

**MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT –SEPTEMBER 2014**

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

**WEATHER SUMMARY –September**

Maximum temperature (°C)	37
Minimum temperature (°C)	9
Mean maximum (°C)	30
Mean minimum (°C)	15.7
Rainfall (mm)	2 ml
Days of rain	1

\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF SEPTEMBER 2014

**LIONS**

**STYX PRIDE = 9**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>11 YEARS 8MONTHS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>6 YEARS 8MONTHS</b>
<b>2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS</b>	<b>3 YEARS 8MONTHS</b>
<b>2 MALE SUB ADULTS</b>	<b>3 YEARS 8MONTHS</b>
<b>2 FEMALECUBS</b>	<b>10 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 MALE CUB</b>	<b>10 MONTHS</b>

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD  
(27 sightings)

The Styx pride has made Mala-Mala as well as Eyrefield their home for the month of September. They were viewed on all days during the month except on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. We recorded four kills that they have made, the first being a sub-adult male impala on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Sandpit crossing. They killed a sub-adult female Nyala early morning on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at rhino pens. The small Nyala wasn't enough to satisfy their hunger so they were seen hunting again soon after. They chased a number of impala, but without any success. On the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, after intensive tracking, they were found on the Southern edge of the Emsagwen open area feeding off a zebra carcass. They spent the entire day feeding. The fourth recorded kill was when they killed a kudu on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

One of the sub-adult males from the Styx pride could be heard roaring around the airstrip all the way from the buffalo deck on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>. He was chased soon after by two of the Manyelethi males towards the river. During that incident, the young male got separated from the rest of his pride. He remained separated from his pride until the 28<sup>th</sup> when he rejoined his pride at the zebra kill.

**EYREFIELD PRIDE = 8**

<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>7 YEARS 3 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>7 YEARS 2 MONTH</b>
<b>2SUB-ADULT MALE</b>	<b>2 YEARS 7 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>2 YEARS 7 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT MALE</b>	<b>2 YEARS 4 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT MALE</b>	<b>2 YEARS 1 MONTHS</b>

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD  
(5 sightings)

The Eyrefield pride was scarce during September by only making 5 appearances. They were found for the first time in September on the 7<sup>th</sup> after they had made a buffalo kill in front of the entrance gate at Rattrays camp. They spent two days in the area after which they made their way to the West of our property. Some time went by before we saw them again on the property on the 19<sup>th</sup>. They made another appearance on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We watched as they were hunting impala without success and then left the property once again. They came back onto our property on the 27<sup>th</sup> and were seen hunting impala that night. Surprisingly they were found in the Jakkalsdraai open area two days later, an area situated much further South than where we normally find them.

**FOURWAYS PRIDE = 4**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>UNKNOWN AGE</b>
<b>1 SUB ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>4 YEARS 3 MONTH</b>
<b>2 SUB ADULT MALES</b>	<b>4 YEARS 3 MONTH</b>

CHARLESTON

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD

(9 sightings of the two sub-adult males; 3 sightings of the two females)

It appears as if the two sub-adult males have broken away from the rest of their pride indefinitely. The two males were seen on nine different occasions while the two females were seen on three occasions. The males were seen on their own on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month around Charleston river rocks. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> they were found in the company of the lioness from the Charleston pride to the South of Charleston North crossing. The three lions were seen together on the 5<sup>th</sup> as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> with one of the males keeping his distance while the other sub-adult male mated with the female. The two males were seen on their own again on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> in Charleston. They were seen with the lioness from the Charleston pride in the Sand-river in close proximity of Charleston North crossing on the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> when the same male as before mated with the lioness. The two males were then seen again on their own on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The two lionesses from the Fourways pride were found on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the 22<sup>nd</sup> and on the 29<sup>th</sup>. They were found on all three occasions within Eastern Mala Mala and Eastern Eyrefield.

**MARTHLY PRIDE = 7**

<b>2 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>12 YEARS 1MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>3 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>3 MALE CUBS</b>	<b>1 YEAR 3 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 FEMALE CUB</b>	<b>1 YEAR 3 MONTHS</b>

MARHTLY

(4 sightings)

The Marthly pride made a late appearance this month with the pride being seen for the first time on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They were seen for the next three days around the junction of River road Mvubu and track to Matumi rocks as they killed a buffalo at that position on the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They were joined by three of the Manyelethi males on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The last time they were viewed in September was on the 25<sup>th</sup> when they were accompanied by only one of the Manyelethi males at the decaying buffalo carcass.

