

## MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – OCTOBER 2015

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

### WEATHER SUMMARY – OCTOBER

	Celsius (°C)	Fahrenheit (°F)
Maximum temperature	40	104
Minimum temperature	17	63
Mean maximum	32.5	90.6
Mean minimum	20.8	69.5
Rainfall (mm)	0	
Days of rain	0	

\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF OCTOBER 2015

### LIONS

**STYX PRIDE = 5**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>12 YEARS 9 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>7 YEARS 9 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>4 YEARS 9 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 ADULT MALES</b>	<b>4 YEARS 9 MONTHS</b>

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD  
(14 sightings)

Seen on two less occasions during October, as they were the three months previously, the three lionesses from the pride were the only members viewed this month. These lionesses spent a majority of the time in western Eyrefield, with one or two days in Marthly, close to Stwise. There was still no sign of the missing cub, it can now be assumed it is no longer around. The Styx pride now sits as 5 members in total, one group of three (lionesses) and one of two (young males)

Just over half way through the month, one of the lionesses from the pride was seen in the company of five male lions. These six were seen in close proximity to about 30% remains of a buffalo carcass, which they must have taken down the previous evening. One of the males, was also seen mating with this female - perhaps she was doing it as a distraction technique to allow her an opportunity to feed, or perhaps she realises these males are more than likely the dominant force which will soon be dominant in the area. We will just have to see what the following months hold for the Styx pride.

**EYREFIELD PRIDE = 7**

<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>8 YEARS 4 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>8 YEARS 3 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT MALE</b>	<b>3 YEARS 8 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>3 YEARS 8 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT MALE</b>	<b>3 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT MALE</b>	<b>3 YEARS 2 MONTHS</b>

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD  
(18 sightings)

October was the highest number of recorded sightings of the Eyrefield pride, on MalaMala, for 2015, with members of the pride being seen on 19 occasions over 18 days of the month. Two of the young males were seen on four occasions, all of which were in close proximity to the Sand River, in the south to south-western parts of the property.

For a majority of the month, the lionesses of the pride were within about a 2 kilometres ( $\pm 1.3$  miles) from West Street bridge. Our first encounter with them, was in the Sand River, close to Rattray's camp. A few days later, the lionesses were seen again, however this time in the presence of the two male lions from the Matshapiri pride - these five spent the day together. The lionesses were not seen again with these males again, for almost two weeks. During this time, the lionesses from the Eyrefield pride were seen on four different occasions, the most enthralling of which was when they had come across the scent of a herd of buffalo and spent the latter half of the afternoon game drive trailing them and running in (unsuccessfully) on a few of the individuals, around Two Toes open area.

The next time the lionesses were seen with the male lions from the Matshapiri pride, was on the 20th of October. These five lions were on a buffalo kill, which they had made in the Sand River, close to West Street bridge. Soon after this meal was done, another buffalo was captured in a similar area. This resulted in excellent viewing of lions, interaction with buffalo and more for a full week - just around the bridge.

The following day, the lionesses moved off without the males - but their hunger did not seem to be satiated, as they were found on another buffalo kill - also in the Sand River, at its confluence with the Ngoboswan donga. They left this one fairly soon after they had arrived and headed back southwards towards the bridge, where they were seen for the last time during October on the 28th of the month.

**FOURWAYS PRIDE = 2**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>UNKNOWN AGE</b>
<b>1 SUB ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>5 YEARS 4 MONTHS</b>

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(2 sightings)

After a fairly long absence, these two lionesses were seen twice during October. Both instances were in the second half of the month. The first of which was close to Buffalo Bush dam, and the second was on Redhawk road - where they had successfully captured a kudu cow and were found feeding on the remains.

