street bridge. She caught a monitor lizard on the eastern bank. She is facing strong competition from the Tamboti Female on the western bank and the Emsagweni Female on the eastern bank.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE

10 YEARS 2 MONTHS

CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

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

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE

4 YEARS 6 MONTHS

MALAMALA
(5 sightings)

There were five confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni Female in June. It looks as if she is in the process of establishing a secure territory along the Matshapiri River between Donalds Crossing and Emsagwen. She was seen scentmarking throughout the month. She was seen at buffalo pans and around West Street in the early parts of the month and was viewed hunting impala on white cloth road on the 17th. She should be looking to mate and will hopefully look to raise her first litter in the near future. Possible males for her to mate with are: the Treehouse Male, Bicycle Crossing Male, Newington Male and Airstrip Male.

CALABASH FEMALE ± 7 YEARS
1 CUB (Potentially more than 1 cub) **1 YEAR 4 MONTHS**
WESTERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings, 0 sightings of cub without female, 0 sightings of female with cub)

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

TOULON FEMALE
CHARLESTON, TOULON **3 YEARS 1 MONTH**
(2 sightings)

There were two confirmed sightings of the Toulon Female in June. She was seen around Flat Rocks in the middle of the month and on Sibuye Drive towards the end of the month. Time will tell whether she will set up territory on MalaMala.

DAUGHTER OF THE DUDLEY FEMALE **2 YEARS 3 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA
(0 sightings)

This recently independent female leopard was not seen at all throughout June. Her time spent in the Tamboti Female's territory last month has probably forced her to look elsewhere for a safe place to develop. We will see if she returns back to MalaMala in the future. She will be nomadic for the next year or two whilst she looks for land to occupy.

Other leopards encountered:

- **DAUGHTER OF THE MATSHAPIRI FEMALE** **2 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
(0 sightings)
There were no sightings of the Daughter of the Matshapiri Female in June. She hasn't been seen in a few months and could be exploring new area outside of MalaMala.
- **FEMALE IN FLOCKFIELD (3:3)**
(0 sightings)
There were no sightings of this female throughout the month. She may have just come onto our side to seek out a mate before returning back to her territory. She was viewed roaring and scentmarking last month and is sure to return in the future.
- **No ID females:**
(6 sightings in total)
There were six unidentified female leopard sightings in June. Most of the sightings didn't allow for a proper identification and were most probably dominant females in the area. There was a sighting of a female on the southern bank of the Sand River west of Flat Rocks that our southern neighbours call the 'Rollercoaster' female. She had a kill stashed away in the reeds.
- **No ID males:**
(6 sightings).
There were six unidentified male leopard sightings in June. There has been a young male that we have been seeing around the Matshapiri river of late. He has beautiful blue eyes and a 2:1 spot pattern. He is also relatively relaxed around the vehicles, especially at night. He was seen at

TwoToes Open Area and around Buffalo Bush Dam. There was another unidentified male seen in Charleston being chased by the Bicycle Crossing male. All the other sightings were most probably dominant males in the area.

- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed):** (0 sightings)
- **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

JUNE	22
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CHEETAH(2 sightings)

There were four cheetah sightings in June. Two sightings was of a male around Clarendon dam (8th and 17th). We assume that this male spends most of his time to our North and East and only visits Clarendon dam to drink. Although on both sightings he made use of either termite mounds or the Clarendon dam wall to survey his surroundings, he didn't seem to be hunting as he was well fed on both occasions. The other sightings were of a young female. She was seen around West street bridge on the 3rd of the month and again on Newington rd on the 12th. On the 12th she made a feeble attempt at hunting waterbuck, running in on the antelope in thick vegetation. We believe this female is one of two survivors of an initial litter of four. She was raised on both our Western bank and the Sparta property.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

June	2
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS(2sightings)

There were two Cape Hunting Dog sightings in June. The first being in the far South of the property around Charleston rock. This sighting was of three cape hunting dogs on the 19th. They form part of the pack currently denning on Toulon.

The other sighting was on the 30th, this sighting was of 11 dogs on track past Stwise close to the junction with track around Stwise. This is the pack which has its den on Gowrie just North of our boundary. This sighting was very exciting with the dogs treeing two of the dominant male leopards-the Airstrip male and the Gowrie male- while the leopards were having a stand-off. Moments later the pack of 11 killed a common duiker.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

June	14
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

Elephant viewing was exceptional during June. At least one herd was seen on everyday of the month. On the 22nd six different herds were seen. Even though most of the inland water sources have dried up, the herds were seen all over the property, although most were seen within a kilometre of the Sand river. Lone bulls were seen on 15 days of the month.

Buffalo were seen on all but one day during June. Buffalo herds were recorded on 20 out of the 30 days.

As there are still a large number of inland water sources, the buffalo herds were much smaller than expected for this time of the year. The herds ranged between a 100 and 250 buffalo. As expected buffalo bull sightings were less frequent than they were in the summer months as a number of the bulls tend to join up with the herds during the drier period.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

Two sable bulls were seen throughout the month. Both sightings were in north-eastern Eyrefield. Two honey badgers were seen on Tlebe Rocks Road on the 18th.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR JUNE 2014

Lion: 35
Leopard: 88
Elephant: 95
Buffalo: 57
Cheetah: 4
Cape Hunting Dogs: 2

