

JUNE

2017 GAME REPORT



MALAMALA GAME RESERVE GAME REPORT –JUNE 2017

AREAS COVERED: MARTHLY / EYREFIELD / MALAMALA / FLOCKFIELD / CHARLESTON
WEATHER SUMMARY – JUNE 2017

JUNE WEATHER SUMMARY					
<i>TEMPERATURE</i>					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	28	24.6	Maximum	82.4	76.3
Minimum	8	11.7	Minimum	46.4	53.1
<i>RAINFALL</i>					
Millimeters		Inches		Days of rain	
0		0		0	

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF JUNE 2017

LIONS

STYX PRIDE = 9

1 ADULT FEMALE	14 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	9 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALES	6 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 ADULT MALES*	5 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 CUBS	±8 MONTHS
4 CUBS	±2 MONTHS

NORTHERN EYREFIELD

(4 sightings)

**Males last seen with core pride: May 2015. Last seen: January,*

Members of the Styx pride were viewed on four occasions in June. We were treated to a very special introduction to the four new members of the pride. The pride, now nine members strong, was seen along the upper reaches of the Mlowathi River on the 29th in the company of two of the Gowrie males.

The remainder of the sightings on the 17th, 18th and 19th saw two females and one Gowrie male patrolling along the Mlowathi River. We regularly find tracks of the females on Western Side Mlowathi so although sightings of this pride can few and far between; they seem to be making regular evening sorties on central and western Eyrefield.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 4

2 ADULT FEMALES

10 YEARS

1 MALE CUB

1 YEAR 6 MONTHS

1 FEMALE CUB

1 YEAR 5 MONTHS

FLOCKFIELD, CHARLESTON

(7 sightings)

The Eyrefield Pride have now established themselves in Charleston since losing one of their adult members as well as the males who were dominate over them (the Matshipiri males). They have also suffered the loss of two of the cubs who were sired by the Matshipiri males. They are constantly in the crosshairs of up and coming male lions. Having regular run ins with the three Marthly Males as well as the Mantimahle male lions from Kruger. Having now lost two of their cubs to the two coalitions.

The Eyrefield has managed to survive despite the pressure from all the lions in the area. They have taken control of a large section of the Sand River between Charleston North and KK crossing. They have also been seen moving west over our boundary into our neighbour's property.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 6

1 ADULT FEMALE

UNKNOWN AGE

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE

6 YEARS 11 MONTHS

2 MALE CUBS

1 YEAR 6 MONTHS

2 FEMALE CUBS

1 YEAR 6 MONTHS

EASTERN FLOCKFIELD

(8 sightings)

The Fourways Pride has provided much entertainment and suspense over the past few months. Since the inception of the Kambula Pride, the Matshipiri males (who sired the cubs of the Fourways Pride) have not been seen in the company of the Fourways pride. Which has left the females and cubs vulnerable to a takeover. The main pressure is coming from the Mantimahle male lions, a fierce coalition of five large male lions who control the majority of southern Kruger.

Yet despite these overwhelming odds, the two adult females have been able to avoid the attentions of all the rival prides and coalition that threaten their very existence and have managed to raise their cubs to sub adults. They were seen eight on occasions in June; the sub adults were regularly seen hunting with their mothers. And the females were witnessed to be skillfully avoiding the marauding Mantimahle males at relatively close proximity.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 11

2 ADULT FEMALES*	14 YEARS 9 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	5 YEARS 10 MONTHS
3 SUB-ADULT MALES**	3 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE*	3 YEARS 10 MONTHS
2 CUBS	1 YEAR
3 CUBS	±11 MONTHS

MARTHLY, MALAMALA

**the tailless lioness and the young female have broken away from the pride.*

***nomadic.*

(3 sightings)

The Marthly pride has progressed well over the month. We can confirm that the sub adult males have become fully independent of their mother and have been biding their time in Charleston. They have been seen regularly in the area. They have even gone as far as hassling the Eyrefield pride, seen on regular occasions trailing the remaining members of the embattled pride. Although she was not with any of her new cubs, we saw the tailless female with her adult offspring for the first time since giving birth. We will keep waiting with bated breath to see the new additions for the first time.

