

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – NOVEMBER 2013

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

WEATHER SUMMARY –NOVEMBER

Maximum temperature (°C)	38
Minimum temperature (°C)	17
Mean maximum (°C)	28
Mean minimum (°C)	18
Rainfall (mm)	61
Days of rain	8

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF NOVEMBER 2013

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 6

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

MARTHLY, MALAMALA, EYREFIELD
(10 sightings)

There were ten confirmed sightings of the Styx Pride during November. Once again their movements were erratic in the sense that most sightings saw the members apart and in separate areas. The sub adults were seen more often compared to the two lionesses.

At the start of the month the full compliments of the pride killed a buffalo on New Firebreak. All six members fed on the buffalo for three days before running north over the Gowrie Boundary as the Manyelethi Males approached them early one morning. One of the lionesses showed signs of being heavily pregnant during that time and reports now suggest she has given birth to four cubs north of the Gowrie Boundary. It is now clear that the Manyelethi Males have not sired the cubs as the lioness chose to give birth a long way north of the Manyelethi Males Territory. In fact it is the first time in years that the Styx Pride lioness has not selected Campbell Koppies as an ideal den site. Reports also suggest that the two lionesses are spending more and more time with a lone male from the north, it is likely that he is the father. The two lionesses were found with this no ID male on a buffalo kill near the Gowrie Boundary mid way through the month.

One of the sub adult male lions sustained an injury to his front left leg. He is struggling to put pressure on the leg and is limping badly. On the last day of the month, the other three sub adults left him on Northern Side Campbell Koppies. He obviously could not keep up with them. We hope the severity of the injury is not in the form of a break. Lions often recover from slight fractures or sprains. Let us hope this is the case.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 9

2 ADULT FEMALES	6 YEARS 5 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 4 MONTH

2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 9 MONTH
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 9 MONTH
1 MALE CUB	1 YEAR 6 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 3 MONTH

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EYREFIELD
(7 sightings)

There were only seven confirmed sightings of the Eyrefield Pride during November. This is far less than months leading up to now. Summer movements do find the Eyrefield Pride spending more time to the west of MalaMala. The abundance of water in all areas away from the river allows the lions to venture further into the western parts of their territory where many zebra, impala, wildebeest, and kudu are ready for their taking.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 4	
2 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 5 MONTH
1 SUB ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 5 MONTH

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

There were no confirmed sightings of the Fourways Pride during November.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7	
2 ADULT FEMALES	11 YEARS 3 MONTH
1 SUB ADULT FEMALES	2 YEARS 7 MONTHS
4 CUBS	±5 MONTHS

MARTHLY
(6 sightings)

There were six confirmed sightings of the Marthly Pride during November. Most sightings occurred near Stwise. We believe the mother lioness was keeping the cubs on Stwise itself. Only two of the seven sightings included the cubs. Other sightings consisted of only the two lionesses. The sub adult female was seen once with the two lionesses. Reports suggest all four cubs are strong and healthy. At the end of the month, the pride fed on a hippo in the Sand River just west of our boundary.

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

There were ten confirmed sightings of the Manyelethi Males during November. All four lions were seen together on five occasions. It is good to see all four males together as they form a strong unit against any

threat to their large territory. Other sightings consisted of individual males on their own or one or two males with the Marthly and Eyrefield Prides. One morning, the Hip Scar Manyelethi Male was found following the Styx Pride sub adults. He was located in the Mlowathi River at Kwa-Zulu before turning back westwards towards Marthly.

In terms of territorial threats, there have been other male lions from Gowrie mating with the lionesses from the Styx Pride near the Gowrie Boundary. In fact recent news indicates one of the lionesses have given birth to cubs. The Manyelethi Males continue to interact rarely with the Styx Pride so it is of no surprise to see the lionesses seeking out other male lions. The Manyelethi males have no tolerance of the sub adults from the Styx Pride which naturally results in the Styx Pride sticking to the northern parts of MalaMala. However, the two sub adult males were found at West Street on one occasion.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 3

1 ADULT FEMALE	8 YEARS 11 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT MALES	2 YEARS 7 MONTH
SOUTHERN CHARLESTON	
(2 sightings)	

There were two confirmed sightings of the Charleston Pride during November. We assume their movements to have taken place on the southern bank of the Sand River in Toulon.

