

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – OCTOBER 2013

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

WEATHER SUMMARY –OCTOBER

Maximum temperature (°C)	40
Minimum temperature (°C)	11
Mean maximum (°C)	29
Mean minimum (°C)	17
Rainfall (mm)	61.5
Days of rain	6

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF OCTOBER 2013

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 6

1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 9 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	5 YEARS 9 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB ADULTS	2 YEARS 9 MONTHS
2 MALE SUB ADULTS	2 YEARS 9 MONTHS

MARTHLY, MALAMALA, EYREFIELD
(12 sightings)

There were twelve confirmed sightings of the Styx Pride during October. Over the past two months the dynamics of the Styx Pride have been difficult to understand. October produced the following sightings.

DATE	MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHER
1 Oct	5 members seen on carcass	Senegal Bush
1 Oct	1 Member seen with male from Gowrie	North of Senegal Bush
2 Oct	6 Members of Kudu Kill	Mlowathi Dam
3 Oct	6 Members of Kudu Kill	Mlowathi Dam
7 Oct	4 Sub Adults Hunting Buffalo	Reedbuck Road
8 Oct	4 Sub Adults	Matshapiri Dam
13 Oct	4 Sub Adults	Mlowathi Dam
16 Oct	4 Sub Adults	Mlowathi Dam
17 Oct	4 Sub Adults	Matshapiri Dam
21 Oct	2 Sub Adults	West Street
24 Oct	4 Styx Sub Adults	Reedbuck Rd
24 Oct	2 Adults seen with male from Gowrie	Inkanye Rd/Gowrie Boundary

Last month's game report mentioned several factors suggesting reasons for why their social dynamic has been complicated. This month, certain sightings emphasised a couple of these reasons. The male lions in the north were once again seen with the two lionesses which suggest that reports of the lionesses mating with these males are true. In this case, the lioness may lead the sub adults away from the approaching males or the males are simply chasing the sub adults at first glance. The majority of the sightings were the four sub adults together without the lionesses who must have been with other males in Gowrie.

The adult male lion seen with one of the Styx Lionesses on the 1st October is the same male lion seen with

both of the lionesses on the 24th October. He is a single young adult male from Gowrie and reports indicate he has been seen mating with the two Styx Lionesses. Later on in the evening of the 24th October, this male was chased by two members of a coalition of six male lions also from the north. The two male lions were seen on MalaMala that morning near Matshapiri Dam and somehow caught wind of the fact that this other male lion from Gowrie was nearby. After chasing the male from Gowrie northwards back into Gowrie, one of the two larger male lions were reported mating with one of the Styx Lionesses later that evening. While all this took place, the four sub adults were laying low on Reedbuck Road, no more than two kilometres south and east.

The four sub adults were watched hunting buffalo at Clarendon. They were on their own were and success seemed unlikely but the following morning they were found lying at Matshapiri Dam extremely well fed.

The sub adults spent many days at Mlowathi Dam and one day all six members of the pride were found on a kudu kill which was lying in the Dam. Needless to say it was a muddy feast. Rangers went back follow up the next morning only to find the six fat black lions lying nearby. There was no sign of the kudu.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 9

2 ADULT FEMALES	6 YEARS 4 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 3 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 8 MONTH
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 8 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 5 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	1 YEAR 3 MONTH

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EYREFIELD
(17 sightings)

There were seventeen confirmed sightings of the Eyrefield Pride during October. It was great to have the pride on MalaMala for more than half the month. In fact, this pride was viewed more than any other pride this month.

The pride followed a herd of buffalo for over a week. They successfully killed a sub adult female buffalo and quickly consumed it. It wasn't long before the pride was hungry and so they trailed the herd again. Rangers waited anxiously for them to make another attack. The herd was very large, possibly exceeding six hundred individuals, and seemed to stay close together. On the third night we left the lions trailing the herd near track to buffalo pans and the next morning Brendon Cole found the pride eating a wildebeest near the White Cloth. At some point during the night hours, the lions must have lost interest in the buffalo and while on route back towards the Sand River intercepted the lone wildebeest bull. Within an hour the lions returned to the confluence of the Matshapiri and the Sand River where they basked in the sun for the remainder of the day.

