



# Game Report



Photo by Ranger Kerry Lee Roberg.

MalaMala Game Reserve  
January 2022

*It's all about the wildlife!*

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	34	29	Maximum	93	85
Minimum	20	22	Minimum	68	72
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
140		5.5		9	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	62
Leopard	80
Elephant	105
Buffalo	23
Cheetah	0
Cape Hunting Dog	7

*\*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 cape hunting dog, 2 kudu
Leopard	13 impala, 1 bushbuck, 2 nyala, 1 kudu, 1 tree squirrel
Cheetah	No recorded kills
Cape Hunting Dog	2 impala

*\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

## **LION PRIDES**

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### **THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 25**

3 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 10 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 7 MONTHS
6 SUB ADULT FEMALES	± 3 YEARS 5 MONTHS
5 SUB ADULT MALES	± 3 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 8 MONTHS
3 CUBS	10 MONTHS
2 CUBS	8 MONTHS

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

(37 sightings)

As in recent months, the composition and distribution of the Kambula pride remain fragmented and challenging to keep tabs on. The most frequently seen members of the Kambula pride were two adult lionesses who spent a large portion of time in the company of the Ndzenga males around the Airstrip and Princess Alice Pans. Throughout the month these lionesses were mating with these males. The sub-adult members of the pride were seen haphazardly throughout the month. Fragments of the sub-adult grouping were seen on several occasions. From the inconsistency of the composition of individuals at sightings, it appears that there is little structure involved in the formation of the 'sub-groupings'.

### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, one female and four cubs were with the remaining Gowrie male around the Hogvaal Donga.
- Three groupings of this pride were seen on the 7<sup>th</sup>. 11 sub-adult members were around Hyena Waterhole, three adult females were at the White Cloth, and one lioness was with the four cubs and Gowrie male east of the Hogvaal Donga.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup>, two lionesses were mating with three of the Ndzenga males on the Airstrip, while three lionesses and four cubs were north of Emsagwen waterhole. Nine of the sub-adults were around the southern parts of Jakkalsdraai Open Area.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup>, four lionesses, four cubs and the Gowrie male were west of Paddy's Pools while one lioness remained on the Airstrip, mating with one of the Ndzenga males.
- Two lionesses and two Ndzenga males were mating on the Airstrip again on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Another group; consisting of an adult lioness, four sub-adult males and six sub-adult females

was in the Tjellahanga River, north of Tjellahanga Pans.

- On the 13<sup>th</sup>, three lionesses and four cubs were with the Gowrie male east of the Windmill.
- Two lionesses, and one sub-adult male were around Piccadilly Triangle on the 26<sup>th</sup>, while a group of 10 sub-adults; four males and six females, were at the Broken Dam.
- On the 27<sup>th</sup>, a sub-adult male and three sub-adult females were in the area of Lion Waterhole.

#### **THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1**

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE

2 YEARS 10 MONTHS

*MARTHLY*

(0 sightings)

The remaining sub-adult lioness of the Marthly pride was not seen this month. With the current fluctuation in lion dynamics, this lone lioness is likely remaining inconspicuous in an attempt to survive.

#### **THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20**

7 ADULT FEMALES

UNKOWN AGES

6 ADULT FEMALES

± 6 YEARS 0 MONTHS

7 CUBS

± 1 YEAR 5 MONTHS

*EASTERN EYREFIELD*

(1 sighting)

Four lionesses of the Torchwood pride were at Buffalo Bush Dam on the 4<sup>th</sup>. While the grouping was seen on both the morning and afternoon drives, there were no further sightings of members of this pride in January.

#### **THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 14**

2 ADULT FEMALES

± 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS

2 ADULT FEMALES

± 4 YEARS 6 MONTHS

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE

2 YEARS 1 MONTH

3 CUBS

2 YEAR 0 MONTHS

3 CUBS

6 MONTHS

3 CUBS

5 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

(1 sighting)

The only sighting of this pride was on the 10<sup>th</sup> when they were on the southernmost boundary of the property.

### **THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 22**

1 ADULT FEMALE	± 9 YEARS 7 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 9 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 8 YEARS 10 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 5 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALES	± 2 YEARS 6 MONTHS
5 SUB ADULT MALES	± 2 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 1 MONTH
7 CUBS	± 9 MONTHS

#### *WESTERN EYREFIELD*

(6 sightings)

Fragments of the Nkuhuma pride were recorded on MalaMala on six different occasions in January. The most commonly viewed group of lions from the Nkuhuma Pride remains to be the three mothers and their seven cubs. This month the sub-adults were seen once while the lionesses with the cubs were seen on five days.

#### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- Six sub-adult members of the Nkuhuma pride were around the Nwana Nonanshameni Donga on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January.
- In the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup>, the seven cubs were found alone south of Mlowathi Dam. By the afternoon the three lionesses and two Northern Avoca males had joined up with the cubs as they fed on a male kudu kill, west of where the cubs had been earlier in the day.
- On the 18<sup>th</sup> the same group of lions had moved northeast and were in the Nwana Nonanshameni Donga. They remained in this general area until the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## MALE LIONS

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### THE NDHZENGA MALES = 4

2 ADULT MALES

± 7 YEARS 0 MONTHS

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 6 MONTHS

*WESTERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant for the Styx and Southern Prides.*

*First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020*

(24 sightings)

The Ndhzenga males made their presence known on the western bank throughout the month of January. Of the 24 recorded sightings, only four were east of the Sand River. The majority of the sightings of these males included lionesses from the Kambula pride. Often mating activity was recorded. It is interesting to note that, even though the coalition comprises four males, only three individuals are seen regularly on MalaMala.

### Noteworthy sightings:

- Three Ndhzenga males were seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. One was on the western ramp of the Causeway, while the other two were with a lioness from the Kambula pride on the southern end of the Airstrip.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> three Ndhzenga males were on the southern parts of the Airstrip. The lifeless carcass of a Cape hunting dog lay beside one of the males. Though the kill was not observed, it is safe to assume, the Cape hunting dog was killed by at least one of the Ndhzenga males.
- On the 10<sup>th</sup>, another male and another female joined the mating pair on the Airstrip. Both Ndhzenga males were seen mating with both of the Kambula lionesses.
- Two males were mating with two females at Buffalo Pans on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Two males and two females were in the area of the Tamboti thickets on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Three males and two lionesses were at Princess Alice Pans on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 25<sup>th</sup>, two males were around the Charleston Flockfield Boundary.
- On the 27<sup>th</sup>, three males had a kudu kill around Mlowathi Koppies.
- On the 29<sup>th</sup>, two males were with two lionesses west of Drum Crossing.

### **THE GOWRIE MALES = 1**

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 1 MONTH

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Kambula and Marthly prides.*

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

(5 sightings)

The Gowrie male seems to be spending the majority of his time in the areas around the Hogvaal Donga and east thereof. Of the days he was observed, he was never without the company of lionesses and cubs from the Kambula pride.

It is reasonable to assume that his motivation for spending time with the group of lionesses with the cubs is two-fold. Firstly, the lionesses from the Kambula pride are strong, and he is safer with them than he would be on his own. Secondly, he is the only male lion invested in the survival of the existing cubs.

#### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Gowrie male was with one Kambula lioness and four cubs north of the Hogvaal Donga.
- The Gowrie male was seen on the 7<sup>th</sup>, east of the Hogvaal Donga, again with the lioness and four cubs from the Kambula pride.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup>, the Gowrie male was with four lionesses and four cubs of the Kambula pride, west of Paddy's Pools.
- The last sighting of this male for the month was on the 13<sup>th</sup> when he was with three lionesses and four cubs in the area around the Windmill.

### **THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2**

2 ADULT MALES

± 8 YEARS 11 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Sand River Pride.*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve*

(0 sightings)

The Southern Avoca males were not recorded on MalaMala in January.

## THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 8 YEARS 7 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Dominant over the Nkuhuma pride.*

*First encountered in late 2019.*

(7 sightings)

The Northern Avoca males spent most of their time with lionesses and cubs from the Nkuhuma pride. This month the brothers were not observed further south than Mlowathi Dam Crossing. With the Ndhzenga males monopolising mating activities with the receptive females from the Kambula pride. Perhaps the Northern Avoca males have elected to protect what they have rather than risk losing territory.

### Noteworthy sightings:

- Both males were at Mlowathi Dam on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>, they shared a male kudu kill with members of the Nkuhuma pride, west of the Mlowathi River and south of Mlowathi Dam
- From the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> they were around the Nwana Nonanshameni Donga, with lionesses and cubs from the Nkuhuma pride.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, one male was east of the Mlowathi River, opposite Mlowathi Dam.

