

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – MAY 2013

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

WEATHER SUMMARY – MAY

Maximum temperature (°C)	32
Minimum temperature (°C)	9
Mean maximum (°C)	27.7
Mean minimum (°C)	12.9
Rainfall (mm)	1.3
Days of rain	2

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF MAY 2013

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 7

1 ADULT FEMALE	17 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	5 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	(DECEASED)
1 FEMALE CUB	(DECEASED)

MARTHLY, MALAMALA, EYREFIELD
(13 sightings)

The Styx pride were seen thirteen times during May. Their movements were no different compared to recent months. The three lionesses and four sub adults followed a large buffalo herd around Picadilly Triangle for several days. One particular sighting saw at least 5 of the lions chasing three large daggaboyos on the eastern bank of the sand river around Pedro's Pub. While we watched from sand the lions jumped on the buffalos' hides but were unsuccessful. On the same night they managed to hold down a young calf, however the older buffalo ran back, forcing the lions to retreat. The young calf remained lying in the long grass for several minutes before springing back to life and continued on under the safe watch of the herd. The following day the pride were not relocated but we suspect they had killed a large buffalo in the Mhlabatine donga as their tracks only emerged from the block of land a couple of days later.

The pride made back- to- back impala kills on two consecutive nights. Members of the Wildebeest herd at Mlowathi open area fell victim to the Styx Pride during May

Further tragedy struck the Styx pride as the remaining two cubs were killed. We suspect the first death was a result of an attack by the Manyelethi male coalition. The tracks surrounding the young carcass were adult male lion tracks and two of the Manyelethi males were found close by that same morning. As mentioned in the past months, the dominant male coalition has spent very little and possibly no time at all with the Styx pride. The attack could be due to that unfamiliarity. We are unsure what happened to the other cub, but he was found being eaten by the oldest lioness in the pride. The mother of the late three cubs should enter oestrus. We expect to see the Manyelethi males with the pride over the next few months.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 10

2 ADULT FEMALES	5 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	5 YEARS 10 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 3 MONTH
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 3 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR
2 MALE CUBS	10 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EYREFIELD
(12 sightings)

The Eyrefield pride was seen twelve times during May. The three lionesses have done exceptionally well considering the loss of their eldest member last in April. They have continued as a formidable force hunting buffalo on several occasions around the Kapen River. The highlight of the month was watching the lionesses take down an adult buffalo cow at Hyena Waterhole during broad daylight. The excitement commenced with an exciting chase through open grassland before one of the lionesses mounted the great beast bringing her to the ground. The rest of the pride held her down and the Manyelethi male with the scar on his hip grabbed hold of her neck to asphyxiate. All eleven lions spent the next three days feasting on the buffalo. They were undisturbed during this time and seemed to eat in peace. That morning was one of many incidences involving the Eyrefield Pride hunting buffalo and the action has contributed lots of excitement to the camps.

The seven cubs are doing phenomenally. The two older male cubs have been particularly keen on assisting in the hunt. Their instinctual behaviour displays impatience and it is as if they refuse to stay behind during the hunt. One of these males attempted to jump on a buffalo cows back without any support from the lionesses. It seems he could be a beast in the making.

The Manyelethi Male with the scar on his hip was often seen accompanying the pride as he has done in previous months.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 5

2 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	± 3 YEARS

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

The Fourways pride was only seen three times during May. However, the size of their territory continues to make the pride difficult to locate. We presume the lions spent the majority of the month on MalaMala property. Rangers watched the pride hunting buffalo on all three occasions.

It seems the pride has adopted a third male lion. This male appears to be around four years of age. Research shows he joined the pride recently after being kicked out of a pride which resides in and around the Manyelethi area. He is a large specimen and has shown little interest in mating with any of the females. In the past, the Fourways pride has been accompanied by an older male but we are not sure if he is the same lion.

