

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – JULY 2013

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

WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE

Maximum temperature (°C)	32
Minimum temperature (°C)	7
Mean maximum (°C)	24.8
Mean minimum (°C)	11.6
Rainfall (mm)	8
Days of rain	3

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF JULY 2013

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 7

1 ADULT FEMALE	17 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	5 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	2 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	2 YEARS 6 MONTHS

MARTHLY, MALAMALA, EYREFIELD
(9 sightings)

The Styx Pride were not seen as often as in the months leading up to July. Although their movements were standard, the lions seemed to spend more days to the north of the MalaMala boundary. Reports suggest one of the females was seen mating with a male lion far north of our property. These actions are not surprising as the Manyelethi Male coalition has spent minimal time with the pride. In fact, any encounters between the Styx Pride and the Manyelethi Males resulted in the sub adult males from the pride being chased north.

Recent sightings of the pride consisted of the ten year old lioness not present. We suspect she may be mating with a Manyelethi Male or a male from the north. The youngest lioness may have been as well. One sighting on southern side-Ngoboswan had 5 of the seven members present. The eldest lioness and the mother of the four sub adults were not present.

The eldest lioness remains in the same condition. It appears she has lost even more weight and was often absent or some way behind the other six members of the pride on a few occasions.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 10

2 ADULT FEMALES	6 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 5 MONTH
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 5 MONTH

2 MALE CUBS
2 MALE CUBS
MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EYREFIELD
(14 sightings)

1 YEAR 2 MONTH
1 YEAR

There were fourteen confirmed sightings of the Eyrefield Pride during July. The pride lost a cub at the beginning of the month. We believe it was one of the young males who would have been a year and two months old. The reason for his death is unknown. The pride now consists of three lionesses and six cubs.

The lions spent many hours lying on the banks of the Sand River between Rattrays and MalaMala camps. On one occasion we found all four Manyelethi males with the pride. They spent a day on an open sand bank before moving to higher ground that evening.

One morning, Bens Marimane witnessed the three lionesses kill two buffalo at Princess Alice Pans. The whole pride spent three days at the kill site.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 5

2 ADULT FEMALES
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE
1 SUB ADULT MALE

UNKNOWN AGES
3 YEARS 1 MONTH
3 YEARS 1 MONTH

EASTERN MALAMALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD
(3 sightings)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Fourways Pride during July. Little knowledge of their movements makes it difficult to construct an accurate monthly summary. However, we do know that the two older sub adult males who have been with the pride for sometime were split from the pride for at least a week. The two males were found on their own at Buffalo Bush Dam while the four pride members were at Hyena Waterhole. Towards the end of the month all six lions were found together again near Clarendon Corner.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 5

1 ADULT FEMALE
2 ADULT FEMALES
1 SUB ADULT FEMALES
1 CUB

14 YEARS 11 MONTHS
11 YEARS
2 YEARS 4 MONTH
4 MONTHS (DECEASED)

MARTHLY
(6 sightings)

There were six confirmed sightings of the Marthly Pride in July. Seeing the pride more regularly enabled us to finalise an updated composition. The eldest lioness is 14 years and 11 months old and has no tail. There are two younger lionesses at 11 years of age. One is tailless and the other has recently given birth to cubs. The last member of the pride is a sub adult female at 2 years and 4 months old. The reports which suggested that there was a 4 month old cub never materialised. Therefore we presume the cub is dead.

The knowledge we have regarding the new cubs is that the lioness is keeping them in the Manyelthi River just east of the Marthly Marthly break. It is an area that is inaccessible by vehicles so we will have to play the waiting game.