### Other Lions Encountered:

- A **no ID male** was in the area east of Piccadilly Triangle on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January.
- The nomadic **Nkuhuma young male** was seen in eastern Flockfield on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, each time in the area of Rock Drift road and Borehole road.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	<b>64 (20 cubs)</b>
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## LEOPARDS

### **FEMALE LEOPARDS:**

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#### **THE ISLAND FEMALE**

8 YEARS 11 MONTHS

#### **FEMALE CUB**

1 YEAR 5 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Tamboti female, independent first quarter of 2015*

(20 sightings; 6 of female, 10 of female and cub, 4 of the cub)

The Island female and her cub were seen on 20 days in January.

While this mother and cub duo are frequently seen together, the female was observed mating with the Accipiter male in mid-January. With the Island female coming into oestrus, she is expected to become increasingly less tolerant of her almost-independent daughter. On three occasions, the two leopards were seen in the area around Styx Rocks. Perhaps, feeling the need to carve out a portion of her territory for her daughter, the Island female is extending her reaches further south.

#### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- From the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> both the Island female and her cub fed from an impala ram carcass that was hoisted in a jackleberry tree, on the Sand River's western bank north of West Street.
- Both the Island female and her cub were seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>, not together. The female was north of West Street while the cub was exploring further east of her mother.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup>, both leopards were together, south of West Street.
- The female and her cub were in the southernmost reaches of her territory, at Styx Rocks on the 8<sup>th</sup>, where they had stashed an impala kill.
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, the Island female exchanged the company of her cub, who was north of Drum Crossing, for the company of the Accipiter male. The male and female were seen mating on Ridge road on the 14<sup>th</sup> and again at West Street on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Both mother and daughter were in the area of Styx Rocks on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 27<sup>th</sup> the Island female and cub were further north, around Terminalia Road.
- On the 31<sup>st</sup>, the two leopards concluded the month with not one, not two, but three kills! The mother-daughter duo were found north of West Street. The female led the cub south to where she had both an impala lamb and a kudu calf kill at Styx Rocks. En route to the feast, the cub caught her contribution, a tree squirrel.

**THE NKOVENI FEMALE**  
**2 FEMALE CUBS**

9 YEARS 5 MONTHS  
1 YEAR 0 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent early 2014.*

*Mother of the Plaque Rock female.*

(18 sightings, 3 of female, 9 of female and cub/s, 6 of cub/s)

The Nkoveni female and her two cubs were seen on 18 days in January.

At one year of age, the cubs are still dependent on their mother for most of their provisions. However, they are beginning to explore their independence and have been seen spending prolonged periods separate from one another and their mother.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> the female and both cubs were feeding off remains of a bushbuck kill that had been hoisted in a jakkalberry tree on Jeremiahs Loop.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup>, the cubs were found tormenting a nyala lamb at the entrance to MalaMala Camp. When the mother of the nyala attempted to save her offspring, the Nkoveni female killed her and then completed the job her cubs had started by killing the lamb too.
- On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the 3:2 cub was found alone in a marula tree on Newington Road, west of the booms.
- Both cubs were without their mother on the 12<sup>th</sup> when they were seen around the Parking Bay.
- All three leopards were together at the Booms on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Nkoveni female had an impala kill on Jeremiahs Loop on 20<sup>th</sup>. The cubs were found on the Old Airstrip on the same day however, they never joined their mother to feed.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup>, the Nkoveni female killed an impala lamb on the Old Airstrip. Both cubs were present.
- The female was seen at the Old Airstrip on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, while both cubs were together on Jeremiah's loop.
- The last time the three leopards were seen for the month was on the 26<sup>th</sup> when they were found west of MalaMala Camp.

**THE LOOKOUT FEMALE**

± 12 YEARS 0 MONTHS

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

*Mother of the Kapen female & Son of the Lookout female.*

(0 sightings)

The Lookout female was not seen in January.

**THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE**  
**2 CUBS**

12 YEARS 1 MONTH  
4 MONTHS

NORTH/EASTERN MALAMALA AND EYREFIELD

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

*Mother of the Ngoboswan and Eyrefield Males.*

(2 sighting, 1 of female, 0 of female and cub/s, 1 of cub/s)

The Emsagweni female and her cubs were not seen together in January.

The cubs were seen in a small rocky outcrop east of Tlebe Rocks on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month, the Emsagweni female was found in a marula tree northeast of Campbell Koppies.