**MARTHLY PRIDE = 7**

<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>13 YEARS 2 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>4 YEARS 6 MONTHS</b>
<b>3 SUB-ADULT MALES</b>	<b>2 YEARS 4 MONTHS</b>
<b>1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>2 YEARS 4 MONTHS</b>

MARHTLY

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

**CHARLESTON PRIDE = 5**

<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>10 YEARS 9 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 SUB ADULT MALES</b>	<b>4 YEARS 5 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 MALE CUBS</b>	<b>± 7 MONTHS</b>

CHARLESTON

(9 sightings of the female; 7 of the two male cubs; 2 of the two males)

There were ten days during October when members of the Charleston pride were seen, during October. Two of these occasions, included the male lions from the pride - one of which has sustained an injury to a single canine, and he was seen with this tooth dislodged, yet still attached. Other than that, both of the males appear to be in good health.

The lioness of the Charleston pride and her two cubs were seen nine and seven times, respectively. All of the sightings of the cubs, were in the company of their mother. One of these included these three lions feeding off of the remains of an impala which the lioness had captured, proving yet again how capable she is to raise these two cubs on her own - both of which are looking in great condition and getting very big.

**MATSHAPIRI PRIDE = 5**

<b>2 ADULT MALES</b>	<b>±5 YEARS 6 MONTHS</b>
<b>2 ADULT FEMALES</b>	<b>UNKNOWN AGES</b>
<b>1 ADULT FEMALE</b>	<b>±3 YEARS 6 MONTHS</b>

EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, MALAMALA

(17 sightings)

October found the relations between the male lions from the Matshapiri pride and the lionesses from the Eyrefield pride to be going strong, as they were seen in each other's company on at least ten days during the month. They were first seen spending the day with three lionesses from the Eyrefield pride, just over a week into the month. They were not found in one another's company from this point, until just shy of two weeks later when the two males from the Matshapiri pride and the three lionesses from the Eyrefield pride were seen sharing a buffalo together in the Sand River, downstream from West Street bridge. This was not the only buffalo to fall during their temporary residence, however - three more were killed in the space of 3 hours, once their initial meal was done. Even when the lions were so full, they could hardly walk - attempted hunts were witnessed on buffalo as the herds came down to the river to drink.

The time which the male lions were not with the lionesses from the Eyrefield pride, amounted to seven days out of 17. During this time, they were seen moving around their territory - and covering vast distances in short amounts of time. Initially seen around the windmill, in the beginning of the month, they moved westwards, and did not really move further east than the central parts of Flockfield for the remainder of the month. This is more than likely attributed to the fact that there are no other males, which are challenging them in the area they have chosen to be dominant in.

The last two days of the month, found both of the males from this pride mating with a single lioness from the Eyrefield pride. Initially, it was the larger maned male - who is more dominant. The last day of October, we watched as the smaller maned male had his chance for mating. The more dominant male was not present at this stage, clearly his smaller companion was taking full advantage of this opportunity.

**TJELLAHANGA PRIDE=9**

**2 ADULT FEMALES**

**1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE**

**6 SUB-ADULT MALES**

**UNKNOWN AGES**

**± 3 YEARS 9 MONTHS**

**± 3 YEARS 9 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 4 MONTHS**

**WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON**

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

**CLARENDON MALES = 2**

**2 ADULT MALES**

**±10 YEARS 10 MONTHS**

**MARTHLY, SOUTHERN EYREFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA**

(2 sightings)

Is it perhaps a coincidence that the number of sightings of the two Clarendon males were substantially lower during October, or perhaps the growing presence of the five young male lions from the north has caused the two Clarendon males to move off, and spend more time in a less threatening environment. They are truly displaying behaviour similar to April of this year, when the two male lions from the Matshapiri pride spent more time on the property, and the Clarendon males moved off for a while.

The two Clarendon males were seen a total of two times during October, the first of which was close to Piccadilly triangle - when they were found moving quite steadily westwards. It was not until a few minutes later and the discovery of the five young males from the north, that we understood the behaviour of these two. Over three weeks later, they were seen yet again during the last sighting of the month. They were found on a buffalo carcass which the lionesses from the Eyrefield pride had left, it was not freely available however - as the Treehouse male leopard had arrived on the scene prior to the two Clarendon

males. Needless to say, the leopard took off when he saw the lions - these two finished off the kill, got up, moved back westward and were not seen again during October.

