

MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT – JUNE 2016

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

WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE

JUNE WEATHER SUMMARY					
TEMPERATURE					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	32	26,0	Maximum	89,6	78,9
Minimum	7	11,9	Minimum	44,6	53,4
RAINFALL					
Millimeters		Inches		Days of rain	
0		0,00		0	

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF JUNE 2016

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 5

1 ADULT FEMALE	13 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	8 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALES	5 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 ADULT MALES	4 YEARS 5 MONTHS
5 CUBS	±3 MONTHS

MALA MALA, EYREFIELD

Males last seen with core pride: May, 2015. Last seen: January, 2016
(8 sightings)

Eight sightings in total for the Styx pride during the month of June, two more than May. Our first was of two lionesses, along the eastern parts of the Gowrie boundary. This was the only sighting during the month, when the cubs from the pride were not seen.

During the remaining seven sightings of this pride, all of which were between the Gowrie boundary and the Nonantshemeni donga - and with the cubs in tow. Five of these encounters also included representatives from the Gowrie coalition, three of which found the core members of the Styx pride feeding on two different buffalo carcasses.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 10

2 ADULT FEMALES	9 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	4 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	4 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 SUB-ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	7 MONTHS
1 MALE CUB	7 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	6 MONTHS
1 MALE CUB	6 MONTHS

MALA MALA, FLOCKFIELD
(25 sightings)

The Eyrefield pride were the most viewed lions on the property, during June - with these animals being seen on 25 days of the month. Our first encounter with them was on the second day of the month, where all seven members were feeding on the remains of a recent giraffe kill on the banks of the Matshapiri River. They all remained here for three full days, only to be joined by the two Matshapiri males shortly thereafter.

Apparently, their hunger was not satiated as we found them the day after they abandoned the remains of the carcass on a fresh buffalo kill - in the Sand River, north of Confluence crossing. Over the course of the next week, this pride moved between Dudley crossing and West street bridge along the banks of the Sand River. Overall, the pride were seen on five separate kills during June (giraffe, warthog and three buffalo), and on two days of the month, the youngest lioness from the Eyrefield pride was with one of the males from the Matshapiri pride - the pair were seen mating.

Towards the end of the month, there was a noticeable westward shift of the Eyrefield pride, so much so that they spent some time on the western bank of the Sand River, north of Rattray's camp - not one of their 'usual' places to spend time. A possible reason for this is that the pride were moving away from the Fourways pride, who also moved generally west during this time. A coincidence?

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 6

1 ADULT FEMALE	UNKNOWN AGE
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 0 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	7 MONTHS
2 FEMALE CUBS	7 MONTHS

EASTERN FLOCKFIELD
(7 sightings)

Once again, the Fourways pride were seen on seven occasions - three months in a row. June found the pride spending the first half in and around their normal stomping ground. The second half of the the month, found their movements to be more westwards - being located in the general vicinity of Styx waterhole. The westward migration did not stop there as our last encounter with these lions was around Mamba waterhole. Besides being unusually far west, the Fourways pride did not stop with surprises as they were found on a sable antelope kill. A first for many people.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 7

2 ADULT FEMALES	13 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 11 MONTHS
3 SUB-ADULT MALES	3 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 0 MONTHS

MARHTLY, MALAMALA

(6 sightings)

Six sightings, during five days of the month of June - the split which we noticed in May, is ongoing. The first encounter we had with any of the representatives of this pride was on the first of the month, when the tailless lioness was seen with her two sub-adult offspring (male and female). This trio were seen twice, in the first week of the month, and not again during June. The other two young males were seen on two occasions - one around the middle of the month in Matshapiri open area. On the same day, the two lionesses and two cubs were seen at the confluence of the Manyalethi and Sand Rivers on an nyala kill.

The last two sightings we had of any of the representatives of the Marthly pride included, the two lionesses along the track which runs past Stwise. Two days later the two sub-adult males were seen in the same area.

