

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – MARCH 2014

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

WEATHER SUMMARY – MARCH 2014

Maximum temperature (°C)	31
Minimum temperature (°C)	22
Mean maximum (°C)	36
Mean minimum (°C)	19
Rainfall (mm)	295
Days of rain	10

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF MARCH 2014

CAMP CLOSED 6TH – 11TH; 14TH; 15TH

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 9

1 ADULT FEMALE	11 YEARS 2 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	3 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	3 YEARS 2 MONTHS
3 CUBS	+/- 4 MONTHS
MORE POSSIBLE CUBS	
MALAMALA, EYREFIELD	
(0 sightings)	

There were no sightings of the Styx Pride during March. The pride spend the month north of our borders in Gowrie and only once were tracks found on the Gowrie Boundary by the Mlowathi River, but no lions were located. The reason behind there infrequent visits must be due to their new litters, and lionesses must feel safer in an area where there is little threat for their offspring. We believe that all three of the oldest lioness's cubs are alive and that there could be more possible cubs birthed by the younger lioness. The late summer rain could also mean that they can afford to roam as the animals are more sparsley polpulated about the area.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 8

2 ADULT FEMALES	6 YEARS 9 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 8 MONTHS
2 SUB-ADULT MALES	2 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	1 YEAR 10 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	1 YEAR 7 MONTHS
MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD	
(2 sightings)	

There were just two sightings of the Eyrefield Pride in March. It is typical for them to spend more time west of our boundaries during the wetter winter months. The Marthly and Marthly-Breakaway Prides seems to have shifted more north-west opening up territory for the Eyrefield Pride to occupy. They were with three Manyeleti Males on the Airstrip at the beginning of the month. They were then seen a couple days later on Campbell Rd.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE	UNKNOWN AGE
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 9 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 9 MONTHS

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

There were two sightings of the Fourways Pride in March. Both sightings were with the two unrelated males. We found a weak buffalo close to Ostrich Koppies and a day later the Fourways Pride were found feeding on the animal. They were seemingly chased off by the Marthly Male lion the next day although they would have got a good meal. The young males are progressing well and could be a powerful force in the following years. They have been offered little threat from the Manyeleti Males and currently face little opposition from neighbouring coalitions that might be looking to mate with the females in the pride.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES	11 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALES	2 YEARS 11 MONTHS
4 CUBS	±9 MONTHS
MORE POSSIBLE CUBS	
MARTHLY	
(0 sightings)	

There were no sightings of the Marthly Pride in March. We received information that the tailless lioness had given birth to cubs in the early parts of the month. They were heard roaring a few times from Main Camp and could be looking to make sure that the Marthly-Breakaway pride keeps there distance as they attempt to rear their new litter. All time was spent west of our boundary.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE	9 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT MALES	2 YEARS 10 MONTHS
CHARLESTON	
(5 sightings)	

There were five sightings of the Charleston Pride in March. They were seen in the early parts of the month in the vicinity of the Marthly Male lion around the Windmill. There was no witnessed interaction between the Pride and the Male although they were aware of each others presence. They were seen a couple times around Sibuye Drive and at New Rocks. At the end of the month they were found with a male buffalo kill in the Sand River north of Charleston North crossing. They could be facing a threat by a

new pride of nine lions that we viewed this month in Flockfield and Charleston. All three lions are in typically pristine condition.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4 **± 9 YEARS 7 MONTHS**
MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN
CHARLESTON
DOMINANT OVER THE EYREFIELD, MARTHLY AND BREAKAWAY
MARTHLY PRIDES
(3 sightings)

There were three sightings of the Manyelethi Males in March. Three of the males were with the Eyrefield Pride on the Airstrip at the beginning of the month. Rangers then followed up on audio towards the end of the month and found the Hip-scarred Male at Picadilly Triangle. Two more males (Scar-nosed Male and 3-toothed Male) were found on the western bank. The hip-scarred Male crossed the Sand River towards his brothers. Once on the western Bank all three crossed towards the dark-maned male we could here roaring on the eastern bank. Two of the males made it to the western bank to meet up with their final brother while the hip-scarred Male remained on the western bank. We have heard reports of another run-in with a Selati Male to our west. Apparently the four brothers dominated the lone Male before letting him go, he was in a mildly critical condition. The scar-nosed Manyelethi Male also was slightly wounded after the brawl. They are looking to stamp authority on the neighbouring coalition to the west to ensure a safe breeding ground for the particular prides, or they may also be looking to expand their territory.