The four Manyelethi males were not seen with the Fourways pride during May.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 5

1 ADULT FEMALE	14 YEARS 9 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	10 YEARS 10 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES	2 YEARS 2 MONTH
1 CUB	3 MONTHS
MARTHLY (2 sightings)	

There were two confirmed sightings of members of the Marthly Pride during May. Four lionesses were seen in Sand River, west of Bicycle Crossing. A long distance visual made it difficult to identify the individuals; however two of the lionesses were tail-less. There has been no recorded sighting of the three month old cub over the last few months, we presume the deceased.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4

± 8 YEARS 4 MONTHS

MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, FOURWAYS, MARTHLY AND
BREAKAWAY MARTHLY PRIDES
(11 sightings)

There were eleven confirmed sightings of the Manyelethi male lions during May. The four brothers were separated on all occasions. The hip scar Manyelethi was seen most often, usually with the Eyrefield pride. On one occasion three were seen together, also with the Eyrefield pride.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3

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

There were three confirmed sightings of the Charleston pride during May. The location of the sightings moved from the confluence of the Tjellahanga and the Sand River to the most western parts of the Rock Drift Donga. The two sub-adult males are looking strong and healthy. When the pride was first found in the Tjellahanga river it appeared they had killed a buffalo. All three lions were well fed. This sighting was the first time the pride has been seen in 2013.

SELATI PRIDE = 17

1 ADULT FEMALE	14 YEARS 4 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	±10 YEARS 4 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
4 SUB ADULT MALES	2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES	2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 CUBS	±1 YEAR
2 CUBS	8 MONTHS
WESTERN CHARLESTON (0 sightings)	

There were no recorded sightings of the Selati pride for May. Reports state that the male lions from the Eyrefield Pride have been seen mating with members of the pride.

MALES FROM THE EYREFIELD PRIDE = 2

1 EYREFIELD MALE

5 YEARS 10 MONTHS

MARTHLY MALE

7 YEARS 10 MONTHS

NOMADIC

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Eyrefield and Marthly male lions during May.

KRUGER MALE LION = 1

± 7 YEARS 7 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:

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

On the Second of May there were four young male lions and one lioness seen at Misters Koppies. We believe these lions are the same lions which were discovered in the Paradise Valley during April. April's game report stated that the fourth young was no longer existant, however, this sighting proved that information wrong. The pride is known by other reserves as the Hilda's Rock Pride or Skukuza pride. There were no other sightings of these lions in the remaining days of May. The young males have brands on their hind quarters which apparently relates to research conducted on the pride. The lioness accompanying the males has a blind eye. *(Note, the information regarding the pride's name and composition are to be confirmed)*

- **2 male lions seen on Dudley Lookout on the 7th of May**

Visual of the lions was poor therefore no positive identification was made. The two lions could have been members of the Manyelethi male coalition. The lions may also have been the Eyrefield male and Marthly male. Their maturity rules out the chance of the lions being the two young males from the Charleston Pride or the young males from the Skukuza pride.

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

The Fourways pride has been joined by a young male. All three sightings of the pride included the new male's presence. He is older than the other two existing males in the pride. We believe he is the young male who was recently kicked out of the Nkhumu pride who's territory resides in the Manyelethi area. It is not the first time the Fourways pride has adopted a young male but we cannot be sure if it is the same male they have adopted in the past.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

May	41
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LEOPARDS

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

11 YEARS 4 MONTHS

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

There were seven confirmed sightings of the Bicycle Crossing male during May. He was frequently tracked and found in and around the Tamboti thickets. One particular sighting emphasised the size of his territory when he located on the western arm of Martial Loop. This area being in the eastern parts of Charleston.

AIRSTRIP MALE

6 YEARS 11 MONTHS

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

There were sixteen confirmed sightings of the Airstrip male during May. He continues to cover long distance as he patrols his territory. He was seen mating with the Emsagweni female. Their courtship lasted for at least three days. Copulation occurred several times each hour. The leopards were followed in and around the area of Piccadilly Triangle. Last month, he mated with the Emsagweni female's mother, the Kikilizi female.

