

## MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – JUNE 2013

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

### WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE

Maximum temperature (°C)	32
Minimum temperature (°C)	4
Mean maximum (°C)	26.4
Mean minimum (°C)	9.7
Rainfall (mm)	0
Days of rain	0

\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF JUNE 2013

### LIONS

#### **STYX PRIDE = 7**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>17 YEARS 9 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>10 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>5 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS</b>	<b>2 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 MALE SUB ADULTS</b>	<b>2 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>

MARTHLY, MALAMALA, EYREFIELD  
(17 sightings)

There were seventeen confirmed sightings of the Styx Pride in June. Their movements were consistent to those of the past months. It was a good start to the month when we saw the pride stalk and kill a male impala at Mlowathi Dam. The lions made a spectacular wildebeest kill, also at Mlowathi Dam, on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

June was the first month this year that a Manyelethi male has been seen with the Styx pride on MalaMala Game Reserve. The Manyelethi male with the scar on his hip had chased the majority of the pride away from a buffalo kill. The eldest lioness was the only member of the pride that remained in his presence. They both fed intermittently on the remains of the buffalo carcass for twenty four hours.

The eldest lioness of the pride looks as if her body condition may be deteriorating further. She lay alone at Wild Dog Rocks Open Area for three days after feeding on the remains of an abandoned buffalo kill. The pride had moved far away. However, her die hard personality and endurance enabled her to catch up and rejoin with the pride a few days later.

The pride was chased by a large unknown male lion at Mlowathi open area on the last day of the month.

#### **EYREFIELD PRIDE = 10**

<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>6 YEARS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>5 YEARS 11 MONTHS</b>

<b>2 MALE CUBS</b>	<b>1 YEAR 4 MONTH</b>
<b>1 FEMALE CUB</b>	<b>1 YEAR 4 MONTH</b>
<b>2 MALE CUBS</b>	<b>1 YEAR 1 MONTH</b>
<b>2 MALE CUBS</b>	<b>11 MONTHS</b>

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EYREFIELD  
(18 sightings)

The Eyrefield pride was seen eighteen times during June. The Streak of kills made are to note: Refer to table 1.

<b>Table 1: Eyrefield Pride Kill Streak</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Kill Type</b>	<b>Location</b>
June 8	Wildebeest Kill	Jeremiah's Loop
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wildebeest Kill	Airstrip
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Buffalo Kill	Termanalia Road
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	Wildebeest Kill	Airstrip
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Buffalo Kill	Confluence Crossing

On the evening of the sixteenth, the Eyrefield pride met with the Fourways pride near a herd of buffalo. The interaction was aggressive accompanied by loud territorial vocalisation. The Eyrefield pride took a big chance by not immediately fleeing the scene as they were tremendously outpowered by the strength dynamics of the Fourways pride. Members of the entire Eyrefield pride were scattered around the scene. Two cubs were stranded at Donald's Crossing while the rest of the pride managed to cross the Sand River onto the western bank. The pride was not relocated for a few days but once we found them it was pleasant to see all ten members present.

The three lionesses continue to do exceptionally well considering the loss of their eldest member in April. The four Manyeleti males were not seen with the Eyrefield pride as often as the recent months past.

**FOURWAYS PRIDE = 5**

<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>UNKNOWN AGES</b>
<b>1 SUB ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>3 YEARS</b>
<b>1 SUB ADULT MALE</b>	<b>3 YEARS</b>
<b>1 SUB ADULT MALE</b>	<b>± 3.5 YEARS</b>

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

There were seven confirmed sightings of the Fourways pride during June. The unknown male was present on all seven occasions. The pride was often found sleeping off the remains of large kills. Their movements for the month were consistently around the northern parts of the Matshapiri River. The lions were found on a large buffalo kill on the KNP Break as well as at unidentified kills around buffalo bush dam.

**MARTHLY PRIDE = 5**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>14 YEARS 10 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>10 YEARS 11 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 SUB ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>2 YEARS 3 MONTH</b>
<b>1 CUB</b>	<b>4 MONTHS</b>

MARTHLY  
(1 sightings)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Marthly pride in June.

**MANYELETHI MALES = 4** **± 8 YEARS 5 MONTHS**  
MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN  
CHARLESTON  
DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, FOURWAYS, MARTHLY AND  
BREAKAWAY MARTHLY PRIDES  
(9 sightings)

There were nine sightings of the Manyelethi male lions in June. The lions were found in scattered positions all over the northern parts of MalaMala property. June marked the first time this year that one of the males has been seen with the Styx pride. The Manyelethi male with the scar on his hip was found feeding off the remains of a male buffalo with the Styx pride nearby. Members of the coalition were seen with the Eyrefield pride on a few occasions.

**CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3**  
**1 ADULT FEMALE** **8 YEARS 6 MONTHS**  
**2 SUB ADULT MALES** **2 YEARS 2 MONTH**  
SOUTHERN CHARLESTON  
(5 sightings)

There were five confirmed sightings of the Charleston pride in June. Sightings were scattered around Charleston as well as the southern parts of Flockfield. It appeared the three individuals were following a large herd of buffalo on two occasions. The sub adult males are large and strong and with their mother, the three lions are an effective hunting squad.

**SELATI PRIDE = 17**  
**1 ADULT FEMALE** **14 YEARS 5 MONTHS**  
**3 ADULT FEMALES** **±10 YEARS 5 MONTHS**  
**3 ADULT FEMALES** **UNKNOWN AGES**  
**4 SUB ADULT MALES** **2 YEARS 5 MONTHS**  
**2 SUB ADULT FEMALES** **2 YEARS 5 MONTHS**  
**2 CUBS** **±1 YEAR 1 MONTH**  
**2 CUBS** **9 MONTHS**  
WESTERN CHARLESTON  
(3 sightings)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Selati pride in June. The last confirmed sighting was in January. It appears the pride remains split up.

Two sub adult males and two sub adult females were seen together on two occasions in the Sand River south of Charleston North crossing. Four lionesses were seen at Jakkalsdraai open area where they killed a cape hunting dog. The poor dog ran directly into the sleeping lionesses while chasing a herd of impala. One of the lionesses grabbed hold of the dog and broke his back.

It seems we may experience more sightings of the Selati pride. The separation amongst the pride should cause the individuals to explore areas far away from their pre-existing territory.

**MALES FROM THE EYREFIELD PRIDE = 2**

**1 EYREFIELD MALE**

**5 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

**MARTHLY MALE**

**7 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

NOMADIC

(0 sightings)

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

**KRUGER MALE LION = 1**

**± 7 YEARS 8 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:

- **1 lioness in the Manyelethi River**

This lioness may have been a member of the Marthly pride. She was located on by herself with a strong smell of carrion in the area.

- **4 unidentified young males and one elder female with a blind eye.** (1 sighting)

These lions were seen only once during June. They are the same lions who were found on our property for the first time in April. The sighting took place at the track that runs west from Flat Rocks.

- **1 male lion chased the Styx Pride at Mlowathi open area**

We are unsure who this large and fully maned lion could be.

- **1 male lion who has joined the Fourways pride**

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)**

<b>June</b>	<b>49</b>
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**LEOPARDS**

**BICYCLE CROSSING MALE**

**11 YEARS 5 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON

(5 sightings)

There were 5 confirmed sightings of the Bicycle Crossing male during June. MalaMala rangers query the whereabouts of the large specimen constantly. His large territory makes his movements difficult to predict although recent stats reveal he spends more time around the eastern parts of Charleston and Flockfield. Sightings were most common around the Charleston Flockfield boundary. On one occasion he followed scent of carrion to where he found a dead impala male in a tree just north of Jakkalsdraai open area.

**AIRSTRIP MALE**

**7 YEARS**

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLY, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD  
(11 sightings)

There were eleven confirmed sightings of the Airstrip male in June. Sightings were less than usual this month but once located his presence remains expected. It has been a while since he was found within the vicinity of a large kill, this month he was found on a large nyala bull. He had eyed out an injured impala bull at the Causeway for a number of days. Of late, rangers have spoken of the Airstrip males fear for baboons. However, towards the end of the month, Mr Rattray found a large male baboon on the causeway, the Airstrip male was found on the carcass no more than half an hour later. Could he have overcome his nerve for the long fanged herbivores?

**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 Hogvaal male for territory

**WEST STREET MALE**

**4 YEARS 2 MONTH**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(8 sightings)

The West Street male was seen frequenting the Tamboti Thickets particularly around Rattrays camp. The up and coming dominant male enjoys the areas surrounding the Kapen River when the more dominant Bicycle Crossing male is vacant, yet he is still often found near the White Cloth, The MalaMala Flockfield Boundary and the lower regions of the Matshapiri River. It is interesting to note that 5 other male leopards have also been found in the exact same locations over the last month. Namely the Princess Alice Pans Male, Bicycle Crossing male, Airstrip Male, Newington Male and Son of the Dudley Female 2009. Needless to say, he will have to be very smart to out compete all the other males for dominance over this hot spot.