CHARLESTON PRIDE = 5

1 ADULT FEMALE	11 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 ADULT MALES	5 YEARS 1 MONTH
2 MALE CUBS	± 1 YEAR 3 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

(0 sightings of the female; 0 of the two male cubs; 1 of the two adult males)

Once again, there were no sightings of the Charleston lioness or her two cubs. We were fortunate to see the two young males from the pride, which are now just over five years of age. These two males were seen at Calabash crossing, during the second half of the month.

MATSHAPIRI PRIDE = 3

2 ADULT MALES	±6 YEARS 2 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	±4 YEARS 2 MONTHS

FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

DOMINANT OVER THE EYREFIELD AND FOURWAYS PRIDES

First encounter: April 2015

(25 sightings)

25 sightings of the two impressive males from the Matshapiri pride, during June - on 24 days of the month. During these encounters, they were seen with the Eyrefield pride on more than half of the encounters (15), on their own (9) and once with the Fourways pride. On all of these occasions, there was not one sighting of the lioness from the pride - we sure hope the sister of these well established males is seen soon.

The Matshapiri males were seen on five kills; one giraffe, three buffalo, and one zebra. The latter was

captured by these two males alone, the former four by the lionesses from the Eyrefield pride. Over and above being seen in the company of these lionesses and sharing kills, one of the males spent two days with the youngest lioness where the pair were seen mating on numerous occasions.

TJELLAHANGA PRIDE=9

2 ADULT FEMALES

UNKNOWN AGES

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

± 4 YEARS 5 MONTHS

6 SUB-ADULT MALES

± 4 YEARS 5 MONTHS

EASTERN CHARLESTON, EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN MALAMALA

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

JAKKALSDRAAI MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

5 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings of this pride.

CLARENDON MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

±11 YEARS 6 MONTHS

MARTHLY

(2 sightings)

The Clarendon males made two appearances during June, both on consecutive days in the middle of the month. Initially encountered at paraffin drift, slowly making their way downstream where they were encountered at small paraffin drift the flowing day before making their way south. They were not seen again, their tracks indicate they moved out of the Manyalethi River and continued west out of Marthly.

GOWRIE MALES = 5

1 ADULT MALE

± 5 YEARS 8 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE

± 5 YEARS 2 MONTHS

3 ADULT MALES

± 4 YEARS 8 MONTHS

EYREFIELD, MALAMALA - DOMINANT OVER THE STYX PRIDE

First encounter: September 2015

(6 sightings)

Yet again, representatives from this powerful coalition were seen on six occasions. The Gowrie males are rarely seen nowadays with more than two males together, at any one time. A clear sign that they are extremely comfortable and confident in and around the northern parts of Eyrefield.

On every encounter we had with the males from this coalition, were accompanied by the lionesses from the Styx pride - barring one. During the last sighting, one of the Gowrie males was seen in the company of four adult lionesses on a buffalo carcass at Clarendon open area.

Other lions encountered

- Sand River pride and Toulon male:
 - Our first encounter with any of these lions was in the first week of June, when the six members of the Sand River pride (5 lionesses, one young male) and one surviving male from the Toulon coalition were seen in the Sand River close to Charleston rock. Not too long after being spotted a herd of buffalo made their way into the area - the lions stalked, ran-in and successfully captured two of the individuals from the herd (cow and calf). This kept these seven lions well fed for the better part of two days.
 - There were two more encounters with these lions during the month, one was of the male alone who was seen along Sibuye drive. The other was of three members of the Sand River pride, around Ivory pans.
- No ID lions:
 - The young male we have seen on a few encounters was seen twice in June, the first sighting was on the banks of the Matshapiri River, the lower reaches thereof. The second was close to Wild Dog Rocks open area, where this young male was found on a buffalo cow carcass.
 - Four lionesses were seen at Clarendon open area with one of the Gowrie males, these five individuals were feeding off of the remains of a buffalo kill.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JUNE	49
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LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

14 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD
(10 sightings)

Every opportunity one gets to spend around the Bicycle crossing male - his sheer presence alone is one which can be felt. Seeing him on ten days during one month is a very fortunate state of events, especially considering his large territory, and associated patrolling requirements. During the first week of June, he was seen on four occasions, all within the general area of the confluence of the Rock Drift donga and the Sand River.

