

## MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – NOVEMBER 2014

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

### WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER

Maximum temperature (°C)	38
Minimum temperature (°C)	15
Mean maximum (°C)	30
Mean minimum (°C)	19.8
Rainfall (mm)	65 ml
Days of rain	7

\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF NOVEMBER 2014

### LIONS

#### **STYX PRIDE = 9**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>11 YEARS 10 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>6 YEARS 10 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS</b>	<b>3 YEARS 10 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 MALE SUB ADULTS</b>	<b>3 YEARS 10 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 FEMALECUBS</b>	<b>1 YEAR 0 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 MALE CUB</b>	<b>1 YEAR 0 MONTHS</b>

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD  
(18 sightings)

The Styx pride was seen on all but 12 days during the month of November, within the first half of the month this pride was seen taking down a female zebra of about three or four years in age, near the loop in Emsagwen. After their successful hunt, this pride was seen between the loop in Emsagwen, Paddy's pools and Buffalo Bush dam for the next week. The first day into the second half of the month, this pride was found in the Matshapiri river, on about 50% remains of a buffalo bull, where they remained for the duration of the day as well as the following, before moving off from the kill when two male lions from the North kleptoparasited the carcass. The pride had obviously not fed to satiation, as four days being found on the first buffalo carcass in November, they were found feeding on the remains of a second buffalo for two days, round Drum crossing.

Prior to the 22<sup>nd</sup> November, this pride was only seen on the eastern bank of the Sand river, either in or near to the Matshapiri river. On this day, they were located on the western bank – south of the southern end of the airstrip. The following day they were back at Drum crossing, and the last four sightings of this pride during November found them moving between the eastern and western bank, and not altogether either. This perhaps indicating that there was some intra-pride conflict, or perhaps as a result of other extenuating factors. Exciting times lay ahead for December.

#### **EYREFIELD PRIDE = 8**

<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>7 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>7 YEARS 4 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 SUB-ADULT MALE</b>	<b>2 YEARS 9 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>2 YEARS 9 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT MALE</b>	<b>2 YEARS 6 MONTHS</b>

**1 SUB-ADULT MALE**  
MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD  
(6 sightings)

**2 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

Almost three weeks after being seen last, 7 of the members of this pride were seen in different locations on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. Six were seen on the Charleston Flockfield boundary, at the junction of Zebra skull south, at the same time this pride was located – a single sub-adult male was found about three and a half kilometres north and east of their position. Tracks indicated the six individuals seen had come from a similar direction. Four days later, the six lions from the Eyrefield pride were found further west from their original position, around the treehouse. The single sub-adult male was seen alone once again, the following day around the junction of borehole road and graded road. Three days later, the initial six lions and the single sub-adult male were seen together on northern side ngoboswan, east to track to plank's pan.

**FOURWAYS PRIDE = 4**

**1 ADULT FEMALE**

**UNKNOWN AGE**

**1 SUB ADULT FEMALE**

**4 YEARS 5 MONTHS**

**2 SUB ADULT MALES**

**4 YEARS 5 MONTHS**

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD

(8 sightings of the two sub-adult males; 0 sightings of the two females)

Similarly to October, the two males of this pride were not seen once in the vicinity of the two females during November. In fact, the females were not seen at all during this period. The two male lions from the Fourways pride, have seemed to assumed residency in the western parts of Charleston, between Charleston north and Calabash drive. Out of the eight times they were seen in November, three of the occasions were in close proximity to Charleston north crossing, with the remainder of the sightings taking place further south – around the entrance of Calabash drive. On five of the occasions these lions were spotted, they were seen with the female from the Charleston pride, and on one of the occasions she was seen mating with one of the males.

**MARTHLY PRIDE = 7**

**2 ADULT FEMALE**

**12 YEARS 3 MONTHS**

**1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE**

**3 YEARS 7 MONTHS**

**3 MALE CUBS**

**1 YEAR 5 MONTHS**

**1 FEMALE CUB**

**1 YEAR 5 MONTHS**

MARTHLY

(2 sightings)

This pride was seen only but twice during November, both encounters occurred in the first ten days of the month. They were a week apart, however, the lions were found in the same area on both occasions – north of the water course of the Sand river, west of Bicycle crossing.

**MANYELETHI MALES = 4**

**± 10 YEARS 3 MONTHS**

MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

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

(1 sighting)

Two representatives from the Manyaleti pride spent a single day with us in November. The two large males from this pride, which ventured onto the property were: the male with the very dark mane, and the male with the prominent scar on his nose.

**CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3**

**1 ADULT FEMALE**  
**2 SUB ADULT MALES**  
CHARLESTON

**9 YEARS 10 MONTHS**  
**3 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

(5 sightings of the female; 0 sightings of the two males)

There were no sightings of the males from the Charleston pride during November. The female, however, was seen five times. During each of these sightings she was seen with the two males from the Fourways pride. On one such occasion, she was seen mating with one of the lions.