The lions killed two impala in one evening on Jeremiahs Loop just north of MalaMala Main Camp. On the first day of the month they killed a male bushbuck next to the managers house. The new road, Jeremiahs Loop, has given us access to an area the pride patrols regularly. It will enable to follow their movements more closely.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4 **± 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS**
MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN
CHARLESTON
DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, MARTHLY AND BREAKAWAY
MARTHLY PRIDES
(12 sightings)

There were 12 sightings of the Manyelethi Males in July. On only one occasion were the four seen together. Tracks indicate at least one of the brothers walking past MalaMala Main Camp often. Early morning audio of the males calling gives away their general direction, but when they approach from the south, they sometimes cross through before we can reach them.

We believe that the dark mane Manyelethi Male is the father of the newly born cubs from the Marthly Pride. Past months game stats record he was the male found with the pride members.

One morning three Manyelethi Males were found at Charleston River Rocks. It appeared they chased the Charleston pride back south. The Charleston pride young males were found at Trollips.

Reports suggest that a coalition of males attempted to cross into the northern parts of their territory. The unknown coalition turned and went back north with no further threats.

Statistics over eighteen months reveal that the Manyelethi males have not once been seen with the Fourways pride. Therefore we no longer classify the Fourways pride under their reign.

Tracks of a male and female lion were found on Western side Mlowathi when all but one of the Styx pride members were found on Southern Side Ngoboswan. This gives reason to assume a Manyelethi male may be mating with a lioness from the Styx Pride.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3 **8 YEARS 7 MONTHS**
1 ADULT FEMALE **2 YEARS 3 MONTH**
2 SUB ADULT MALES
SOUTHERN CHARLESTON
(5 sightings)

Once again five sightings of the Charleston Pride for July. Sightings occurred only in Charleston and the north eastern parts of Toulon. It appeared the pride was chased by the Manyelethi males at least once.

The sub adult males are large and strong and with their mother, the three lions are an effective hunting squad.

SELATI PRIDE = 17 **14 YEARS 6 MONTHS**
1 ADULT FEMALE **±10 YEARS 6 MONTHS**
3 ADULT FEMALES **UNKNOWN AGES**
3 ADULT FEMALES

4 SUB ADULT MALES	2 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES	2 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 CUBS	±1 YEAR 2 MONTH
2 CUBS	10 MONTHS
WESTERN CHARLESTON	
(0 sightings)	

There were no confirmed sightings of the Selati Pride in July. The last confirmed sighting was in January. It appears the pride remains split up.

Two lionesses were found on the western bank of the Sand River in Charleston. We think they may have been members of the Selati Pride.

MALES FROM THE EYREFIELD PRIDE = 2	
1 EYREFIELD MALE	6 YEARS
MARTHLY MALE	8 YEARS
NOMADIC	
(0 sightings)	

There were no confirmed sightings of either of these male lions in July.

KRUGER MALE LION = 1	± 7 YEARS 9 MONTHS
SOUTHERN CHARLESTON, WESTERN CHARLESTON	
DOMINANT OVER THE SELATI PRIDE	
(0 sightings)	

There were no recorded sightings of the single Kruger Male lion. Reports indicate he is competing with the young males from the Eyrefield and Marthly Prides for dominance over the Selati Pride. Reports also state that the Kruger Male is dominant over the younger Eyrefield Male but the older Marthly Male is dominant over the Kruger Male.

Other lions encountered:

- **Two lionesses on the western bank of the Sand River in Charleston.**

We assume these were members of the Selati pride as the Eyrefield pride were in the north.

- **4 unidentified young males seen consistently so far in 2013.** (3 sightings)

These same lions appeared three times on MalaMala property in July. In one sighting, all four young males were found at the Windmill. They chased zebra in the late morning hours. Other sightings consisted of only three pride members present.

We noticed one of the lions had a brand reading the number 5 on his right shoulder.

The windmill is the most north they have come indicating their awareness towards the four Manyelethi males.

- **2 young male lion left and rejoined the Fourways Pride** (2 sightings)

These young males were chased by the Manyelethi Males. One evening, they were located at Buffalo

Bush Dam on their own, a week later we found the Fourways Pride with the two young males present.