CHARLESTON MALE

6 YEARS 11 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(1 sightings)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Charleston male during May. This was the only sighting of the Charleston male this year. 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 1 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(6 sightings)

There were six confirmed sightings of the West Street male leopard in May. When with vehicles, he comes across as a very relaxed leopard but when deciding to move he walks through thick bush resulting in sightings being short and often limited in terms of quality viewing. Signs of further maturity are evident as he scent marks more regularly. Early one morning, rangers followed up on a distant audio of a leopard roaring around the southern regions of the Matshipiri River. He was found in the area not long after we heard the leopard calling. The West Street male may be trying to claim that small territory as his own. A leopard vocalising his dominance is a powerful and brave territorial display. That lower regions of the Matshipiri River lay claimed to the Airstrip Male, an encounter of which the West Street male is not yet ready.

NEWINGTON MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(16 sightings)

4 YEARS 7 MONTHS

There were sixteen confirmed sightings of the Newington male leopard in May. It has been interesting to monitor his movements more closely. Almost every sighting fell in the area between MalaMala main camp and Rattrays Camp. He frequented the airstrip using it as his hunting ground. Many sightings involved stalking warthogs in a drainage pipe that lies beneath the apron. He took advantage of the annual impala rut by making back to back male impala kills on the Airstrip. We suspect he has built up the courage to vocalise his early stages of dominance as he was found after rangers looked for a leopard who had been roaring.

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

7 YEARS 1 MONTH

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

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE
NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

± 7 YEARS 5 MONTHS

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

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(7 sightings)

12 YEARS 5 MONTHS

There were seven sightings of the Princess Alice Pans male in May. This is less than the norm 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.

GOWRIE MALE
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(1 sightings)

± 6/7 YEARS

There was one confirmed sighting for the Gowrie Male during May. He was found near Mlowathi Dam in the vicinity of a male impala kill.

KIKILEZI FEMALE
WESTERN MALAMALA, MARTHLI
(3 sightings)

11 YEARS 8 MONTHS

There were three confirmed sightings of the Kikilezi female during May. This is the second month in a row where sightings of her were scarce. It seems she has temporarily moved away from her usual hunting grounds.

**TAMBOTI FEMALE (6 sightings)
2 CUBS (UNKNOWN GENDERS)**

**5 YEARS 7 MONTHS
3 MONTHS**

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

There were seven confirmed sightings of the Tamboti female during May. Seven sightings of the beautiful leopard are more than that of the past few months. All sightings were close to main camp which was a positive sign she may be keeping her cubs nearby. The 31st of May was a brilliant end to the month as she was found with two fur balls following her down the old airstrip. The two cubs are estimated to be three months old and are relaxed with the presence of our game drive vehicles. This was a day we have all been waiting for.

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

6 YEARS 3 MONTH

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

**JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE
1 FEMALE CUB**

**13 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 YEAR 10 MONTHS**

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

There were two confirmed sightings of the Jakkalsdraai female during May. Both sightings were in the north Western parts of Charleston.

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

13 YEARS 7 MONTHS

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

**OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE
1 CUB**

**8 YEARS 8 MONTHS
5 MONTHS**

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

There were four confirmed sightings of the Ostrich Koppies female during May. She was involved in an encounter with the Emsagweni female of what was ended by an unexpected attack by the Styx pride. Both leopards escaped unharmed. There has been no further sign of her cub. We presume it is dead.

**MATSHIPIRI FEMALE
1 FEMALE CUB**

**12 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 YEAR 7 MONTHS**

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

There were 3 confirmed sightings of the Matshipiri female during May. She was accompanied by her daughter while they consumed an impala in the most northern parts of the Matshipiri River.

DUDLEY FEMALE **14 YEARS 7 MONTHS**
1 FEMALE CUB **1 YEAR 1 MONTH**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Dudley female or her cub during May.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **9 YEARS 1 MONTH**
1 CUB **1 YEAR 11 MONTHS**
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 May. 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 5 MONTHS**
WESTERN MALAMALA
(5 sightings)

There were five confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni female in May. She was seen mating with the Airstrip male leopard. Copulation lasted at least three days. She continues to expand her territory. Her range is large as she was located at Mamba Waterhole as well as in Marthly.

