

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – MAY 2012

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

WEATHER SUMMARY

Maximum temperature (°C)	34°C
Minimum temperature (°C)	9°C
Mean maximum (°C)	28°C
Mean minimum (°C)	12°C
Rainfall (mm)	0 mm
Days of rain	0 Days

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF MAY 2012

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 9

1 ADULT FEMALE	16 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	9 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 FEMALE CUBS	1 YEAR 4 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 4 MONTHS
1 CUB	10 MONTHS

MARTHLY, MALA MALA, EYREFIELD
(15 sightings)

Down by 3 sightings from last months 18, the Styx pride spent most of their month to the north of our boundary. The sightings we did have of them were great ones at that! At the beginning of the month after the Styx pride were absent of a few days, rangers were about to call it a night when the audio of fighting lions around the far north western corner broke the silence of a lowveld evening. The Styx pride had come back and taken one of their favoured food groups for dinner, an adult male impala. They faught ferociously as 9 lions would over such a small meal and gave great viewing for all at the sighting, beating each other around with feline acrobatics. They vanished again and were only seen twice in the follwing two weeks but both times very briefly around the Mlowathi river system. On about the 20th of the month as if by some freak of nature they knew that almost 8 kilometers south of Mlowathi dam, where they were last seen, a hippo had been found dead in the Sand River. The very next day they were opposite Main Camp and heading southwards to find themselves at the carcass on the 22nd. The scene was something unheard of as it was not only the Styx pride that was there but a single lioness from the Eyrefield pride, her 3 young cubs and the 2 older, adopted, Eyrefield cubs. For a week these two prides put their territorial hatred aside and fed upon the hippo carcass. Cubs from both pride feeding cheek to cheek and playing with each other and the lionesses. 3 of the 4 Manyelethi males were there for a day and even then they didn't need to discipline any of the lions for fighting amongst themselves. This behaviour is very uncommon and to see two rival prides, who have been fighting for territory for more than 20 years, set aside their differences for one common goal, survival, is something to witness. The entire Styx pride were not present the whole time, the bulk of the pride made their way northwards after 5 days and left the oldest lioness, now almost 17 years old, with the single Eyrefield lioness to continue feeding. The rest of the pride, 3 lionesses, 4 sub adults and 1 cub remained around the Picadilly area for a day or two and then continued northwards. All the lionesses are looking in good shape and the lioness who has been limping the last half year has almost made a full recovery and remains with the pride without falling behind as before. The youngest lioness, at about 4 and a half years is looking slightly rounder than usual and we think she might be pregnant. If this is the case it will be a tough litter for her to raise as the size of the pride has increased with the 4 sub-adults and the 1 cub growing by the day and eating everything they can.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 10

1 ADULT FEMALE
2 ADULT FEMALES
1 ADULT FEMALE
2 CUBS
3 CUBS
MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD
(31 sightings)