**GOWRIE MALES = 5**

**1 ADULT MALE**

**± 6 YEARS 0 MONTHS**

**1 ADULT MALE**

**± 5 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

**3 ADULT MALES**

**± 5 YEARS 0 MONTHS**

**EYREFIELD**

(10 sightings)

Our first encounter with these five younger male lions was in September, where three of the individuals were seen around Matshapiri dam. In addition to this, they were seen a further six times during the month, mainly around Mlowathi dam. The lack of competition/challenges met by these five lions during September, who are so clearly set on expanding their territory, resulted in them making even more of a presence known during October - as a result, they have been named the Gowrie males.

The first sighting of the Gowrie males was directly opposite MalaMala main camp, where they had a bit of an altercation with the Airstrip male and Kikilezi female leopards. Spending all of their time in and around Eyrefield during the month, some of the highlights include: watching them interact and feed of the remains of a buffalo carcass close to Tsebe rocks, chase hyenas away from the carcass, mating with one of the lionesses from the Styx pride (this was mainly dominated by the Gowrie male with the darker circles around his eyes), advertising their presence in the area by roaring and scent marking. The last sighting we had of these males was on the 28th of the month, when they were seen in Piccadilly triangle, feeding off the remains of a waterbuck which had obviously fallen victim in the evening.

**MANYELETHI MALES = 4**

**± 11 YEARS 1 MONTH**

**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 Manyalethi males.

### **Other lions encountered**

October was a fairly busy month in terms of different lions seen, which we do not see that regularly or have not seen in quite some time. First off there were two male lions located close to Charleston south crossing, in the Sand River. Both of these males were much older, and had joined forces later in life. One of which was originally from a coalition of two, who fathered the Charleston males. This male lion was seen on his own a week later, and found dead a few days after that. The cause of which is unknown. The second male lion, was seen again two more times during October - once at the confluence of the Rock Drift donga and the Sand River, the third and last time he was seen during the month was at Charleston north crossing.

On the 17th of October one young male was found in the north eastern parts of the property, the following day he was seen again with two other young males. This trio were trailing a herd of buffalo, who were definitely aware of their presence. We soon found out why, as they had claimed a young calf and were finishing up the carcass. These lions come from a pride in the north, which we have seen a handful times on MalaMala over the last year.

A total of five other male lions were seen. There is some debate whether or not, these are members of the Tjellahanga pride. These lions were seen a total of six times during the month, all in the south eastern parts of the property.

Also, we saw a single lioness atop Stwise - she is thought to come from the Styx pride and at least two lionesses were seen in the company of the male lions from the Matshapiri pride, although their identity could not be confirmed - we assume them to be lionesses from the Eyrefield pride.

### **NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)**

<b>October</b>	<b>33</b>
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## **LEOPARDS:**

### **BICYCLE CROSSING MALE**

**13 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

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

The last time the Bicycle crossing male was seen in September, a week before the end of the month, being chased by five members of the Eyrefield pride towards the White Cloth. This male leopard was seen three days into October, in the Sand River - a touch downstream from Rattray's camp. Before the first week of the month was complete, the Bicycle crossing male was seen once again, this time he was in the company of a younger, female leopard and the remains of an adult warthog sow.

When a male leopard holds a large territory, such as the Bicycle crossing male - patrols need to be done, and often. In October we saw this male between the very western parts of his territory, as well as the very eastern parts, on one occasion this happened back-to-back. A majority of the sightings of this leopard, were along the parts of his domain closer to the Sand River, which is understandable in the dry conditions experienced in October.

