

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – NOVEMBER 2015

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

WEATHER SUMMARY – NOVEMBER

	Celsius (°C)	Fahrenheit (°F)
Maximum temperature	39	102
Minimum temperature	15	59
Mean maximum	33	91.5
Mean minimum	20.9	69.6
Rainfall (mm)	27	
Days of rain	5	

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF NOVEMBER 2015

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 5

1 ADULT FEMALE	12 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	7 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALES	4 YEARS 10 MONTHS
2 ADULT MALES	4 YEARS 10 MONTHS

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD
(13 sightings)

As with October, it was only the three lionesses which represented the Styx pride in November. They were seen on 13 occasions, during which the lionesses were seen in a variety of combinations - all together, in pairs, singly and/or in the company of one or more of the Gowrie males. The mating continued this month, as we first noticed last month with these up and coming young males.

On the fifth of November a single Styx lioness was seen in the company of four of the Gowrie males, all of which were feeding off of a buffalo calf carcass in the north eastern parts of MalaMala. The remaining two Styx lionesses were seen on the same day also on a buffalo kill, much further west around Elephant rock. All three of these lionesses remained on these kills for two days.

About a week later, one of the lionesses from he Styx pride was seen with a male impala kill south of Campbell koppies. That same day, another was seen two of the Gowrie males - and she was mating. Hopefully all of this mating will lead to some new additions to the Styx pride.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 8

2 ADULT FEMALES

8 YEARS 5 MONTHS

1 ADULT FEMALE

8 YEARS 4 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT MALE

3 YEARS 9 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

3 YEARS 9 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT MALE

3 YEARS 6 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT MALE

3 YEARS 3 MONTHS

2 CUBS

BORN NOVEMBER 2015

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD

(25 sightings)

The Eyrefield pride, historically speaking, is usually a winter pride on MalaMala. During October they were seen a record breaking 19 times in one month, in 2015. Not only were they seen on many more occasions during November (25), during which they were seen on 5 buffalo kills (three were made in one day), we were also introduced to two more members of the pride when two cubs, of about 3 - 4 days old were found in the Matshapiri River, just north of its confluence with the Sand River. The last few months of mating with the dominant Matshapiri males has finally paid off, and these two dominant males have now sired two offspring from one of the Eyrefield lionesses.

Yet again, during November, the Eyrefield lionesses were seen in the company of the two male lions from the Matshapiri pride. The mother of these cubs is not the only lioness from the Eyrefield pride which has been seen mating with this pair of males, hopefully we will see a few more members of the Eyrefield pride soon.

The new additions to the pride could not have come at a better time, as the sub-adult males have not been seen with core pride in quite some time. It is unlikely that they will join up with them again, especially due to the presence of the two Matshapiri males in the area. The young males are not the only ones which have not been seen with the core pride in recent months, as one of the adult lionesses has not been seen in quite some time. Unlike the sub-adult males, who have been seen on a number of occasions on the southern parts of the property, this lioness has not been seen at all.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 2

1 ADULT FEMALE

UNKNOWN AGE

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE

5 YEARS 5 MONTHS

4 CUBS

2 MONTHS

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD

(2 sightings)

Two lionesses were seen at the junction of Sable road and Graded road, on the first day of November. While their identity was not able to be ascertained, we assume these to be the two lionesses from the Fourways pride, based on their composition and location - this sighting was not included in the total number of sightings, as it could not be confirmed.

Two confirmed sightings, on consecutive days, of these females were towards the end of the month, when both of the lionesses from the Fourways pride were seen with all four cubs, north of the windmill.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES	13 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 7 MONTHS
3 SUB-ADULT MALES	2 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 5 MONTHS

MARHTLY

(2 sightings)

There were two confirmed sightings of the seven members of the Marthly pride during November, after their absence during the month of October. Both of these encounters with the pride, we in the last week of the month. The first of which was in front of the MalaMala main camp, in the Sand River. The second sighting was further upstream, at the confluence of the Sand and the Manyalethi rivers.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 5

1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 10 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT MALES	4 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	± 8 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

(6 sightings of the female; 4 of the two male cubs; 7 of the two males)

November, was the first month in quite a while when the males from the Charleston pride were seen more often than the female and her young ones. These two impressive males, were seen seven times during the month, four of which found them on kills, which comprised of two different buffalo.

