

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2012

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

WEATHER SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER

Maximum temperature (°C)	38
Minimum temperature (°C)	5
Mean maximum (°C)	28.1
Mean minimum (°C)	13.6
Rainfall (mm)	98
Days of rain	9

WEATHER SUMMARY - OCTOBER

Maximum temperature (°C)	38
Minimum temperature (°C)	14
Mean maximum (°C)	29.23
Mean minimum (°C)	18.06
Rainfall (mm)	108
Days of rain	6

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF OCTOBER 2012

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 11

1 ADULT FEMALE	17 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	9 YEARS 9 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 9 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	1 YEAR 9 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	1 YEAR 9 MONTHS
3 CUBS	3 MONTHS

MARTHLY, MALA MALA, EYREFIELD
 (September: 14 sightings)
 (October: 15 sightings)

Not a record breaking number of sightings over the last two months but at least we viewed these animals consistently. The biggest talking point is without a doubt the development of the three youngest cubs. They are really coming into their own now with each of their individual characteristics and temperaments shining through. These cubs have covered great distances now that they've left their initial Campbell Koppies den site behind them, being afforded the privilege to walk alongside their fellow pride members. Some of their mothers preferred temporary den sites now include; Thlebe Rocks, the prominent rocks on the western parts of Ostrich Koppies Road as well as in the northern reaches of the Mlowathi River. These cubs are also lucky enough to have the four tolerant and playful sub adults to terrorise. On the same lucky note these sub adults have past their stage of dependency so the three month old cubs will get all the caring attention from the lionesses. We cannot say for sure but we believe that these cubs haven't yet met the Manyeleti males. In fact we've barely viewed the four dominant males with the Styx pride itself. The oldest lioness is still plodding along and the lioness with the injured hip is getting better albeit very slowly.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 11

1 ADULT FEMALE	14 YEARS
2 ADULT FEMALES	5 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	5 YEARS 3 MONTHS
3 CUBS	8 MONTHS
2 CUBS	5 MONTHS
2 CUBS	3 MONTHS

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD
(September: 23 sightings)
(October: 16 sightings)

The decrease in sightings between the two months is common place for this time of year. In the winter months these lions venture more into the part of their territory that stretches east of the Sand River and as we enter summer they tend to prefer their land west of the river. All eleven lions are in good health and we've viewed them on a number of kills including but not limited to two zebra and two giraffe kills which provided us with fantastic sightings, especially of the cubs all of which are now old enough to eat meat. The oldest cubs will now start entering the 'weaning' process... an event which will be welcomed by the smaller four cubs regarding competition for milk. The oldest lioness spent a considerable time away from pride as we viewed her in the presence of the Manyelethi males but her mating efforts have yet to bear fruit. The cubs have also enjoyed extra company as their fathers spent a good amount of time with the pride.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 5

2 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES	2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 4 MONTHS

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD
(September: 4 sightings)
(October: 2 sightings)

This pride is doing well. All members are fit and healthy which is pleasing as this has not always been the case in the past. It is interesting that this pride has not been seen in any company from the coalition of Manyelethi males for at least six months now. The sub adults from this pride are the first cubs to ever be sired by Manyelethi males. It is likely that the males do visit this pride from time-to-time, but considering the pride has much of its territory in the Kruger National Park, it is possible that we miss these occurrences. The young males in a pride can be ejected by their fathers from as early as two and a half years of age. This means the young males in the Fourways pride could be reaching critical age in the coming months. If we are correct in observing that the Manyelethi males are not spending time with this pride, the sub adult males might enjoy being with their native pride for a while longer than usual.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 6

1 ADULT FEMALE	14 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	10 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
1 CUB	3 MONTHS

MARTHLY
(September: 1 sighting)
(October: 1 sighting)

Just the one sighting for each month of the Marthly Pride. The sighting in September was of particular interest. A female buffalo had died of natural causes at Picadilly Triangle. The Princess Alice Pans male leopard was the first to find the free meal which he enjoyed before being chased off by the Airstrip male leopard! Then, it

was the turn of all four of the Manyelethi males to arrive on the scene and the Airstrip male hung around for a while before he gave up. Three lionesses from the Marthly pride then joined the Manyelethi males and finished the carcass. We have seldom recorded the Marthly pride being seen in this area and it was unusual that they had ventured this distance. Perhaps they drew confidence with the Manyelethi male's presence. Another encounter with the Styx pride was on the cards as this region falls within their core territory, but the Styx pride were further north and we are there was no confrontation. The last time these prides squabbled over a meal, the youngest member of the Styx pride was killed.