There is no change with the male lion who has recently joined up with the Fourways pride. It seems he is suitable member for the pride. His size and strength can only be used to the prides advantage. He was seen with the Fourways Pride for all seven sightings.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JULY	40
-------------	-----------

LEOPARDS

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

11 YEARS 6 MONTHS

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

There were eleven confirmed sightings of the Bicycle Crossing Male in July. Sightings occurred most around the Tamboti Thickets where he hung around two kills for three days. One morning we found the Dudley Female in a tree with an nyala kill. The Bicycle Crossing Male was found in another tree with a female bushbuck kill less than one hundred metres apart from the Dudley Female. The Bicycle Crossing male quickly devoured the bushbuck and subsequently chased the Dudley Female off the nyala kill to claim it as his meal for the next forty eight hours. Other sightings occurred around the Kapen River where he roared and scent marked thoroughly.

AIRSTRIp MALE

7 YEARS 1 MONTH

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLy, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD
(13 sightings)

There were thirteen confirmed sightings of the Airstrip Male in July. It was a hard month for the brawler as he had to face the large male leopard from Marthly entering his core territory. Several aggressive encounters resulted with the Airstrip Male retreating eastwards towards Emsagwen and the Matshipiri River. The Marthly male posed a serious threat in the form of patrolling the Kikilezi females' expected denning area. The Airstrip Male attempted to protect the area of his female but a parallel drag resulted in the Airstrip male again being pushed eastwards.

CHARLESTON MALE

7 YEARS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Charleston male during June. The only sighting of the Charleston male this year occurred last month. He was seen heading eastwards around the southern parts of Jakkalsdraai open area. We assume he is competing with the Bicycle Crossing male and the Hogvaal Male for territory.

WEST STREET MALE

4 YEARS 3 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(11 sightings)

There were eleven sightings of the West Street Male in July. Sightings were not out of the norm. He again was found roaring confidently in the Western parts of Flockfield and MalaMala. He was also located with bushbuck kills on two different occasions.

NEWINGTON MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(10 sightings)

4 YEARS 9 MONTHS

There were ten confirmed sightings of the Newington Male in July. He is the oldest of the three young males that we see regularly in similar areas. His movements remain on the Western Bank of the Sand River between the two camps. One morning we found him with two parallel gashes in his hind quarter. It looked as if was bitten by another large predator. Young males like him often find themselves in tricky situations. A lack of precise hunting skills along with inexperience can land them in danger.

HOGVAAL MALE
EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN
CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

7 YEARS 3 MONTH

There were no confirmed sightings of the Hogvaal Male during July. There has not been one confirmed sighting of this leopard this year.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE
NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

± 7 YEARS 7 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings of the Tsebe Rocks Male during July.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(2 sightings)

12 YEARS 7 MONTHS

There were only two confirmed sightings of the Princess Alice Pans Male in July. The only explanation for his scarcity is that he is spending more time with the Tamboti Female and her cubs. The Tamboti Female must be killing regularly in order to keep her cubs alive. The Princess Alice Pans Male may look at this as a steady food source, potentially stealing a great deal of her kills.

Tracks of a large male leopard were seen around the MalaMala Main Camp indicating he may have been close by, keeping under our watchful radar.

GOWRIE MALE
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sightings)

± 6/7 YEARS

There was one confirmed sighting of the Gowrie Male during June. He was spotted at Mlowathi Dam. His yellow eyes were a dead giveaway of his ID. Two other female leopards were found close by that morning.

KIKILEZI FEMALE
WESTERN MALAMALA, MARTHLI
(12 sightings)

11 YEARS 10 MONTHS

There were twelve confirmed sightings of the Kikilezi Female in July. She was the leopard seen most

often in the month. Having seen obvious suckle marks on her belly, she was found marching around the Mlowathi Koppies as if she had set up a den site. At this time, we have very little evidence to state that she still has cubs.