**MANYELETHI MALES = 4**

**± 10 YEARS 1 MONTH**

MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

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

(3 sightings)

Two of the Manyelethi males were heard roaring on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> in the region of the airstrip. The rangers found them soon after, while the two males were chasing one of the sub-adult males from the

Styx pride Eastwards from the airstrip toward the Sand river. The two males spent the rest of the day sleeping on Skukuza road adjacent to the windsock. They must've crossed our Western boundary during the night of the 15<sup>th</sup> as we only saw them again on the 24<sup>th</sup> on Marthly. This time however, three of the males were found and not just two. They were seen with the Marthly pride indulging in the buffalo kill that the Marthly pride had made. On the 25<sup>th</sup> only one of the males remained in the area of the buffalo kill while tracks of at least one male lion were found crossing our Western boundary around Princess Alice pans.

**CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3**

**1 ADULT FEMALE**

**9 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

**2 SUB ADULT MALES**

**3 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

CHARLESTON

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

The two males from the Charleston pride were absent during the month of September and their whereabouts are unknown to us. The lioness from the Charleston pride were seen on 4 different occasions, each time with the two males from the Fourways pride. She was recorded mating with one of the males from the Fourways pride on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

**TJELLAHANGA PRIDE=9**

**2 ADULT FEMALES**

**UNKNOWN AGES**

**1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE**

**± 2 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

**6 SUB-ADULT MALES**

**± 2 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

EASTERN CHARLESTON, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**Other lions encountered**

- **Two unidentified male lions** (1 sighting)  
Seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> at the junction of 1<sup>st</sup> Turning Jakkalsdraai and Charleston drive.

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

<b>August</b>	<b>33</b>
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## LEOPARDS:

### **BICYCLE CROSSING MALE**

**12 YEARS 9 MONTHS**

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

The Bicycle crossing male was seen all throughout his territory during September, with the first sighting being in the first week of the month. He was spotted across the Sand river, opposite Rattrays camp, near the bottom track of the Tamboti thickets. A few days later he was seen further upstream, in close proximity to the confluence of the Sand river and the Matshapiri river, with the remains of an impala kill. He was spotted once more in the first half of the month, once again in the Matshapiri river north of his position four days prior, with the impala kill. We did not see the Bicycle crossing male again for over a week, then in the last nine days of the month he was seen a further five times. Once on the Western bank of the Sand river, North of Rattrays camp. The next sightings were on the opposite side of the river, much further south in his territory. Three of these occasions he was observed feeding on the remains of another impala carcass, and the last of the month was even further south, in western Charleston.

### **AIRSTRIp MALE**

**8 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALA MALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(7 sightings)

To christen the month, the Airstrip male was the first leopard seen in September, about ten minutes after rangers left camp on the eastern ramp of the causeway. He was seen the following day, and on two more occasions during the first week of the month. On the sixth of September, it was noticed that the Airstrip male had sustained fairly serious injuries. Upon closer inspection, numerous puncture wounds could be seen on his hind quarters, which are suspected to have arisen from an encounter with the Styx pride. For the remainder of the day, and the duration of the following one, the Airstrip male was spotted lying in the shade of the wild date palms, north of the causeway, tending to his wounds.

### **CHARLESTON MALE**

**8 YEARS 3 MONTHS**

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON  
(1 sighting)

There was one sighting of the Charleston male leopard in September on the 11<sup>th</sup>, where he was seen on the very south of the property, on the track west of flat rocks.

### **WEST STREET MALE**

**5 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(2 sightings)

The West Street male was seen twice in Charleston during the month, once on the tenth and again on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The first time he was seen was in the northern parts of Charleston, near Zebra Skull South. The second sighting was in the south east corner of the property in close proximity to pumphouse pans.

### **NEWINGTON MALE**

**5 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA  
(7 sightings)

We had seven great sightings of the Newington male leopard during the month of September. On three of these occasions he was seen in very close proximity to his dad, the Princess Alice Pans male, during one of which he was seen feeding on the remains of an impala kill his father had discarded. Out of the seven sightings of this leopard, all where on the western bank of the Sand River, north of West Street the bridge and extended as far west as Princess Alice Pans.

