

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT –OCTOBER 2014

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

WEATHER SUMMARY –September

Maximum temperature (°C)	39
Minimum temperature (°C)	12
Mean maximum (°C)	28.8
Mean minimum (°C)	17.4
Rainfall (mm)	58 ml
Days of rain	6

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF OCTOBER 2014

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 9

1 ADULT FEMALE	11 YEARS 9MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 9MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	3 YEARS 9MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	3 YEARS 9MONTHS
2 FEMALECUBS	11 MONTHS
1 MALE CUB	11 MONTHS

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD
(15 sightings)

The Styx pride, although viewed only half as often during October (15) as in September (27), gave us some excellent sightings. Similarly to last month, the Styx pride was seen around Eyrefield and Mala-Mala, in addition to this they were even seen as far south as Flockfield. This pride was found feeding on two buffalo, a zebra and was seen capturing an impala. The first feeding activity recorded for this pride, was in the first week of October, when they were found on a buffalo carcass close to Clarendon dam. The second (buffalo), third (zebra) and fourth (impala) kills were all in the last half of the month, with the closest to camp being the latter during which the pride were seen stalking, running in on and eventually capturing an impala ewe, in Picadilly triangle.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 8

2 ADULT FEMALES	7 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	7 YEARS 3 MONTHS
2 SUB-ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 2 MONTHS

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD
(9 sightings)

The Eyrefield pride was seen just shy of ten times during October, of the nine appearances this pride made – five were in the first half of the month. The first time a few members of the pride were seen during the month, they were found on the eastern bank of the river, downstream from Rattray’s camp, sharing a buffalo kill with the four Manyelethi males. The following sightings of the Eyrefield pride were

spread out between Charleston all the way north to the airstrip, where they were seen lying on the northern parts of the tarmac. The Eyrefield pride definitely had the taste for buffalo during October, as they were seen on two buffalo kills, the second of which was just over a week after the first and the day after they had finished it they were seen trailing a large herd of buffalo. They did run in on the herd but after a few unsuccessful attempts, they eventually retired to the dense shade of a Natal Mahogany near the treehouse.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 4

1 ADULT FEMALE	UNKNOWN AGE
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 4 MONTH
2 SUB ADULT MALES	4 YEARS 4 MONTH
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD	
(9 sightings of the two sub-adult males; 2 sightings of the two females)	

Not once during the month of October were the females and males from the Fourways pride seen together. The first sighting of the month, for this pride, was of the two females who had killed a zebra, south of Clarendon dam, on the 4th. The following day, the two males were seen on the opposite side of the property, where they had managed to capture a female buffalo in close proximity to the exit of Sibuye drive. These two males seem to have taken a liking to the south of the property as every one of the sightings of these two, was in Charleston during October. Other sightings of these males during the month found them on a buffalo calf kill, as well as mating with the female from the Charleston pride, on a number of occasions.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALE	12 YEARS 2 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 6 MONTHS
3 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 4 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 4 MONTHS
MARHTLY	
(4 sightings)	

Of the four sightings of this pride during October, the first two involved seeing them on kills. The first of which, was on the 8th of the month when they were seen in the Sand River, around elephant rock lookout. Two cape clawless otters were spotted, by both the people at the sighting as well as the lionesses from the Marthly pride. One of these otters was captured and shared amongst the cubs. The second sighting was almost two weeks later when the pride walked in front of MalaMala Main Camp and later captured an impala in the Sand River, south of the causeway. The following two sightings of this pride were both in the western parts of the Manyelethi River.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4

± 10 YEARS 2 MONTHS

MATRHLY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD
 DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, FOURWAYS, MARTHLY AND
 BREAKAWAY MARTHLY PRIDES
 (2 sightings)

On two occasions during October we were lucky enough to view these four male lions. The first was on the 3rd, when they were seen sharing a buffalo kill with a few of the members of the Eyrefield pride, on the eastern bank of the Sand river, south of the Tamboti thickets. The second encounter was two days later, when these impressive individuals were seen near Fred's tree.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE
2 SUB ADULT MALES
CHARLESTON

9 YEARS 9 MONTHS
3 YEARS 5 MONTHS

(4 sightings of the female; 3 sightings of the two males)

Similarly to the Fourways pride, the males from the Charleston pride were not seen with the female from the pride once during the month of October. The two males were the first to be seen, when on the 6th of October they were seen killing a buffalo bull west of Flat rocks, and this is where they remained for two days. This sighting was incredible, and gave us some good viewing of the kill itself and feeding activity. The last time the males were seen in October, was on the 15th, when they approached they Eyrefield pride, who all ran off while the males from the Charleston pride pursued for quite some time near Styx crossing.

