

MAY

2018 GAME REPORT





MALAMALA GAME RESERVE
 GAME REPORT ~ MAY 2018

MAY WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	32	28.6	Maximum	100.4	91.58
Minimum	12	18.2	Minimum	59	68.3
Rainfall					
Millimeters		Inches		Days of rain	
20		0.78		3	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	57
Leopard	54
Elephant	60
Buffalo	59
Cheetah	2
Cape hunting dog	11

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS AS AT END OF MAY 2018

LIONS:

KAMBULA PRIDE = 6

3 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 2 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 4 YEARS 11 MONTHS
MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD	
(16 sightings)	

Members of the Kambula Pride were present on 16 occasions in May. On all occasions they were viewed alongside the males from the Gowrie coalition. Once again they spend the majority of the month in and around the Sand River between Main Camp and West Street Bridge. They occasionally strayed as far as Campbell Koppies and Campbell road but the abundance of game around the river is a clear attraction to all predators.

It has been four months since the Gowrie males were first seen alongside the Kambula Pride, and the affects thereof are quite clear, at least three of the females are showing signs of advanced pregnancy. Once again they have been seen prospecting the banks of the Sand River for potential den sights. With the protection from the four Gowrie males, the future litters of cubs should be a lot safer than in the past. But as time goes by its quite clear that lion dynamics are a constantly evolving science and one cannot get to comfortable or confident when trying to predict what the future may hold.

We were treated to another spell of 'MalaMala Madness' on the 5th. Five of the lionesses and two Gowrie males had been viewed the entire in the Sand River underneath West Street Bridge, their movements for the entirety of the day had been based around the shadow cased by the bridge. Until the sun set and a pack of 5 Cape Hunting Dogs chased an impala into the river just north of the lions. The Cape Hunting Dogs, completely oblivious to the presence of the lions, cornered the impala against the bank as they wore the last bits of energy out of the impala. The lions took note of this opportunity and ran in on the dogs, luckily the few remaining specimens of one of our rarest carnivores manage to escape, and the lions made quick work of the impala.

EYREFIELD PRIDE = 2

1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	6 YEARS 2 MONTH
FLOCKFIELD, CHARLESTON	
(0 sightings)	

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

STYX PRIDE = 11

1 ADULT FEMALE	15 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALES	7 YEARS 3 MONTH S
2 CUBS	1 YEAR 5 MONTHS
3 CUBS	1 YEAR 3 MONTHS
3 CUBS	±9 MONTHS
NORTHERN EYREFIELD	
(12 sightings)	

Members of the Styx pride were seen on twelve days in May. They made a surprising first appearance at Styx Rocks on the 4th, an area which far further south than their regular range in the northern parts of the property. This move could potentially due to the lack of presence from the Gowrie males as well as the presence of other male lions in the north, which face little competition as the Gowrie males focus their attention on the Kambula pride. The move did not last long as the lionesses of the Styx pride slowly moved back north the following day and then brought down a young giraffe at Campbell Koppies on the 6th.

They remained in the vicinity of Campbell Koppies for a few days before being discovered on a kudu kill in the northwestern parts of the property on the 9th. The large male kudu did not last long as the cubs made short work of the carcass and then settled down to digest the spoils of their mothers labor. They spend the next few days in northern Eyrefield, slowly returning the familiar territory of Mlowati Dam where they remained for the remainder of the month.

MARTHLY PRIDE = 6

1 ADULT FEMALE	15 YEARS 9 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 9 MONTHS
3 ADULT MALES	4 YEARS 9 MONTHS
1 CUBS	2 YEARS
MARTHLY, MALAMALA	
(1 sighting)	

There was only a single confirmed sighting of two of the lionesses of the Marthly pride on the 14th, they were also seen alongside the three young males of the pride. The three males have been spending a lot of time in The Kruger Park, they were only seen together for a single day before moving off.

FOURWAYS PRIDE = 6

1 ADULT FEMALE	UNKNOWN AGE
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	7 YEARS 10 MONTHS
2 MALE CUBS	2 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 FEMALE CUBS	2 YEARS 5 MONTHS

EASTERN FLOCKFIELD
(2 sightings)

After an eight-month absence from the property, we suspect that the Fourways pride may be making a come back to the property. On the night of the 18th and the morning of the 19th there was a sighting of two adult females as well as four juvenile lions matching the description of the Fourways pride in Charleston. It has yet to be confirmed but this could be mark the comeback of one our favorite prides of lions onto the property.