BREAKAWAY MARTHLY PRIDE = 4

4 ADULT FEMALES

3 YEARS 9 MONTHS

MARTHLY

(September: 0 sightings)

(October: 0 sightings)

These lions have not been sighted on MalaMala for sometime now. Their territory core territory lies to the north and west of our boundary and it will be a rare event for us to view this breakaway pride. There is still hope that they will one day reunite with their native pride, the Marthly pride, and for this reason we will still feature the four young lionesses for the time being.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4

± 7 YEARS 9 MONTHS

MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

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

(September: 9 sightings)

(October: 12 sightings)

It is amazing to witness this powerful coalition go about their business. The distance that they cover is simply astonishing as they patrol their vast kingdom and visit the prides over which they preside. The brothers have been spending more time as a unit and we have been seeing the four together more now than ever in the past. This is a wise tactic and can only strengthen the coalition, making them less vulnerable to any (unlikely at this stage) take-over attempts. They Manyelethi males have been traversing to new areas of the Sabi Sands, passing through regions that were previously far from their reach. They have patrolled toward the extreme west, and most notably southwest where they had an altercation with three unknown male lions. This incident took place off of our property but apparently one of the three nomads was lucky to escape severe injury when the members of the coalition launched an assault upon him. The lower number of sightings we had toward the end of October can be perhaps be attributed to their willingness to explore. With these males moving over new territory, it is likely that they are simply enforcing their boundaries but it is possible that they come across yet another pride and this may lead to a takeover. Each of the brothers have been showing a continued interest in the oldest lioness from the Eyrefield pride. She is the only one in the pride to not have any cubs at this stage and we are hoping she will be able to have another litter soon. On one day in October, the male with the scar on his hip was followed this females every move, and become aggressive toward the dominant male with the dark mane who backed down. We have not seen the dark maned male submit to any of his brothers before. Perhaps he was will to surrender a female that was not even in estrus, and may become more aggressive when she is ready to mate. The dark maned male's dominance was underlined later on in October. Two of the brothers were fast asleep on the Airstrip when we heard a third male lion roaring and approaching from the west. The dark maned male emerged from the bushline and was able to spring his brothers to action as they prepared for yet another determined territorial patrol.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE

7 YEARS 10 MONTHS

2 SUB ADULTS

1 YEAR 6 MONTHS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

(September: 1 sighting)

(October: 0 sightings)

Just the one sighting of the Charleston pride for this report period. Throughout September, this pride is believed to have had company in the form of three unknown male lions. The males were accepted by the pride and then disappeared as quickly as they came. Interesting times ahead for the pride, as can be expected for any pride with such low numbers.

SELATI PRIDE = 21

1 ADULT FEMALE

13 YEARS 10 MONTHS

3 ADULT FEMALES

±9 YEARS 10 MONTHS

3 ADULT FEMALES

UNKOWN AGES

4 SUB ADULT MALES

1 YEAR 10 MONTHS

2 SUB ADULT FEMALES

1 YEAR 10 MONTHS

2 MALE CUBS

8 MONTHS

2 MALE CUBS

7 MONTHS

1 FEMALE CUB

7 MONTHS

3 FEMALE CUBS

5 MONTHS

WESTERN CHARLESTON

(September: 0 sightings)

(October: 0 sightings)

There were no sightings of this pride during the report period. We have updated the composition of the pride and the ages of its members.