The lioness was seen on six occasions, four of which she was in the company of her offspring - who are both looking very big and healthy. During all of our encounters with this trio, they were in very close proximity to KK crossing.

MATSHAPIRI PRIDE = 5

2 ADULT MALES	±5 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	±3 YEARS 7 MONTHS

EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, MALAMALA

(18 sightings)

A total of 18 sightings of the male lions from the MATshapiri pride. Half of which they were seen alone, the other was in the company of one or more of the lionesses from the Eyrefield pride. Throughout the month, these males were seen within 2 kilometres (1.2 miles) of the West Street bridge - moving between the Sand River in front of Rattray's camp, the airstrip and the immediate area around Maurice's pan.

As we have seen previously, these males enjoy feeding on buffalo - and were seen on six different buffalo kills. Two of which they joined in on the feeding, after the lionesses from the Eyrefield pride had done all of the work. There was one more which they took over from an unidentified female close to Elephant rock. Not a typical area in which these males are seen, perhaps they will look to expand their territory one day - but even though they are such impressive individuals, it probably wouldn't be the best idea stepping into an area where the five Gowrie males move around in.

TJELLAHANGA PRIDE=9

2 ADULT FEMALES

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

6 SUB-ADULT MALES

UNKNOWN AGES

± 3 YEARS 10 MONTHS

± 3 YEARS 10 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

JAKKALSDRAAI MALES = 2

2 SUB ADULT MALES

5 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

CLARENDON MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

±10 YEARS 11 MONTHS

MARTHLY, SOUTHERN EYREFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(1 sighting)

The Clarendon males were seen on one occasion during November, in the last third of the month.

GOWRIE MALES = 5

1 ADULT MALE

± 6 YEARS 1 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE

± 5 YEARS 7 MONTHS

3 ADULT MALES

± 5 YEARS 1 MONTHS

EYREFIELD

(8 sightings)

The Gowrie males we seen a total of eight times between the first and the 29th of November, once again spending all of their time in Eyrefield. The first sighting of these impressive individuals was around Mlowathi dam on the first day of the month, the following sighting was much further east, at Clarendon open area - just shy of a week later. These males spent two full days in this area, on the buffalo kill which they had made, and as with October - they were seen sharing it with one of the lionesses from the Styx pride.

This was not the last time these males were seen with a lioness from the Styx pride, nor was it the last time they were seen on a buffalo kill. Two of the males were seen towards the middle of the month, with a lioness from the Styx pride. A week after this, these males were seen yet again around Clarendon dam, on another buffalo kill where they remained for two days.

It really does appear these males have happily incorporated Eyrefield into the southern parts of their territory, and the members of the Styx pride along with it.

MANYELETHI MALES = 4

± 11 YEARS 2 MONTHS

MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALA MALA, NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

DOMINANT OVER THE STYX, EYREFIELD, FOURWAYS, MARTHLY AND
BREAKAWAY MARTHLY PRIDES

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of the Manyaletli males.

Other lions encountered

A total of 9 lions were encountered during October, whose identity could not be confirmed. Of these, 4 were female. Two of which are assumed to be from the Fourways pride and one from the Matshapiri pride. The fourth, however, we are uncertain of the identity.

The remaining, unidentified males, include the three young males which we have seen on a number of occasions during the latter half of 2015. They were seen a total of seven times during October - four of which were at Matshapiri dam, where they had been successful in capturing a female buffalo. After more than half a week of feeding off the buffalo, they eventually allowed the hyenas to come in and finish up the carcass, who had been patiently waiting for their opportunity.

This trio of young males were not the only unidentified males seen on a buffalo during November. Another young male was seen with the remains of a buffalo carcass, in the Sand River downstream from main camp around the middle of the month, for three days. We are not certain of his origins, but the investigations are ongoing.

The last male lion was seen in the Sand River, around Matumi Rocks, although he was too far to ascertain a positive identity we assume this lion to be one of the two Clarendon males.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

November	44
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LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

13 YEARS 9 MONTHS

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

The Bicycle crossing male never fails to impress us, although he is not the most commonly viewed leopard - his presence is always felt within his territory. We have reported him capturing fully grown male kudu not too long ago which is an impressive feat. November was equally as spectacular as he was successful in killing a buffalo calf. Although still a juvenile, his prey of choice more than likely weighed more than double the weight of the Bicycle crossing male. Not only did he capture and kill it, but he dragged it into a more suitable position - under the shade of a thick jackalberry, opposite Rattray's camp, where he remained for a few days.

