



# Game Report



The Two Plains Camp males by ranger Gareth Nuttall-Smith.

MalaMala Game Reserve  
August 2021

*It's all about the wildlife!*

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
<b>Temperature</b>					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	32	26	Maximum	90	79
Minimum	8	13	Minimum	46	55
<b>Rainfall</b>					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
0		0		0	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	114
Leopard	148
Elephant	188
Buffalo	46
Cheetah	0
Cape Hunting Dog	1

*Sightings are tallied by day and not by drive. E.g., an individual leopard seen during the morning and afternoon drive on the same day is regarded as a single sighting.*

KILL STATS	
Lion	1 buffalo, 1 zebra, 1 wildebeest, 1 waterbuck, 1 hyena
Leopard	17 impala, 2 duiker, 1 warthog, 1 civet, 4 nyala, 1 cane rate, 3 bushbuck, 1 steenbuck
Cheetah	No kills recorded
Cape Hunting Dog	4 scrub hares

*\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

### **LION PRIDES**

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#### **THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 30**

3 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 5 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 2 MONTHS
6 SUB ADULT FEMALES	± 3 YEARS 0 MONTHS
5 SUB ADULT MALES	± 3 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 3 MONTHS
3 CUBS	5 MONTHS
4 CUBS	3 MONTHS
4 CUBS	1 MONTH

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

(56 sightings)

The Kambula pride remains the most prolific pride seen on MalaMala and dominates most of the length of the Sand River. This month, a total of 56 sightings were recorded of members of this pride. As has become the norm, in none of the sightings was the entire pride together. Instead, the pride appears to have split into three fragments. The bulk of sightings this month were of three lionesses and seven cubs in the vicinity of Elephant Slide Crossing. The lionesses have moved all their cubs deeper into Gowrie male territory after losing cubs at West Street last month. The second fragment includes one lioness, the sub-adults. However, not all the sub-adults are always together. The third fragment is two lionesses in the northern parts of the prides territory who are spending their time with the Northern Avoca males.

Noteworthy events for the month include:

On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, a lioness was mating with the Two Plains camp males around Sand Pit Crossing. The same lioness was mating with a Northern Avoca male for a couple of days around Campbell Koppies on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, the mating pair ended up in the area of the three lionesses, and seven cubs from the Nkuhuma with their buffalo kill south of Tlebe Rocks. Having not fed for several days, the Kambula lioness tried to feed on the kill but was aggressively chased out of the area by the three mothers. The sub-adults killed a wildebeest bull around Lower Kapen Crossing on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Two lionesses stole a bushbuck kill from the Piccadilly female with the two Northern Avoca males near Elephant Rock on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A lioness was mating with a Northern Avoca male on Rhino Pens on the 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, we watched as a lioness managed to catch a fully grown waterbuck bull on her own on the Island south of the Causeway. She spent a few days on the kill and was joined by a second lioness and a Northern Avoca male. The lions killed a hyena in the area of the kill on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 23**

1 ADULT FEMALE	± 9 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 8 YEARS 5 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 5 YEARS 1 MONTH
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES	± 2 YEARS 1 MONTH
5 SUB ADULT MALES	± 2 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 MALE CUB	1 YEAR 8 MONTHS
7 CUBS	± 4 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

(20 sightings)

A similar situation to the Kambula pride is unfolding with the Nkuhuma pride. Three lionesses and cubs are spending the majority of their time away from the bulk of the pride as they care for seven cubs. These three lionesses spent most of this month in central parts of Eyrefield. The first half of the month saw the lionesses keeping their cubs around the Tlebe Rocks donga with the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga in the latter half of the month. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, in a lengthy battle, the three lionesses killed a buffalo bull south of Tlebe Rocks and were here with the cubs for a few days. They were joined by a Northern Avoca male who brought a lioness from the Kambula pride with him. The lionesses did not take kindly to this and chased the Kambula lioness out of the area. They moved their cubs back into the Tlebe Rocks Donga on the 9<sup>th</sup> and killed a zebra overnight and were found the following day on the kill with the cubs and both Northern Avoca males. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, all 12 lions were near Mlowathi Dam, and from here, they kept their cubs in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga and the Mlowathi River for the remainder of the month. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, ten members of the pride were near Stwise. The three lionesses and seven cubs were joined by sub-adults from the pride and a Northern Avoca male at the Old Borehole on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The next day the cubs were in the Mlowathi River south of Mlowathi Dam while their mothers were near Stwise. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the three mothers were hunting zebra at Senegal Bush. The lionesses were unsuccessful and moved north along the Mlowathi River and were with their cubs and a Northern Avoca male at Mlowathi dam the next day. The last sighting of the month was on the 27<sup>th</sup> when ten members of the pride were at the Old Borehole.

**THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 2**

1 ADULT FEMALE	8 YEARS 2 MONTH
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 5 MONTHS
<i>MARTHLY</i>	
(0 sightings)	

This pride was not viewed for yet another month. The Marthly lioness and her sub-adult daughter have shifted their territory west along the Sand River. This being a direct response to pressure from the two larger and formidable Kambula and Nkhumu Prides. We have received reports that they have been spending some time in the Sand River west of our boundary and maybe in the months to come we will see these lions on MalaMala again.

**THE STYX PRIDE = 14**

1 ADULT FEMALE	13 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 8 MONTHS
7 CUBS	7 MONTHS
4 CUBS	1 MONTH
<i>WESTERN BANK OF CHARLESTON</i>	
(0 sightings)	

The Styx pride was yet again not seen this month. This is the last month this pride will feature in this section of the Game Report. Although the pride do spend time on the western section of Charleston, we do not encounter them frequently enough. The Styx Pride will feature in other lions seen until such a time they become a regular pride on MalaMala again.

**THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20**

7 ADULT FEMALES	UNKOWN AGES
6 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 7 MONTHS
7 CUBS	± 1 YEAR 0 MONTHS
<i>EASTERN EYREFIELD</i>	
(1 sighting)	

Four lionesses were around the northern parts of the Matshapiri River on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## MALE LIONS

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### THE GOWRIE MALES = 2

1 ADULT MALE ± 10 YEARS 8 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE ± 9 YEARS 8 MONTHS

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Kambula and Marthly prides.*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in September 2015.*

(22 sightings)

The two Gowrie males were only seen together in seven of the 22 sightings this month. In the other 15 sightings of these males, they were either alone or in the company of members of the Kambula pride. The month started with both males together at Drum Crossing on the 1<sup>st</sup> and at Elephant Slide Crossing on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The next time the males were seen together was at the old Flockfield Boma Crossing, where they spent the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. From here, they moved north together and were north of White Cloth Open Area on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The last sighting of both males together was on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> when they were together in the Sand River in front of Rattray's Camp.

In the remaining 15 sightings, these males moved between the area of West Street and Charleston-North Crossing. With the events of last month around West Street and these males not being seen north of that area this month, it would appear the Gowrie males have yielded the northern half of MalaMala to the Northern Avoca males.

### THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES ± 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Sand River Pride.*

(0 sighting)

The two Southern Avoca males were not seen this month.

### THE TORCHWOOD MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE ± 5 YEARS 7 MONTHS

*NOMADIC*

(0 sightings)

The Torchwood male was again not seen this month.

## THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 8 YEARS 2 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

*Dominant over the Nkuhuma pride.*

*First encountered in late 2019.*

(29 sightings)

The Two Northern Avoca males have advanced further south into MalaMala over the last several months. Sightings from this month of this coalition and the Gowrie males indicate the younger two males have secured the northern half of MalaMala. The dynamics between lion coalitions are rarely stable, and the likelihood of patterns observed during this month and the previous year are always subject to change. For now, the Northern Avoca male's advances south seem to have pushed the Gowrie males south and fragmented the Kambula pride.

For the second month in a row, we recorded more sightings of this coalition than the Gowrie males, with these males spending the bulk of the month separated. Both males were only seen together in six sightings, with them linking up on one other occasion having been apart. Sightings indicate that when the two males move into the southern sections of their territory, they like to be together or close to one another. Whereas when they are in the northern parts, they don't mind being apart with greater distance between themselves. The males spent time with the Nkuhuma pride and were seen with members of this pride in nine sightings and spent time on a buffalo kill and zebra kill with the three lionesses and seven cubs from the pride. The males have increased their time spent with two lionesses from the Kambula pride. These lionesses have been spending time in the northern parts of the prides territory and have been mating with the Northern Avoca males, which could mean they are forced to stay in the northern parts of their territory should they have cubs.