SUB ADULT MALES FROM THE EYREFIELD PRIDE = 2

1 MALE

5 YEARS 3 MONTHS

MARTHLY MALE

7 YEARS 3 MONTHS

NOMADIC

(September: 0 sightings)

(October: 2 sightings)

Just two sightings of these males in the month of October. They were both extremely well fed and had been attracted to the area by a large herd of buffalo. They must have had success in catching one and we found them near the Windmill where they hardly moved for two days. These two males have been spending time in the south along with many other male lions that are new to the area. The male from the Marthly pride is now in his prime and sports a tremendous mane, quite different to the male from the Eyrefield pride that still has some way to go in that department. Both lions are fit and the Marthly male seems to have shrugged off the limp he had in July and August.

KRUGER MALE LION = 1

± 7 YEARS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON, WESTERN CHARLESTON

(September: 0 sightings)

(October: 0 sightings)

No confirmed sightings of this male lion who is dominant over the Selati pride.

Other lions encountered

- **Two unidentified male lions:** (October: 2 sightings)

In the month of October, two unidentified male lions were seen on the very southern parts of the property. The tractor drivers found these males on consecutive days whilst repairing roads in that area.

Unfortunately no rangers viewed these males and their identity will remain a mystery. We would like to assume that it was the young male from the Eyrefield pride and his companion from the Marthly pride, although we cannot be certain as there has been plenty of male lion activity in the southern Sabi Sands region with some new males visiting the area that have not been seen before. It could also be the same unidentified males that were reported to be seen with the Charleston pride.

- **Unidentified male lion:** (September: 1 sighting)

A sub-adult male lion was briefly viewed on southwestern Charleston before he crossed our boundary. It is believed that this young male could belong to the Selati pride, a huge pride that was not seen in either September or October.

- **Unidentified male lion:** (October: 1 sighting)

No picture was taken to establish an identity for this mature male lion seen on southwestern Charleston.

- **Unidentified male lion:** (October: 1 sighting)

Seen in the southern most parts of the property and close to the Kruger National Park, we are still working on a confirmed identity for this male lion.

- **Unidentified pride:** (September: 1 sighting)

Four lions were viewed on Flat Rocks. We are not sure of which pride they belong to but the Hilda's Rock pride which is territorial around the Skukuza Airport is a possibility.

There has been much movement among male lions in the south. Some males were reported to be spending time with the Charleston pride, while there were also three other males which had a run in with the Manyelethi males. These three males were lucky to escape from the Manyelethi males without serious injury. Some of the unidentified males could possibly belong to Hilda's Rock pride. We will try to establish identities for these lions, still unknown at this stage.

ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

September	45
October	43

LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

10 YEARS 9 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON

(September: 4 sightings)

(October: 7 sightings)

The Bicycle Crossing male was seen mating with an unknown female leopard during the early parts of September. The pair was found around Charleston North river crossing and only stayed on the property for a brief period. This male is still very much a dominant force and the fact that females are still willing to seek him out as a partner underlines this. He was seen stealing an impala kill from one of his daughters, the Tamboti female. The very next day after he finished the remains of his steal, he was found in his favourite Natal Mahogany (*Trichilia emetica*) at the Flockfield Boma River crossing with yet another impala kill. We have seen this large male in this tree many times over the years and it provides an ideal perch for him to hoist his catches. On other occasions, he was found on territorial patrols around the core parts of his territory, often giving away his position with his unusually loud roaring which is always a treat to hear from close range.

AIRSTRIP MALE**6 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALA MALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(September: 17 sightings)

(October: 14 sightings)