**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE**  
**DAUGHTER**

8 YEARS 0 MONTHS  
1 YEAR 10 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female<sup>†</sup>, independent first quarter of 2016.*

(3 sighting, 2 of female, 0 of female and cub, 1 of cub)

The Piccadilly female and her daughter were not recorded together in January. The Piccadilly female was seen twice, while her daughter was seen only once. The process of gaining independence is a gradual one, and these leopards were not viewed enough to positively confirm whether or not the cub can be considered independent. However, at 1 year and 10 months, and with the Piccadilly female mating regularly, it is safe to say that independence is in the offing for the cub of the Piccadilly female.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- The cub was seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> near Kegilia Crossing.
- On the 16<sup>th</sup>, the Piccadilly female was in the Mlowathi River, north of the Confluence of the Sand River.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Piccadilly female was mating with the Ngoboswan male on the northern side of Campbell Koppies.

**THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE**  
WESTERN MALAMALA

3 YEARS 10 MONTHS

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

(0 sightings)

No sightings were recorded of this female in January.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE**

5 YEARS 9 MONTHS

**MALE CUB**

6 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(5 sightings, 3 of female and 2 of female and cub)

We enjoyed five days of viewing the Three Rivers female this month.

At six months of age, the cub of the Three Rivers female is growing in strength and confidence. This month, we saw the cub practising his hoisting skills on kills his mother had made and even growling at her when she fed alongside him at carcasses.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January, the Three Rivers female was found north of Maxim's Lookout, where she stalked and killed an impala lamb.
- The Three Rivers female was without her cub again on the 6<sup>th</sup> when she was found sleeping in a marula tree around Flockfield Camp.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup>, the female had an impala lamb kill east of Skukuza Road, north of Rattray's Camp.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup>, both the female and her cub were feeding on the kill.
- The last sighting of this mother and son duo was on the 24<sup>th</sup>, where they had hoisted an impala north of Maxim's Lookout.

**THE KAPEN FEMALE**

4 YEARS 3 MONTHS

**MALE CUB**

TBC

SOUTHERN FLOCKFIELD

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

(3 sightings, 1 of female, 2 of female and cub)

Last month we reported that the Kapen female seemed to be without suckle marks and an indication that she may have lost cubs. This month we are pleased to confirm that this is not the case! The first sighting of the Kapen female was on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month, south of Zebra Skull. The next time this female was seen was on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> when she had an impala ram kill hoisted in an ivory tree east of Mamba Waterhole. The Kapen female was not the only leopard feeding on the carcass, and we were pleased to become acquainted with her first recorded cub, a young male. It is difficult to gauge when this cub was born but judging by the fact that he is feeding on carcasses, confident in his climbing, and lacks the murky eyes of young leopard cubs, he is likely between three and four months old.

**THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**

4 YEARS 0 MONTHS

**CUB**

TBC\*

CENTRAL &amp; WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

(8 sightings, 6 of female, 2 of female and cub)

The Tlebe Rocks female was the first leopard seen in 2022 when she was found on the morning of the 1st with remains of an impala lamb kill, east of the Causeway. This leopard has provided many interesting sightings in January, including her observing the Piccadilly female and Ngoboswan male mating and the introduction of her first cub! After weeks of anticipation, we are pleased to share that the Tlebe Rocks female is a first-time mother to one cub whom she is keeping in a den on the eastern side of Campbell Koppies. Currently, the view of the densite is long distance, but the cub appears to be between six and eight weeks old. We will be able to give a more accurate age estimate in next month's report.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- The Tlebe Rocks female had an impala lamb carcass east of the Causeway on the 1<sup>st</sup>.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Tlebe Rocks female interacted with the Tsembe male around Piccadilly Triangle. The two leopards met each other with posturing before they chased one another northeast towards the area of Campbell Koppies.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup>, this female was recorded near Wild Dog Rocks Open Area, where she appeared to be hunting.
- She had an impala kill on the 19<sup>th</sup> on Western Side Mlowathi.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, she watched as the Ngoboswan male and Piccadilly female mated north of Campbell Koppies.
- She was seen with the Ngoboswan male on the 29<sup>th</sup> on the eastern koppie of Campbell Koppies. The Ngoboswan male moved away, but the Tlebe Rocks female remained viewable as she interacted with a third leopard, a small cub.
- The female and her cub were at their Campbell Koppies den on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**THE SIBUYE FEMALE**

8 YEARS 0 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female, independent first quarter of 2016.**Mother of the Tlebe Rocks female, Langa female & Xaxa male.*

(2 sightings)

The Sibuye female was seen twice in January. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, the Sibuye female was found at Senegal Bush, where she drank from a puddle before she was chased west into the Mlowathi River by an elephant bull. The second sighting of the Sibuye female was on the 23<sup>rd</sup> when she was at Mlowathi Dam.