### **Other Lions Encountered:**

- **PLAINS CAMP MALES** – both males were with a lioness from the Kambula pride around Sand Pit Crossing on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. One of the males crossed through Sand Pit Crossing on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **SAND RIVER PRIDE (4 adult lionesses, 4 cubs)** – 3 lionesses and cubs at Island crossing on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. in the Tjellahanga river south of pumphouse crossing on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Charleston rock on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Island crossing on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The confluence of the Sand River and the Tjellahanga River on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Five sub-adults from the **FOURWAYS PRIDE** were south-east of Pat's Drift Koppies on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	<b>72 (18 cubs)</b>
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## LEOPARDS

### **FEMALE LEOPARDS:**

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#### **THE ISLAND FEMALE FEMALE CUB**

8 YEARS 8 MONTHS

1 YEAR 1 MONTH

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Tamboti female<sup>t</sup>, independent first quarter of 2015*

(26 sightings; 7 of female, 14 of female and cub, 5 of the cub)

The Island female and her cub were again the most viewed leopards this month. Like the past several months, sightings of these leopards were concentrated around the area of Buffalo pans and Drum Crossing. They had an impala kill around White Cloth Open Area on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, this mother and daughter were joined by the Accipiter male and a nervous young male. The Island female helped herself to an impala kill of the Nkoveni female's west of the Old Wildebeest Crossing on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Female and cub with a juvenile nyala kill south of white cloth open area on the 11<sup>th</sup>. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, the Island female was found carrying a cane rat kill at Confluence Crossing. She carried the kill to her cub who was waiting in the Matshapiri River north of Donald's Crossing. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, we watched as the Island female ambushed a herd of impala coming to drink from the Sand River at Old Wildebeest Crossing. She was in the reed bed and the impala approaching this drinking spot from the eastern bank when a second leopard was seen entering the Sand River from Maxim's Lookout. Both leopards were hunting the same herd of impala. One of them was spotted, resulting in the herd bolting for the eastern bank and straight into the Island female. The Island female pulled off a textbook kill before noticing the second female. The Three Rivers female was watching her from on top of the bank. The Island female chased the smaller female off before feeding. Once finished feeding, she moved slightly off, and the Three Rivers approached and fed before being chased off again by the Island female. The Island female brought her cub to the kill, but they ended up losing the kill to a hyena that night. The following day we watched her kill another impala, this time at West Street Bridge. On the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, mother and daughter had an impala kill at West Street Bridge again.

#### **THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE**

11 YEARS 8 MONTHS

NORTH/EASTERN MALAMALA AND EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female<sup>t</sup>, independent first quarter of 2012.*

*Mother of the Ngoboswan and Eyrefield males.*

(3 sightings)

The Emsagweni female was east of the quarry, east of Fred's tree on the 4<sup>th</sup>. She was then seen twice at Buffalo Bush Dam on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE**

7 YEARS 8 MONTHS

**FEMALE CUB**

1 YEAR 5 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female, independent first quarter of 2016.*

(6 sightings, 4 sighting of female, 2 sightings of the female and cub)

The Piccadilly female has been seen more regularly in recent months. As her cub approaches the age of independence, is the Piccadilly female pushing back east into her territory prior to 2020?

She was first seen at Matumi Rocks on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the following day she was south of Stwise. The female had an impala kill in the Manyeleti River west of Manyeleti Crossing on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Both female and cub were at Kigelia crossing on the 13<sup>th</sup> with the Flat Rock Male having stolen their kill. She was north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 20<sup>th</sup>. She had a bushbuck kill in the Sand River around Elephant Rock Lookout with her cub on the 21<sup>st</sup>. However, the kill wasn't hoisted, and it was stolen by the two Northern Avoca males and two Kambula lionesses.