CHARLESTON MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES	6 YEARS 11 MONTHS
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CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

MATSHAPIRI MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE	7 YEARS 11 MONTHS
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FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA
First encounter: April 2015
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

CLARENDON MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES	±13 YEARS 4 MONTHS
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MARTHLY, NORTHERN MALAMALA
(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

GOWRIE MALES = 4

1 ADULT MALE

± 7 YEARS 6 MONTHS

3 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 6 MONTHS

EYREFIELD, MALAMALA - DOMINANT OVER THE STYX PRIDE AND THE KAMBULA PRIDE

First encounter: September 2015.

(18 sightings)

The Gowrie males were seen on eighteen days in May. They spent the first few days of the month in the vicinity of the airstrip, by themselves and with the Kambula pride. The Kambula pride still occupies most of their time as they were seen with the lionesses for the majority of the month. The males have not only benefited from the 'genetic' advantage of spending time with the lionesses but have also taking advantage of their hunting prowess, by stealing kills from the females every time they manage to catch something.

With all of their movements now being directly influenced by that of the Kambula pride, the Gowrie males went as far north as Campbell Koppies, a clear boundary between the Kambula pride and the Styx pride. The males then followed the Kambula pride back west to the airstrip and then back into Marthly.

The males made a short visit to the southern reaches of their newly established territory towards the latter parts of the month. Two of the males were seen on two occasions in the Sand River south of Rattray's Camp. Still as bold as always, guests at Rattray's were treated to an evening of roaring calls and answers from the males as they looked to relocate other members of the coalition as well as the Kambula pride. With the females now showing clear signs of pregnancy, the continuity of the takeover hold a lot of hope for the future members of the Kambula pride.

Other Lions Encountered;

- **Avoca Males:** (1 sighting) there was only a single sighting of the Avoca males in May, they were seen at Trollips Hippo Pools on the 6th.
- **Nkuhuma Pride:** (2 sightings) the Nkuhuma Pride is a pride that comes from the north consisting of five adults and seven juveniles that are sired by the Gowrie Males. The pride was seen on MalaMala on two occasions. They made their first appearance on the 15th where they were found feeding off a wildebeest carcass at Ostrich Koppies. They were seen again at west of Mlowati Dam on the 28th.
- **Torchwood Pride:** (1 sighting) there was a single confirmed sighting of the Torchwood

Pride in May. They were seen just south of Clarendon Dam on the 22nd having entered the property from Kruger.

- There was a sighting of two unknown females near Piccadilly pans on the 28th. Their identity still remains unclear but their relaxed demeanor suggests that they may have come from the west.
- There was also an unknown male who was seen alongside the suspected members of the Fourways pride when they were seen on the 18th and 19th.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIONS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

MAY	63
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LEOPARDS:

WEST STREET MALE
CHARLESTON
(0 sightings)

9 YEARS 2 MONTHS

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

ACCIPITER MALE
MALAMALA
(4 sightings)

± 7 YEARS 10 MONTHS

There were four sightings the Accipiter male leopard in May. He was located north of West Street Bridge on the evening of the 4th, he slowly moved northwards and then skillfully brought down an impala. He remained with the kill for another day before moving off eastwards. He was then seen on the 12th and 28th walking along Emsagwen, a road that forms the backbone of his territory.

SPLIT ROCK MALE
EYREFIELD, MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD
Son of the Ostrich Koppies female, independent latter half of 2015
(4 sightings)

3 YEARS 11 MONTHS

It was a promising month for the young Split Rock male leopard, it has been an interesting journey as he has risen from nomadic adolescent to resident male of the southern parts of the property. He took another major step in his development as he was seen mating with the Teardrop female in southern Charleston on the 7th after being seen at Tjellahanga pans on the 5th. He was seen with a fresh nyala carcass on Sibuye Drive on the 18th, he treated us to two days of fantastic photographic opportunities as he moved between the carcass and the Sand River.