Once again the pride spent many days in the Sand River between Rattrays and MalaMala Main Camp. Rains in the latter part of the month allowed the lions to venture further away from the river. The last three sightings for the month were at Tjololo Road/New Rock Drift Road, Emsagwen/KNP Break, then back to Western Side Kapen, all within four days. The puddles and streams allowed the lions to explore areas well past the their normal domain.

The Manyelethi Male with three canines was located with the pride several times at the beginning of the month but all the Manyelethi Males were seen with the Eyrefield Pride at some stage of the month. There was was one recorded sightings of all four Manyelethi Males with the pride .

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 4

**2 ADULT FEMALES
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE
1 SUB ADULT MALE**

**UNKNOWN AGES
3 YEARS 4 MONTH
3 YEARS 4 MONTH**

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

There Were three confirmed sighting of the Fourways Pride during October. The full composition of the pride and the two young male lions were all present on all occasions. It seems the two young males have not left the comfort of the pride members since rejoining them three months ago.

Their movements were similar to that of last month. Sightings occurred mainly around Zebra Skull North and South and eastwards towards The Windmill. There have been no other lions found on this area for a while allowing them to walk and hunt undisturbed. The only other lions which were found on the same area were the Eyrefield Pride on one occasion. The Eryefield Pride would avoid the Fourways Pride at all costs for the protection of their young sub adults.

Outnumbering the other prides in size and numbers allows the 4 adults and 2 sub adults to utilise hunting grounds where ever they please. Areas the Fourways pride have been found on large kills are: Mlowath Open Area. Clarendon Open Area, up and down the Kapen River, KNP Break, Buffalo Bush Dam, Jakkalsdraai Open Area and even further south into Toulon. Although all three sightings in October took place in the same general area it would be no surprise to find the lions fifteen kilometres north or 5 kilometres south at any other time.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

**2 ADULT FEMALES
1 SUB ADULT FEMALES
4 CUBS
MARTHLY
(13 sightings)**

**11 YEARS 2 MONTH
2 YEARS 6 MONTHS
±4 MONTHS**

There were thirteen confirmed sightings of the Marthly Pride during October. Rangers, once again, worked the western parts of Marthly, tracking the lioness with her cubs. Tracks were seen heading east and west through Parrafin Drift. One morning, ranger Daniel Fincham found a lioness crossing the Sand River northwards at Matumi Rocks with a young cub in the soft grip of her mouth. Finally, as expected, the Marthly cubs were revealed to us after waiting patiently for weeks. There are four beautiful young cubs all looking healthy and with loads of energy.

A day later, rangers followed up on vultures near the water purification plant and found the three lionesses with the four cubs as well as the dark-maned Manyelethi Male feeding off the remains of an adult male waterbuck. It was a tricky approach to view the lions, but all the guests were able to see the little ones playing and suckling out in the open. This was the first time that all of the cubs were observed properly.

Two days later the lionesses walked the cubs down to the Sand River in front of Camp. We viewed them on the Eastern Ramp of the Causeway for the rest of the day. The next morning the seven lions were found on an adult male kudu kill at Sandpit Crossing. The setting was perfect for viewing the lions as

they played and fed. Twice or three times a day, the mother of the cubs would carry them down to the river for drink. The cubs would play in the water course while the mother tried to dunk or clean them. It provided for fantastic photographic viewing. All who were lucky enough to witness these sightings made the most of taking in every second of this natural beauty.

It was interesting to note the hostile interaction between the mother of the cubs and the sub adult female. When the sub adult came near the cubs or attempted to feed on the carcasses she would get viciously attacked or chased off by the mother. The cubs were very nervous of this aggression and would scamper off before hesitantly making their way back. The sub adult female did feed but only when the mother of the cubs was a good distance away or fast asleep.

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

There were seventeen sightings of the Manyelethi Males during October. This is triple the amount of sightings from last month. This is largely due to the fact that the Eyrefield Pride featured on MalaMala seventeen times as well as the Marthly Pride appearing on thirteen occasions. Out of the lion prides on MalaMala, the Manyelethi males are most dominant over the Eyrefield and Marthly pride.

The Manyelethi Male with three canines may prove to be more dominant than one thinks. His movements closely mimic the movement of the most dominant dark-maned Manyelethi Male, in the form of visiting the Marthly and Eyrefield Prides' on his own and more frequently. He is often the first to initiate roaring. Sightings of him around these northern MalaMala territories have outnumbered the hip-scarred and dark-nosed Manyelethi Males.