The Airstrip male has been very active during the report period. An impressive 17 sightings in September, followed up by 14 viewings in October, he provided us with some fantastic viewing. Early during September he had a confrontation with a much larger male leopard who was trespassing through the Airstrip male's domain. The intruder is a male known in other parts as the 'Marthly male'. The pair also crossed paths in August. On this occasion, as we saw in August, the two males were happy to size each other up from a distance and no major fighting took place. Later on in the same month some lucky guests were able to witness him killing a female nyala in the Sand River opposite the Main Camp. He then dragged his kill some distance before finding a suitable tree where he stashed it and fed for a few days. The Daughter of the Kikilezi female showed up at the nyala carcass and the Airstrip male interestingly let her have a feed after she had waited for two days. The pair was then seen mating once the carcass was consumed. This is the second time the pair has been together. Another romance was reignited when the male mated with the Ostrich Koppies female, who again had travelled considerable distance to seek out the Airstrip male. He was also seen feeding from a full sized kudu bull! We are undecided whether the male was able to kill the kudu or if it was killed by other means. This event was after we had had plenty of rain and heavy storms, and the fallen kudu lay against a steep bank of the Sand River. It is possible that the kudu was ambushed or cleverly chased down the embankment. We will never know, and it is a seldom recorded circumstance that a leopard could bring down such large prey. The Airstrip male also stole an impala kill from the Daughter of the Kikilezi female. The Daughter of the Kikilezi female left the scene overnight and on the following morning, we were surprised to see the Ostrich Koppies female in attendance. From what we saw, the male was unwilling to share his stolen meal and the female also soon left. There was an interesting interaction between the Airstrip male and his regular opponent, the Princess Alice Pans male. The latter male was the first to come across a buffalo carcass at Picadilly Triangle but was intimidated from the carcass by the Airstrip male, who was in turn bullied off by the Manyelethi males that also caught wind of the decaying animal. True to his nature, the Airstrip male did not back down and only left the area of the lions after two days of lurking around the fringes and looking for an opportunity to reclaim a scrap. This male continues to impress as he covers distance in remarkably short amounts of time, a necessary habit in order to maintain control over his huge empire.

CHARLESTON MALE**6 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON

(September: 1 sighting)

(October: 0 sightings)

The twin brother to the Airstrip male was seen on one occasion in September and was in the company of an unknown female leopard. We suspect the pair must have been mating although they did not do so whilst we they were viewed. We would love to see more of this male but his territory is in an area that is less often frequented by vehicles.

WEST STREET MALE**3 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(September: 7 sightings)

(October: 9 sightings)

The West Street male enjoyed a good period of sightings. Still not showing signs of becoming territorial, he was happy to move about the same core regions that he has been frequenting for almost a year now. He is becoming bigger and is turning into a magnificent specimen. Be sure to watch this space as this young lad

grows in confidence in the times to come. We could perhaps anticipate some epic encounters with the Airstrip and Princess Alice Pan's male leopards in the future. He was involved in an interaction with the Tamboti female and son of the Dudley female 2009 when all three leopards squabbled over an impala kill in September. In October he was found with a warthog kill stashed in a tree. A warthog is a formidable opponent for a leopard and the rangers were pleased to see that this leopard was able to overcome this difficult task with seemingly relative ease. He was also found with a freshly killed baboon. Although it was a small baboon, it is also no easy task to sneak through the defences of a troop of these primates and the West Street male again showed good skill to do so.

NEWINGTON MALE

4 YEARS

WESTERN MALAMALA

(September: 1 sighting)

(October: 2 sightings)

This young male, like the West Street male, is also not yet showing any more signs of becoming territorial. When we saw him in the middle stages of October, we were a little concerned of his condition and he seemed rather thin and in need of a meal. On the final day of October, we found him looking slightly better but on this occasion he had more to worry about than hunting! Whilst watching the young male, we could see the shape of a large leopard approaching. It was none other than the Princess Alice Pans male who then came to rest close by to the Newington male. The Newington male was slightly nervous, and the large Princess Alice Pans male was not bothered in the slightest paying the young leopard no attention. Not even a growl was exchanged. This confirms initial thoughts that the Princess Alice Pans male may be the father of this leopard. This male is yet to cross paths with the ever so dominant Airstrip male, and is in danger of doing so if he continues to frequent the areas that he is.

HOGVAAL MALE

6 YEARS 6 MONTHS

EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

(September: 2 sightings)

(October: 1 sighting)

This impressive male is reaching his prime and is in excellent condition. The sighting in October was of him with a very full belly and he climbed from tree-to-tree trying to escape the many flies that were attracted to the area by the dung left from a huge herd of buffalo that had recently passed through the area. We are yet to see this male with female company. Having been established in his territory for some time now, we expect this will change soon.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE

± 7 YEARS

NORTHERN EYREFIELD

(September: 0 sightings)

(October: 1 sighting)

Only the one sighting of this male for the period. We had a poor view of him feeding on the remains of an unknown kill.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE

11 YEARS 10 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

(September: 5 sightings)

(October: 4 sightings)

The Princess Alice Pans male has been exploring new areas over the past two months. He has been spending more time around the Sand River than we have seen before and has even been happy to cross onto the eastern

bank. The Airstrip male, a leopard that has also won confrontations between the two in the past, chased this male off a buffalo carcass. It was an easy victory for the Airstrip male who is much smaller than the Princess Alice Pans male. With the Princess Alice Pans male venturing to new areas, he has been very close to stumbling across the Kikilezi female and her cub. Should he come upon them, he would make an effort to kill the young cub but we hope the experienced female will be able to maneuver around this potential threat.