SELATI PRIDE = 17

1 ADULT FEMALE	14 YEARS 10 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	±10 YEARS 10 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
4 SUB ADULT MALES	2 YEARS 10 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES	2 YEARS 10 MONTHS
2 CUBS	±1 YEAR 6 MONTH
2 CUBS	1 YEAR 2 MONTH
WESTERN CHARLESTON	
(0 sightings)	

There were no confirmed sightings of the Selati Pride during November. A pride of ten lions was seen on rock drift road one afternoon midway through the month. Little interaction or knowledge of the movements of the Selati Pride proposes these lions could be them although it is unlikely.

MALES FROM THE EYREFIELD PRIDE = 2

1 EYREFIELD MALE	6 YEARS 4 MONTH
MARTHLY MALE	8 YEARS 4 MONTH
NOMADIC	
(0 sightings)	

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

KRUGER MALE LION = 1

	± 8 YEARS
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. There is another coalition of three male lions who were seen on MalaMala once last month. One of these males were seen mating with a Selati Lioness's in Peru which means they are a threat to the Kruger Male Lion.

Other lions encountered: (4 sightings)

- **The Break- Away Marthly Pride** (0 sightings)

No sightings of these lions during November

- **3 young male lions in South Western Charleston** (0 sightings)

There was no sign of the three sub adult males during November.

- **4 unidentified young males seen inconsistently so far in 2013.** (0 sighting)

These same lions did not appear on MalaMala in November. They were last seen in July.

- **2 young male lions with Fourways Pride** (0 sightings)

These two young male lions were not seen in November. The larger of these two males has bigger mane and a large scar on his back. The younger has a very blonde mane and a mature looking face for his size.

- **3 adult male lions in Charleston** (1 sighting)

There were one confirmed sighting of one of these three male lions. He was found at Trollips Hippo Pools. He is recognisable by his blonde mane and scarring around his right eye. The three males are young adult lions.

- **1 Male Lion seen with the Styx Pride**(1 sighting)

One male lion between 5 and 7 years old was found with the Styx Pride on one occasion in November. Reports suggest that this male lion has been mating with the two Styx pride Lionesses and spends time with them when they are in Gowrie.

- **2 Fully-Maned Male Lions from Gowrie** (0 sightings)

There were no sightings of these two male lions during November. These two males were seen once near Clarendon Dam Road. Reports from Gowrie indicate these two males have also mated with the two Styx Lionesses in recent times.

- **A pride of 10 lions seen in Flockfield November 2013.**(1 sighting)

There was one sighting of a pride of ten lions which were found on rock drift road mid way through the month. The lions may have been members of the Selati pride but tracks indicated the lions had come from the Kruger National Park. Almost a year ago, rangers Grant Roodt and Nic Moxham walked into a pride of many lions in the Tjellahanga Tributary East. We suspect these may be the same lions they saw this time last year. Other rangers have speculated that this may be the return of the legendary Windmill Pride.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

November	39
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CHEETAH (7 sightings)

There was seven sightings of the mother cheetah and two sub adults in November. The three cheetah were found on the airstrip. They utilised the western bank between Rattrays and MalaMala Main Camp as an ideal hunting ground for the next five days. In this time they managed to catch seven baby impala of which rangers and guests witnessed many of the kills. After a few days the cheetah set off eastwards across the Sand River and into Flockfield where they made another baby impala kill as well as a steenbok kill over the next couple of days. We expect to continue watching these three cheetah well into November. The last standing member of the original coalition of four male cheetah who occupied Clarendon Open Area as the territory was seen once during November. He killed a sub adult impala and was found on the Gowrie Boundary with a full belly.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

NOVEMBER	4
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS (7 sightings)

The Cape Hunting Dogs were active during November with a total of seven sightings. The pack of eight was seen most often towards the beginning of the month. They went about their usual antics of hunting in the morning and evening while resting during the midday periods. Only one kill was witnessed during the month, this is less than the months leading up to now.

A pack of nine adults and six pups were also seen during November. They were seen once on Jeremiah's Loop where they had already made a kill. The fifteen Cape Hunting Dogs bedded down there for the night and were not seen again for the rest of the month. Months ago, this pack was found denning in the far western regions of the SSW.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

NOVEMBER	23
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OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

African Wild Cat: 3

Civet: 6

Honey Badger: 6

Aardvark: 1 (Last sighting in 1996)

A new born hyena pup at the den site to the east of F-Bend Open Area

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2013

Lion: 34

Leopard: 71

Elephant: 102

Buffalo: 60

Cheetah: 7

Cape Hunting Dogs: 7

LEOPARDS

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

11 YEARS 10 MONTHS

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

There were nine confirmed sightings of the Bicycle Crossing Male in November. This dominant male continues to expand his territory and was viewed patrolling in eastern Flockfield and Charleston. We found him with a kudu kill at the Borehole on the first day of November, where he was chasing an unidentified female away from the kill site. He was seen a couple times around Jakkalsdraai as well as around the Windmill. His territory is very large and was seen killing a scrub hare as far north as the confluence of the Matshapiri river and Sand river. He is yet to receive any direct pressure from surrounding males even though a few of their territories are well within the boundaries of his land. His son, the Jakkalsdraai Male, still spends the majority of his time in his father's territory and encounters are bound to be inhospitable if the older male catches him scent-marking in his territory.