**TJELLAHANGA PRIDE=9**

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

**UNKNOWN AGES**  
**± 2 YEARS 10 MONTHS**  
**± 2 YEARS 10 MONTHS**

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

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride during November.

**Other lions encountered**

November was another great month for lion sightings, as was October.

- **Unidentified male lions** (5 sightings):
  - Two sets of two male lions were seen on five different occasions
- The first set were seen twice, and one of these individuals an additional time. All of these sightings were in the Sand river, between KK crossing and flat rocks.
- The second set of male lions seen, were the two individuals who have been seen a few times over the last few months. These males from the north were first seen in the Matshapiri river, on a buffalo carcass. The second time was further north, when they were seen around reedbank road, with the no ID pride of 9, which was seen last month.
- **No ID pride of 9** (1 sighting) – seen once around the northern parts of reedbank road, near the middle of November, with the two male lions from the north.

**NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

<b>October</b>	<b>41</b>
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## LEOPARDS:

### **BICYCLE CROSSING MALE**

**12 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

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

As in October, the Bicycle crossing male was seen a total of three times. Our first encounter with this leopard was on the fourth of the month, when he was seen at the junction of Flockfield compound and Flockfield access. The next time this male leopard was seen, was almost three weeks later when he was found on the eastern bank, opposite Beaumont's hippo pools. He was spotted again the following day, quite bit further north around river road and the exit of Flockfield lookout.

### **AIRSTRIP MALE**

**8 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(9 sightings)

The Airstrip male was seen a total of nine times, during November. The first three sightings were around Maurice's pan and Picadilly triangle. The last of which, this male leopard was seen pilfering a carcass of an impala from the Kikilezi female and her two cubs, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. The following six sightings of the Airstrip male were between Marthly, the Mlowathi and Picadilly triangle.

### **CHARLESTON MALE**

**8 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON  
(0sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

### **WEST STREET MALE**

**5 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(0sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

### **NEWINGTON MALE**

**6 YEARS 1 MONTH**

WESTERN MALAMALA  
(8 sightings)

As in October, the Newington male was seen eight times during the month of November. The first sighting of this male, on the second of November, was a very exciting one as he was found in the south western parts of Matshapiri open area with the remains of a fairly recent female warthog kill. The following day, he was relocated in a similar position, however this time he was seen with the same remains of the female warthog as well as a warthog piglet.

On the fourth of the month, the Newington male leopard was followed as he crossed north and east through Matshapiri open area. Eventually, as he reached the Matshapiri river, it was clear he has noticed something. Upon further inspection, it was realised what had captured his attention was a leopard cub, of no more than a week old. Instinctively, this male saw this little cub as potential future competition for resources and very quickly the cub was in a fatal grip in the Newington male's mouth and left for dead in the dry river bed.

The Newington male was not seen for a week and a half after this incident, until he was found on the

eastern bank of the Sand river, south of Sandpit crossing. Upon closer inspection, this male leopard clearly had some serious injuries to his flanks as a number of puncture wounds were clearly visible. These were more the likely attributed to a run in with the Styx pride. For the remainder of the month, he was seen four more times, a majority of which were around the northern parts of the airstrip, where he spent time tending to his injuries.

**HOGVAAL MALE** **7 YEARS 0 MONTHS**  
EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD  
(0sighting)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**TSLEBE ROCKS MALE** **± 8 YEARS 4 MONTHS**  
NORTHERN EYREFIELD  
(1 sighting)

There was one sighting of the Tselebe rocks male during November, when this male was seen on the first day of the month at the junction of the Gowrie boundary and Western side Mlowathi.

**PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE** **13 YEARS 11 MONTHS**  
WESTERN MALAMALA  
(13 sightings)

Eleven sightings of this male leopard, spread out between the third and the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. The second sighting of this leopard, was shared with the Tamboti female, around Wildebeest crossing on the western bank of the Sand river. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November, the Princess Alice Pans male captured an impala lamb at confluence crossing. This didn't keep him full for too long, as two days later he was seen with an adult impala kill, midway along the track which leads from booms to the causeway. He remained here for two days, until the carcass was finished.

**GOWRIE MALE** **± 7 YEARS 4 MONTHS**  
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**RIVER ROCKS MALE** **5 YEARS 3 MONTHS**  
(1 sighting)

There was one confirmed sighting of this male leopard during November. On the second last day of the month he was found on the Northern bank of the Sand river, at rocky crossing.