### **AIRSTRIp MALE**

**9 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(13 sightings)

Four more encounters with the Airstrip male leopard during October, than in the month previously, with thirteen in total over the 31 days. Our first sighting of the Airstrip male, was on the fourth day of the month when he was seen on the northern side of Campbell Koppies. He was not alone at this sighting, but was seen with the Kikilezi female - and they were mating! This pair stayed together for almost three days, the last of which the couple had the unfortunate situation of having to make a quick escape after encountering the Gowrie males.

The Airstrip male was seen almost two weeks later, in the company of the 3:3 spot pattern daughters of the Kikilezi female (his own offspring). He was fortunate to be around, as she managed to kill a bushbuck which the two of them shared for two days. A few days after he left his daughter, and the remains of her latest quarry, the Airstrip male was seen around Lower Mlowathi crossing, only to spend the next day with the other daughter of the Kikilezi female, with the 2:2 spot pattern.

For the remainder of the month, the Airstrip male leopard spent his time patrolling his territory on the east of the Sand River. The furthest he strayed westwards was onto the causeway. Perhaps he is keeping his distance from the area currently controlled by the Treehouse male?

### **CHARLESTON MALE**

**9 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

EASTERN CHARLESTON, NORTHERN TOULON  
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**WEST STREET MALE****6 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(1 sighting)

Seen again in October, the West street male was located very comfortably asleep on the southern parts of Sibuye drive. Our first and only encounter with his male leopard was on this day, the 16th, and from what we could see he seemed very relaxed in his territory.

**TREEHOUSE MALE****± 5 YEARS 10 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA

(14 sightings)

The record number of sightings for any individual leopard, during October - the Treehouse male was seen on 14 days of the month. During all, but one, of these sightings this male leopard was seen strictly on the west of the Sand River. It almost seems as for the month of October, he and the Airstrip male have decided to steer clear of one another's stomping grounds. For the most part sightings of the Treehouse male consisted of seeing him reenforce his presence on the western bank - there were two sightings which stood out during the month of October though.

The first of which was the start of the last week of the month, where this leopard must have identified the scent of another leopard and/or it's kill. After following this trail for a while, he located the Island female and the remains of an impala kill she had made two days previously, north of Flockfield boma crossing. There was no hesitation whatsoever as the Treehouse male quickly claimed this for himself.

The second highlight for the month, also includes a kill - which was made by another. This time however, the carcass was that of a buffalo and it was abandoned by the lionesses from the Eyrefield pride. The first time the Treehouse male crossed the dividing line of the Sand River, into the territory of the Airstrip male was to take advantage of this easy meal. It did not last too long, as soon enough the two Clarendon males arrived on the scene, which sent the leopard heading for the hills.

**TSLEBE ROCKS MALE****± 9 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

NORTHERN EYREFIELD

(1 sighting)

After an absence of almost two whole months, the Tslebe rocks male was seen on the 27th of October. As per usual, he was exploring around northern Eyrefield and was located on the Gowrie boundary, someways to the east of the Mlowathi river.

**PRINCESS ALICE PANS MALE****14 YEARS 10 MONTHS**

WESTERN MALAMALA

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**GOWRIE MALE**

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

**± 8 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**RIVER ROCKS MALE**

(0 sightings)

**6 YEARS 3 MONTHS**

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period

**KIKILEZI FEMALE****2 FEMALE SUB-ADULT DAUGHTERS**

WESTERN MALA-MALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLI

(10 sightings of female, 4 sightings of female and cub(s), 20 sightings of cub(s) without female)

**14 YEARS 0 MONTHS****1 YEAR 10 MONTHS**

October was a very exciting month for this trip of leopards, as well as for those who were lucky enough to spend some time with them. There were only five days during the month, which the Kikilezi and/or her sub-adult daughters were not seen. Of the 26 days in which they were, there were 34 separate sightings. The month started off with a bang, as one of the daughters was encountered on the very first day, shortly thereafter the Kikilezi female was seen with the Airstrip male leopard, both of who were mating and did so for a few days. As this session of mating draw to a close, both of these leopards bumped into the five Gowrie males. Neither of them stuck around for very long, and the next time the Kikilezi female was seen was almost a week later with one of her daughters, around Bicycle crossing.