GOWRIE MALE

± 5 YEARS

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD

(September: 0 sightings)

(October: 1 sighting)

Only one confirmed sighting of the Gowrie male for the period. It is believed that he has been mating with the Mlowathi female in the north.

KIKILEZI FEMALE

11 YEARS 1 MONTH

1 MALE CUB

7 MONTHS

WESTERN MALA MALA, MARTHLY

(September: 8 sightings of female, 5 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

(October: 2 sightings of female, 8 sightings of female and cub, 2 sightings of cub without female)

This duo of leopards once again provided us with some special sightings. To get a chance to view a young leopard cub is always a highlight and this male cub did not disappoint. We can no longer say that he is growing in confidence, as there is no way that he could be any more confident than he is now! He moves about the Land Rover with complete trust and happily moves between the tyres to inspect the interesting smells that they collect as they roll across the property. The leopards were seen many times feeding off kills, which the skilled Kikilezi female has no trouble in providing. On one occasion she even delivered a young nyala for the cub which he ate almost completely on his own, and when he wasn't feeding off it he was honing his skills hoisting the carcass into small trees and practising the various suffocation techniques on the lifeless body. Some of the kills attracted hyenas to the area, none of whom were able to enjoy any success on earning a free meal. The cub even shows remarkable self-assurance around these intruders and is able to move around them without fuss, always clambering up a tree or boulder to safety whenever he passes too close. This is the Kikilezi females fourth litter and to date she has raised one cub to independence from each. Still a long way off, let's hope that this young male cub is the next to make the transition to adulthood. He holds a special rank among the leopards currently viewed on the property since he is the only cub to be sired by the Airstip male at this stage.

TAMBOTI FEMALE

5 YEARS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA

(September: 5 sightings)

(October: 11 sightings)

The Tamboti female had an eventful period. She had a kill stolen from her by her father, the Bicycle Crossing male. She had carefully placed her impala carcass in the intricate branch network of Bushveld Saffron (*Elaeodendron transvaalense*) which is a clever tactic to deter larger leopards as it is such a difficult tree to navigate. This did not bother the Bicycle Crossing male and he was able to flick the kill out of the tree and he finished the remains in quick time. Soon after, she was found with a freshly killed male bushbuck. This time, the carcass was too large for her to drag into a tree and she was unfortunate when a hyena came into the area to steal her catch. The charismatic female was not about to give up and she stayed in the area for an entire day calculating a clever way to reclaim the bushbuck. She almost succeeded at one stage when the hyena chased after her, only for the leopard to double back around it but she could not locate the hidden meat quickly enough and the hyena was able to fend her off again. The very same night after she abandoned the hyena, we

watched her as she hunted impala around the Airstrip. It was a windy, rainy and stormy night providing ideal hunting conditions. The rain pelted down but one set of determined guests stuck around to see if she might have any success. The female had some luck and was able to ambush a female impala from close range that was trying to find cover in a dense thicket. It was amazing to witness as the leopard then dragged the carcass a few hundred metres, passing by numerous suitable trees, and finally settled on yet another Bushveld Saffron where she lifted it into the branches. She fed on the meat for the next few days without any trouble from other leopards or hyenas. We are pleased to report that she has fully recovered from the nasty gash that she was sporting on her right thigh. There is hardly evidence of scarring reminding us of how remarkable the healing powers of these animals are. With this setback behind her, we hope she can continue on her quest to becoming a mother for the first time. The construction of the West Street Bridge is well underway now. We cannot wait to see how she will react once the bridge is completed and see if she will reclaim her abandoned territory east of the Sand River. We believe that the fallen bridge, which she used to cross almost daily, led to her no longer using her territory to the east and it will make for a remarkable observation should she return to her old haunts once the bridge is finished!