TJELLAHANGA PRIDE=9

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

UNKNOWN AGES
± 2 YEARS 9 MONTHS
± 2 YEARS 9 MONTHS

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

There was one sighting of this pride during the month of October, in the last week of the month when they were seen lazing about on the southern parts of F-bend open area.

Other lions encountered

October was a full month, in terms of lion sightings. We had five new prides represented on the property, by either the whole pride or a few individuals.

- **Unidentified male lions** (4 sighting)
 - Two males were seen thrice, once in the Sand River, south of the causeway. The second time was around Buffalo Bush dam. The third was in Clarendon open area, where they were seen sharing a buffalo carcass with 19 other lions from two prides. These two males are from a coalition from the north.
 - Two different male lions were seen on River Road, around the Tamboti Thickets – not much is known about these two.
- **No ID pride of 9** (2 sightings) – seen twice, towards the end of October. On the 27th they were in the near Fourways crossing. The second time they were seen, was in Clarendon open area, on a buffalo carcass.
- **No ID pride of 10** (1 sighting) – seen once in Clarendon open area on a buffalo carcass.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

October	70
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LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

12 YEARS 10 MONTHS

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

The Bicycle Crossing male was seen a total of three times. He was spotted at the junction of the Sand and the Matshapiri Rivers. Over a week later he was seen around the treehouse, exploring around the Tamboti thickets. The last sighting of this leopard in October was on the 19th, when he was seen north and east from Lion rocks, feeding off the remains of a buffalo carcass.

AIRSTRIP MALE

8 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(11 sightings)

Of the seven leopards seen on the first of October, the Airstrip male was one of them. During October this male was seen 11 times, between Marthly and western Eyrefield, with 10 of the sightings being in the first half of the month. The first encounter with the Airstrip male was around elephant rock lookout, after which he headed south and east as the following day he was found on the eastern bank of the Sand River, opposite MalaMala Main Camp. Ten days into October, we were unable to make use of the Sable boma as the Airstrip male had a fresh impala kill in a tree not too far from this position. This sighting was a very impressive one, as he had hoisted his quarry high up into a Jackalberry tree, with a number of opportunistic hyenas hanging around the base of the tree waiting for a few scraps to fall. The last sighting of the Airstrip male leopard was shared with the Tslebe Rocks male as they were found on the 27th, east of the northern parts of the Mlowathi River, having a bit of an altercation with one another.

CHARLESTON MALE

8 YEARS 5 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

WEST STREET MALE

5 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

NEWINGTON MALE

6 YEARS 0 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA
(8 sightings)

The Newington male was seen once more in October (8), than the previous month. He is still overlapping territories with his father, the Princess Alice Pans male, as he was seen seven of the eight times on the western bank between Flockfield Boma crossing and the northern parts of the airstrip. The one time he was seen on the eastern bank, was around Picadilly triangle, where there were five leopards seen at one sighting: the Kikilezi female with her two cubs, the Airstrip male as well as the Newington male. Both of the males showed a bit of aggression towards one another and a bit of a chase ensued with the end result being both males heading off in opposite directions. Once during the month, on the 8th, this leopard was seen on an impala kill, north of the junction of Flockfield compound and Flockfield access.

HOGVAAL MALE

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

6 YEARS 11 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE

NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(2 sightings)

± 8 YEARS 3 MONTH

There were two confirmed sightings of this leopard during October, one of which was on the 18th where he was found feeding on the remains of an impala carcass south of Northern side Nwana nonantshemeni, east of eastern side Mlowathi. He was not seen again until nine days later when the Tslebe rocks male and the Airstrip male were confronting one another.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE

WESTERN MALAMALA
(13 sightings)

13 YEARS 10 MONTHS

The Princess Alice Pans male was seen the most often during October, with 13 sightings spread out over the 31 days of the month – a new record for the most number of sightings of this leopard in one month. Nine of which were in the first half of the month, one of which (8th) found this male feeding off the remains of a male kudu carcass. The cause of death of the kudu is unknown, but the Princess Alice Pans male did not pass up this opportunity and ate his fill from the remains, which were deep in a knobthorn thicket, beside a large termite mound – which allowed for some excellent viewing. A few days after he was seen on the kudu carcass, this male leopard was seen around Maxim's lookout with the remains of a bushbuck.