He was seen once more during the month of November, at Styx waterhole, over two weeks later, and was not seen again for the remainder of the month.

AIRSTRIP MALE

9 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(11 sightings)

The Airstrip male was seen 11 times during November, all of which were in and around his usual territory. What was a little different about this month were the prey species which we recorded the Airstrip male selecting. The first kill was a baboon, which is not too out of the ordinary - this was followed by a male impala, which he fed off of for two days. The next was a Nile monitor lizard and a leopard tortoise. All of these just reiterate how opportunistic these predators actually are.

CHARLESTON MALE

9 YEARS 5 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

WEST STREET MALE

6 YEARS 7 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(1 sighting)

As with October, the West street male was seen on one occasion. Continuing with the similarity, he was seen yet again on Sibuye drive, towards the latter parts of the month. This male leopard, although not seen too frequently, has definitely been seen more often in the area which was once primarily dominated by the Charleston male.

TREEHOUSE MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(8 sightings)

± 5 YEARS 11 MONTHS

Over the last few months, the Treehouse male and Airstrip male have been spending quite some time in and around each other's territories. This was not the case during November, as the Treehouse male was only recorded spending his time patrolling his territory on the western bank.

Seen on eight occasions, one of which he ventured close to but not onto the eastern bank - close to the giraffe bones. Another occasion found his feeding on the remains of a kill which had been made by a pack of cape hunting dogs, close to West Street bridge.

TSLEBE ROCKS MALE
NORTHERN EYREFIELD
(2 sightings)

± 9 YEARS 5 MONTHS

The Tselebe rocks male has not been seen too often in the last few months, so two sightings of this dominant male, around northern Eyrefield were most welcome. The first of which was close to the middle of the month, when he was found in the Mlowathi river, north of Mlowathi dam. He was seen exactly a week later, much further east of this position, when he was seen close to Clarendon open area. He was not alone at this sighting, and was seen in the company of the son of the Ostrich Koppies female.

PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE
WESTERN MALAMALA
(0 sightings)

14 YEARS 11 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

GOWRIE MALE
NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

± 8 YEARS 3 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

RIVER ROCKS MALE
(0 sightings)

6 YEARS 4 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period

KIKILEZI FEMALE **14 YEARS 1 MONTH**
2 FEMALE SUB-ADULT DAUGHTERS **1 YEAR 11 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

(5 sightings of female, 1 sighting of female and cub(s), 19 sightings of cub(s) without female)

Once again, between this trio of leopards they accounted for the highest number of sightings of any of the leopards on the property during November. The Kikilezi female herself was seen much less frequently, than her daughter/s, who were seen four times more often. It is more than likely the case that the Kikilezi female will be moving around more, perhaps looking for a male suitor to mate with as her daughters are now fully independent. An alternative option is that her daughters, who still reside primarily within her territory are too much competition, and the Kikilezi female is moving further afield to avoid this. There was one occasion however, where the Kikilezi female was seen in the vicinity of one of her daughters, who shared the spoils of an impala kill, south of the Ngoboswan donga. We are uncertain which of these two were responsible for making the kill, but based on previous observations it is very possible that her daughter made the kill and permitted the Kikilezi female to share it.

The Kikilezi female is still perfectly capable of fending for herself, however, as she was seen with a bushbuck kill at the middle of November. This carcass provided her enough sustenance for two days, where she was seen feeding off of it, in the lower reaches of the Mlowathi river.

TAMBOTI FEMALE **8 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(8 sightings)

Eight sightings of this female leopard during November, meant she was seen on two more occasions than October. The first sighting of the Tamboti female was close to Rattray's camp, where she was seen as far north as MalaMala main camp. The last three sightings of this female leopard were in the last week of the month, where she was seen south of the old airstrip, on an impala kill - which she had placed into a jackalberry tree. The tamboti female was found in this position, when a few rangers were following a pack of cape hunting dogs.

ISLAND FEMALE **2 YEARS 9 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(3 sightings)

From fourteen sightings in October, down to three in November - all of which were in the very northern parts of her mothers territory, spread out in the first half of November. She is more than likely receiving a lot of pressure from her mom, to move out of the area as her mother will hopefully be having her cubs soon and will want the least amount of competition around, as possible.