**HOGVAAL MALE** **6 YEARS 10 MONTHS**  
EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD  
(0sighting)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**TSLEBE ROCKS MALE** **± 8 YEARS 2 MONTH**  
NORTHERN EYREFIELD  
(0sighting)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE** **13 YEARS 9 MONTHS**  
WESTERN MALAMALA  
(9sightings)

A great welcome to September was seeing the Princess Alice Pans male feeding on the remains of an impala carcass, some of which he very kindly left behind for his son, the Newington male. It was not until almost ten days later when he was spotted again, around the northern parts of the old airstrip. He was seen again the following day at the old Flockfield camp, again with the remains of an impala kill. The next sighting was just shy of a week later, when the Princess Alice Pans male was seen again on the western bank of the sand river, north of Maxims Lookout.

There were another five sightings of this leopard in September, three of which were of him feeding on the remains of a buffalo calf carcass. He was initially seen with this carcass in the Sand river, south of West Street bridge. The two days following this, the Princess Alice Pans male was found on both of the banks neighbouring the Sand River, where he was initially found with the carcass. The day after he had been initially spotted in the river, the Princess Alice pans male was seen on the eastern bank. The day following that, he was seen on the western bank, with the carcass of the buffalo calf which he had dragged out of the Sand River into some reeds.

**GOWRIE MALE** **± 7 YEARS 2 MONTH**  
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD  
(0sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**RIVER ROCKS MALE** **5 YEARS 1 MONTH**  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**KIKILEZI FEMALE  
2 FEMALE CUBS**

**13 YEARS  
10 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALA-MALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY  
(3sightings of female, 4sightings of female and cubs, 3 sightings of cubs without female)

During September there were almost equal sightings of the Kikilezi female with and without her cubs, as well as her cubs on their own; three, four and three sightings respectively. The first two sightings of this female leopard and her cubs were in the first week of the month, both of which were in Marthly. In both of these instances these three leopards were found on an impala kill. The first was on the northern bank of the Sand River, close to the Track to Matumi Rocks. The second was on the western bank of the Mlowathi River, north of the confluence of the Sand and Mlowathi Rivers.

The following six sightings alternated between seeing one, or both, cubs and then seeing the Kikilezi female individually. Two of the sightings of the cubs of this leopardess, were in, or alongside the lower reaches of the Mlowathi River. The last sighting of a cub, without the Kikilezi female present was in the last week of September when one of the individuals was observed north of Stwise.

The three sightings we had of the Kikilezi female on her own, were all in the last nine days of the month. On the 21<sup>st</sup> she was seen on the ridge between the Manyaleti and the Sand Rivers, two days later she was found on the western bank of the Sand River, north east from West Street Bridge. Then, four days after that, she was observed all the way north at Bicycle Crossing Hippo Pools, just south of the ridge between the Manyaleti and the Sand Rivers.

The last two sightings of the Kikilezi female and her cubs, were during the last two days of September. All of the leopards were found together within a stone's throw of Picadilly triangle, with the initial sighting being on the shortcut between first and second turning Picadilly. The last sighting of the month was on River Road Mvubu, north of Scott's road.

**TAMBOTI FEMALE**

**7 YEARS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA  
(3sightings)

The Tamboti female was seen on two days during September. She was seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> on track from booms to causeway. She was also found on an impala kill that she had made at Flockfield camp on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Shortly after she had made her kill and hoisted it up the prominent Sausage tree at Flockfield camp, the Princess Alice Pans male chased her off the kill leaving her waiting for scraps at the base of the tree.

**DAUGHTER OF THE TAMBOTI FEMALE**

**1 YEAR 6 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA  
(1 sighting)

The Daughter of the Tamboti female was seen hunting impala around Kikilezihash South of the airstrip on the 10<sup>th</sup>. After many missed attempts, she laid down in the shade of a Jackalberry at the Kikilezihash breakfast spot.

**MLOWATHI FEMALE**

**7YEARS 7 MONTHS**

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD  
(0sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE** **14 YEARS 10 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 9 MONTHS**  
**TWO CUBS** **3 MONTHS**  
EYREFIELD  
(3 sightings of female, 7 sightings of female and cubs, 1 sighting of cubs without female)

The sightings of the Ostrich Koppies female and her cubs spanned the duration of September. Seven of the 11 sightings of this leopardess and cubs, were at her long standing den site of this female at Wild Dog Rocks. Of these seven sightings; one was of the cubs on their own, two were of the female alone and the remaining four viewings had us all lucky enough to see the three leopards together.