GOWRIE MALE

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

± 7 YEARS 3 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

RIVER ROCKS MALE

(0 sightings)

5 YEARS 2 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

KIKILEZI FEMALE**2 FEMALE CUBS**

WESTERN MALA-MALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLI

(0 sightings of female, 6 sightings of female and cubs, 4 sightings of cubs without female)

13 YEARS 1 MONTH**11 MONTHS**

October was a great month for the Kikilezi female, her two cubs, and all of us lucky enough to see these three leopards a total of ten times. Six of which were either one or both of the cubs with their mother, and four sightings of one or both of the cubs. From what has been recorded, the Kikilezi female made three successful kills last month: one of which was an impala on the 4th of October, the second was another impala – which was stolen from her by a hyena around Campbell Koppies on the 23rd. The last recorded kill was on the 27th where a young male nyala was caught. This allowed us numerous sightings of the three leopards feeding, drinking and sleeping, in the Manyelethi river, west of Manyelethi crossing.

TAMBOTI FEMALE**7 YEARS 1 MONTH**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA

(1 sighting)

The Tamboti female was rather elusive during the Month of October, as we only had one sighting of this leopard. She was seen on the western bank, north and west of West Street Bridge.

MLOWATHI FEMALE**7 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD

(1 sighting)

A good, albeit brief, sighting of the Mlowathi female was a great surprise for everyone on the 28th of October, she was seen around Mlowathi Dam, and did some exploring around the very northern parts of the Mlowathi River. Shortly after being spotted, she ventured off the property once again.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE**14 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER

(0sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE**9 YEARS 10 MONTHS****TWO CUBS****4 MONTHS**

EYREFIELD

(0 sightings of female, 4 sightings of female and cubs, 2 sighting of cubs without female)

The Ostrich Koppies female, was seen almost half as often during October, as they were in September. Two of the sightings were not at the den site, however they were in fairly close proximity. The remaining four sightings during the month, were all at Wild Dog Rocks, her established den site.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE**14 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

DUDLEY FEMALE**16 YEARS 0 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(2 sightings)

The Dudley female was seen on two occasions, once on the western bank of the Sand River, around the treehouse on the 11th of October. She was seen running in on a female bushbuck, who managed to elude her. After the unsuccessful hunt, she was seen crossing the river westwards. The second time she was seen, was once again adjacent the Sand River, on the very last day of the month, near West Street Bridge.

DAUGHTER OF THE DUDLEY FEMALE**1 YEAR 7 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

EMSAGWENI FEMALE
MALA-MALA
(0 sightings)

4 YEARS 10 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

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

10 YEARS 6 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

Other leopards encountered:

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

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

September	23
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CHEETAH

October was a bit of a slow month for cheetah sightings with not one encounter of these elusive creatures, however there was lots of evidence of cheetahs coming onto the property around Clarendon dam.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

October	0
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

October was a good month for cape hunting dog encounters, with ten sightings being recorded. These

were spread out over the entire month and stretched from the Gowrie boundary to the Charleston-Toulon boundary.

One of the most interesting sightings of the month was when a pack of 16 cape hunting dogs met up with another pack of 12, and mingled with one another for a while, before parting ways. On the same day as this, an additional 8 cape hunting dogs were seen on Jeremiah's loop.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

October	36
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

We were lucky enough to view elephants every day, barring three, during the month of October. A total of 80 herds were seen during the month, with a high number of them being in and around the river, which always results in wonderful sightings.

The number of buffalo sightings on the property is on the rise as we recorded 20 sightings of herds of buffalo on the property during October. One of the herds which was initially seen crossing north over the Sand River, around KK crossing, was upwards of 400 individuals. In addition to the herds of buffalo, 171 dagga boys were seen during the month – with numbers ranging from a lone bull to just shy of 30 in one place.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

A number of the migratory bird species are returning for the summer months, which is always an exciting time. Some such species, as well as other interesting birds spotted in October are:

- African cuckoo
- Broad billed roller
- Grey hooded kingfisher
- Ostrich

In addition to these species, there was also a porcupine seen on Euphorbia drive.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

Lion:	70
Leopard:	75
Elephant:	85
Buffalo:	47
Cheetah:	0
Cape Hunting Dog:	10