CALABASH FEMALE **± 6 YEARS**
1 CUB (Potentially more than 1 cub) **3 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 May. We suspect she is raising cubs in south western Charleston.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Son of the Dudley female 2009:** (2 sightings). **3 YEARS 10 MONTHS**
- **No ID females:** (4 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 seen following the scent of the Bicycle Crossing male

- **No ID males:** (3 sightings).
- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed):** (0 sightings).

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

May	23
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CHEETAH

There were no cheetah sightings recorded during May

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

MAY	0
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

(5 sightings)

A pack of nine Cape Hunting Dogs were the most frequently viewed during May. Their movements were around the north western parts of Malamala. It appears they have been looking for an area to den. We have witnessed the alpha male and female mating twice. Other Wild Dog sightings were packs of less animals, it was difficult to see if they were members of the same pack or not. They move very quickly and can often be split up after a hunt which makes it difficult to follow the movements and dynamics. A small group of two and another group of four wild dogs were seen on other occasions.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

May	27
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

There were many elephant and buffalo sightings during May. The Buffalo have been visiting the Sand River to drink twice daily and have been consistently terrorised by the lion prides. Elephants have frequented the Sand River and the average size of herds has increased significantly as we approach the heart of winter.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

African Wild Cat: 5

Civet: 2

Honey Badger: 15

Serval: 4

African Wild Cat: 5

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR MAY 2013

Lion: 39
 Leopard: 82
 Elephant: 169
 Buffalo: 105
 Cheetah: 0
 Cape Hunting Dogs: 5

MalaMala Big Five Monthly Analysis
 MAY 2013

	LION		LEOPARD		ELEPHANT		BUFFALO	
	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings
1	9	1	1	1	3H+1	4	5	3
2	10	3	0	0	1H+1	2	6	2
3	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	0
4	0	0	3	3	3H+1	4	4	2
5	11	1	1	1	1H	1	1	1
6	0	0	3	3	2H	2	1H+1	2
7	11	2	2	2	6H+1	7	1H+3	4
8	9	1	1	1	4H+2	6	1H+2	3
9	9	1	2	2	8H+2	10	1H+1	2
10	9	1	3	3	4H+1	5	6	2
11	9	1	3	3	6H	6	2H+7	5
12	9	1	2	2	9H+3	10	1H+6	5
13	4	1	2	2	5H+5	9	1H+6	5
14	8	1	3	2	8H+3	10	2H+5	5
15	8	1	1	1	4H+2	5	2H+3	5
16	0	0	2	2	4H+3	6	1H+4	5
17	14	1	3	3	6H	6	1H+7	5
18	10	1	3	3	3H+3	6	1H+4	5
19	6	1	2	2	7H	7	1H+4	3
20	12	2	3	3	8H	8	2H+2	4
21	11	1	4	3	8H+3	10	2H+3	4
22	6	1	4	3	4H	4	1H	1
23	14	2	2	1	4H	4	1H+5	4
24	19	3	3	3	1H+2	3	1H+3	4

25	11	1	3	3	5H+3	6	1H+3	2
26	11	1	5	5	5H+1	6	LH	1
27	11	1	5	5	2H	2	2LH+2	4
28	14	2	4	3	4H+1	5	2H+5	4
29	14	3	5	4	1H	1	2H+4	3
30	14	2	2	2	7H	7	4H+5	7
31	13	2	10	8	2H+4	6	2H+1	3
Total	286	39	90	82	138H+43	169	3LH+34H=108	105

<p>Elephant H = Herd (< 30 animals) LH = Large Herd (> 30 animals) Animals denotes number of different animals recorded on that day Sightings denotes the number of different sightings recorded on that day</p>	<p>Buffalo H = Herd (< 100 animals) LH = Large Herd (> 100 animals)</p>
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MalaMala Kill Analysis

MAY 2013

	Lions	Leopards	Wild dog	Cheetah	Total
Impala	3	6	2		11
Buffalo	1				1
Wildebeest	1				1
Kudu	1				1
Other			1		1
Waterbuck					
Total	6	6	3		15