From here on out, he was seen a further six times - patrolling the banks of the Sand River between the aforementioned area all the way north of Rattray's camp. During this time he was seen with the remains of a bushbuck kill, clearly this male is still in excellent condition and able to provide for himself.

AIRSTRIP MALE**10 YEARS 0 MONTHS**WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY
(0 sightings)

June was a very sad month for all of us, as the Airstrip male was reportedly killed by two of the sub-adult male lions from the Marthly pride. His presence will be missed, and this void of dominance within his territory will create some interesting times ahead.

WEST STREET MALE**7 YEARS 2 MONTHS**CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

TREEHOUSE MALE**± 6 YEARS 6 MONTHS**WESTERN MALAMALA
(16 sightings)

Seen on one more occasion in June, than the month previously, the Treehouse male was encountered on 16 occasions. These included sightings on both banks of the Sand River, downstream from Rattray's camp to quite some distance north of MalaMala main camp - into Marthly.

The Treehouse male was seen on three different carcasses during the month, the first and last were claimed from the Kikilezi female. The second, and most long lasting carcass was of a buffalo which was north of the Ngoboswan donga. This prized find kept the Treehouse male in the general area for three days - the second month in a row this opportunistic individual has stumbled across a buffalo carcass.

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

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

ACCIPITER MALE**± 5 YEARS 10 MONTHS**MALAMALA
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

KIKILEZI FEMALE	14 YEARS 8 MONTHS
2 FEMALE SUB-ADULT DAUGHTERS	2 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 MALE CUB	2 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	2 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

(2 sightings of female, 16 sightings of female and cubs, 0 sightings of female and DOKF(s), 5 sightings of DOKF(s) without female)

DOKF = daughter(s) of the Kikilezi female

Overall, the Kikilezi female was the most viewed leopard on MalaMala during June, being seen on 18 different days of the month. For a majority of those (16) she was seen with her two young cubs in tow - all within the small area between the northern parts of Rhino pens and the lower reaches of the Mlowathi and Manyalethi Rivers, which confluence with the Sand River not too far from MalaMala main camp. This is four times more often than in May.

On four occasions this leopardess and her two offspring were seen in the vicinity of kills, during two of which the trio shared these with the Treehouse male - willingly or not. The tolerance of the Kikilezi female and her two cubs, by their father the Treehouse male, is present but he is quick to show when he has had enough attention. Of the two remaining kills, one was shared with her daughter from her previous litter.

Of the two daughters of the Kikilezi female, we only encountered the 3:3 spot pattern individual - on five occasions. Two of these were alone, around Campbell koppies. The remaining sightings were with her mother and younger siblings, during which she shared in the pickings from two different kills, in June.

TAMBOTI FEMALE	8 YEARS 9 MONTHS
1 MALE CUB	±3 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(8 sightings)

June was yet again another month in which the Tamboti female was seen on the western bank of the Sand River, only. Perhaps due to her recent birth, and single male cub which she now needs to provide for - straying too far is not an option. We were fortunate to meet her newest youngster this month, when he was seen between the 27th and 29th north of Maxim's lookout. A real favourite place for the Tamboti female to den.

During this females patrols throughout her territory, she moved between Rattray's camp and MalaMala main camp - covering the area between those two points extensively. On one of the days, she was found finishing off an impala kill she had stashed along the southern parts of the old airstrip.

ISLAND FEMALE**3 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(8 sightings)

The Island female spent a majority of her time during last month on the eastern bank of the Sand River, this was not the case in June as all eight of her sightings were in very close proximity to MalaMala main camp - the closest she got to the eastern bank of the river was having a drink in the river itself, before returning westwards.

Within the first week of the month, she was seen on the outskirts of main camp, with another female who was unable to be identified - presumably her mother (the Tamboti female), 'escorting' her daughter from her territory. The periphery of her territory where the Island female does spend a fair amount of time is along Jerrimiah's loop - it was here she was seen over the last few days of the month with an impala kill which she had stashed in a Jackalberry tree.