**KIKILEZI FEMALE** **13 YEARS 2 MONTHS**  
**2 FEMALE CUBS** **1 YEAR 0 MONTHS**  
WESTERN MALA-MALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLI  
(1 sightings of female, 14 sightings of female and cubs, 7 sightings of cubs without female)

These three leopards stole the show in November, spoiling us with a total of 22 individual sightings. The month was kicked off with a single cub, being seen in the Manyaleti river on the first of the month. The following day, both of the cubs of the Kikilezi female, were seen in the same area. Having not been seen for almost a week, these two cubs were seen with their mother on 2<sup>nd</sup> turning Picadilly. For the next few

days, these three leopards moved north towards the shortcut between eastern and western side Mlowathi, south in the Mlowathi river and eastwards to Mlowathi koppies, where they stayed for two days. The following day, the 12<sup>th</sup> November, the Kikilezi female killed an impala – a carcass which was enjoyed briefly by her and her two cubs before the Airstrip male moved in and kleptoparasited the carcass.

Prior to the carcass being stolen, the Kikilezi female and cubs obviously had not fed to satiation as two days later she killed another impala east of Picadilly triangle. This meal stood them in good stead, as the next time these three leopards were seen feeding was one week later, when a third impala fell prey to the Kikilezi female for November, north of the Mlowathi spot.

**TAMBOTI FEMALE** **7 YEARS 2 MONTHS**  
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA  
(4 sightings)

Four sightings of this female leopard during November, three of which were adjacent to the Sand river. The first of which, was four days into the month, when she was seen at confluence crossing. Two days later, at Wildebeest crossing, with the Princess Alice Pans male. The following day she was seen crossing westwards at the junction of Skukuza road and Campbell road. Just shy of three weeks later, she was once again located at Flockfield Boma crossing, on the western bank of the Sand river.

**MLOWATHI FEMALE** **7 YEARS 9 MONTHS**  
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE** **15 YEARS 0 MONTHS**  
CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE** **9 YEARS 11 MONTHS**  
**TWO CUBS** **5 MONTHS**  
EYREFIELD  
(3 sightings of female, 1 sightings of female and cubs, 2 sighting of cubs without female)

The first two sightings of any of these leopards, were of the two cubs on the first and third of the month. They were seen at the, very well established, den site around wild dog rocks. The following three sightings were of the Ostrich Koppies female, where she was found three times between Wild dog rocks/Gowrie boundary road and Reedbuck road, northwards to the Gowrie boundary.

On the last day of the month, the Ostrich Koppies female was seen with one of her cubs, the young male, feeding off the remains of an impala lamb. They were found along the shortcut to Tselebe rocks road, between Tslebe rocks road and Old Borehole road.

**MATSHIPIRI FEMALE** **14 YEARS 3 MONTHS**  
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**DUDLEY FEMALE** **16 YEARS 1 MONTH**  
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(1 sighting)

The Dudley female, was seen but once during November, 27 days into the month. She was spotted at Flockfield Boma crossing, this sighting was of her as well as the Treehouse male leopard, who were seen mating.

**DAUGHTER OF THE DUDLEY FEMALE** **1 YEAR 8 MONTHS**  
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**EMSAGWENI FEMALE** **4 YEARS 11 MONTHS**  
MALA-MALA  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**FLOCKFIELD FEMALE** **10 YEARS 7 MONTHS**  
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**Other leopards encountered:**

- **No ID males:** (6 sightings)
- **No ID females:** (1 sightings)

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

November	23
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## **CHEETAH**

We were very lucky in November, as five different cheetahs were seen during four different sightings. The first two of these, were both at Clarendon open area (5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>). It was during these two sightings that five different individuals were seen.

On the 24<sup>th</sup>, we were lucky enough to see two males successfully stalk, chase down and capture an impala lamb Matshapiri dam road and Rhino walk.

### **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED**

<b>October</b>	<b>5</b>
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## **CAPE HUNTING DOGS**

The sightings of these effervescent animals started three days into the month of November and stretched through the month, until three days before the end of the month. Sightings were as far south as the northern bank of the Sand river, between KK crossing and Flat rocks all the way to Jerimiah's loop, north and west of Mala Mala main camp.

### **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

<b>October</b>	<b>34</b>
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## **CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS**

Elephant sightings were a daily occurrence in November, with a maximum of 6 herd and 4 bulls being seen on one day. A total of 93 herds and 44 individuals were seen during November, with some fantastic sightings of elephants wallowing in some of the newly formed pans, after the rain.

The number of buffalo herds seen in November, was over one a half times that seen in October, with 31 herds been recorded. In a number of cases these herds were in excess of 300 – 400 animals. In addition to these herds, 199 individuals were also seen.

November was a very good month overall for elephant and buffalo sightings on Mala Mala.

## **OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS**

November found us welcoming back the woodlands kingfisher, this small bird and its iconic summer call is now heard throughout the bush.

### **TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2014**

Lion:	45
Leopard:	76
Elephant:	125
Buffalo:	72
Cheetah:	5
Cape Hunting Dog:	8