KAMBULA PRIDE = 6

6 ADULT FEMALES	± 3 YEARS 11 MONTHS
MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, MARTHLY	
(13 sightings)	

Members of the Kambula Pride were seen on thirteen days in June. They were seen mainly in the company of the two Avoca males who have ousted the two Matshipiri males from the territory. The six lionesses covered almost every inch of the property north of the MalaMala Flockfield boundary. They were seen as far east as Paddy's Pools (03/06). They were seen the following day on a buffalo kill at Clarendon. The next day they were seen at Elephant Rock in Marthly where they were joined by the Matshipiri male. The following day they lay up in front of Main Camp for the day before leaving the property westwards.

It wasn't until the 16th when one of the females was seen south of Rattray's camp. Slowly the lionesses returned albeit in a somewhat broken up fashion. There was one female with each of the two Avoca males at Flockfield Tower and a third with the Matshipiri male near Main Camp. It's not yet clear which male lions are in control of these six females, none would probably be the best answer. Hopefully time will bring some more clarity to the situation.

The Kambula pride put one final show on for the month by bringing down a buffalo with the two Avoca males at Campbell Koppies on the 28th. The action was all in sight of the injured Matshipiri male. But he was too weak to be of any concern, and the Kambula lionesses and Avoca males continued their feeding unhindered.

MATSHAPIRI MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

7 YEARS

FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

DOMINANT OVER THE EYREFIELD AND FOURWAYS PRIDES

First encounter: April 2015

(11 sightings)

It was a very difficult month for the two Matshipiri male lions. Although present on eleven occasions the two males were never seen in close proximity to each other. The uninjured male was first seen on the 6th with the Kambula pride, they moved off the property the following day together. On the 11th the injured male was found limping up the Mlowati River from its confluence with the Sand River. He is little more than a shadow of his former self, each step he took looked like it took more effort than he had energy for. Yet four days later he was located near Buffalo Bush Dam, a herculean effort from a lion in his condition.

It wasn't until the 25th, when the injured male was located at Campbell Koppies, once again a rather tremendous effort for an emaciated, and three legged lion. To add insult to the literal injury, the injured male had to watch the Kambula pride and Avoca males feast on a fresh buffalo kill in plain sight. With all the odds stacked against the injured male, one can only hope that time has more sympathy than mother nature and his leg might heal sufficiently- a highly unlikely scenario.

CLARENDON MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

±12 YEARS 5 MONTHS

MARTHLY, NORTHERN MALAMALA

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

GOWRIE MALES = 4

1 ADULT MALE

± 6 YEARS 7 MONTHS

3 ADULT MALES

± 5 YEARS 7 MONTHS

EYREFIELD, MALAMALA - DOMINANT OVER THE STYX PRIDE

First encounter: September 2015.

(8 sightings)

Members of the Gowrie male lion coalition were viewed on eight occasions in June. Two of the members started out the month with an unanticipated move south, where they were located at Piccadilly Pans on the 5th. It's possible that the lack of presence from the Matshipiri males, combined with the overwhelming presence of the six Kambula lionesses enticed the males southwards. Whichever it was it was only enough to keep these two males occupied for a day before they moved back north again.

The remainder of the sightings for the month was of either a single male or two males with the Styx pride. The Styx pride revealed four of their newest members to us this month, and the males were perfectly content with the cubs playing with their tails and biting their ears, a somewhat rare display of patience by a male lion with his offspring.

Other Lions Encountered:

- **Avoca Males:** 12 sightings

The two young Avoca Males were seen on 12 occasions in June. The majority of sightings were with members of the Kambula Pride. They did separate from the females for a few days to explore Flockfield's interior before reuniting with the females. The young males seem to have ousted the Matshipiri males but pose very little threat to any coalition with age or numbers superior to them.