13 YEARS 7 MONTHS
4 YEARS 11 MONTHS
4 YEARS 10 MONTHS
8 MONTHS
3 MONTHS

A record breaking number of sightings at 31 this month for these girls of MalaMala, being seen at the extremities of their territory, around Charleston North all the way to the lower reaches of the Manyelethi River. Many of the sightings were not of the entire pride but of 3 different groups that have formed over the last few weeks due to a few dramatic turns. At the beginning of the month the 10 and a half year old lioness who had the two 8 month old cubs was reported to have died just to the west of our boundary. She will no longer appear in our monthly game report. In pursuit of a female leopard, she was climbing a tree when she lost her footing and plummeted to the ground, impaling herself on an exposed tree stump. Injuries sustained from this fall were her cause of death some days later. After wandering around without their mother for almost 2 weeks the two 8 month old cubs found their way to the youngest of the 4 remaining Eyrefield lionesses. This young lioness, with her three 3 month old cubs seems to have 'adopted' the two orphaned 8 month old cubs and they are all looking in good shape. One of the main reasons why lionesses try and synchronize their litters is in cases such as this, when a lioness who has cubs dies, her cubs can then be taken over and looked after by another lioness who is lactating. In this case, the mother of the two older cubs died just before they were due to be weaned off of milk and so the transition for the lioness will be easier as they will not have suckle milk for much longer. The oldest lioness spent some time at the beginning of the month in the company of the Manyelethi males and only really joined up with them again at the end of the month. She is in great condition at now almost 14 years old with her daughter, one of the 4 year olds, looking like she is taking over as the lead in this pride of 4 lionesses. The big story for this pride in the month of May was when the youngest lioness, her 3 cubs and 2 adopted cubs, were seen feeding on the same hippo carcass as the Styx pride. The young cubs were crawling over the members of the Styx pride like they were related and there was very little aggression and much understanding from all the lions towards each other. This lioness stayed with the 5 cubs until the very end, when they had eaten everything they possibly could from the rapidly rotting carcass. She abandoned the carcass to the old Styx lioness and spent the day with the cubs in the company of one of the Manyelethi males near West Street. The very next day, she was back with all 5 cubs at the hippo carcass feeding again. Obviously a free meal is worth it no matter how rotten it is, but after just a few hours there was no meat that was accessible to the cubs and she left it for the vultures. Of the other three lionesses there is still no sign of pregnancy yet but with them having mated in the last two months we might see some further additions to this pride in the near future. At the end of the month all four lionesses killed an adult male Nyala in the southern reaches of the Kapen river after chasing a herd of buffalo around Dudley crossing for two days. The sweet taste of success was short lived as the dark maned Manyelethi male promptly chased them off the kill to keep the lions share to himself. With winter progressing and the buffalo herds spending more and more time around the river, these lionesses will hopefully be giving their cubs bovine meat for the next few months.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 5

2 ADULT FEMALES
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES
1 SUB ADULT MALE
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(3 sightings)

UNKNOWN AGES
1 YEAR 11 MONTHS
1 YEAR 11 MONTHS

Up by three sightings from last months zero it was a better month for this forever in turmoil pride. The two adult females have kept their 3 youngsters going against all odds. At one point a few months ago the sub adults didn't look like they were going to last the month but they have managed to pull through. All sightings of these lions were up in the north eastern parts of the property where they originally came into the property almost two years ago. At one of the sightings they were seen to be following a herd of buffalo that was mobile eastwards towards the Kruger National Park and so couldn't be followed further. Having lost most of their attachment with the Manyelethi males, who are spending more time with the stronger and better positioned Styx and Eyrefield prides which will make the next few years tough for this pride of 5 lions.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 12

3 ADULT FEMALES
4 SUB ADULT FEMALES
4 CUBS
1 CUB
MARHTLY
(0 sightings)

UNKNOWN AGES
3 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 YEAR 3 MONTHS
11 MONTHS

There were no sightings during the report period.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4

+/- 7 YEARS 6 MONTHS

MATRHLY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD
DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, FOURWAYS AND MARTHLI PRIDES
(17 sightings)

The boys of MalaMala have had 5 less sightings than last month but have spread themselves well over their territory with 2 of the males being seen around Rock Drift Road on the 17th May. Spending almost equal amounts of time with both the Styx and Eyrefield prides in their territories and having some great interactions with both. Stealing kills from prides over which they hold dominance is the name of the game for male lions and this coalition of four are no different. On two occasions, the 6th and 31st May, where smaller kills were made, an impala and nyala, the dark maned male dominated all and stole both kills. Now an nyala isn't a small antelope but it hardly touches sides when shared by 5 or more lions so the male once again used his size and rank to get the most of it. When they were with the Eyrefield pride around the Manyelethi River on the 12th of the month, the male kudu carcass proved to satisfy them and they allowed the lionesses and cubs to feed at will. Of the four brothers the dark maned male seems to still be the most dominant and is viewed regularly with the cubs of both prides. The big surprise of the month however came with the hippo carcass around the Giraffe bones between the 20th and the 29th of May. This is usually the ultimate prize for a group of male lions to find as they are typically the only ones strong enough to break through the skin and it's more than enough meat to go around between them without them having to fight for it. Collectively they spent less than 24 hours of 9 days with the carcass and only three of them were present for which there is no confirmed explanation. We can only wonder if the fact that two of the prides which they hold dominance over were both at the dead hippo and they didn't feel like getting involved in a possible feud between them if one were to erupt. Only the lions will ever know if a free meal is worth the risk of being caught between two wives. With both of their dominant prides having 5 cubs each and other lionesses within those prides possibly being pregnant we can only hope that they can hold off on the ever strengthening coalition of the 4 males from the Selati pride who are dominating in the west.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 7