One morning, Matthew Hobbs located the four males on Daggaboy carcass in a donga just south of Paddy's Pools. The four males spent two days together feeding before the dark-maned and three-tooth Manyelethi Males's were found at West Street Bridge while the Hip-Scar and Dark-Nosed Manyelethi Male's remained with the buffalo carcass for another twenty-four hours.

All four males were found with the Eyrefield Pride in central Flockfield. It was interesting to have all four male lions together for a total of four days during the month.

In terms of territorial threats, there have been other male lions from Gowrie who were witnessed copulating with the lionesses from the Styx Pride near the Gowrie Boundary. 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 10 MONTHS**
2 SUB ADULT MALES **2 YEARS 6 MONTH**
SOUTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Charleston Pride during October. We assume their movements to have taken place on the southern bank of the Sand River near in Toulon.

SELATI PRIDE = 17

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

There were no sightings of the Selati Pride during October.

MALES FROM THE EYREFIELD PRIDE = 2

1 EYREFIELD MALE	6 YEARS 3 MONTH
MARTHLY MALE	8 YEARS 3 MONTH
NOMADIC	
(0 sightings)	

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

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 October

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

There was no sign of the three sub adult males during October. These three young male lions were seen August. It is likely that these were three of the thirty two month male sub adults from the Selati Pride. Finding the lions in the north eastern parts of south western Charleston indicates they may have been chased by either the Eyrefield and Marthly male lions, the Kruger Male Lion, or the three adult male lions located on Flat Rocks a few weeks later.

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

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

- **2 young male lions with Fourways Pride** (3 sightings)

These two young male lions were seen together with the Fourways pride for all the three occasions in which the Fourways Pride were seen in October. 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. The male with the blonde mane mounted and attempted to mate with one of the lionesses from the Fourways Pride

- **3 male lions in Charleston** (0 sighting)

There were no confirmed sightings of any of these three male lions in October. Reports indicate one of these males was seen mating with a lioness from the Selati Pride for 5 days. These three male lions are adult lions.

- **1 Male Lion seen with the Styx Pride**(2 sighting)

One male lion between 5 and 7 years old was found with the Styx Pride on two occasions. 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. He was chased northwards over the Gowrie Boundary by two members of a coalition of six male lions who come from the north when they found him with the two Styx Lionesses.

- **2 Fully-Maned Male Lions from Gowrie** (1 sighting)

These two males were seen once near Clarendon Dam Road. Reports from Gowrie indicate these two males have mated with the two Styx Lionesses in recent times. These two adult males chased the single male lion seen with the Styx Pride(mentioned above) away from the two Styx Lionesses the night after they were found.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JULY	35
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LEOPARDS

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

11 YEARS 9 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON

(12 sightings)

There were twelve confirmed sightings of the Bicycle Crossing Male in October. An increase from last month's four sighting was pleasing to the rangers. After the first big rains we expected to see less of the large dominant male, however sightings of him increased as he was seen hanging around the Tamboti Thickets.

One sighting in particular saw the Bicycle Crossing Male on an adult Kudu. Another female leopard was seen in the area. Reports suggest she had a go for the carcass but was chased away by the larger male.

The Son of the Dudley Female as being walking all over the Bicycle Crossing Male's territory by mating with the Jakkalsdraai Female. The Bicycle Crossing Male would be displeased if he caught wind of this.

AIRSTRIp MALE **7 YEARS 4 MONTH**
MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLy, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD
(4 sightings)

There were four confirmed sightings of the Airstrip Male in October. The wound on his eye has not healed as much as we had hoped and the four sightings only made it very difficult for his to understand his movements. We assume he cruised the northern parts of his territory more than likely finding and mating with a female. He may have made kills in inaccessible areas where we wouldn't have seen him for days at a time. There is lots of territorial pressure from other males around the centre of his territory thus it is not surprising to see him venture off from time to time.

MARTHLy MALE **± 9/10 YEARS**
MALAMALA, EYREFIELD, MARTHLy
(1 sighting)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Marthly Male in October. He was found sleeping just south of the Causeway.