- **Mantimahle Males:** 1 sighting

Although the Mantimahle males were only present on the property for one morning, they did provide much excitement for their brief visit. They were seen at Ingwe Donga in Charleston on the 10th when they discovered the cubs or the Teardrop Female feeding off an impala kill in a small Apple Leaf tree. One of the males promptly climbed the tree and stole the kill from the cubs who fled to safety. The male then descended the tree and finished off the remains of the kill.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JUNE	48
-------------	-----------

LEOPARDS:

BICYCLE CROSSING MALE

15 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD

(7 sightings)

The Bicycle Crossing male leopard was seen on seven occasions in June. He was first located in central Flockfield on the 11th in very poor condition. It was evident that he had not had a decent meal in a while and had sustained an injury to his flank. But whether it was through age and experience or sheer luck the Bicycle Crossing male was present just as the Lookout female had killed an impala near Dudley Crossing on the 14th. He promptly chased the Lookout female from her fresh meal and enjoyed the spoils to himself.

The Bicycle Crossing male spent the remainder of the month in northern Charleston. He was last seen lying up in his regular spot near the Rock Drift Donga's confluence with the Sand River.

WEST STREET MALE

8 YEARS 3 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period

TREEHOUSE MALE

± 7 YEARS 6 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, MARTHLI

(15 sightings)

The Treehouse male leopard was viewed on 15 occasions in June. He was seen feeding on four separate impala carcasses throughout the month, only one of which he killed himself. The remainder of the kills had all been scavenged from female leopards. The Treehouse provided regular, stable sighting throughout the month as a result of all the free meals on offer.

When he wasn't gorging himself on stolen meals, the Treehouse male had his hands full guarding his own kill from lions and hyena. When he killed an impala at Princess Alice Pans on the 18th, he was only a hundred meters from the two Avoca males and two Kambula lionesses. And within a few minutes of making the kill two hyenas were in the area that alerted the nearby lions. The Treehouse male managed to cache the kill in a very thick Gardenia and promptly made his escape. The Gardenia was thick enough to hold the carcass even after sustained efforts from the lions to remove it and they soon lost interest.

The following day a very satisfied Treehouse male was found in the aforementioned tree fast asleep with a full belly to boast his efforts.

ACCIPITER MALE
MALAMALA
(4 sightings)

± 6 YEARS 10 MONTHS

The Accipiter male was viewed on four occasions in June. He remains very nervous around vehicles (during daylight hours) so any sightings of this male are usually very brief. But with every month the frequency of the sightings of this male are increasing so we are starting to understand him better with time. In June we learned a bit more about the range of this leopard. He was located on the KNP break at its junction with the MalaMala Flockfield boundary on the 9th. The following day he was seen at Matshipiri Dam. It wasn't until the end of the month when he was seen again at West Street.

The Accipiter male seems to utilize the Matshipiri River from its confluence with the Sand River all the way to Matshipiri Dam. He then branches out a few kilometers east and west from the Matshipiri River. The coming months should reveal a bit more about this secretive leopard.

SPLIT ROCK MALE

3 YEARS

EYREFIELD, MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD

Son of the Ostrich Koppies female, independent latter half of 2015

(3 sightings)

There were three sightings of this young male leopard in June. He was first located on the evening of the 7th with the remains of a impala kill at Buffalo Pans. He was joined by two hyenas but remained fairly unfazed as he dealt with the two scavengers. He remained with the kill for another day before moving off southwards through the Matshipiri River.

He was located again near Kapen Rocks on the 19th, The Kapen Rover provides a very stable area for this young male as there is an abundance of prey and very little competition.

SENEGAL BUSH MALE

4 YEARS 9 MONTHS

EYREFIELD, MARTHLY, MALAMALA

Brother of the Quarantine male leopard from the North

(3 sightings)

There were three sightings of the Senegal Bush male in June. It's been interesting to see the progress of this male in the year since the death of the Airstrip male. The Senegal Bush male has completely taken over the Airstrip male's former territory. He now controls most of northwestern Eyrefield as well the Mlowati River and Campbell Koppies. The Senegal bush male was also seen mating with the Sibuye female leopard at Campbell Koppies on the 25th. Although the Sibuye Female is a bit young to mother cubs it is a clear sign that the Senegal Bush male will be investing more time on MalaMala.