1 ADULT FEMALE

7 YEARS 4 MONTHS

3 CUBS

1 YEAR 1 MONTH

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

(1 sighting)

With only being seen once in the report period it is difficult to say how this pride is doing. The single lioness is doing an incredible job of keeping these three adopted cubs of hers going in this very difficult time of their development. They are in constant need of food as they are ever growing at just over a year old but are not yet able to participate in hunts. We will hopefully be able to keep a closer eye on these lions in the upcoming months as the river waters retreat the their prey lose condition.

SELATI PRIDE = 13

1 ADULT FEMALE	13 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	9 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	9 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULTS	4 YEARS 3 MONTHS
4 SUB ADULTS	4 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULTS	3 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings during the report period.

TOULON MALES = 3

+/- 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

NOMADIC

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings during the report period.

SUB ADULT MALES FROM THE EYREFIELD PRIDE = 3

1 MALE 4 YEARS 10 MONTHS

1 MALE 4 YEARS 9 MONTHS

MARTHLY MALE 6 YEARS 10 MONTHS

NOMADIC

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings during the report period but reports of the male with half a tail suggest that he has died. We will elaborate once we have confirmation of this.

Other lions encountered

- **Young Styx Male** (0 sightings):
- **Kruger males** (0 sightings)

ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

May	3
	1

LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

10 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON

(7 sightings)

The once King of MalaMala made a great comeback this month and was viewed 6 more times than last month with 7 sightings. He was seen for 4 days at the beginning of the month when he had a kill in the very northern parts of his territory near Flockfield Boma crossing just north of Rattrays Camp. This was once the core of his territory but he has aged and now at almost 10 and half years old he has lost some of his once extensive range. This is due to the presence of his younger son, the Airstrip male, who has forced him to move his territory more southwards and he now spends the majority of his time south of Rattrays Camp. As always he provided great viewing by taking his kill up and down trees and just being the good old photogenic Bicycle Crossing male that we know him to be. The next two occasions he was seen, on the 13th and 20th, was in the Tamboti thicket area and was on the scent trail of another leopard. It is very easy to see when this is the case as the leopard being observed seems to have no set path and they just run about furiously scent marking and roaring. With saliva flowing from their mouth and nostrils due to an over worked olfactory system they run from bush to bush urinating everywhere and looking for the intruder, sometimes male and sometimes female. Both the times the Bicycle Crossing male found no culprits and he was left sleeping under a tree recovering from his morning run. The future for this large male is still looking good as he continues to dominate the area in which he resides and it looks like he is still fathering cubs with reports of the Dudley female having given birth in the last few months.