**THE NKOVENI FEMALE**

9 YEARS 0 MONTH

**2 CUBS**

7 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA &amp; SOUTHERN MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent early 2014.**Mother of the Plaque Rock female.*

(16 sightings, 4 of female, 12 of female and cubs)

The Nkoveni female and her cubs spent the majority of their time around MalaMala camp for yet another month. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, the Nkoveni female left her two cubs north of the Airstrip and went off hunting along the Sand Rivers western bank. She caught an impala at the Old Wildebeest Crossing, and we followed as she dragged the kill west away from the river. She hoisted the kill, and while feeding in the tree, she noticed something approaching her. The Island female approached her and processed to chase her out of the tree. The Island female fed on the kill for a while before moving off. Once she moved off, the Nkoveni female returned to the kill, took it out of the tree and dragged it further north into her territory. Overnight she fetched her cubs, and they fed on the carcass on the 10<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the female made another impala kill south of the Old Airstrip and took her cubs to this kill. The following day none of the leopards were there and were found with a female nyala and juvenile kill south of Sable Camp. On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, the three leopards were around Stone Drift. The Nkoveni female left her cubs here and went hunting along the Old Airstrip on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The Nkoveni female and cubs were on a nyala kill south of MalaMala Camp on the days of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The last couple of sightings for the month saw the Nkoveni female leaving her cubs at the broken dam on the 24<sup>th</sup> and was hunting around the Old Airstrip on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**THE LOOKOUT FEMALE**

± 11 YEARS 7 MONTHS

**SON**

2 YEARS 0 MONTHS

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.**Mother of the Kapen female.*

(3 sightings; 1 sighting of female and Son, 2 sightings of her Son)

With the Son of the Lookout female now being two years old and independent from his mother, he'll no longer feature here under his mother. Should he not disperse outside of the boundaries of MalaMala and become a regular leopard seen, he'll feature under male leopards seen. Until then, he'll feature under other leopards seen.

On the 4<sup>th</sup>, the Lookout female and her Son were seen on a duiker kill north of Styx Crossing. The Son of the Lookout female was on the eastern ramp of West Street Bridge with an Africa civet kill on the 8<sup>th</sup> and then at Confluence Crossing on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

**THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE**

3 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Nkoveni female, independent last quarter of 2019.*

(2 sightings)

The Plaque Rock female had an impala kill hoisted in a Jakkalberry tree west of the Booms on the 10<sup>th</sup>. While moving the kill in the tree, she dropped it and lost it to several eagerly awaiting hyenas. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, she was in the Sand River at Matumi Rocks.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE**

5 YEARS 5 MONTHS

**2 CUBS**

1 MONTH

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female, orphaned on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.*

(9 sightings)

The Three Rivers female was seen nine times this month, with sightings in and around Rattray's Camp. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, she was north of Rattray's Camp with an impala kill. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, she was at Maxim's Lookout. She was at the Old Flockfield Boma Crossing with remains of a duiker kill on the 7<sup>th</sup>, but she was chased out of the area by the 2:1 nervous young male. She was trying to hunt impala at Flockfield Tower on the 15<sup>th</sup>. She was north of Rattray's Camp on the 17<sup>th</sup>. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, she was seen briefly moving two cubs around Rattray's Camp. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, she was hunting the same herd of impala as the Island female at Old Wildebeest Crossing (*read the Island Female's account for details on this sighting*). On the 30<sup>th</sup>, she was at Flockfield Camp, and the following day she had an impala kill south of Princess Alice Pans.

**THE KAPEN FEMALE**

3 YEARS 4 MONTHS

SOUTHERN FLOCKFIELD

*Daughter of the Lookout female, independent first quarter of 2019.*

(1 sighting)

The Kapen female appears to be covering a lot of area and isn't seen regularly anymore. The only sighting of this female was at Tjellahanga Pans on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

**THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**

3 YEARS 7 MONTHS

CENTRAL &amp; WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.*

(3 sightings)

The Tlebe Rocks female was first viewed on the first when she was north of Piccadilly Pans. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, she had an impala kill stolen from her by a hyena on the northern parts of Rhino Pens. The third sighting of her was at Piccadilly Pans on the 25<sup>th</sup>. She seemed to have sustained a nasty injury to her right back leg and couldn't put any weight on that leg.