PICADILLY FEMALE**3 YEARS 7 MONTHS**

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

Daughter of the Kikilezi female, independent first quarter of 2016

(6 sightings)

The Piccadilly female leopard was seen six times in June. She was seen within the confines of her small territory around Piccadilly Pans and Campbell Koppies. She was first located on the 7th at Piccadilly Pans where she spent the evening hunting the resident impala herds. Four days later her efforts paid off and she was seen with a young impala kill in a large Leadwood near Mlowati Koppies.

The remainder of the sightings of the Piccadilly female saw her patrolling and hunting at Campbell Koppies and its surrounding areas.

SIBUYE FEMALE**3 YEARS 7 MONTHS**

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

Daughter of the Kikilezi female, independent first quarter of 2016

(4 sightings)

The Sibuye female was seen on four separate occasions in June. She continues to use the Mlowati River as the core of her territory patrolling all the way from Lower Mlowati Crossing all the way to Mlowati Dam and the Gowrie Boundary. Although she is a lot scarcer than her sister, she has been seen mating with the Senegal Bush male near Campbell Koppies.

TAMBOTI FEMALE**9 YEARS 9 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(3 sightings)

There were three sightings of the Tamboti female in June. She started out the month with a very intense encounter with one of the lionesses from the Kambula pride, the Tamboti female managed to retreat to the safety of a nearby tree and the lion lost interest soon after. On the 9th she was located with a impala kill at Maxims Lookout, the kill was stolen by the Treehouse male and she moved off west. The last encounter of the month was of her near the Parking Bay with some very fresh evidence to suggest that she was nursing. The cubs are believed to be west of our boundary.

ISLAND FEMALE**4 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Tamboti female, independent first quarter of 2015

(3 sightings)

The Island Female leopard was a bit scarce in the month of June by comparison to previous months. She was seen on three separate occasions, two of which were at West Street Bridge and saw her walking to Main Camp. The other was in the vicinity of Main Camp itself. With her previous explorations along the Matshipiri River, it's anybody's guess as to where the Island female may pop up next, as well as what may happen if she cross the Emsagweni female who was not seen this month.

EMSAGWENI FEMALE**7 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

MALAMALA

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE**13 YEARS 2 MONTHS**

CENTRAL & EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

LOOKOUT FEMALE**6 YEARS 7 MONTHS**

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(3 sightings)

The lookout female was seen on three occasions in June; she was first located near Dudley Crossing on a fresh impala kill. But she barely had time to suffocate her prey before the Bicycle Crossing male leopard commandeered it. The Lookout female remained close to the area for the remainder of that afternoon in hope that there would be a morsel spared by the Bicycle Crossing male but it wasn't to be and she was only seen two days later near Mamba Waterhole. She was located again on the 23rd in northern Charleston.

Other leopards encountered:

- **Males:** (10 sightings, 8 individuals)
 - There were ten sightings of eight different no ID male leopards during June.
 - The male cub of the Kikilezi female was seen on the 3rd, 4th and 5th near Main

Camp. Its been two weeks since his mother was killed by lions and so far the young male has not been seen with his sister but has been seen stalking Guinea fowl and small mammals.

- An unidentified male was seen at Wild Dog Rocks Open Area on the 4th.
- The Quarantine male was seen mating with an unidentified female at Clarendon on the 10th.
- There was a flash sighting of a male and female leopard opposite Rattray’s camp on the 11th. The two were unfortunately not relocated so they were not identified.
- The Mambiri male was seen opposite Rattray’s camp on the 24th.
- There was an unidentified male leopard seen at Clarendon on the 26th
- The young male leopard known by our neighbors as “Sindile” was seen near Stwise on the 28th.
- There was an unidentified male at the entranc to Rattray’s camp on the 30th.