AIRSTRIP MALE**5 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALA MALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(17 sightings)

The current King of MalaMala was up by 5 sightings this month at 17 times viewed on MalaMala. Still the most viewed leopard on MalaMala and undeniably the largest territory holder, he has some new competition with a few males coming in on all sides of his territory. The Tsebe rocks and Gowrie males to his north, the Hogvaal male to his east, the West Street male to his south and the Newington male to his west will prove a tough winter for this war torn and battled hardened fighter. Not the biggest male leopard in size but definitely the biggest in heart and tenacity he will have a lot on his plate in the next year or so. These new males are all large, up and coming leopards with a few of them being younger than him, the Gowrie, West Street and Newington males and two older older, the Hogvaal and Tsebe rocks male. His brother, the Charleston male, has set up territory far to his south in Charleston and will probably not compete with him at all. He had an altercation the West Street male on the 31st that led to him chasing the younger less experienced male away and claiming West Street for the night. Also seen to have a fight with the Daughter of the Kikilezi female, who is only just over two years old. In cases such as this, the male is usually only aggressive to the curious female because she has been following him for a day or two to satisfy her inquisitiveness and he wants a bit of peace. He is still the dominant male in northern MalaMala, he was mating with the Mlowathi female for 4 days from the 13th to the 17th of the month and might have sired his first offspring with the Kikilezi female having shown us her new cubs on the 17th. This is the true indication of when a male leopard has established his territory and is when he has become a resident male, when he mates and produces offspring. All these new young males will be scent marking and roaring but the true test is when a female leopard seeks him out to reproduce. She will only do so when she believes that he will be able to defend his territory against others males thus securing the survival of her cubs. In saying this we welcome the Airstrip male into true adulthood and dominance.

CHARLESTON MALE**5 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON

(2 sightings)

The other 2006 offspring of the Dudley female, the newly named Charleston male was viewed twice this last month, one of which he was seen to be mating with an unidentified female leopard around Charleston koppies. As mentioned before, with the Airstrip male, this is the true sign of the coming of age of a male leopard into his prime. Not as relaxed as his northern brother, the Charleston male is territorial in a part of the reserve that is not driven as much as around the airstrip and so is not as used to the likes of Land Rovers wanting to watch him. He was viewed extensively as a cub but his time down south has caused him to become more secretive and wary of vehicles. Since the first time we saw him again after a few years he has relaxed considerable and with time will do so further until he is one day as unbothered with our presence as his brother is.

WEST STREET MALE**+ - 3 YEARS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(10 sightings)

This young male leopard, now know as the West Street male, is fast becoming a favorite amongst rangers and guests alike. He first appeared last winter and entertained us with his antics around the Causeway chasing monitor lizards and going for a swim to being seen at West Street bridge an entire week in a row. Unsure of his lineage we are constantly trying to find out who has sired such a magnificent creature who is so relaxed with vehicles. We have aged him at about 3 years old based purely on his size and lack of scaring caused by fighting with other males. Seen frequently around the West Street area but as far north as Emsagwen and as far south as Rattrays camp. On the 27th of the month he had an interaction of a violent kind with another two leopard, the Newington male and Tamboti female. Both of these young males are in the process of establishing themselves and are of similar age. The West Street male being the taller of the two with the Newington male making up for lack of height in weight. The two had a duel with the Tamboti female being witness as they ran shoulder to shoulder in a cacophony of growls trying to make themselves bigger than each other. These fights don't often result in actual contact and if it does occur it is very brief. The reason for this being that whilst attached to each other and trying to inflict as much damage as possible, damage is being inflicted on themselves which is not

the desired outcome. An injured leopard is a vulnerable one. So after only one or two physical contests they both went their separate ways, the Newington male westwards with the Tamboti female and the West Street male eastwards, to West Street. Then not even 4 days later on the 31st May he had an altercation with the Airstrip male near West Street. This however didn't end the same way his prior fight did, it wasn't even really much of a fight but more so the Airstrip male chasing him southwards. The West Street male zigged and the Airstrip male zagged and the two went their separate ways, the former being the victor of the day. This encounter with the more experienced Airstrip male is a good learning experience for the younger West Street male. Without as much experience under his belt as the Airstrip male at this stage he will prove to be a good competitor as he gets older and will probably be larger. He is a beautiful male who has the potential to grow into a huge leopard and we can only hope fate smiles upon him and he sets up territory on MalaMala.