SENEGAL BUSH MALE

5 YEARS 8 MONTHS

EYREFIELD, MARTHLY, MALAMALA

Brother of the Quarantine male leopard from the North

(8 sightings)

The Senegal Bush male leopard was seen on eight occasions in May. He was first seen along the Old Airstrip on the 1st, the absence of the Inyatini male a clear invitation for the Senegal Bush male to explore some unknown territory. He was briefly seen in southern Eyrefield on the 9th before he was located again on the 13th mating with an unknown female south of the Causeway.

On the 17th we were left scratching our heads once again as we questioned everything we know about these animals once again. The carcass of a nyala suspected to have died of heartwater in the Manyeleti River, attracted the male leopard out for a free meal, a hyena in the area had very similar plans for the deceased nyala. A brief truce was struck between the two predators and they proceeded to feed on the carcass without so much as a growl. The scene came to an abrupt end as the Kambula pride (seeming absent from the earlier treaty) ran in and stole the carcass from the two unsuspecting allies. The Senegal sought refuge in a nearby tree as he managed to escape unscathed.

INYATINI MALE

± 8 YEARS 8 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

**PICADILLY FEMALE
CUB**

4 YEARS 6 MONTHS
5 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

Daughter of the Kikilezi female, independent first quarter of 2016

(12 sightings)

The Piccadilly female was seen and her cub were seen on 12 occasions in May. She was once again concentrated in the resource rich area around Piccadilly Pans. Her young cub was seen alongside her on all but three occasions as she was seen regularly with kills, which were more often than not stolen by the Senegal Bush male. We can confirm that the cub is indeed a male, a promising discovery as he promises to be the heir to the dynasty that is MalaMala.

Despite the obvious hassle of having to compete with lions, hyenas, cape hunting dogs and the Senegal Bush male, the Piccadilly female takes it all in her stride as she continues to be one of the most regularly seen predators on the property.

**SIBUYE FEMALE
2 CUBS**

4 YEARS 6 MONTHS
5 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

Daughter of the Kikilezi female, independent first quarter of 2016

(1 sighting)

There was only a single sighting of the Sibuye female in May. She was seen on the 13th along the northern reaches of the Mlowati River with just a single cub. The brief sighting was not sufficient to confirm the fate of the second cub so we will have to just wait and see what the future holds.

**TAMBOTI FEMALE
CUB**

10 YEARS 8 MONTHS
8 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

(1 sighting)

There was a single sighting of the Tamboti female in May. She was seen north of Maxim's Lookout on the prowl for her next meal. She was unsuccessful and she moved back west.

ISLAND FEMALE

5 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Tamboti female, independent first quarter of 2015

(5 sightings)

The Island female leopard was seen on five occasions in May. She was once again spending time further east of the Sand River as far as Emsagwen Waterhole where she was first located on the 2nd. It wasn't until the 22nd that she was seen again, this time in the Ngoboswaan Donga just east of the Sand River. She remained in the area for two days before being seen at Main Camp on the 25th. She returned again on the 27th to the Airstrip where she was seen patrolling her mothers territory.

EMSAGWENI FEMALE

8 YEARS 5 MONTHS

3 CUBS

5 MONTHS

MALAMALA

(4 sightings)

There were four sightings of the Emsagweni female in May. She continued to astound us as she raises her three cubs past the half-year mark. She was seen with the cubs in the vicinity of Fourways Open Area on all four occasions. The absence of competition from other predators in the area is a true testament to her selection suitable habitat. She continues to make regular kills and treat us to unforgettable sightings of her and the three cubs playing.

FLOCKFIELD FEMALE

14 YEARS 1 MONTH

CUB

1 YEAR 3 MONTHS

EASTERN FLOCKFIELD, EASTERN CHARLESTON

(0 sightings)

There were no confirmed sightings during the reported period.

TEARDROP FEMALE

8 YEARS

FEMALE CUB

1 YEAR 5 MONTHS

FEMALE CUB

1 YEAR 5 MONTHS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

(1 sighting)

The Teardrop female was only seen on one occasion in May. She was viewed mating with the Split Rock male on the 7th in southern Charleston. There were no sightings of the cubs as they have now reached full independence and look to have taken up residence in northern Toulon.

LOOKOUT FEMALE

7 YEARS 6 MONTHS

1 CUB

7 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(10 sightings)

There were ten sightings of the Lookout female and her cub in May. Her and the cub were only present in the first half of the month as they treated us to regular morning sightings in the lower reaches of the Matshipiri River. Her absence in the latter part of the month could be attributed to the age of the cub as she is now more mobile and is moving further with her mother.