Other lions encountered: (12 sightings)

- **Male lion from the Marthly Pride** (5 sightings) **8 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

There were five confirmed sightings of this nomadic male in March. It seems that he has lost his companion (the Eyrefield Male) and is left to fend on his own. He was seen in the company of the Charleston and Fourways Prides. On the second occasion he was feeding off a buffalo carcass near the Pride. He is in weak condition and we doubt that he will last much longer without the help of the Eyrefield Male. Reports indicate that he also had a run-in with the lionesses from the Marthly-Breakaway Pride late in the month.

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

There were no sightings of this pride during March. 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 March. We have heard from our neighbours to the south of a lionesses giving birth to new cubs at the beginning of the year. Their movements are fairly erratic and the pride has apparently split with six lionesses moving very far south-east from the rest of the pride. The single Kruger Male lion still seems to have dominance over a portion of 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 March.

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

These two young male lions were seen with the Fourways Pride on both occasions in March. 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. They red off a buffalo carcass close to Ostrich Koppies midway through the month.

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

There were no sightings of these adult male lions in March. 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 March. 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 9 lions seen in Flockfield during winter 2013.** (5 sighting)

This pride was seen five times in March. We believe them to be a pride our southern neighbours call the Eastern Bank Pride. The pride consists of 2 lionesses with one sub-adult female and 6 sub-adult males that seem to be around 2-2 ½ years old. They were found initially in Charleston and then were seen as far north as Donalds crossing. Towards the end of the month we found them hunting buffalo around the Tamboti Thickets. There has been little lion action in the central parts of the property and it seems that this pride is exploiting the uninhabited area. The lionesses are relatively small and the young males have very little manes for their size.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

MARCH	30
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LEOPARDS

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

12 YEARS 2 MONTHS

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

There were six confirmed sightings of the Bicycle Crossing Male in March. All of the sightings of this male were in western Flockfield and MalaMala. 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 with an unidentified female as well as the Treehouse Male at Dudley Crossing on the 19th. There was no physical interaction witnesses between the two males although there was a lot of growling and snarling. The Bicycle Crossing Male was seen mating with the unidentified young female later on that day and again the next day.

AIRSTRIp MALE

7 YEARS 9 MONTHS

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(15 sightings)

There were fifteen confirmed sightings of the Airstrip Male in March. We are unsure that his left eye will eventually heal but 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 mating with the Ostrich Koppies Female around Picadilly Triangle on the 7th. Towards the end of the month we found him in a Jackalberry with an impala kill at Freds Tree. A day later the Kikilezi Female showed up with her two cubs and the Male let the cubs feed off the kill while the female chased a couple hyenas away. We are not 100% certain that he is the father although he definitely thinks so.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE

13 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA
(4 sightings)

There were four confirmed sightings of the Princess Alice Pans Male during March. He is looking very well and continues to dominate the other leopards within his territory. Most of his sightings were around the Old Airstrip and Princess Alice Pans. He is tolerant of the submissive Newington Male for the time being although the younger male is tending to cross east through the Sand River more regularly now.

MARTHLY MALE

± 12 ½ YEARS

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of the Marthly Male during March. We believe that he is spending most of his time to our north-west.

CHARLESTON MALE**7 YEARS 9 MONTHS**

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON

(1 sighting)

Another sighting of the Charleston Male in March. He was seen mating with an unidentified female on Charleston Drive. He is looking well and continues to dominate his large territory that expands east into the KNP. We don't believe that he has too much competition besides the Bicycle Crossing Male and the River Rocks Male who spend most of their time to his north and west.

WEST STREET MALE**4 YEARS 10 MONTHS**

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the West Street Male during March. He is still a young leopard and could be spending time exploring new areas looking to set up a territory. We still believe that he will return closer to the Sand River and West Street bridge as the summer rains begin to die down. There was a male leopard seen around the Mahlabathini Donga but rangers couldn't get a proper ID. Tracks around Paddy's Pools suggest that he is spending most of his time around that area. We are sure it won't be too long before we get another look at this impressive male.

NEWINGTON MALE**5 YEARS 5 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA

(7 sightings)

There were seven confirmed sightings of the Newington Male during March. He was seen on five occasions on the eastern bank of the Sand River. This could have pushed the West Street Male further east from the river. He is a big male like his father and should be able to establish a legacy on MalaMala in the future. He remains fairly submissive towards his father, the Princess Alice Pans Male, and could be looking to take over from his father once his time passes or the opportunity presents itself. He was seen as far south at Kapen Rocks and reports from our neighbours to the west suggest that his movements are erratic as he explores new territory. We also heard word of him killing a new born buffalo calf to our west.