MLOWATHI FEMALE

5 YEARS 9 MONTHS

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD

(September: 0 sightings)

(October: 0 sightings)

There were no sightings during the report period. It is reported that she has been mating with the Gowrie male to our north.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE

12 YEARS 11 MONTHS

1 MALE CUB

1 YEAR 3 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER

(September: 3 sightings of female, 1 sighting of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

(October: 1 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

The ever successful Jakkalsdraai female was seen on four occasions during the period. We also had one confirmed sighting of her male cub who is healthy and in good condition. In late September, some confusion was created when we found the female around the Charleston River Rocks. Close by, a young male leopard was seen who was possibly her surviving cub from her most recent litter of two. Then, a little further down the road was yet another young leopard. This time a female. Could it be that all this time we have been mistaken and the Jakkalsdraai female still has two dependant cubs? We hope to resolve this soon.

CAMPBELL KOPPIES FEMALE

13 YEARS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

(September: 0 sightings)

(October: 0 sightings)

There were no sightings during the report period.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE

8 YEARS 1 MONTH

EYREFIELD

(September: 2 sightings)

(October: 2 sightings)

Seen mating with the Airstrip male, this is the second time that we have seen this pair together. As we saw last time, the Ostrich Koppies female travels some distance to seek out the Airstrip male. We have still had no confirmation on the status of the female cub from her previous litter.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE
1 FEMALE CUB

12 YEARS
1 YEAR

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD

(September: 3 sightings of female, 2 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)
(October: 1 sighting of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 1 sightings of cub without female)

We were pleased to have a handful of confirmed sightings of this pair of leopards. Both are in good condition. On one occasion we found the Matshipiri female in a tree on the Kruger National Park boundary. We followed her as she started to hunt and saw as she killed a Coqui Francolin. We had a fabulous sighting of her remaining female cub that was found around Pat's Drift Koppies. Her twin brother has not been seen over the past few months and we assume that the young cub is now dead. The female cub had a duiker carcass with her that must have been made by her mother. We spent the day with the cub as she explored within a radius of her carcass, climbing between the many trees and giving a spectacular show. The Styx pride of lions was resting in close proximity to where this cub was. As the pride became active, they moved toward her area. As predicted, the lions were able to detect the kill and one of the adult lionesses made quick time of finishing off the duiker. The cub avoided any drama by climbing a tall tree; it was easy enough after all her practise throughout the day. It appeared that the lions hardly even noticed the cub.

DUDLEY FEMALE
1 CUB

14 YEARS 1 MONTH
6 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(September: 0 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)
(October: 1 sighting of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

We only had one confirmed sighting of the Dudley female. It was late at night and on the hunt. We believe her cub is doing well.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE
1 CUB

8 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 YEAR 4 MONTHS

CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(September: 1 sighting of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)
(October: 1 sighting of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

Each month during the period produced a single confirmed sighting of the seldom seen Flockfield female. Once again, we have not seen any sign of her cub and the status of this cub is unknown. The female seems to be doing well. In October, she was found in close proximity to a full-bellied Hogvaal male and she was feeding of the remains of an old carcass. It is possible that she had claimed the abandoned portion of a carcass that had belonged to the Hogvaal male.

WESTERN FEMALE
WESTERN MALA MALA
(September: 0 sightings)
(October: 0 sightings)

14 YEARS 9 MONTHS

There were no sightings during the report period. We believe she has been mating with the large male leopard known as the 'Marthly' male.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Daughter of the Kikilezi female 2010:** (September: 4 sightings) (October: 6 sightings)

The daughter of the Kikilezi female has earned herself a place in the history books. In September, we were treated to the most unbelievable sighting of her catching an impala that ran straight into her path where she was laying in ambush. The entire herd of impala steamed toward her position and the female picked out an individual, doing a full back flip in mid air to bring the impala down in incredible acrobatic fashion. One of our guests was able to get footage of the entire event and the video has got over three million views on YouTube to date. What happened next was also interesting enough. The Airstrip male stole the same impala kill from her, and on the following day we found the Ostrich Koppies female on the scene with no sign of the young female. This all took place a few weeks after the daughter of the Kikilezi female had shared a nyala kill that the Airstrip male had made and the pair mated thereafter. It is unlikely that this young female has any chance of raising young at this stage when she has no established territory.