**THE SIBUYE FEMALE**

7 YEARS 8 MONTHS

**DAUGHTER**

2 YEARS 0 MONTHS

**SON**

2 YEARS 0 MONTHS

**2 CUBS**

3 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female, independent first quarter of 2016.*

(1 sighting of the Daughter)

The Daughter of the Sibuye female was the only one of these three leopards seen this month. She was north of the old borehole in Eyrefield on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

This will be the last month that we feature the Sibuye female's previous litter of cubs (August 2019) that are now independent and named. The Daughter of the Sibuye female is now known as the **LANGA FEMALE (2:2)**, and the Son of the Sibuye female is known as the **XAXA MALE (2:2)**.

## MALE LEOPARDS

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### THE ACCIPITER MALE

± 11 YEARS 0 MONTHS

EASTERN & CENTRAL MALAMALA & FLOCKFIELD

*First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.*

(10 sightings)

This dominant male was at Matshapiri Open Area Crossing on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, he was north of White Cloth Open Area with the Island female and her cub and a nervous young male. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Accipiter male was at Styx Crossing. He had an impala kill south of the Hogvaal Donga on Hogvaal road on the 14<sup>th</sup>. He watched as both the Gowrie males walked below the knobthorn tree he had his kill in. He spent some time at Emsagwen waterhole, which has been teeming with game. He was seen here on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and on the 28<sup>th</sup>, he had a male warthog kill here. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, he finished off an impala kill south of Paddy's Pools and overnight, he patrolled territory west to Buffalo Pans, where he was seen the following day.

### THE MAXIM'S MALE

± 7 YEARS 0 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

*First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.*

(7 sightings)

The first sighting of this male was on the 1<sup>st</sup> when he was patrolling territory around Elephant Slide Crossing. From here, he moved south and was at Sand Pit Crossing on the 6<sup>th</sup> and around Old Flockfield Boma Crossing on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Eastern bank of the Sand River at the Old Flockfield Boma Crossing. He had an impala kill at Elephant Slide Crossing on the 25<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, he had a standoff with the Flat Rock Male around Elephant Rock Lookout.

### THE EYREFIELD MALE

3 YEARS 9 MONTHS

NOMADIC (southwestern Eyrefield and eastern Marthly)

Son of the Emsagweni female, *independent late 2019.*

(7 sightings)

This young male leopard was first seen north of Clarendon Dam on the 4<sup>th</sup>. He was in the western parts of this range ten days later when he was south of Tlebe Rocks on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, he was found west of Buffalo Bush Dam with an Impala kill, where he spent the days of the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The last couple of sightings of this male were at Buffalo Bush Dam on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**THE NGOBOSWAN MALE**

3 YEARS 9 MONTHS

NOMADIC (Marthly and western Eyrefield)

Son of the Emsagweni female, *independent late 2019*.

(7 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male is starting to settle in his territory, and like in previous months, the majority of the sightings of him were around the lower reaches of the Mlowathi River and the area around Campbell Koppies and Piccadilly Pans. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, he was east of Sand Pit Crossing. He was in the Mlowathi River around the Tlebe Rocks Donga on the 12<sup>th</sup>. From here, he moved south overnight and was north of Piccadilly Pans the following day. The next day he moved north again and was east of Mlowathi Pans (15<sup>th</sup>). On the 19<sup>th</sup>, he was south of Campbell Koppies on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The last two sightings of this male for the month were on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> when he was around Mlowathi Koppies.

**THE SPLIT ROCK MALE**

7 YEARS 2 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

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

(1 sighting)

The Split Rock Male was only seen once this month when he was at Flat Rocks on the 26<sup>th</sup>. This male leopard's territory covers the majority of Charleston. This may be too large of an area for him to patrol successfully. An indication of this is the northerly movement of the Hanyile male into southern Charleston this month.