TREEHOUSE MALE**+/- 4 YEARS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(3 sightings)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Treehouse Male in March. He was seen in the presence of the Bicycle Crossing Male again and as well as another female. The young female was eager to mate with the Treehouse Male although every time he attempted to copulate the Bicycle Crossing Male would chase the female off and growl at the male. There was little physical interaction seen and we think that the Bicycle Crossing Male may be reluctant to fight with the young male as long as he remains submissive and doesn't challenge him for mating rights over his females.

RIVER ROCKS MALE

4 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON
(3 sightings)

The River Rocks Male was seen on three occasions in March. He was seen mating with the Jakkalsdraai Female on Sibuye Drive early on in the month. He is spending most of his time in western Charleston as the Bicycle Crossing Male looks to be spending most of his time in FlockField. He could be looking to establish himself in this area in the future. He is looking well and bears a striking resemblance to that of his older brother; the Airstrip Male.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE

± 8 YEARS

NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting)

Another sighting of the Tslebe Rocks Male in March. He was seen patrolling in northern Eyrefield. He is dominant to our north and we believe these to be visits to the extremities of his territory. He could also pose a threat to the new Styx cubs and Airstrip Male as they share territory.

GOWRIE MALE

± 6/7 YEARS

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of the Gowrie Male in March.

KIKILEZI FEMALE

12 YEARS 6 MONTHS

1 MALE CUB

+/- 4 MONTHS

1 FEMALE CUB

+/- 4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLIY

(2 sightings of female alone, 5 sighting of female and cubs, 4 sightings of cubs alone)

Another great month for the Kikilezi Female and her 2 cubs. She was seen five times with her cubs and her cubs were seen on there own on four ocassions. The little cubs are growning steadily and slowly becoming more accustomed to the vehicles. The female cub is far more relaxed with the Land Rovers with the male a little more skittish. At the beginning of the month rangers watched as she acrobatically took a large impala ram down at Picadilly Triangle at night in the rain. She stashed the kill away in a spikethorn thicket. She is keeping the cubs in various den sites around Lower Mlowathi crossing and at Mlowathi Koppies and occassionaly taking them out of the den with her to bring them to various kills. We had an extraordinary sighting at the end of the month. We found the Airstrip Male with an impala kill in a Jackalberry at Freds Tree. Later on that day the Kikilezi Female showed up with her two cubs around the kill. One of the cubs climbed the tree and fed off the carcass with the Airstrip Male present. The female bravely chased two hyenas away from her cubs, injuring one quiet badly. It is a good sign that the Airstrip Male is protecting these young cubs and hopefully they will thrive under the protection of their parents, although we are not 100% certain that the Airstrip Male is the father, as she was seen in the presense of the Marthly Male at the time that the cubs would have been conceived.

**TAMBOTI FEMALE
1 FEMALE CUB**

**6 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 YEAR 1 MONTH**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(2 sightings of female alone, 3 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub alone)

These two leopards were seen a total of five times throughout March. The female cub is quickly growing in confidence and now completely habituated. Her curiosity is evident and she often comes right up to the vehicles to suss us out. We found the two leopards with a young waterbuck kill at Flockfield Tower on the 19th. The two fed off the carcass for two days before heading back west. Both leopards are in excellent condition and the Tamboti Female continues to impress us at her first attempt at motherhood.

MLOWATHI FEMALE

7 YEARS 1 MONTH

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sighting)

There were no confirmed sighting of the Mlowathi Female during March. An unidentified female was seen on Maphonyoleni Drive that could have been her. We assume that she is spending most of her time to our north and west and is competing with the Kikilezi and Ostrich Koppies Females for territory.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE

14 YEARS 4 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER

(1 sightings)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Jakkalsdraai Female in March. She was seen mating with the River Rocks Male on Sibuye Drive. It is obvious then that her previous courtship with this much younger male was unsuccessful and she is hoping that this time she will conceive.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE

9 YEARS 5 MONTHS

EYREFIELD

(1 sighting)

There was one confirmed sightings of the Ostrich Koppies Female in March. As with last months sightings she was seen mating with the Airstrip Male at Picadilly Triangle. She has come quiet far out of her normal territory in northern Eyrefield to seek out this male to mate with and she must be careful about running in to the Kikilezi Female and her cubs.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE

13 YEARS 6 MONTHS

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sighting of the Matshapiri Female in March.