## MALE LEOPARDS

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### THE MAXIM'S MALE

± 7 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

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

(5 sightings)

The Maxim's male was seen five times this month. Of the five sightings, three were around the Causeway during the morning and two around West Street Bridge after dark. His movements further confirm that this male is holding his dominance along the banks of the Sand River.

### THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

4 YEARS 2 MONTHS

NOMADIC (Marthly and western Eyrefield)

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

(8 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male was the most viewed male leopard on MalaMala in January. Of the eight sightings, two of the most interesting sightings included mating with the Piccadilly female while the Tlebe Rocks female kept watch and his interaction with the cub of the Tlebe Rocks female, whom we presume is his first progeny. On the 29th, the Ngoboswan male was found on the eastern parts of Campbell Koppies looking playful. Rangers lost sight of him in the rocky outcrop but soon noticed a second leopard in the area, the Tlebe Rocks female, with a small cub playing around her legs. Though no interaction was observed between the Ngoboswan male and the cub of the Tlebe Rocks female, he has likely encountered this cub before and, as such, assumes he is the father.

#### Other noteworthy sightings:

- On the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Ngoboswan male was east of the Mlowathi River, north of Mlowathi Koppies.
- The Ngoboswan male was south of the Old Borehole on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 15<sup>th</sup>, he was on the eastern ramp of the Causeway.
- He was on the Causeway again on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>, he had an impala lamb kill north of Scotts Road.
- He was mating with the Piccadilly female on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, on the northern side of Campbell Koppies.
- The Ngoboswan male was east of Fred's Tree on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**THE ACCIPITER MALE**

± 11 YEARS 5 MONTHS

*EASTERN & CENTRAL MALAMALA & FLOCKFIELD**First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.*

(2 sightings)

The only two sightings of the Accipiter male for the month were on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> when he was mating with the Island female in the most western sections of his territory.

**THE EYREFIELD MALE**

4 YEARS 2 MONTHS

*NOMADIC (Eastern Eyrefield and eastern MalaMala)*

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.

(0 sightings)

No sightings were recorded of this male in January. Reports suggest that he is exploring areas north of our boundary but, as he is still a young leopard, we make no assumptions regarding where he might establish himself.

**THE SPLIT ROCK MALE**

7 YEARS 6 MONTHS

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

(0 sightings)

The Split Rock male was not seen this month.

**Other Leopards Encountered:**

- The **TSEMBA MALE** had an interaction with the Tlebe Rocks female at Piccadilly Triangle on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month.
- A **no ID male** was seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January in the area of Piccadilly Triangle.
- The **XAXA MALE** had an impala lamb kill south of the Gowrie Boundary on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- A **no ID female** was seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January in the area of Jakkalsdraai Open Area.
- The **KUCHAVA FEMALE** and her 6-month-old **female cub** were seen on the Gowrie Boundary on the 8<sup>th</sup>, where they entertained guests with energetic play.
- The **2:1 YOUNG MALE** had a hoisted female impala around track to Hyena Waterhole on the 8<sup>th</sup> and had a hoisted impala lamb around Matshapiri Open Area Crossing on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The **FLAT ROCK MALE** was at Bicycle Crossing on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A **no ID male** was seen on Ostrich Koppies road on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- A **no ID male** was seen on the 14<sup>th</sup>, on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary.
- A **no ID male** was north of Lion Rocks on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	27 (10 cubs)
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## **CHEETAH**

No cheetah were encountered in January.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	0
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## **CAPE HUNTING DOGS**

Two different packs of Cape hunting dogs were seen on **seven** days in January.

A pack of 14 cape hunting dogs killed an impala ram south of West Street on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The same pack moved north and spent two days around the Airstrip between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup>. On the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>, a lifeless carcass of a young female lay beside three Ndhzenga males on the southern end of the Airstrip. After losing a pack member, the surviving individuals moved south and were seen on the Charleston Flockfield Boundary on the 8<sup>th</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, 13 cape hunting dogs were north of Stwise. The last sighting of Cape hunting dogs for January was on the 25<sup>th</sup> when a pack of 22 individuals killed a young impala south of Dudley Dam.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	36
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## **CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS**

This month we recorded **105 sightings of elephants** and **23 sightings of Cape buffalo**. With abundant water supplies and fewer vehicles out, it is to be expected that these numbers are lower than they were in December.

### **Other sightings of interest**

A sable bull was seen at the Windmill on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January. Sightings of sable are a rarity in the winter months and unheard of in the summer months. With this in mind, it is remarkable that a sable bull was seen on MalaMala in January.