**Other Leopards Encountered:**

- The **MLOWATHI MALE** was seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> when he was south west of Mlowathi Dam.
- An **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE** was on the Gowrie Boundary north of Tlebe Rocks on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The **FLAT ROCK MALE** was at Matumi Rocks on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kigelia crossing on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Matumi Rocks on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. He had a standoff with the Maxim's Male on the 26<sup>th</sup> around Elephant Rock Lookout.
- The **HANYILE MALE** was at Trollip's Camp on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Trollip's hippo pools on the 7<sup>th</sup>. He was mating with the Tengile female at Flat Rocks on the 13<sup>th</sup>, at Calabash Crossing on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup>. He was last seen at Island Crossing on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The **INYATHINI MALE** was in the Sand River north of the old Dudley Crossing on the 4<sup>th</sup>. North of the Treehouse on the 5<sup>th</sup>. At Lower Kapen Crossing on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Sand River at the old Dudley Crossing on the 9<sup>th</sup>. In the Tamboti Thickets on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.
- A nervous young male was with the Accipiter male, Island female and her cub north of White Cloth Open Area on the 5<sup>th</sup>. It is likely this was the 2:1 nervous young male, but we couldn't get an ID.
- An no ID male leopard was on the Gowrie Boundary east of the Mlowathi River on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

- A female with a 2:2 spot pattern was east of Zebra Skull on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The young nervous **2:1 MALE** was at the old Flockfield Boma Crossing on the 7<sup>th</sup>, where he chased the Tree Rivers female off a duiker kill in a sausage tree. He was at Emsagwen Crossing on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The **NCHILE MALE** was at Calabash Crossing on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The **SON OF THE XIMUNGWE FEMALE** had an impala kill west of Stwise on the 12<sup>th</sup>. An impala kill on the southern bank of the Manyeleti River south of Stwise on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. He was trying his luck with a Cape porcupine at Elephant Rock Lookout on the 26<sup>th</sup>. He was in the Sand River west of Bicycle Crossing on the 29<sup>th</sup> and at Manyeleti Crossing on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- An unidentified young male, more than likely the 2:1 nervous young male, was at Buffalo Pans on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The **TENGILE FEMALE** was mating with the Hanyile male at Flat Rocks on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Calabash Crossing on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The **N'WETI MALE** was on Verreaux's Loop on the 15<sup>th</sup>, nursing an injured left front leg. He was in front of Beaumont's Camp on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He had a bushbuck ram kill hoisted in an apple leaf tree on the 30<sup>th</sup>, south of Charleston North Crossing.
- The **NTSUMI FEMALE** and her cub were at Charleston North Crossing on the 15<sup>th</sup> and were west of Trollip's Camp on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> with a common duiker kill.
- A young female was in the Nwana Nonanshameni Donga on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- A male was seen briefly at Pete's Bridge with an impala kill on the 21<sup>st</sup>, this could well have been the Maxim's male, but we could not confirm an ID.
- A no ID female was seen at Calabash Crossing on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- A nervous young male was south of Styx Rocks on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- An adult male that is nervous was around Clarendon Dam on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **XIVINDZI FEMALE** had a bushbuck kill west of Flat Rocks on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The **TINGNA MALE** was in the Mlowathi River south of the Gowrie Boundary on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Unknown leopard was briefly seen north of the old borehole in Eyrefield on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The **TSEMBA MALE** (the Son of the Kuchava female) had a Steenbok kill on the 28<sup>th</sup>, north of Tlebe Rocks.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	<b>37 (8 Cubs)</b>
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## CHEETAH

We recorded **no sightings** of cheetah during the month of August.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	<b>0</b>
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## CAPE HUNTING DOGS

The pack of 12 were seen once at Buffalo Pans on the 15<sup>th</sup>, where they caught four scrub hares.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	<b>12</b>
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## CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

This month we recorded **188 sightings of elephants** and **46 sightings of Cape buffalo**. With the dry season in full swing at the moment, sightings of these two species are concentrated around the Sand River. We have seen a few herds of buffalo with a large herd of approximately 500 spending time in the northeastern parts of the reserve. This herd is drinking from Clarendon, Matshapiri and Buffalo Bush Dams. It shouldn't be long before they start drinking from the Sand River. A second large herd of Cape buffalo frequents the southwestern parts of Charleston and drink from the Sand River around Charleston North, Verreaux's and Calabash Crossings.

## Other sightings of interest

- The **hyena den** site east of Campbell Koppies was active for the first half of the month before a cub was killed. We don't know what killed the cub, but this caused the clan to move den sites and we have yet to find the new den.
- **Honey badgers** and **Cape porcupines** are still being viewed on a regular basis.
- **Black-backed** and **side-stripped jackals** were seen often.
- **African Wild Cats** were seen on several occasions.
- A **Sable Bull** was in front of Rattray's camp on the 28<sup>th</sup>.