This was the first of four sightings we had, in which we saw the Kikilezi together with one/both of her daughters in October. The following one included seeing the Kikilezi female spending time with her 3:3 spot pattern daughter around Piccadilly pans. They were seen together shortly thereafter, where they were sharing a bushbuck kill which her daughter had successfully captured a few days previously. The Kikilezi was not the only one to partake in this easy meal, as the Airstrip male spent a few days in the area feeding off the carcass too. The 2:2 spot pattern daughter of the Kikilezi female was also seen with her father, south of lower Mlowathi crossing.

The Kikilezi female was also seen on a kill - a juvenile bushbuck, that she captured herself close to Bicycle crossing hippo pools, in the last week of the month. Clearly, her daughters are very well adept at fending for themselves, in one instance this month - a kill was even shared with their mother. This, in addition to the Kikilezi female being seen mating with the Airstrip male leopard, early on in the month, is a clear indicator that the next step for this trio is to find their own territories. Will the Kikilezi female retain hers?

**TAMBOTI FEMALE****8 YEARS 1 MONTH**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA

(6 sightings)

Seen once more in October, than the five encounters we had with the Tamboti female in September, this leopardess was spotted all over the western bank. Initially she was seen around Pete's bridge, on the first day of the month. The remainders of the sightings we had with the Tamboti female we all spread throughout her territory. Although there is no evidence of her lactating, or having given birth yet - we wait with baited breath.

**ISLAND FEMALE****2 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALA MALA

(14 sightings)

The Island female has been fairly scarce over the last few months, so seeing her fourteen times during October was a real treat. She is still fairly young, and finding her feet - territorially speaking, as a result she is still seen within her mother's (the Tamboti female) territory. More specifically, the Island female spent a lot of time close to Flockfield tower, West Street Bridge and Kikilezihash during the month.

She was not only seen moving around, this young female leopard was also found on two separate kills. The first of which was a bushbuck, which she had captured on the northern parts of Kikilezihash. The second, was not too long after the first, where she captured an impala. Unfortunately, she was not able to finish the latter, as the Treehouse male made an appearance and claimed it for himself.

**MLOWATHI FEMALE****8 YEARS 9 MONTHS****DAUGHTER OF THE MLOWATHI FEMALE****±1 YEAR 11 MONTHS**

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD

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

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE****10 YEARS 10 MONTHS****MALE CUB****1 YEAR 4 MONTHS**

EYREFIELD

(0 sightings of female, 0 sightings of female and cub, 0 sighting of cub)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**MATSHAPIRI FEMALE****15 YEARS 0 MONTHS****MALE CUB OF THE MATSHAPIRI FEMALE****±10 MONTHS**

EASTERN MALA MALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD

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

The male cub of the Matshapiri was not seen during October. The Matshapiri female, was seen on three separate occasions: on Rhino walk, close to Matshapiri dam and lastly at Emsagwen waterhole.

**DUDLEY FEMALE**  
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(4 sightings)

**17 YEARS 1 MONTH**

The Dudley female is still going strong. Some think she is on the way out, which she may very well be - but every encounter we have with this older female is special. She was seen four times during October, all of which were in the Sand River, between Rattray's camp and West Street bridge.

**DAUGHTER OF THE DUDLEY FEMALE**  
WESTERN FLOCKFIELD  
(0 sightings)

**2 YEARS 7 MONTHS**

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**EMSAGWENI FEMALE**  
**CUB OF THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE**  
MALA-MALA

**5 YEARS 10 MONTHS**  
**±7 MONTHS**

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

There were two sightings of the Emsagweni female during October, none of her cub. As the dry conditions continue, it is possible that we may start to see this pair more often - we wait for November. The Emsagweni female was seen close to West Street bridge, on the eastern bank - an area she has not been seen exploring properly for at least two months.