- **Females:** (12 sightings, 8 individuals)

- There were twelve sightings of eight separate unidentified female leopards in February:
 - The female cub of the Kikilezi female was seen on three occasions throughout June. She was only seen in the later parts of the month, she is completely independent of her sibling and was even seen feeding off the remains of an impala kill near Main Camp on the 18th.
 - The Teardrop female and her two cubs were seen on five occasions in June. They were seen in southern Charleston and narrowly escaped an encounter with the Mantimahle male lions. Nevertheless the teardrop female continues to move the cubs almost daily and is seen making regular kills to provide for the two hungry mouths.
 - The Ndizilo female who is the daughter of the Scotia female was seen on two occasions in southwestern Charleston. She too has a cub of her own which is now four months old.
 - There was an unidentified female seen mating with the Quarantine male in Clarendon on the 10th.
 - A female and male leopard was seen from Rattray’s camp on the 11th.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JUNE 2017	24
------------------	-----------

CHEETAH

There were only three sightings of cheetah in June. They comprised of a single sighting of the two cheetah brothers at Clarendon on the 17th. And two sightings of a single male cheetah, which comes from the west that is periodically seen on the property. He was seen at the Borehole on the 15th and then again at the Airstrip on the 22nd.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

JUNE	3
-------------	----------

CAPE HUNTING DOGS

There were a total of eight Cape Hunting Dog sightings in June, with a total of 15 individuals comprising of two separate packs. The larger of the two being the Toulon pack which consists of 12 members the second was a pack of 3 that we see in the northern half of our reserve.

The Toulon pack was seen on five separate occasions the bulk of which were in Charleston and Flockfield, they did make an unusual move north where they were located near Stwise on the 17th. But the following day they were seen moving south through Piccadilly Pans.

The pack of 3 were only seen on three occasions, they moved southwards along the Mlowati River and the back north through eastern Eyrefield on all three occasions.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

JUNE	15
-------------	-----------

CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

June saw elephant sightings only decline by three since May and an increase in buffalo sightings by 10 since the previous month. There is still a lot of water on the property so there haven't been the larger concentrations of game near the Sand River as of yet. But with little to no rain predicted for the coming month that's should change soon.

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

June provided excellent sightings overall and to top it off we were treated to numerous porcupine, honey badger, hyena, civet and small game sightings. The highlight was a Pangolin seen in southeast Charleston on the 7th.

TOTAL SIGHTINGS: JUNE 2017	
LION	62
LEOPARD	75
ELEPHANT	77
BUFFALO	51
CHEETAH	3
CAPE HUNTING DOG	8

BIG 5 ANALYSIS: JUNE 2017

	LION		LEOPARD		ELEPHANT				BUFFALO			
DATE	ANIMALS	SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS	SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS			SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS			SIGHTINGS
					LH	H	INDIV.		LH	H	INDIV.	
1	10	3	2	2		3		3		2		2
2	7	2	2	2		2		2		3		3
3	5	1	1	1		4		4		3	5	5
4	6	2	3	3	2	2		4		2	4	3
5	4	2	3	3		2		2		3	4	4
6	9	3	3	3		2		2			2	1
7	6	2	2	2		1		1		1		1
8	7	1	3	3		2		2			4	1
9	8	2	3	3								
10	6	2	4	4		7		7		1	4	3
11	1		4	3		3	1	4			4	2
12	10	3	2	3								
13	3	1	1	1		1		1			4	2
14	8	2	3	3		2		2			4	2
15	13	3	1			1		1		1	2	2
16	8	4	2	2	1	1		2		1	2	2
17	5	3	8	5		4		4		1	2	3
18	17	4	7	5	1	2	2	4		2	1	3
19	2	1	4	4	2	3		5		1		1
20	8	5	5	3		2	1	3			2	1
21	15	3	5	3		5		5			4	3
22	5	1	1	1		1		1			11	2
23	3	2	1	1		5	2	7			7	1
24	2	1	4	4								
25	3	2	3	2		4		4		1		1
26	1	1	2	2		3		3			6	2
27	5	3	2	2		4		4			9	1
28	5	3	5	5								
29	21	6	1	1								
30	13	3	3	3		4		4			12	1
TOTAL	182	62	86	75	6	66	6	77	0	22	81	51