MLOWATHI FEMALE**9 YEARS 5 MONTHS****DAUGHTER OF THE MLOWATHI FEMALE****±3 YEARS 7 MONTHS**

NORTHWESTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE**11 YEARS 6 MONTHS****SON OF THE OSTRICH KOPPIES FEMALE****2 YEARS 0 MONTHS**

EYREFIELD

(1 sighting)

After some time of absence, the son of the Ostrich Koppies female was seen during the second half of June in Matshapiri open area. This two year old male, is seemingly keeping himself fed and in good condition - although a period of nomadism is expected post-independence, one has to wonder how long this young male's will go on for since his almost forced independence.

MATSHIPIRI FEMALE**15 YEARS 8 MONTHS****MALE CUB OF THE MATSHIPIRI FEMALE****± 1 YEAR 6 MONTHS**

EASTERN MALAMALA, EASTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

DUDLEY FEMALE**17 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

(0 sightings)

The Dudley female has not been seen since October, 2015. Due to her age, and deteriorating condition - it is assumed this female has passed away. She will no longer feature in the reports.

**EMSAGWENI FEMALE
CUBS (1)**

**6 YEARS 6 MONTHS
±4 MONTHS**

MALAMALA

(4 sightings of female, 3 sightings of female and cub, 0 sightings of cub/s)

Our last encounter with the Emsagweni female in May was of her, and one cub - in the Matshapiri River, some ways upstream from Emsagwen waterhole. During the first week of June, we had four encounters of this female, in a similar area. During two of these the Emsagweni female was accompanied by her cub, which we saw. Another of these was of her, with the remains of an impala carcass.

During the second half of June, the Emsagweni female was seen on three more occasions, two of which included her and another kill (impala) - which this duo proceeded to feed from for two days, midway along the shortcut which leads to Emsagweni. Still no sign of her second cub.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE

12 YEARS 2 MONTHS

CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**LOOKOUT FEMALE
CUB**

**6 YEARS 4 MONTHS
± 6 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(2 sightings of the Lookout female, 0 sightings of the Lookout female and cub)

There were no sightings of the cub of the Lookout female during June, with only the female herself being seen. She was seen on two occasions, both of which were in the first week of the month - between Kapen Rocks and the southern parts of Flockfield lookout.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Males:** (9 sightings, 4 individuals)
 - There were nine sightings of male leopards during June, in which an identity could not be ascertained/confirmed.
 - One individual was seen on two occasions, in the Mlowathi River - between Lower Mlowathi crossing and the Tsebe rocks donga. It is suspected this male is the son of the Tsebe rocks male, known as Kunyuma.
 - One male around Rattray's camp and another around Main camp - possibly the Treehouse male on both accounts
 - One male north and east of West street bridge and another more east of that in the Mhlabatini donga.
 - Two male sightings in the south, one of which was seen on a waterbuck calf kill
- **Females:**
 - The Toulon female: This female leopard was seen around KK pans, during the first week of the month. Although infrequently seen, this female has been seen fairly often around Charleston recently - of late in the company of the West street male too.
 - Unknown females (7): One female was seen around MalaMala main camp in the company of the Island female, acting in a hostile yet seemingly tolerant manner. Another female was seen in the Sand River, downstream from Rattray's camp (on two occasions) - we assume these females to be the Tamboti female around main camp and possibly the lookout female around Rattray's camp.
 - One female north of Piccadilly crossing - more than likely the Lookout female.
 - A female in the south was viewed, which has been seen on a few occasions now - with prominent teardrop spot patterning. She was seen on a kill (bushbuck) for two days along Ingwe donga.
 - One female around the northern parts of Gowrie Trust road

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JUNE	20
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CHEETAH

June - another busy month in terms of Cheetah sightings. We were fortunate to view three different individuals, on 9 days of the month. Seven of which included the two male siblings around Clarendon open area. The remaining two were of a single male, which we have seen around the airstrip on a few occasions previously.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

JUNE	3
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

June's sightings of cape hunting dogs were a bit less than usual, but the three encounters we had with these animals during the month kept all entertained with their high energy and interesting behaviour. Three of the seven individuals seen are from the pack of three, which were seen on two occasions east of the southern parts of the airstrip.