CHARLESTON MALE **7 YEARS 4 MONTH**
EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Charleston male during October. 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 5 MONTH**
WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(6 sightings)

There were six sightings of the West Street Male in October. He was seen mating with the same female he mated with in August. We found the two leopards lurking around a daggaboy carcass at Paddy's pools which the Manyelethi Males were feeding off. Their courtship lasted at least a couple of days. Most sightings of the West Street Male occurred in eastern MalaMala where he seems to be exploring. We have had no recorded sightings of other large male leopards in that area for a while so the land may be there his taking. Others say his movements have shifted because of pressure from the Newington Male, however, it is common for leopards of this age to explore and walk areas far from their usual routes. It was interesting to find the West Street Male on an impala kill the near the windmill which is located in south eastern Flockfield. Rangers followed up the next morning to find the West Street Male with a buffalo calf in a tree no more than two hundred meters from the impala kill. It appeared a herd of buffalo had walked by that night providing an opportunity for him to grab one and hoist it up a tree. What a sighting this would have been.

NEWINGTON MALE **5 YEARS**
WESTERN MALAMALA
(19 sightings)

There were nineteen sightings of the Newington Male in October. This is the most sightings out of any leopard this year for one month. He was found most often on the western bank but often crossed eastwards over the Sand River. He made several kills around the Old Airstrip which provided for some stationary sightings lasting number of days. Crossing eastwards over the river has put pressure on other male leopards like the West Street Male who seemed to have moved further into eastern MalaMala and Flockfield during October.

HOGVAAL MALE **7 YEARS 6 MONTH**
EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN
CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

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

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE **± 7 YEARS 10 MONTHS**
NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

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

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE **12 YEARS 10 MONTHS**
WESTERN MALAMALA
(5 sightings)

There were five confirmed sightings of the Princess Alice Pans Male during October. This is less than previous months. He came into conflict with the Newington Male on several occasions which resulted in the Newington Male moving off casually.

The large male suffers a territorial threat from three male leopards. They all frequent the western bank of the Sand River between the camps. The Marthly Male, West Street Male and the Newington Male are often found in that region. He still has the cub of the Tamboti Female to protect.

GOWRIE MALE **± 6/7 YEARS**
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(2 sighting)

There were two confirmed sightings of the Gowrie Male during October. His yellow eyes are a dead giveaway of his ID. Both sightings were near Mlowathi Dam which forms part of the south eastern parts of his territory.

KIKILEZI FEMALE **12 YEARS 1 MONTH**
WESTERN MALAMALA, MARTHLY
(5 sightings)

There were five confirmed sightings of the Kikilezi Female in September. Sightings consisted mainly around the lower regions of the Mlowathi River and southern Marthly where she may be spending time with the Marthly Male. We suspect he killed her last litter and to her, may seem more capable of securing

an area for her to utilise.

**TAMBOTI FEMALE
1 CUB (FEMALE)**

**6 YEARS
8 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

There were two confirmed sightings of the Tamboti female and two confirmed sightings of her with her cub during October. 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 8 MONTHS

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sighting)

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

JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE

13 YEARS 11 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER

(3 sightings)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Jakkalsdraai Female in October. We found her at the confluence of the Rock Drift Donga and the Sand River with an impala kill in the tree. On two occasion she was found in the area of the Son of the Dudley Female 2009. On the later they mated. There have been no recorded interactions with the Bicycle Crossing Male but however all of the sightings were within his territory.

DAUGHTER OF THE JAKKALSDRAAI FEMALE

2 YEARS 2 MONTH

CENTRAL & WESTERN CHARLESTON, EAST OF THE SAND RIVER

(1 sighting)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Daughter of the Jakkalsdraai Female during October. Her independence continues to grow and her movements continue to expand. When sighted, she appears relaxed around the vehicles showing similar behavioural characteristics to her mother.

CAMPBELL KOPPIES FEMALE

(DECEASED)

WESTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

Months ago we received news from an ex-MalaMala ranger informing us that the Campbell Koppies Female had died. These reports can often be premature assumptions and it was important to confirm this news was accurate before releasing a statement. Although the Campbell Koppies Female has not been viewed regularly on MalaMala Game Reserve for some time now, we owe her a few words in celebrating her life that was observed and documented by guests and rangers for the past thirteen years and nine months.