NEWINGTON MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(4 sightings)

3 YEARS 7 MONTHS

Son of the Western male and fathered by the Princess Alice Pans male, the Newington male is yet another addition to our list of new young male leopard who are looking at setting up a territory in the ideal leopard habitat that are the banks of the Sand River at MalaMala. This male has a brother who is much farther to our west and we do not view. He has found his way into a territorial gap created by the Airstrip male that sits between the Princess Alice Pans and Bicycle Crossing male leopards. Larger by weight than is competitor, the West Street male, he still has a tough time with his father to his north who is a veteran brawler and who still, at almost 12 years old holds a large territory. After having a fight with the Bicycle Crossing male on the 9th May near Princess Alice Pan's he was seen to fight with the West Street male 3 weeks later, on the 27th May near Flockfield tower. In the future months and years he will prove to be tough competition for the older male leopards as he increases in size and his lust for more land and territory grows. We will watch him closely.

HOGVAAL MALE
EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD
(2 sightings)

6 YEARS 1 MONTH

Fathered by the former heavy weight himself, the Bicycle Crossing male, the Hogvaal male has been seen in these areas for some years. Since the disappearance of the Emsagwen male at the end of 2011 he has been seen more and more around the Matshipiri and Kapen regions and is looking in good form. He is scent marking and roaring readily and is being seen more and more often. With him only being viewed twice this month it is difficult to say what he has been up to but there are large male leopard tracks found regularly around his area. The core of this territory he is setting up is around Emsagwen waterhole, which is where the Emsagwen male started his reign over northern MalaMala in 2007.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE
NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(2 sightings)

+ - 7 YEARS

A fairly old male for us to start seeing and set up territory and one of unknown age, the Tslebe Rocks male, who hails from north of our boundary. He is a large individual with a huge neck and great potential to be a competitor to the Gowrie male to his west. Only viewed near the northern most parts of the property he was seen twice this month, once around Tslebe Rocks and the other to the south of Matshipiri dam. The second time which was near Matshipiri dam, on the 26th May, he was clearly on the scent trail of another leopard as he ran about, scent marking, roaring and furiously salivating. It was in vain as he did not find anything and simply continued on with his territorial patrol, stopping every so often to listen for any audio of the intruder.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(3 sightings)

11 YEARS 5 MONTHS

This incredibly large male was formerly know as the Large male leopard from the West and we have been viewing him for some years now but have until now not given him a name. The Princess Alice Pan's male is an aging male leopard who has fathered the Newington male and been the major competition to both the Airstrip and Bicycle Crossing males for the last few years. He had a brief interaction with the West Street male a few months ago but nothing since. We view him around the Princess Alice Bush area, the Airstrip and Ambush Alley

GOWRIE MALE
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

+ - 5 YEARS

Formerly known as the large male leopard from the Mlowathi dame area with the yellow eyes. He was not seen this month but has been seen over the last year or so around the Mlowathi dam area and looks to be finally relaxing in the presence of vehicles. At first he was a very nervous leopard but after months of being viewed without harm he has started to trust us and he can now be seen walking, even mating, completely oblivious and unfazed in the presence of vehicles. We will keep a close eye on him in the upcoming months and see if his mating with the Campbell Koppies female a few months ago bares fruit.

KIKILEZI FEMALE
WESTERN MALA MALA, MARTHLY
(5 sightings of female, 6 of female and cubs, 5 of cubs without female)