Over the third, fourth and fifth of the month, we had some amazing up close viewing of the Ostrich Koppies female and her cubs. She had made a duiker kill, some distance from the den site on a termite mound, and all three of the leopards were seen feeding on the carcass over the three days.

**MATSHIPIRI FEMALE** **14 YEARS 1 MONTH**  
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**DUDLEY FEMALE** **15 YEARS 11 MONTHS**  
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(2 sightings)

The Dudley female was seen on two occasions, once on each bank of the Sand River. Our first encounter with this leopard was in the middle of the month, she was seen on the eastern bank around the bottom track of the Tamboti Thickets, where she was seen on a bushbuck kill. The Dudley female was not seen again until the 29<sup>th</sup> of the month, where she was spotted around Flockfield camp. This time with the remains of an impala kill, which she had hoisted into a Jackalberry tree.

**DAUGHTER OF THE DUDLEY FEMALE** **1 YEAR 6 MONTHS**  
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**EMSAGWENI FEMALE** **4 YEARS 9 MONTHS**  
MALA-MALA  
(1 sighting)

This young leopardess was spotted once during September, she was seen south of West Street Bridge on Bushbuck drive. She is a very elusive animal and was soon lost heading into some thick vegetation.

**FLOCKFIELD FEMALE**

**10 YEARS 5 MONTHS**

CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON  
(1 sightings)

The Flockfield female finally made an appearance this month. She was seen at the junction of Paradise valley road and Charleston drive on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month.

**Other leopards encountered:**

- **No ID males:** (6sightings)
- **No ID females:** (2sightings)

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

September	25
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## **CHEETAH**

An unlikely sighting of a male cheetah around Flockfield tower kick-started the month. This male didn't stay for long and crossed our Western boundary shortly after. Another cheetah, but this time a female was seen in the same area on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Two male cheetah were found chasing after a dazzle of zebra in the Clarendon open area on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The same two males were seen drinking from Clarendon dam on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

September	4
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## **CAPE HUNTING DOGS**

This was an eventful month for the Cape hunting dogs. We had 11 sightings in ten days. This included three packs, one having 12 individuals, one having at least 10 individuals and the other having four. The pack of four were only seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the North and East of Campbell koppies. The pack of at least ten were only seen once, the sighting comprised of them killing a bushbuck in the South-Eastern corner of the property.

The other pack is a pack that we have been viewing on a regular basis since July. It is the pack that consists of 5 adults and 7 puppies. Sightings of this pack scattered across the property was evenly spread out during the month. They were observed killing two bushbuck in the Sand river to the East of the tree-house on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The puppy with the broken back leg seems to be doing well.

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

September	26
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## **CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS**

As it is currently the dry season, the river is attracting a large number of elephant herds. During September, 82 herds were viewed with some numbering over a hundred elephants. Wandering bulls were seen less frequently with only 21 bull elephants being viewed.

Buffalo herds were seen less frequently than last month with only fifteen herd sightings being established. Although most of these herds were seen on either Flockfield or Charleston, one herd was seen on Eyrefield and Mala-Mala. Ninety nine buffalo bulls were seen in 29 different sightings.

## **OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS**

A rare sighting of a Meller's mongoose was recorded on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month. It was seen at night running across Old Borehole road to the North of the short cut to Tsebe Rocks road. An African wildcat with two kittens was seen on the 6<sup>th</sup> at the junction of New Firebreak North of Fred's tree and Ridge rd. An African civet was found on the 13<sup>th</sup> in Charleston on Jock walk.

Two porcupines were seen during September. The first one for the month was seen early morning on top of Campbell koppies on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The other sighting was at night to the South of Stwise on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

A White-backed night heron was seen at the causeway on the 24<sup>th</sup>. It's an easily overlooked, uncommon bird that frequents slow flowing streams. On the topic of birds, the first Klaas's cuckoo for the season was seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> in the region of Maxim's lookout. The Klaas's cuckoo is a common summer visitor at MalaMala.

**TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2014**

Lion:	60
Leopard:	77
Elephant:	101
Buffalo:	44
Cheetah:	4
Cape Hunting Dog:	11