The remaining four individuals which were seen, were first spotted from MalaMala main camp - on the opposite bank of the Sand River to which the camp sits. These animals moved swiftly through Rhino pens, ever on the lookout for prey and threat alike.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JUNE	7
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

The drought continues and with not one day of rain received during June, the vegetation is starting to look less and less palatable, with animals having to move much greater distances between food and water. Having good supplies of both on the property, we were fortunate to have many encounters with both cape buffalo and elephants during June.

Buffalo were seen on 92 occasions during the month, with an impressive 14 encounters being with large herds (>500 individuals) - 39 with herds containing 200 - 300 individuals, and 144 with smaller bachelor herds.

Elephants were seen on over 100 occasions (105) during June, 29 single bull elephants were located, as well as 59 herds (<50 individuals) and 24 large herds (>50 individuals).

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

If we thought 15 sable antelope sightings was incredible - June totally outshone in every way, with 23 sightings of these most rare antelope, including lone bulls to the largest herd of 15. Three of these sightings were on one day.

Additionally to the sable seen, we had a number of other very rare and exciting viewings - three encounters with honey badgers, as with serval (two of which were around confluence crossing), and one caracal sighting.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS: JUNE 2016	
LION	67
LEOPARD	94
ELEPHANT	105
BUFFALO	92
CHEETAH	9
CAPE HUNTING DOG	4

BIG 5 ANALYSIS: JUNE 2016

DATE	LION		LEOPARD		ELEPHANT				BUFFALO			
	ANIMALS	SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS	SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS			SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS			SIGHTINGS
					LH	H	INDIV.		LH	H	INDIV.	
1			8	6		3		3		1	3	3
2	16	3	5	3		1	1	2		1	3	2
3	12	2	5	3		1	1	2		1		1
4	16	3	4	3	2		1	3		2	1	3
5	23	4	1	1	4	2		6	1	3	3	5
6	18	2	5	3	2	1		3			2	1
7	8	2	1	1		1		1		1		1
8	3	2	2	2		3	1	4	1		2	3
9	17	2	3	1	3	2		5	4	1		5
10	8	1	3	1	2	2	2	5	1	1	7	5
11	11	2	5	3	1	1	1	3			4	2
12	9	2	4	4	4	2	1	7		2	14	4
13	15	3	5	4	2	3		5			16	4
14	17	3	5	4		2	1	3	1	1	14	6
15	10	2	4	4		2		2	1	2	9	5
16	2	1	5	5		2		2	1	1		2
17	6	2	6	4		1	1	2		1		1
18	9	2	4	2		3	1	4		1		1
19	12	3	3	3		1		1		2		2
20	9	2	7	4		1		1		1	15	3
21	11	2	7	3		3	2	4		2		2
22	19	3	5	3		3	2	4		2		2
23	24	5	5	3		5		5		2	16	5
24	15	2	3	1	2	1	3	5			8	3
25	9	1	3	1		3	1	4		2		2
26	15	2	8	5		1	1	2		3		3
27	10	2	2	1	1	4	3	7	2		14	5
28	14	3	5	4		2	4	4	1		6	2
29	9	1	9	6	1	1	1	3	1	3	7	6
30	15	3	8	6		2	1	3		3		3
TOTAL	362	67	140	94	24	59	29	105	14	39	144	92

**Note:*

KILL STATISTICS: JUNE 2016						
	LION	LEOPARD	CAPE HUNTING DOG	CHEETAH	OTHER	TOTAL
DUIKER						0
KLIPSPRINGER						0
WARTHOG	1	1				2
BUSHBUCK		6				6
IMPALA		6				6
NYALA		1				1
WATERBUCK		1				1
WILDEBEEST						0
KUDU						0
ZEBRA	1					1
BUFFALO	11	1			1	13
GIRAFFE	1					1
OTHER	1					1
TOTAL	15	16	0	0	1	32

Notes:	
1	<i>Fourways pride with Sable kill - around Mamba waterhole</i>
2	<i>The Treehouse male was seen feeding on a buffalo carcass - we assume it died of natural causes</i>
3	<i>Eight hyena were seen feeding on the remains of a buffalo cow midway along Matshapiri dam road</i>