10 YEARS 8 MONTHS

The month of May proved to be the revealing month for the Kikilezi female who is up by almost 10 sightings from April. On the 17th she allowed us the privelage of viewing her 2012 litter of 2 young cubs estimated to have been born sometime in April in the lower reaches of the Mlowathi river. It was only a matter of time that she showed us her cubs and when she began spending most of her time near Picadilly triangle, the Causeway and Bicycle crossing we knew she must have them close by. The rocks which the Kikilezi female selected for this latest litter were where she had third den site for her 2010 litter. The female, her cubs or all 3 leopards together were viewed 10 out of the last 13 days of the month and they are growing by the day. As they get older their intial fear of the vehicles and unfamiliar sounds are replaced by curiosity and playfulness. They have begun venturing from their mother at the den and walking closer, but not too close, to the vehicles to see what they are all about. If they stray too far, mother leopard gives a grunt and they go scutteling back to her. Over the next few months she will move them from den to den usually every 10-20 days or so to reduce their chances of being discovered by predators. It is also a way to keep them stimulated, with an ever changing environment, as they develop their stalking and concealment skills and play with one another. Their diet at the moment is only milk but will change to that of milk and meal at about 3 months of age. Around July, she will then begin to take them to kills she has made and stashed away which is a very challenging time for mother leopards as they leave the security of their den. We will all be keeping a careful eye on these 3 leopard over the next few months.

TAMBOTI FEMALE
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA
(9 sightings)

4 YEARS 7 MONTHS

The princess of MalaMala and the third and final daughter lineage of the Ngoboswan female was seen twice more than her 7 sightings of last month and in very much the same areas. She seems to have given up on her quest to make the Airstrip male the father of her first litter and was seen mating with the Newington male, on the 27th of the month, near West Street. A very interesting sighting it was as the West Street male was also present and the two males were sizing each other up with the awe inspiring ritual of deuling male leopards whereby they run side by side growling and roaring as they go. Inbetween sparring seasons the Newginton male and Tamboti female would mate, which would in turn cause the West Street male to loose his temper and they would begin to jog again with the female trying to keep up from behind. The Tamboti female has taken over

much of her mothers former territory, both to the north and south of West Street on mainly the western bank of the river. The Ngoboswan female lived for many years on MalaMala, with a very large territory, and was know for her very large size, her striking golden coat and for being a great mother. These characters have all been acquired by her youngest daughter. All but motherhood. We can only hope that her recent bout of mating with the Newington male will provide her with the cubs she so instinctively desires.

MLOWATHI FEMALE
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(5 sightings)

5 YEARS 4 MONTHS

The newly named Mlowathi female (the 2007 Daughter of the Campbell Koppies female) was seen 5 times this month and in the presence of the Airstrip male on 4 occasions. She has set up a territory in the northern parts of the Mlowathi and extends northwards into Gowrie. The Mlowathi female had litters in 2010 and 2011 but with none of the cubs surviving. Her mating with the Airstrip male and coming very far south of the southern boundary of her territory could be a sign of her moving her home south. The Campbell Koppies female, who is her mother, is territorial to her north and her half sister, the Ostrich Koppies female, is territorial to her east, with the Kikilezi female, her cousin, to her south. Let us see what the next few months have in store for this new up and coming female leopard in amongst her relatives and their ever shifting territories.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE
1 CUB

12 YEARS 6 MONTHS
10 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER
(0 sighting of female, 0 sighting of female and cub, 0 sighting of cub alone).

These leopards were not viewed during the report period.

CAMPBELL KOPPIES FEMALE
WESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

12 YEARS 7 MONTHS

This leopard was not viewed during the report period.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE
EYREFIELD
(0 sighting of female)

7 YEARS 8 MONTHS

This leopard was not viewed during the report period.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE
2 CUBS

11 YEARS 7 MONTHS
7 MONTHS

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cubs, 0 sighting of cubs alone).

These leopards were not viewed during the report period.

DUDLEY FEMALE
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(1 sighting)

13 YEARS 8 MONTHS

With only one sighting of the Dudley female it is difficult to determine what or where she has been. It is possible that the shift in her territory has come with the shifting of the Bicycle Crossing males territory southwards. He is the father of all of her litters from her two sons of 2006, the Airstrip and Charleston males. There are reports of her having given birth to a single cub in the last two months on the Western bank of the Sand River to the south of Rattrays camp so we will see if she gives us a look at him/her in the near future.

**FLOCKFIELD FEMALE
1 CUB**

**8 YEARS 1 MONTH
11 MONTHS**

CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings of female, 0 sighting of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub alone).
These leopards were not viewed during the report period.