AIRSTRIP MALE

7 YEARS 5 MONTH

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(10 sightings)

There were ten confirmed sightings of the Airstrip Male in November, a good increase from last months four sightings. He was first seen this month on the 13th where rangers watched as he killed an African Rock Python, alongside the Kikelezi Female, at Campbell Koppies. He was then viewed more regularly as he spent time around his favourite spots in such as Planks' Pan and the Ngoboswan Donga. His wounded eye has not healed as well as we anticipated but he still is in great shape and continues to show his dominance in northern Mala Mala. He is receiving some tough competition from the larger Marthly Male in the west and the Gowrie male in the north. Towards the end of the month we found him seeking refuge high up in a tree amongst a herd of Buffalo.

MARTHLY MALE

± 12 YEARS

MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(3 sighting)

The Marthly Male was seen three times during November. His presence is always well admired as he patrols around the southern perimeters of his territory. He was seen twice in Marthly and found on the 27th sleeping just south of the causeway. He is stiff competition for the Airstrip male as well as the equally build Princess Alice Pans Male and the frequency of their encounters should increase as they continue to push the boundaries of their territories.

CHARLESTON MALE

7 YEARS 5 MONTH

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Charleston male during November. The only sighting of the Charleston male this year occurred in May. 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 6 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(4 sightings)

The West Street Male was seen on four occasions in November. Most of his sightings were in the eastern parts of the property, and rarely over the past couple months have we seen him around West Street bridge, where he used to reside. This could be from the pressure put on him by the Newington Male to the west or he could be in the initial stages of developing a new territory in an area where we haven't seen a dominant male for a while. He was seen on the first two days of the month with an impala kill around the windmill and later viewed on three other occasions east of the Matshapiri river.

NEWINGTON MALE

WESTERN MALAMALA
(13 sightings)

5 YEARS 1 MONTH

The Newington Male was the most prolific leopard during November and was seen on thirteen occasions. He was viewed five times on the eastern bank of the Sand River and continues to put pressure on the West Street Male. His increasing visits to the eastern bank could also be because of the pressure put on him by his father, the Princess Alice Pans Male, as he forces him to set up a territory of his own. He was seen several times on the Old Airstrip including a two-day sighting of him and his father as they fought over a warthog carcass. He was also seen mating with the Emsagweni Female toward the end of the month and time will tell whether she is able to conceive.

HOGVAAL MALE

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

7 YEARS 7 MONTH

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE

NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

± 7 YEARS 11 MONTHS

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE

WESTERN MALAMALA
(5 sightings)

12 YEARS 11 MONTHS

There were five confirmed sightings of the Princess Alice Pans Male during November. All of the sightings were on the western bank of the Sand River. He is receiving territorial pressure from a number of other males including the Marthly Male and his son, the Newington Male, who were both found on the Old Airstrip fighting over a warthog carcass. This dynamics of their relationship is a hostile one and he continues to force his son to set up territory of his own.

GOWRIE MALE

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

± 6/7 YEARS

KIKILEZI FEMALE**12 YEARS 2 MONTH**WESTERN MALAMALA, MARTHLY
(4 sightings)

There were four confirmed sightings of the Kikilezi Female in November. She was seen killing an impala lamb alongside the Airstrip Male at Campbell Koppies. There is also evidence that she may be pregnant (she was seen spending time with the Marthly Male in September) and could look to use the available den-sites at Campbell Koppies, or more likely, the rocky outcrops in Marthly to hide her cubs.

TAMBOTI FEMALE**6 YEARS 1 MONTH****1 CUB (FEMALE)****9 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(2 sightings of female, 1 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There were two confirmed sightings of the Tamboti female and one confirmed sightings of her with her cub during November. We can confirm that one of her two cubs died a few months ago for there have been no recorded sightings of a second cub for some time now. The cause of death is unknown. Little interaction with the leopards has made it difficult to give an accurate summary of her monthly endeavours. Both leopards are in good health and were seen around the Airstrip.

MLOWATHI FEMALE**6 YEARS 9 MONTHS**NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sighting)

There were no confirmed sighting of the Mlowathi Female during November.