MLOWATHI FEMALE **8 YEARS 10 MONTHS**

DAUGHTER OF THE MLOWATHI FEMALE **±2 YEARS 0 MONTHS**

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD

(2 sightings of the Mlowathi female, 0 sightings of the daughter of the Mlowathi female)

There were three confirmed sightings of the Mlowathi female during November. A leopard which is not seen very often at all, due to the fact that her territory overlaps a fairly small portion of the property - so three sightings of this female, in one month were enjoyed by many.

An impala carcass in a tree, west of Mlowathi dam, led to the discovery of this female. She had successfully captured an impala, cached it in an apple leaf tree and spent the better parts of three days finishing off this meal. During the third day, she was joined by a young, unknown male leopard in the area.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE **10 YEARS 11 MONTHS**
MALE CUB **1 YEAR 5 MONTHS**
EYREFIELD
(0 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 5 sightings of cub)

There were no confirmed sightings during November of the Ostrich Koppies female, her son was seen on five different occasions. This young male was seen between Clarendon dam and Buffalo bush dam, within close proximity to the Matshapiri river.

The son of the Ostrich Koppies female was seen at one sighting, with the Tslebe rocks males - which is possibly his father who is dominant in the same areas in which the Ostrich Koppies female patrols. This would explain the tolerance by this large male, of the son of the Ostrich Koppies female. Not too long after this young male was seen in the company of the Tslebe rocks male, he was seen eating a leopard tortoise.

MATSHAPIRI FEMALE **15 YEARS 1 MONTH**
MALE CUB OF THE MATSHAPIRI FEMALE **±11 MONTHS**
EASTERN MALAMALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD
(2 sightings of the Matshapiri female; 0 sightings of the female and cub, 0 sightings of her cub)

The Matshapiri female was seen twice, both of which were in the first week of November. Initially she was seen on the sixth of the month, just north of Buffalo bush dam. The following day, she was seen yet again - this time feeding on the remains of an African civet. Once again, there were no sightings of the Matshapiri female's cub, who is almost a year of age.

DUDLEY FEMALE **17 YEARS 2 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

DAUGHTER OF THE DUDLEY FEMALE **2 YEARS 8 MONTHS**
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

EMSAGWENI FEMALE
CUB OF THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE
MALAMALA

5 YEARS 11 MONTHS
±8 MONTHS

(sightings of the Emsagweni female; 0 sightings of the female and cub, 0 sightings of her cub)

Yet again, there were no sightings of the Emsagweni female's cub, however the female herself - was seen on two occasions during November. The first of which was towards the end of the first week of the month, at Emsagwen waterhole. A week later, she was seen further south on the property, close to West Street bridge.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE **11 YEARS 7 MONTHS**
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

Other leopards encountered:

- The Calabash female was seen on two occasions during November, with her son. Both of which were on the eastern bank of the Sand River, off the northern parts of Sibuye drive. Both of these individuals were seen feeding off of the remains of an adult male bushbuck.
- **No ID males:** (4 sightings)
 - There were four sightings of the same number of unidentified male leopards in November:
 - One was in Marthly, one was on the western bank of the Sand River, south of Calabash crossing, and another was the young male, which was seen with the Mlowathi female.
 - One was at the Confluence of the Kapen and Sand Rivers - this male was more than likely the Bicycle crossing male, however a positive identity could not be attained.
- **No ID females:** (5 sightings)
 - There were 5 sightings of 5 unidentified female leopards during the month of November:
 - One was on Campbell road, south of Rattray's camp and another close to Charleston rock.
 - A young, unidentified female was seen close to lower Mlowathi crossing and is more than likely one of the daughters of the Kikilezi female.
 - The last was the female with the 3:3 spot pattern seen most frequently around Flockfield lookout - she was seen making an impala kill.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

November	25
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CHEETAH

Once again there were three different cheetah seen this month, on two different occasions. The first sighting of cheetah during November, was of an unknown male which we presumably saw last month too. This month, he was seen on the very western parts of northern side Kapen. He is very calm, and used to vehicles so he must come from an area where he has seen cars before.