In September 1999 her mother, the Ngoboswan Female (A mistress of the Rock Drift Male, also known as Tjololo the movie star) gave birth to a litter of three. One of which was the Campbell Koppies Female. Her brother lived for less than five months and was killed by the floods in early 2000. Her sister moved

off MalaMala shortly after early stages of independence in 2001. During this time, archived game reports state the Campbell Koppies Female spent months and months hunting on the banks of the Sand River between MalaMala and the old Harry's Camp. She would attempt to catch duiker, young impala, bushbuck, water monitors and terrestrial birds. Occasionally she would return to her mother with the hope of being offered a meal, but when the Ngoboswan Female gave birth to a new litter of three cubs in October 2001, their meetings became more and more hostile. It was now time to prove her independence.

The Campbell Koppies Female was awarded her historical name in January 2003, a clear sign that she was now an independent, semi-territorial female. Campbell Koppies are the rocky outcrops located several hundred meters east of the MalaMala main camp, named originally after a previous farm owner, William Andrew Campbell. She was awarded this title as she began to set up a territory in this area.

A closer look into her relatives and other leopards of similar decent shows that the Kikilezi Female and the Tamboti Female are her younger sisters by two and eight years respectively. Another two of her siblings include the son of the Ngoboswan Female 2005 and a female born in 2007 both of which have not featured as territorial leopards on MalaMala.

It appears the Campbell Koppies Female's first successful litter produced the Ostrich Koppies Female who we assume was fathered by the Old Newington Male leopard in 2004. Three years later she gave birth to another litter and successfully raised the Mlowathi Female to independence. Her legacy on MalaMala property now lies in the paws of the Ostrich Koppies Female and Mlowathi female.

Her presence will be sorely missed by all who witnessed her beauty.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE **9 YEARS**
EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were two confirmed sightings of the Ostrich Koppies Female. Since the death of her cub it is likely she is exploring regions outside of her territory. Both sightings were in northern Eyrefield.

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

There was one confirmed sighting of the Matshapiri Female in October.

DAUGHTER OF THE MATSHIPIRI FEMALE **2 YEARS**
EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sighting)

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

DUDLEY FEMALE **15 YEARS**
1 FEMALE CUB **1 YEAR 6 MONTH**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(1 sightings of female, 1 sighting of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub without female)

There was one confirmed sighting of the Dudley Female and one sighting of her cub in October. The two leopards were found on Dudley Lookout and both look in good health.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **9 YEARS 6 MONTHS**
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(1 sightings)

There was confirmed sightings of the Flockfield Female during October. She was last seen mating with the Bicycle Crossing Male leopard in the Tamboti Thickets towards the end of March. Ranger Ross Forbes positively identified her mid way through the month.

DAUGHTER OF THE FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **2 YEARS 4 MONTH**
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sighting)

There has not been one confirmed sighting of the Daughter of the Flockfield Female this year, although there have been sightings of a young female which could be her.

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE **3 YEARS 10 MONTHS**
WESTERN MALAMALA
(4 sightings)

There were four confirmed sightings of the Emsagweni Female in October. This young female was viewed on both sides of river and in four different male leopards' territories as she continues to seek out their services; the Airstrip male, Princess Alice Pans male, Newington male and the West Street male.

CALABASH FEMALE **± 6.5 YEARS**
1 CUB (Potentially more than 1 cub) **8 MONTHS**

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

There was confirmed sightings of the Calabash Female in October. We suspect she may be raising cubs in south western Charleston.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Son of the Dudley female 2009:** (3 sighting). **4 YEARS 1 MONTH**

The three sightings suggest that the core of his small territory has shifted slightly southwards. All three sightings were on the eastern bank of the Sand River between Charleston North and Sibuye Drive. On one occasion we viewed him in the presence of the Jakkalsdraai female. It was a brief and unfriendly encounter but perhaps a sign of potential sexual interest between the two. She is however nine years and ten months his senior. The two leopards mated were found again later in the month and copulated several times within the hour.

- **Old Female from the West. 2:2 Spot Pattern with Black Nose** (3 or 4 sightings)

This very old female appeared on MalaMala more than three times during the month. Her condition has neither improved nor worsened since last month. Yet again we viewed her hunting and killing mongoose- this time it was banded mongoose and she showed us the value of experience as she killed four in quick succession. Bare in mind, last month she killed seven and the month before she killed a white-tailed mongoose in broad daylight. These kinds of prey species are typically killed by very old leopards whom lack strength and skills required to kill larger prey. But the will to live is stronger than any other and this leopard will not go gently into that good night.