**FLOCKFIELD FEMALE**  
CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON  
(0 sightings)

**11 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**Other leopards encountered:**

- The Toulon female was seen on one occasion, on the track which leads west from Flat Rocks..
- **No ID males:** (7 sightings)
  - There were seven sightings of the same number of unidentified male leopards in October:
    - Two were seen in the general vicinity of Old Borehole road, the Gowrie boundary and someways to the south and east of that position. We are not able to confirm the identity of these males, however - we assume both sightings to be the Tsebe rocks male, but will leave it as two separate unidentified sightings.
    - A younger male was seen close to the southern parts of the Tjellahanga river. His identity is unknown, and is unfamiliar to our southern neighbours. It is possible this young male made his way onto the property from the Kruger National Park.
    - Another male was seen in the Sand River, south of it's confluence with the Tjellahanga River. Based on size it was a fully grown male.
    - Three more unknown males were seen, between Dudley crossing and northwards towards Maurice's pan. All were fairly close to the Sand River.
- **No ID females:** (6 sightings)
  - There were 6 sightings of 6 unidentified female leopards in October, five of the six were in the southern half of the property:
    - One female was seen at Charleston North crossing, and another a day later on River road at it's junction with the first turning which leads to Mamba waterhole - perhaps it was the same female, as the locations are fairly close together.
    - A female leopard was seen in the company of the Bicycle crossing male, both of which were sharing a warthog kill at the entrance of the main track with leads through the tamboti thickets.
    - Two females were seen quite far south, one on the Rollercoaster and the second on Charleston rock.

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

October	24
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## **CHEETAH**

There were three different individuals seen during October, all of which were male, on five different occasions. Two of which we typically see around Clarendon dam, and the associated open area, and were the first to be seen just over week into the month. The third individual which was seen, came as a bit of a surprise when it was spotted in the Sand River, in front of Rattray's camp during early morning tea. Rangers spent a fair bit of time with this lone male over the next few days, as he tried his luck with a variety of different antelope, he generally made his way back eastwards and eventually crossed into the Kruger National Park, around the MalaMala-Flockfield boundary.

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

<b>October</b>	<b>3</b>
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## **CAPE HUNTING DOGS**

Once again, there was no sign of the pack of cape hunting dogs, which called MalaMala their temporary residence not too long ago. We did have two appearances of the pack we have seen in the south, for the the past two consecutive months. In August we saw 20, last month 19 and this month 18. We are uncertain the whereabouts of these missing individuals, on the particular days we saw them, however - the first sighting we had of all 18, is one for the story books. The pack of cape hunting dogs captured a female nyala, which was stolen from them by a number of opportunistic hyena. The cape hunting dogs did not take this lying down, and using their sheer numbers scared the hyena off their prey, and continued their meal.

The next time these animals were seen was towards the end of October, however eight of the 18 were seen. All of these animals were in the general area of KK crossing.

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

<b>October</b>	<b>18</b>
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## **CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS**

There was not one drop of rain during October, as has been the case for the last few months - the Sand River is vital to many animals existence in the area. As this is so, we have had another excellent month in terms of buffalo and elephant sightings.

Once again, both species were seen every single day during the month. Cape buffalo being seen on 93 occasions, and elephant on 227. The former included two massive herds which were seen, one numbering close to 500 animals, the second easily over 600. In total 26 large herds, 7 herds and 36 individuals were seen.

Focusing on elephant, 55 large herds were seen, as well as 156 herds and 9 individuals. The high number of sightings of elephants was 16, however there were many days where the numbers were not too far off this. One such sighting included an elephant which was not more than a few days old, still very wet and uncertain on it's legs, it's mom soon ushered it off into some thick vegetation.