The large male leopard from Marthly patrolled the Mlowathi Koppies for two days even managing to chase the Airstrip Male off the scene. We suspect there is a good chance that the Kikilezi females cubs were killed by the large male leopard from Marthly.

However, it has been great to see more of her. The earlier months of the year show sightings of this leopard were far less.

TAMBOTI FEMALE **5 YEARS 9 MONTHS**
2 CUBS (UNKNOWN GENDERS) **5 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA
(0 sightings of female, 1 sighting of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

The Tamboti Female was seen only once during July. This one sighting was of her and her two cubs west of the track to the Parking Bay.

MLOWATHI FEMALE **6 YEARS 5 MONTH**
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sighting)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Mlowathi Female during July.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE **13 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
1 FEMALE CUB **2 YEARS**
CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER
(0 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 1 sightings of cub without female)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Jakkalsdraai Female and one sighting of her cub during July. There was a sighting of the cub on her own last month as well. It a good sign to see her working towards independence. Other young female leopards which were not identified were seen in similar area to where she resides. These young leopards could very well have been her. As she is young and is not seen often, identification is difficult.

CAMPBELL KOPPIES FEMALE **13 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
WESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Campbell Koppies Female during July.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE **8 YEARS 10 MONTHS**
1 CUB **7 MONTHS**
EYREFIELD
(2 sightings of female, 2 sightings of female and cubs, 0 sightings of cub without female)

The Ostrich Koppies Female was seen twice during July. She was seen on a further two

occasions accompanied by her cub as they fed off a nyala kill in the Nwana Nonantshemeni donga for two days. It was exciting news to find the cub as it was assumed dead. The cub is a seven month old female.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE **12 YEARS 9 MONTHS**
1 FEMALE CUB **1 YEAR 9 MONTHS**
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sighting of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Matshipiri Female in July.

DUDLEY FEMALE **14 YEARS 9 MONTHS**
1 FEMALE CUB **1 YEAR 3 MONTH**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(3 sightings of female, 1 sighting of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Dudley Female and one sighting of the Dudley Female with her cub in July. The Dudley Female was found on a male nyala kill not far from the Bicycle Crossing Male on a bushbuck kill. The Bicycle Crossing Male finished the bushbuck and chased the Dudley Female away from her nyala kill. There was no sign of her cub during this interaction.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **9 YEARS 3 MONTH**
1 CUB **2 YEARS 1 MONTH**
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sighting of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Flockfield Female during July. She was last seen mating with the Bicycle Crossing Male leopard in the Tamboti Thickets towards the end of March.

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE **3 YEARS 7 MONTHS**
WESTERN MALAMALA
(4 sightings)

There were four confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni female in July. On one occasion she was found near the junction of southern and northern break West Street; a place further west of her usual hunting grounds.

CALABASH FEMALE **± 6 YEARS**
1 CUB (Potentially more than 1 cub) **5 MONTHS**

WESTERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings, 0 sighting of cub without female, 0 sighting of female with cub)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Calabash Female during July. We suspect she may be raising cubs in south western Charleston.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Son of the Dudley female 2009:** (1 sighting).

3 YEARS 10 MONTHS

There was one confirmed sighting of the Son of the Dudley Female born in 2009 in July. The youngster was found with a young impala kill in a tree on River Road north of Entrance Sibuye Drive. There was a hyena also at the base of the tree and both animals were very relaxed in each others' presence. There were other 'No ID' sightings of young male leopards around the Tamboti thickets, some of which may have been him.

- **No ID females:** (9 sightings).

There were nine No ID female leopard sightings during July.

A young female leopard was seen at Charleston North Crossing. This may have been the cub of the Jakkalsdraai Female or the cub of the Flockfield Female, both leopards are around the age of two years. Other 'No ID' female leopard sightings were in the south eastern parts of Charleston and Toulon.

- **No ID males:** (9 sightings).