- **Son of the Dudley female 2009:** (September: 4 sightings) (October: 4 sightings)

This handsome young leopard continues to move about the area of Rattray's Camp. In early October we watched him hunting birds in the Sand River at the Flockfield Boma river crossing. He stalked and ambushed at least five young Blacksmith Lapwing and Egyptian Goslings after which he settled down to consume his impressive stash.

- **Female leopard with the blemish in eye:** (September: 1 sighting) (October: 0 sightings)

This female easily recognizable for the blemish in her eye was seen on one occasion in September. We hope that her one cub from her recent litter of two is still surviving.

- **No ID males:** (September: 4 sightings) (October: 5 sightings)
- **No ID females:** (September: 6 sightings) (October: 4 sightings)
- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed)** (September: 7 sightings) (October: 4 sightings)

These unidentified leopards are often leopards that we know, yet due to circumstances are unable to catch a good view of them. A significant sighting involved three leopards feeding off a kill around Rattrays Camp. The animals were viewed from across the Sand River and there was no way to edge closer and earn a better look. Another sighting of note was of a male and female leopard seen at Parrafin Drift. The pair was seen briefly before disappearing into thick bush and out of sight. It may have been the 'Marthly' male (mentioned in posts above) who at the time was reported to be mating with a daughter of the 'Vomba' female, yet another descendant of the Ngoboswan female.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

September	35
October	32

CHEETAH

In September, the two cheetah brothers were seen on four occasions. They were slightly more prolific in October with seven sightings. These brothers have a large territory, the majority of which lies in the Kruger National Park. We are lucky to enjoy the numbers of sightings that we do of these animals that number less than three hundred in this entire six million acre region. In September they were seen feeding on two kudu kills, both occasions being a young female kudu. One of the kills was made in full view of some guests, and they were able to witness the action unfold on the open plains near the Wild Dog Rocks. A hyena came into the area and chased the cheetah off, but luckily for the brothers the hyena was nervous of vehicles and took off when we approached, leaving them to reclaim the kudu. No female company was seen with these males during the period. In October we came across a nervous female cheetah at Jakkalsdraai Open Area. It was becoming dark and the female was not happy with our company. We hope to enjoy more sightings of this unknown

female in the future.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

September	2
October	3

CAPE HUNTING DOGS

Similar to the cheetah, when one considers the rarity of these animals, the huge size of their territories and the vast distances that they cover in quick time, it highlights how special the occasions are when we view these dogs that are a highly sought after sighting on African safari. In September we saw a pack of eight adults and six pups on two occasions. It is the same pack that set up a den on southwestern Charleston during the winter. All of the pups were looking extremely fit and they have done well to make it to this stage. One of the sightings in September was of the entire pack fast asleep at Styx Waterhole. It makes for a good change to see these dogs resting as it is more difficult to study them when travelling after them at breakneck speeds! In October, we recorded two other sightings of the same pack. It was fascinating to watch these dogs make light work of the property, and covered almost the entire width in just over twenty minutes. They headed straight toward Picadilly Triangle where the numbers of impala are always plentiful. They were unsuccessful with their hunting attempts. Two dogs were also sighted on the in the south and it is unconfirmed as to which pack they belong. In the late stages of October, the pack with six pups was seen in the north, and we found a lone dog at the other end of the property suggesting that we had members from two separate packs visiting us on the same day! With the impala lambing season well underway, it is a time of plenty for these dogs as they are presented with easy targets.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

September	16
October	16

CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

Nothing out of the ordinary to report from these animals as we experienced consistently good sightings day in and day out.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

Lion: 54
Leopard: 77
Elephant: 186
Buffalo: 99
Cheetah: 4
Cape Hunting Dog: 2

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR OCTOBER 2012

Lion: 51
Leopard: 87
Elephant: 204
Buffalo: 83
Cheetah: 8
Cape Hunting Dog: 3