Other leopards encountered:

Males: (5 sightings, 5 individuals)

- There was a sighting of a male leopard in the Matshipiri River north of Donald's Crossing on the 12th.
- There was a sighting of a large male leopard in central MalaMala on the 14th.
- The Flat Rock male was seen alongside the Nkoveni female on Jeremiah's Loop on the 20th.
- A young male was seen at Charleston North Crossing on the 22nd.
- There was another unknown male seen in the Ngoboswaan Donga, just east of the Sand River on the 28th.

Females: (5 sightings, 4 individuals)

Note; the cubs of the respective females are included in the female tally until such a time as they have been sexed or have reached independence.

- The daughter of the Kikilezi female was seen on two occasions in the northern parts of the property. She was seen on the 11th at the causeway and then again at Wildebeest Crossing on the 16th.
- There was an unknown female seen at Campbell Koppies on the 15th.
- A female leopard known as the 'Nanga Female' was seen mating with the Senegal Bush male near Stwise on the 13th.
- The Nkoveni female was seen alongside the Flat Rock male on Jeremiah's Loop on the 20th.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

MAY	24
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CHEETAH

There were two sightings of the two cheetah males in May. They were viewed at Clarendon on the 5th and the 8th.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED

MAY	2
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

There were a total of 11 Cape Hunting Dog sightings in May. They consisted of six sightings of a pack of five that moved from Campbell Koppies all the way to Misters Koppies. There were three sightings of a pack of nine in Eyrefield and one sighting of a pack of two and another of a pack of three.

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED (approximate)

MAY	19
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

There were a total of 60 elephant and 29 buffalo sightings in May. There has been a reduction in buffalo sightings since last year this time. But there is good news as some of the herds we've seen have many calves within them. A sign perhaps that they're bouncing back from the drought!

OTHER INTERESTING SIGHTINGS

There were numerous interesting animal sightings during the month of October. There were daily hyena, genet and other small herbivore sightings. We've also noticed an increase in sightings of servals!



MALAMALA GAME RESERVE
KILL STATS ~ MAY 2018

	LION	LEOPARD	CAPE HUNTING DOG	CHEETAH	TOTAL
IMPALA	3	4	1		8
DUIKER					
KLIPSPRINGER					
BUFFALO	1				1
BUSHBUCK					
WARTHOG					
NYALA		1			1
WATERBUCK					
WILDEBEEST					
KUDU	1				1
GIRAFFE					
ZEBRA					
OTHER					
TOTAL	5	5	1		11

BIG 5 ANALYSIS: MAY 2018												
	LION		LEOPARD		ELEPHANT				BUFFALO			
DATE	ANIMALS	SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS	SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS			SIGHTINGS	ANIMALS			SIGHTINGS
					LH	H	INDIV.		LH	H	INDIV.	
1	3	2	3	2	1			1			2	1
2	3	1	1	1		1		1				
3	1	1	2	2	1		1	2			2	2
4	20	4	5	3		2	2	3			1	1
5	20	3	4	3	1			1			6	1
6	18	3	1	1			1	1	1			1
7	11	1	4	2		2		2			1	1
8	14	3	4	2		2		2			2	1
9	16	3	1	1	1	1		2			1	1
10	5	3			4			4			3	3
11	12	2	1	1	2			2				
12	16	4	4	3	1	2		3			6	2
13	11	1	6	3		1		1			4	1
14	5	2	1	1	2	2		4			1	1
15	25	2	2	2		2		2		1		1
16	11	1	3	2	2			2			2	1
17	5	1	6	3	1			1			2	1
18	12	2	2	2	1	2		3	1		5	2
19	6	1	1	1		2		2	1			1
20			3	2	1	1		2				
21			3	1	1	1		2			8	1
22	20	3	2	2	1	1		2			1	1
23	7	2	6	3	1	1		2			3	2
24	6	3	6	2	2	1		3			5	1
25	1	1	3	2	1			1			2	1
26	8	2	3	1	1	2		3				
27	9	2	2	2	2		1	3			5	1
28	17	4	5	4	2		1	3				
29	6	3	2	2		1	1	2			3	1
30			2	1		2	1	3			5	1
31	2	1	2	1		1	1	2			5	1
TOTAL	282	57	84	54	29	26	6	60	3	1	62	29