- **No ID females:** (10 sightings in total)

There were ten No ID female leopard sightings during October. A few of these sightings consisted of No ID Females found on the KNP Break.

The female seen mating with the west Street Male makes up at least three of the No ID female leopard sightings.

The old female with the black nose mentioned above also makes up a good portion of the No ID Female leopard sightings.

There was a No ID female leopard and about six month old cub seen near Calabash Crossing. It was not the Calabash Female. This is the second month running where we have seen this female and her cub.

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

The majority of these leopards were seen along our boundary roads. There is one large young male who we are seeing on a more regular basis around the Kapen. He has already had a few run ins with the Bicycle Crossing male and although there was aggression shown it was very limited and controlled, perhaps a sign that this youngster is one of the Bicycle Crossing males sons. We assume he has come from west. He is easily recognisable and sightings of him have become more frequent.

- **No ID (gender and identity unconfirmed):** (0 sightings)
- **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

OCTOBER	30
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CHEETAH (2 sightings)

There was one sighting of the mother cheetah and two sub adults near the Airstrip. They were found early in the morning and moved back towards Sparta within the hour. There was another male seen on one occasion at Clarendon Dam. This was more than likely the last standing of the coalition of four brothers who's territory remains around Clarendon Open Area.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

OCTOBER	4
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS (7 sightings)

The Cape Hunting Dogs were very active during October. A pack of eight were seen in and around the river on six occasions, hunting and running around creating havoc amongst the antelope species. They would almost always kill in the morning when they were found hunting in and around the river systems, and on one occasion killed two bushbuck in the river just South of MalaMala Main Camp. What was particularly strange was the manner of which they killed. The general running in and chasing the antelope until exhaustion was typical. However they never consumed the entire carcass on both the female and male bushbuck. They consumed the entire inside of the animals, and parts of the hindquarters, yet left the remaining front untouched. This could partially be because they might have already fed before the hunt, or they were slightly spooked by perhaps another predator in the area. The kills were both made in the open sections of the river, leaving the pack exposed to any larger predator who could possibly be waiting and watching from the river bank. The pack would then find a shady spot a distance away from where they killed, and would spend the rest of the day lying lazily waiting for the temperatures to drop before becoming active again.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

OCTOBER	8
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

During October, the beginning parts thereof, the landscape was looking slightly desolate and somewhat depraved of any water sources throughout the reserve (apart from the oasis of the Sand River). This meant that as a reliable source of water, 2 of the larger mammal species, elephant and buffalo, were almost forced to return to their drinking grounds on a daily basis. Almost like clockwork, you could witness large herds of both of these majestic animals during the hotter periods of the day roughly between midday through to late afternoon, arrive at the river to commence with satisfying their thirst.

The buffalo herds were astounding as hundreds of these bovines would reach the river during the midday heat to spend an afternoon drinking and laying in the water to cool their enormous bodies off before heading back into the reserves drier and more arid regions to continue their grazing.

Large amounts of elephant herds were equally as impressive as they would slowly make their way down to the river in large numbers in order to satisfy the need to have a good bath and a drink. They need to drink on average at least 100l of water a day in order to remain hydrated and to cool themselves down. The young calves would find these trips to the river as a chance to play and they were often witnessed rolling upside down in the shallow water which would almost always result in an eruption of laughter from anybody who witnessed it.

With the small amounts of rain towards the end of the month, many of the pans around Mala Mala had begun to fill up, making the need for travelling towards the river not as necessary. However many of the larger older bulls could almost always be found around the bountiful river system. As for the herds of buffalo, they seem to have been splitting up into slightly smaller herds after the rains, possibly because the grazing is now much better as the new green grass is abundant.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

African Wild Cat: 1

Caracal: 2

Civet: 6

Honey Badger: 6

Ostrich and eight chicks at Clarendon Open Area: 4

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 OCTOBER 2013

Lion: 58

Leopard: 88

Elephant: 197

Buffalo: 103

Cheetah: 2

Cape Hunting Dogs: 6