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE**14 YEARS**CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Jakkalsdraai Female in November, although there were three female leopards seen within her territory that rangers didn't have the opportunity to identify. She was seen mating with the Jakkalsdraai male in October and we wait to see if their courtship was a successful one.

DAUGHTER OF THE JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE
MONTH**2 YEARS 3**CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER
(0 sighting)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Daughter of the Jakkalsdraai Female during November. We did find a young female around Flat Rocks that could have been her, but no proper identification was made. We hope that she continues to develop into a successful female leopard and sets up her territory on Mala Mala soil.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE**9 YEARS 1 MONTH**EYREFIELD
(4 sightings)

There were four confirmed sightings of the Ostrich Koppies Female in November, a great improvement from last month when she wasn't seen. The main highlight of her month was

when she killed and stashed an impala in a Knobthorn close to the Mlowathi River. We watched her for three days as she fed off the carcass.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE **13 YEARS 1 MONTH**
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sighting of the Matshapiri Female in November.

DAUGHTER OF THE MATSHAPIRI FEMALE **2 YEARS 1 MONTH**
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sighting)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Daughter of the Matshapiri Female in November. She continues to show independence still well within her mother's territory.

DUDLEY FEMALE **15 YEARS 1 MONTH**
1 FEMALE CUB **1 YEAR 7 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings of female, 0 sighting of female and cub, 1 sightings of cub without female)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Dudley Female in November although we did find her female cub away from her mother around the confluence of the Kapen river and the Sand river. This shows that she is beginning to show signs of becoming an independent female and will start exploring new areas where she can establish a territory of her own. She will most probably still spend the majority of her time still within her mothers territory and possibly reunite at feeding sites. We wait to see if the mother starts to show signs of aggression to her daughter.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **9 YEARS 7 MONTHS**
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Flockfield Female during November.

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE **3 YEARS 11 MONTHS**
WESTERN MALAMALA
(2 sightings)

There were two confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni Female in November. She continues to attempt to have cubs and was seen mating with the Newington Male toward the end of the month. Her movements are not well understood as she looks to establish a territory of her own and seek out males that are willing to mate with her.

CALABASH FEMALE **± 6.5 YEARS**
1 CUB (Potentially more than 1 cub) **9 MONTHS**
WESTERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings, 0 sightings of cub without female, 0 sightings of female with cub)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Calabash Female in November. We did find a female leopard in south-west Charleston and we suspect she may be raising cub in this area.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Son of the Dudley Female 2009** (1 sighting) **4 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

There was only one confirmed sighting of this leopard during November although there were a few male leopards briefly seen in this territory that could have been him. He is son to the Bicycle Crossing male and still spends a large proportion of his time within his father's land. It will be interesting to see if his father tolerates his presence or forces him to find a new territory. He was seen mating with the much older Jakkalsdaai female in October and we wait to see if she was able to conceive with the younger leopard.

- **Old Female from the West. 2:2 Spot Pattern with Black Nose** (1 sighting)

This very old female was positively identified on one occasion during October. This 18 year old leopard is still in reasonable shape and was seen staring at a herd of impala on Campbell Road before she headed back west.

- **Male leopard from Peru** (3 sightings) **+/- 3,5 YEARS**

There were three confirmed sightings of this young leopard during November. He was seen in Western Flockfield and Mala Mala. We presume that he is exploring new areas in order to establish a territory of his own. He is a large leopard for his age and could look to put pressure on the Newington Male, the Bicycle Crossing Male and the West Street Male in the future.

- **No ID females:** (12 sightings in total)

There were twelve No ID female leopard sightings during November. Most of the sightings were in the southern parts of the property and could be a combination of the Calabash Female and the Daughter of the Jakkalsdraai Female, as well as other young leopards from neighbouring properties.

There was a relaxed unidentified female that was seen in accompany with the Bicycle Crossing Male and a kudu kill around the Borehole on the first day of the month.

One of the better leopard sighting in Charleston for the month consisted of a female and her cub playing around flat rocks. This pair spends most of their time south of the Sand River in Toulon but could be crossing north through the river more frequently than we know. This is the third month in a row that we have seen these two leopards. We estimate the cub to be around eight or nine months old.

- **No ID males:** (5 sightings).

Most of these leopards would have been leopards that we know but the sighting didn't allow for a proper identification to be made.

We did find a young male leopard around Matumi rocks and presume that he may be exploring new areas to set up a territory.

- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed):** (2 sightings)
- **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

OCTOBER	25
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