The large male leopard from Marthly has earned himself his own name. He will be called the Marthly Male and this will feature in next month's game report. We will no longer refer to him as a no ID leopard. He was seen seven times in July and posed a big threat to the Airstrip Male in the northern parts of MalaMala and southern parts of Marthly.

A young male was seen on the KNP Break around the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary. A quick sighting resulted in a no ID sighting. We hope this may have been the Hogvaal Male. There has not been one sighting of the Hogvaal Male this year.

- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed):** (1 sightings)
- **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

JULY	26
-------------	-----------

CHEETAH

July was an interesting month in terms of cheetah sightings. There were seven sightings for the month. The older male usually found at Clarendon was found on four occasions. One day we found him at Mlowathi Open Area where he killed a male bushbuck just east of the river. The old male has an injury to his front right paw. The injury looks painful when he walks but when chasing prey he appears injury free.

A young male was found at West Street one morning. The male was lost walking through thick bush but was relocated hours later feeding off an impala kill. The cheetah seems relaxed at the presence of our vehicles. He was located again the following day on the firebreak of Matshipiri Dam Road, continuing north and eastwards to where we assume he crossed northwards over the Gowrie Boundary.

The other cheetah sighting for the month consisted of a female and her two youngsters at the Airstrip late one evening. The three cheetahs are the same cheetahs which spent long parts of last summer on MalaMala. December 2012 was the first time we saw the female with what was then, four cubs. The five

cheetahs endured harsh times in the open areas on MalaMala until she was forced to move to other areas with only two of her cubs still alive. It was fantastic to see her return this month with both cubs. They are all looking in good condition.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

JULY	5
-------------	----------

CAPE HUNTING DOGS (3 sightings)

There were only three Cape Hunting Dog sightings in July. A pack of seven made two kills in the Sand River near Rattrays Camp. We think the pack of seven was the same pack on both occasions although tracks indicate they came from different directions on both occasions. Packs should den this time of year, therefore we expect the tracks of the same pack to come from a similar area. There is no evidence which could indicate that we have a pack which are denning here on MalaMala just yet.

There was another pack of nine dogs which were seen very far south, at Rocky Crossing. This may be the pack which used a termite mound as a den site in south western Charleston this time last year.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JULY	16
-------------	-----------

CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

With the winter season now heavily upon us and most of the waterholes dry and barren, large herds of buffalo (numbering over 200 individuals) are regularly taking to the Sand River to drink. The river is flowing steadily and provides an oasis for animals that spend their time feeding in the arid grasslands. During the dry season, large herds merge in their quest to find water. There were several sightings of large herds of buffalo drinking from the Sand River opposite the camps. It is exciting especially during lunch where the view from the deck is brilliant.

Winter game viewing often involves lion and buffalo interaction. June was once again productive in this regard. As a result, the buffalo would have had a nerve racking month of fearing for the lions.

Elephant sightings consist of large numbers within the herds. We often see elephants digging for the roots of large trees attaining the more succulent plant matter. They also take to the more seemingly dried up rivers where they dig for water beneath the sand. This also allows for other animals to drink from these small pools of water and provide an integral key in the survival of all animals.

Elephants were also regularly viewed from both camps providing awesome entertainment and great viewing from the decks.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

African Wild Cat: 1

Caracal: 1

Civet: 2

Honey Badger: 4

Porcupine: 3

Pangolin: 1

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR JULY 2013

Lion: 50

Leopard: 86

Elephant: 143 Herds + 20 Bulls

Buffalo: 27 Large Herds + 1 Herd +103 Bulls

Cheetah: 7

Cape Hunting Dogs: 3

MALAMALA KILLS ANALYSIS**JULY 2013**

	Lions	Leopards	Wild dog	Cheetah	Total
Impala	2	1	1	1	5
Warthog					
Zebra					
Giraffe					
Nyala		3			3
Bushbuck	1	4	1	1	7
Buffalo	3				3
Wildebeest					
Kudu					
Other	2	1			3
Waterbuck					
Total	8	9	2	2	21