**NEWINGTON MALE**

**4 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA  
(13 sightings)

Thirteen sightings of the Newington Male was slightly less compared to that of previous months. The youngster seems eager to explore. One morning, he was located at Mlowathi Dam, a fair distance from his

usual hangouts. He was subsequently chased up a large Leadwood tree by the members of the Styx Pride. A couple days later he was seen again on the Old Airstrip, an area he knows far better. He is lucky to be tolerated by his father, the Princess Alice Pans Male. One evening, rangers followed up on alarm calling impala, minutes later the Newington Male was discovered in a Marula tree near Flockfield Tower plucking a young male impala.

**HOGVAAL MALE** **7 YEARS 2 MONTH**  
EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN  
CHARLESTON  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Hogvaal Male during June.

**TSLEBE ROCKS MALE** **± 7 YEARS 6 MONTHS**  
NORTHERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sightings)

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

**PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE** **12 YEARS 6 MONTHS**  
WESTERN MALAMALA  
(12 sightings)

There were twelve sightings of the Princess Alice Pans male in June. This is about average over the past few months. He was located between MalaMala main camp as well as Rattrays camp on all occasions. The Princess Alice Pans male is assumed to be the father of the Tamboti female's cubs. However, we have not yet witnessed an interaction between him and the cubs. He seems to follow the scent of the Newington Male within his territory. When encounters between the two leopards are witnessed, the Princess Alice Pans male continues to display a mild tolerance towards the presence of his son, the Newington Male. Early one morning, the Newington male was roaring at Flockfield tower. Moments later, the Princess Alice Pans male arrived to investigate. The two leopards were quick to notice each others' presence but very little aggression was displayed between the two.

**GOWRIE MALE** **± 6/7 YEARS**  
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Gowrie Male during June.

**KIKILEZI FEMALE** **11 YEARS 9 MONTHS**  
WESTERN MALAMALA, MARTHLY  
(3 sightings)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Kikilezi female during June. This is the third month in a row where sightings of her were scarce. What we thought may have been her moving away from her local hunting grounds could have been a method of discreet behaviour. This month she was spotted on the Southern side of Campbell Koppies with an unusually low hanging stomach. Our minds wonder at whether or not she is pregnant with her fifth litter. Has the Airstrip male worked his magic again?

**TAMBOTI FEMALE  
2 CUBS (UNKNOWN GENDERS)**

**5 YEARS 8 MONTHS  
4 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA  
(4 sightings of female, 5 sighting of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There were four confirmed sightings of the Tamboti female as well as five sightings of her with her two adorable cubs. Readers bear in mind that one sighting may consist of several different occasions during the course of one day. On five different days, we had intimate viewing of the Tamboti female and her cubs in their own relaxed environment. The two youngsters are demanding but their playfulness provides ample entertainment for rangers and guests. One particular sighting was the three leopards on an impala kill on the western bank of the Sand River, south of Maxim Lookout. The leopards slept, ate, and played for three full days.

**MLOWATHI FEMALE  
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sighting)**

**6 YEARS 4 MONTH**

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

**JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE  
1 FEMALE CUB**

**13 YEARS 7 MONTHS  
1 YEAR 11 MONTHS**

CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER  
(1 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 1 sightings of cub without female)

There was one confirmed sightings of the Jakkalsdraai female and one of her cub during June. Both sightings were in the north Western parts of Charleston. Both sightings were brief but offered quality viewing.

**CAMPBELL KOPPIES FEMALE  
WESTERN EYREFIELD  
(0 sightings)**

**13 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

There were no confirmed sightings of the Campbell Koppies female during June.

**OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE  
1 CUB**

**8 YEARS 9 MONTHS  
6 MONTHS**

EYREFIELD  
(1 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cubs, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There was one confirmed sightings of the Ostrich Koppies female in June. She was located and lost heading northwards through the Nwananonamshane Donga. There is still no sign of her cub. Some rangers are convinced the cub is alive.

**MATSHIPIRI FEMALE  
1 FEMALE CUB**

**12 YEARS 8 MONTHS  
1 YEAR 8 MONTHS**

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD  
(1 sighting of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 2 sightings of cub without female)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Matshipiri female and two confirmed sightings of her cub during June.

**DUDLEY FEMALE**  
**1 FEMALE CUB**

**14 YEARS 8 MONTHS**  
**1 YEAR 2 MONTH**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(2 sightings of female, 2 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

The Dudley female and cub were found twice over a period of two days. The cub had not been seen for a few months, she is growing and walking confidently.