The second sighting we were fortune to have was of the two males, which frequent the Clarendon area. These two were seen in the last week of November, south of Matshapiri dam. Both of which are in excellent condition.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

November	3
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

Nine sightings of these rare predators in November, with representatives of three different packs being seen. The smallest is a group of three which is seen from time to time around the central parts of the property. According to text, these animals are virtually unable to survive in packs less than 5 in number - these three are doing very well, however.

In addition to these, we finally saw the pack which denned on the property not too long ago. This pack is looking well, and seeing 22 of the original 25 together around Princess Alice pans was a real treat.

Over and above these two packs seen, the third and last which was spotted was a pack which is usually seen around the southern parts of the property. During the month, they were responsible for capturing and killing three impala - two of which were in one afternoon.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

November	45
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

Although we had five days of rain, the total rainfall was 27 mm (\pm 1 inch) - all of which offers some reprieve from the ongoing drought, but leaves as soon as it has arrived. As a result, all of the animals spend most of their time either at the river or moving towards it - resulting in excellent buffalo and elephant sightings, especially on the hotter afternoons.

During November, we had a total of 127 buffalo sightings which included: 452 individuals, 27 herds and 12 large herds (>500 animals). The most amazing sighting of the month was a herd of around 1300 animals which was seen drinking from the Sand River, north of the bridge on the 9th.

Elephant sightings, were equally as impressive - with herds of up to 85 members being seen, during our 204 recorded encounters in November. These included 30 large herds, 137 herds (up to 40 animals) and 27 bull elephants.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

November was a really interesting month, as we saw an African Wild cat on a number of appearances - around Clarendon corner. In addition to this fairly infrequently seen animal, we were fortunate to see another large herd of sable antelope, in the Sand River in front of Rattray's camp.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2015

Lion	86
Leopard	79
Elephant	204
Buffalo	127
Cheetah	2
Cape Hunting Dog	9

MalaMala Kill Analysis**November 2015**

	Lions	Leopards	Cape hunting dog	Cheetah	Total
Impala	1	5	4		10
Duiker					
Klipspringer					
Buffalo	13	1			14
Bushbuck		2	1		3
Warthog					
Nyala					
Waterbuck					
Wildebeest					
Kudu					
Giraffe					
Other	1	3			4
Total	15	11	5		31

	LION		LEOPARD		ELEPHANT		BUFFALO	
	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings
1	13	1	2	2	3LH+5H+3	10	H+9	2
2	6	2	2	2	4H+2	5	LH+15	2
3	4	2	1	1	LH+10H+1	12	29	7
4	7	4	3	3	LH+8H	9	LH+8	2
5	10	4	4	4	3LH+6H+1	10	LH+H+8	3
6	14	4	3	3	4LH+4H+1	9	LH+16	5
7	6	3	5	4	LH+2H+1	3	H+27	6
8	10	4	3	3	10H+3	11	2H++30	7
9	5	1	5	5	10H	10	LH+2H+11	7
10	3	1	1	1	4LH+6H	10	H+24	5
11	8	4	4	4	LH+4H+1	6	LH+2H+14	7
12	5	2	5	5	H	1	H	1
13	14	6	5	5	3LH+4H	6	LH+2H+9	5
14	10	4	3	3	H+1	2	4H	4
15	4	2	2	2	5H+4	7	8	1
16	6	3	3	3	2LH+3H	5	36	2
17	5	2	2	2	LH+6H	7	27	4
18	6	2	1	1	H+1	2	6	1
19	10	4	3	2	10H	10	26	5
20	10	4	5	4	4H+1	5	H+12	3
21	5	3	2	1	5H	5	LH+H+24	7
22	6	3	5	4	6H	6	LH+H+18	7
23	5	2	4	4	10H	10	H+25	8
24	9	3	2	2	4H+1	5	14	4
25	8	4	1	1	LH+3H	4	5	1
26	8	3	2	2	5H+1	6	LH+2H+8	5
27	17	4	1	1	LH+5H+1	7	LH+12	5
28	17	4	2	2	2LH+5H+2	8	2H+13	4
29	4	1	2	2	LH+5H	6	LH+2H+5	4
30	0	0	1	1	LH+5H+2	7	13	3
	235	86	84	79	30LH+157H+27	204	12LH+27H+452	127

NOVEMBER 2015

7TH Herd of Elephnats ± 85

9th Herd of Buffalo ± 1300

13th Herd of Elephants ± 63