## **OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS**

The first week of October was one of the best yet, no month can be a bad month when 17 sable are found. Not only were they found, but this group of females and young ones was relaxed and spent majority of their afternoon in Matshapiri open area - allowing for many great viewing opportunities. This incredible sighting was still very fresh in everyone's mind - when 'drag marks' were called in crossing a road. The person responsible for the call, soon corrected himself and stated that there were in fact two mating pangolin south of Mlowathi Koppies. What a phenomenal week for uncommon animal sightings.

Some of the other highlights for the month include: five different honey badgers spread around the reserve. One of which spent some quality time scurrying around a rangers vehicle and the immediate surrounds. Another highlight was a sable bull, which was seen on two occasions - once at Matshapiri dam, the other proudly drinking from the Sand River, close to West Street bridge.

## **TOTAL SIGHTINGS FOR OCTOBER 2015**

<b>Lion</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Leopard</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Elephant</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Cheetah</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cape Hunting Dog</b>	<b>2</b>

	LION		LEOPARD		ELEPHANT		BUFFALO	
	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings	Animals	Sightings
1	4	2	6	6	3LH+9H+3	13	LH+18	4
2	3	1	4	4	3LH+2H	5	LH+5	3
3	5	2	2	2	5H+1	5	H+3	2
4	5	2	3	1	LH+7H+3	9	9	2
5	1	1	5	4	5LH+2H+3	8	15	1
6	11	4	5	3	5LH+6H	11	LH+9	3
7	7	2	3	3	2LH+5H+3	9	H+5	3
8	10	3	2	2	4H+1	5	7	2
9	6	2	4	3	LH+6H	7	H+2	2
10	7	2	5	5	2LH+3H	5	LH	1
11	8	3	4	4	3LH+13H	16	LH	1
12	5	2	3	3	3LH+6H	9	LH+H	2
13	0	0	2	2	3LH+7H	10	LH+H+6	4
14	4	2	6	5	3H+6H+1	10	2LH+H+3	4
15	7	3	2	2	LH+5H	6	3	2
16	9	4	2	2	8H	8	H+5	2
17	5	3	4	3	3LH+H	4	LH+7	3
18	9	2	5	3	LH+3H+2	5	2LH+H	3
19	3	3	4	4	3LH+5H	8	LH+2H+22	7
20	5	1	8	7	LH+12LH	13	LH+3H+23	10
21	9	3	4	4	LH+7H	8	LH+H	2
22	6	2	6	5	2LH+4H+2	7	2LH+H	3
23	8	2	5	5	LH+5H+2	7	2LH+26	6
24	13	3	2	2	4H	4	2LH+12	4
25	16	5	7	6	2LH+2H	4	LH+9	3
26	18	5	4	4	2H+3	4	H+12	2
27	8	2	3	3	2H	2	LH+H+6	3
28	15	5	2	2	5H	5	6	1
29	11	3	2	2	4H+3	6	LH+9	3
30	7	2	3	3	3H+1	4	LH+3	2
31	14	5	4	4	6LH+3H+1	10	LH+11	3
	<b>239</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>55LH+156H+29</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>26LH+17H+236</b>	<b>93</b>

**OCT 2015:**

6th: 500 Buffalo in one sighting  
25th: 50 Elephants in one sighting  
31st: 600 Buffalo in one sighting

**MalaMala Kill Analysis****October 2015**

	<b>Lions</b>	<b>Leopards</b>	<b>Cape hunting dog</b>	<b>Cheetah</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Impala</b>	1	1			2
<b>Duiker</b>		1			1
<b>Klipspringer</b>					
<b>Buffalo</b>	6				6
<b>Bushbuck</b>		3			3
<b>Warthog</b>		2			2
<b>Nyala</b>			1		1
<b>Waterbuck</b>	1				1
<b>Wildebeest</b>					
<b>Kudu</b>	1				1
<b>Giraffe</b>					
<b>Other</b>					
<b>Total</b>	9	7	1		17