WESTERN FEMALE

14 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALA MALA
(0 sightings)
These leopards were not viewed during the report period.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Son of the Dudley female 2009:** (0 sightings)
- **Daughter of the Kikilezi female:** (4 sightings) This young female had an interesting month having an interaction with the Airstrip male near the Picadilly area on the 9th. This is also the core of her mothers territory. She is developing her hunting skills but still maintains the slim physique of a meat deprived 2 year old leopard.
- **Daughter of the Ostrich Koppies female:** (0 sightings)
- **Son of the Kikilezi female 2006:** (1 sighting) Seen briefly near Flockfield tower this male still shwos signs of aggression towards the vehicles and has not relaxed down as we had wished.
- **No ID leopards:** (2 sightings)
- **No ID males:** (10 sightings)
- **No ID female:** (4 sightings)

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

May	1 9
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CHEETAH

A good month for the two brothers up near Clarendon dam with them being viewed 5 times in total and all in the vicinity of Clarendon. With winter upon us, the free standing water sources beginning to dry up and the bush starting to thin out we should be seeing these two males more and more frequently up in our north eastern corner.

An interesting development came on the 29th of May when a single female cheetah was seen on River road to the south of West Street. She was only seen briefly and moved off in to some dense vegetation near the river. This is a very strange place to find a cheetah as they usually reside in more open areas and not in the thickets typical of river banks.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

May	3
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

After four years of absence from MalaMala, a pack of at least 8 Cape Hunting Dogs have decided to call MalaMala their home this winter and have denned in the south western corner of Charleston, about a kilometre to the west of the western bank of the Sand River. Seen across the property from the Causeway (on the 5th) to Charleston Koppies (the 13th) and back up to Flockfield Lookout (the 14th). The alpha female was very heavily pregnant on the 14th and looked about to pop with her litter of pups. They then disappeared along with our hopes of a dog den for winter 2012. After a week of absence a single dog was found on 2 separate occasions south of Trollips camp. Then on the last day of the month, rangers were able to stay with a single dog for just long enough to see her disappear down a hole in an abandoned termite mound and hear the audio of a few pups within the den. Within the next 2 to 3 weeks the pups should be about a month old and we should get the first glimpse of the 2012 litter of Cape Hunting Dogs on MalaMala.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WILD DOGS ENCOUNTERED

May	8
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CAPE BUFFALO

As the waters of the Sand River subside and the vegetation becomes more and more sparse so the large herbivores loose condition and have to move larger distances to get food and water. The most affected is arguably the Cape Buffalo. These massive beasts flock in the hundreds and sometimes thousands to the drying water of the Sand River and become easy picking for the lions. Up this month from last months 85 sightings to a staggering 109 sightings with many being of large herds along the river. In the next few months these now larger herds may even become larger with herds of up to a thousand being viewed in the last.

ELEPHANTS

Like the buffalo herds, so the elephants spend more and more time around the river as their mud pools and pans dry up around the property. Their stress levels increase as food becomes less abundant and one will often see elephants chasing rhino and buffalo away from water as they are now competing more directly.

RHINOS

Due to the recent increase in rhino poaching we have decided not to include statistics for these animals.

INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

Over the month of May there were Serval seen on many occasions as well as a number of relaxed Honey Badgers. Two male Ostrich's were seen up at Clarendon dam on a few occasions and were very relaxed with vehicles as they displayed to one another. A lone Sable bull was seen up near Clarendon dam and then again a few days later a few hundred metres to the west of Clarendon on Inkanyi road. A group of about 20-25 Giraffe bulls has been seen for the past few weeks around the New Airstrip and a large number of hippo are regularly seen in the newly developed pools of water in the Sand River in from of Main Camp and south of West Street.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR MAY 2012

Lion:	67
Leopard:	99
Elephant:	175
Buffalo:	109
Cheetah:	7
Cape Hunting Dog:	6