**DUDLEY FEMALE
1 FEMALE CUB**

**15 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 YEARS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(2 sightings of female, 0 sighting of female and cub, 3 sighting of cub without female)

An exciting month for the Dudley Female and her cub. Recently we haven't seen much of these two leopards but during March we were happy to see more of them. The young female was seen three times on her own and looks as if she has finally left the comforts of her mother to become an independent leopard. She is spending most of her time around the lower reaches of the Kapen River, an area where we haven't seen a dominant female in a while. Next month she will have her own column if we continue to see her on her own. The Dudley Female was found south of Rattrays Camp with an impala kill on the 17th and was then seen again around the Tamboti Thickets on the eastern bank.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE

9 YEARS 11 MONTHS

CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

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

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE

4 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

(3 sightings)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni Female in March. She is spending more time now along the lower reaches of the Matshapiri and could be looking to stamp her mark on that particular area in the future. There is little competition for her there and could be ideal for her to have as a territory. She is looking well and should be seeking out males to mate with in the near future.

CALABASH FEMALE

± 6.5 YEARS

1 CUB (Potentially more than 1 cub)

1 YEAR 1 MONTH

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 March.

TOULON FEMALE

CHARLESTON, TOULON

2 YEARS 10 MONTHS

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Toulon Female in March.

Other leopards encountered:

- **SHAWS FEMALE**
(0 sightings)

+/- 18 YEARS

There were no sightings of this old female in March. We believe that this old female must have died during the past couple months as there have been no recordings of her throughout the region in the last few months. She was last seen in December trying to steal a kill from the Princess Alice Pans Male. Long live the old lady!

- **DAUGHTER OF THE MATSHAPIRI FEMALE** **2 YEARS 5 MONTHS**
(0 sightings)

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

- **YOUNG FEMALE IN FLOCKFIELD (3:3)**
(5 sightings)

There were five sightings of this young female in March. We think that it is the same leopard that we saw last year in winter mating with the West Street Male around the Matshapiri. She was seen this month with an impala kill around Mamba Waterhole on the 12th and then a week later she was seen in the presense of the Treehouse Male and Bicycle Crossing Male. She was keen to mate with the Treehouse Male but was stopped by the Bicycle Crossing Male who she then mated with throughout the next two days. There hasn't been a dominant female seen in Flockfield in a while and she could be looking to establish her territory there. She looks to be around 4 years old.

- **No ID females:**
(2 sightings in total)

There were two No ID female leopard sightings during March. One sighting was in western Eyrefield and possibly the Mlowathi Female. The other sighting was a female that was mating with the Charleston Male on Charleston Drive.

- **No ID males:**
(3 sightings).

There were three unidentified male leopards seen in March. Two of the sightings were 'flash' sightings and were probably dominant males in the area. There was male seen with an impala kill on Lion Rocks West that we could not identify.

- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed):** (1 sighting)
- **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

MARCH	24
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CHEETAH (0 sightings)

There were no cheetah sightings in March.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

MARCH	0
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS (5 sightings)

There were four Cape Hunting Dog sightings in March. We were very happy to see these animals again as they were not seen at all last month.

On the first of the month we saw a pack of 6, most probably the original pack of eight that must have lost 2 members. They were seen on Campbell Road.

Twelve Cape Hunting Dogs were then seen in Marthly on the 20th. This is the pack that denned in the western Sabi Sands and originally consisted of 14 members that we saw in January.

Towards the end of the month a pack of fifteen was seen in Charleston. We don't believe that we have seen these dogs before and they might have come in from the KNP. They stayed for three days as they traversed our property northwards. They killed an antelope at Drum crossing and were then seen with an impala kill at Tsebe Rocks the next day.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

MARCH	33
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

March brought huge rain in the beginning of the month. Almost a third of our annual rainfall fell in three days at the beginning of the month. There was a lot of water around and little to no elephant were seen within the first week of the month as they avoided the slippery ground. It wasn't long before the sun came out and slowly began to dry up the land, bringing the herds of elephant with them. The elephant population grew dramatically and at the end of the month we were seeing many elephant all scattered around the property at regular intervals. The herds still numbering an average of around 10 individuals with the occasional larger herds being seen drinking from the Sand River.

The buffalo herds were plentiful this month and two herds were seen daily on a regular occurrence. The herds were generally fairly small and mostly were seen around the Sand River. There was little lion action around and the buffalo herds were relishing the opportunity to drink and move freely.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

A serval was seen at Piccadilly Triangle in the 2nd and on eastern side Mlowathi on the 30th.

Two porcupines were seen throughout the month.

A pangolin was seen on northern side Campbell Koppies!

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR MARCH 2014

Lion: 19

Leopard: 67

Elephant: 98

Buffalo: 62

Cheetah: 0

Cape Hunting Dogs: 5