**FLOCKFIELD FEMALE**  
**1 CUB**

**9 YEARS 2 MONTH**  
**2 YEARS**

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 June. She was last seen mating with the Bicycle Crossing male leopard in the Tamboti Thickets towards the end of March.

**THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE**  
WESTERN MALAMALA  
(3 sightings)

**3 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

There were three confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni female in June.

**CALABASH FEMALE**  
**1 CUB** (Potentially more than 1 cub)

**± 6 YEARS**  
**4 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 June. We suspect she may be raising cubs in south western Charleston.

**Other leopards encountered:**

- **Son of the Dudley female 2009:** (2 sightings). **3 YEARS 11 MONTHS**
- **No ID females:** (9 sightings).

There was one young female seen at Charleston North Crossing. We believe she may have been the daughter of the Jakkalsdraai female, now one year and ten months old. She was spotted in the area of the Bicycle Crossing male at the confluence of the Kapen and the Sand River.

A relatively young female leopard was spotted on Pat's Drift Koppies. At first, her spot pattern and yellow eyes resembled another no ID female, seen around the lower parts of the Kapen. However a

close up of the 3:3 pattern saw a difference. There were sightings of what may have been the same female in the same area for three days.

A young female was seen at Emsagwen Open Area. Identity was not confirmed, although this may have been the same female seen around Pats Koppies

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

A large male leopard with a tuft of mane was seen on the Island South of the Causeway. We think this male has been spotted before on resides in the northern parts of Marthly.

Other no ID male leopard sightings occurred at night. Most were large males in areas where we commonly see our dominant male leopards.

- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed):** (2 sightings). There were no ID leopards seen heading eastwards over the KNP Break.
- **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

May	27
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### CHEETAH

There was one cheetah sighting during June. The single male, the last standing member of the Clarendon coalition of four brothers, was seen on a termite mound at Clarendon Open Area. Tracks indicate he went north later that evening.

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

JUNE	1
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### CAPE HUNTING DOGS

(11 sightings)

We were lucky enough to have several great sightings of these rare and beautiful animals during June. Due to their intense nomadic behaviour, these animals were viewed in all sections of our property.

One pack of 13 individuals was found on three occasions in the North-Western parts of the property in the early stages of the month. On one occasion they journeyed south through the central parts of MalaMala where they split up into separate packs of eight and five. The pack of five was seen in the Sand River around West Street Bridge shortly after the split, where they continued to move downstream towards Rattray's Camp providing some exceptional viewing of them running and playing in the watercourse. The pack of eight were found at Sibuye Drive and were viewed hunting impala around Jakkalsdraai open area. Unfortunately, in the spur of the hunt and chasing a number of impala, one of the dogs, unsuspectingly, ran directly into 4

lionesses of the Selati pride and stood no chance against the powerful cats. They swiftly managed to paralyze the helpless dog as they continued to eliminate any form of competition that they encounter. The rest of the pack continued south and were last seen crossing westwards over the Sand River in the most southern parts of MalaMala.

Another pack of nine individuals were seen on two occasions during the month. We viewed them in the most eastern parts of the property on the Kruger Park boundary early on in the month and then again towards the end of the month they were found around the Kapen river. One of the females in the pack appeared heavily pregnant and due to give birth within a couple weeks of us viewing them. The possibility of this female utilizing a den site on our property is something that always provides us with incredible viewing. They do traverse incredible distances and will utilize a den site that is closest when the time comes to give birth.

All in all, we are incredibly fortunate to be able to view these endangered animals in their true habitat and look forward to many more great sightings.

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

<b>June</b>	<b>26</b>
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#### **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 underneath 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: 4  
Caracal: 1  
Civet: 2  
Honey Badger: 9  
Serval: 3

### TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR JUNE 2013

Lion: 57  
Leopard: 91  
Elephant: 3 Large Herds + 114 Herds + 21  
Buffalo: 24 Large Herds + 14 Herds +131  
Cheetah: 1  
Cape Hunting Dogs: 11

MalaMala Kill Analysis

June 2013

	<b>Lions</b>	<b>Leopards</b>	Wild dog	<b>Cheetah</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Impala</b>	1	3			4
<b>Buffalo</b>	5				5
<b>Wildebeest</b>	4				4
<b>Kudu</b>					
<b>Other</b>	3	1			4
<b>Waterbuck</b>					
<b>Total</b>	13	4			17