



Game Report



Photo by Ranger Piet van Wyk.

MalaMala Game Reserve
March 2022

It's all about the wildlife!

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	35	30	Maximum	95	86
Minimum	16	21	Minimum	60.8	70
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
31.5		1.24		4	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	66
Leopard	121
Elephant	150
Buffalo	53
Cheetah	1
Cape Hunting Dog	17

**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	3 impala, 1 kudu, 1 giraffe, 1 warthog, 1 nyala, 1 zebra
Leopard	14 impala, 2 duiker, 2 waterbuck, 1 dwarf mongoose, 1 unknown
Cheetah	No recorded kills
Cape Hunting Dog	1 impala

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 25

3 ADULT FEMALES	± 9 YEARS 0 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 9 MONTHS
6 SUB ADULT FEMALES	± 3 YEARS 7 MONTHS
5 SUB ADULT MALES	± 3 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 10 MONTHS
3 CUBS	1 YEAR 0 MONTHS
2 CUBS	10 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(37 sightings)

In 12 of the 37 recorded sightings of this pride, one or more of the Ndhzenga males were present. Like previous months females from this pride continue to mate with males from the Ndhzenga coalition.

The two lionesses and four cubs began the month predictably, spending time in the eastern parts of their territory. However, later in the month, the females moved their cubs west to an area around MalaMala Camp. This move seems to have facilitated a reunion between the six adult lionesses of the pride. However, this comes with its own set of risks as it has brought the cubs closer to the Ndhzenga males, who will most certainly kill the cubs if given the opportunity.

With regards to the sub-adult members, very little has changed. Small groupings of sub-adults are seen scattered across the property regularly. As the females fast approach their first oestrus cycle, their days of fleeing big male lions are ending.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 4th, one sub-adult male and one sub-adult female were around West Street, two adult females were at Piccadilly Crossing, and a further two sub-adult females were around Lion Waterhole. Another sub-adult lioness had remains of an impala carcass around Vulture Waterhole.
- Lionesses were mating with males from the Ndhzenga coalition on the 6th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 15th, and 22nd. For a more detailed account, read the section on the Ndhzenga males.
- On the 7th and 8th, the two lionesses with the four cubs fed on a kudu bull carcass west of Buffalo Bush Dam. The same individuals were in the same area on the 12th and 13th.
- Two females attacked a Cape hunting dog around Maurice's Pan on the 17th. A spotted hyena intercepted the attack, and the Cape hunting dog managed to escape.
- Two sub-adult males and two sub-adult females were south of Campbell Koppies on the 18th.
- To everyone's surprise, the two lionesses and four cubs were in the Mlowathi River, north of

the Confluence of the Three Rivers, from the 21st to the 23rd.

- On the 24th, the two females and their four cubs, four lionesses and two Ndhzenga males were all southwest of Bicycle Crossing. The males roared and scent marked, but no contact between the males and the members of the Kambula pride was recorded, except for one female who shared the remains of an impala carcass with the two Ndhzenga males.
- On the 30th, rangers and guests watched as five lionesses and one sub-adult lioness killed a sub-adult zebra north of Campbell Koppies. The lionesses fought for more than fifteen minutes before the zebra surrendered its life—the same group fed on the remains of their kill on the 31st.

THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE
MARTHLY
(7 sightings)

3 YEARS 0 MONTHS

March sightings of the Marthly lioness were consistent with last month. This young lioness seems to feel safe in her natal grounds, Marthly.

Sightings:

- The first sighting of this female was on the 2nd when she was south of Sable Camp.
- The marthly lioness was at Elephant Rock on the 3rd.
- On the 23rd, she was around Matumi Rocks.
- She was at Matumi Rocks again on the 25th and 26th, where she fed on the remains of a nyala bull carcass.
- On the 28th and 29th she was in the Sand River, west of Bicycle Crossing.

THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20

7 ADULT FEMALES
6 ADULT FEMALES
7 CUBS

EASTERN EYREFIELD
(4 sightings)

UNKOWN AGES

± 6 YEARS 2 MONTHS

± 1 YEAR 7 MONTHS

In contrast to recent months, rangers and guests enjoyed four days of quality viewing of this pride. Between the 8th and the 11th, members of this pride fed on the remains of a giraffe kill in Four Ways Open Area. A Kruger male was also present at the buffet. The opportunity to view this pride over four consecutive days meant that we could outline the composition of the pride. There are three lionesses and seven cubs in the pride from our observation.

THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 14

2 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 8 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 4 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 3 MONTHS
3 CUBS	2 YEAR 2 MONTHS
3 CUBS	8 MONTHS
3 CUBS	7 MONTHS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

(2 sighting)

The Sand River pride were recorded on two days this month. The first record of this pride was on the 27th, when the whole pride was with the Southern Avoca males southeast of Mister's Koppies. A group consisting of three lionesses, one sub-adult lioness and two sub-adult males were in F-Bend Open Area on the 29th.

THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 22

1 ADULT FEMALE	± 9 YEARS 9 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 9 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 9 YEARS 0 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 5 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALES	± 2 YEARS 8 MONTHS
5 SUB ADULT MALES	± 2 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 3 MONTHS
7 CUBS	± 11 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

(6 sightings)

Of the members of this pride, we continue to view the group composed of three lionesses and seven cubs.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 2nd, the three lionesses and seven cubs were in the Mlowathi River, north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.
- The group with the lionesses and cubs were with two Northern Avoca males at the Old Borehole on the 3rd. They were well-fed and lazed about in the area for 24 hours.
- Nine individuals, one adult female, one sub-adult female and seven sub-adult males, were around the Old Borehole on the 14th.
- The lionesses with the seven cubs were southwest of Mlowathi Dam on the 16th.

MALE LIONS

THE NDHZENGA MALES = 4

2 ADULT MALES ± 7 YEARS 2 MONTHS

2 ADULT MALES ± 6 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN CHARLESTON

Dominant for the Styx and Southern Prides.

First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020

(18 sightings)

Of the 18 recorded sightings of this coalition, 12 were in the company of lionesses from the Kambula pride. In most sightings, the males from this coalition were mating with the Kambula lionesses.

The month ended dramatically when a new coalition launched an attack on one of the Ndzenga males.

Noteworthy sightings:

- Two Ndzenga males and one Kambula lioness had an impala ram carcass around the Booms on the 24th. Two females, four cubs, and three other lionesses from the Kambula pride were also in the area. The males roared and scent marked, but no contact between the males and the members of the Kambula pride was recorded.
- On the 30th, the Ndzenga males had an altercation with a younger, unknown coalition. From what was observed, a group of three younger males attacked the “club-footed” male when he was alone in the area around Flockfield Tower. Having heard the commotion, two more Ndzenga males arrived and chased the unknown males west. The injured male made his way east, where he reunited with the fourth member of this coalition. The unfoldings are detailed in a piece posted to the MalaMala Blog.

THE GOWRIE MALES = 1

1 ADULT MALE ± 10 YEARS 3 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & NORTHERN CHARLESTON

Dominant over the Kambula and Marthly prides.

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in September 2015.

(0 sightings)

For the second month running, the Gowrie male was not seen on MalaMala.

THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 9 YEARS 0 MONTHS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

Dominant over the Sand River Pride.

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve

(1 sighting)

The only sighting of this coalition was on the 27th when both males were in the company of the Sand River pride southeast of Mister's Koppies.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 8 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

Dominant over the Nkuhuma pride.

First encountered in late 2019.

(5 sightings)

The movements of this coalition seem to have followed a similar trend to last month. Members of the coalition were viewed on five days, two of which they spent with lionesses from the Nkuhuma pride and cubs.

Sightings:

- One male was northwest of Mlowathi Dam on the 2nd.
- Both males were together at the Old Borehole on the 3rd and 4th. In addition, three lionesses from the Nkuhuma pride and seven cubs were also present.
- One of the males was at Senegal Bush on the 17th.
- The final sighting of members of this coalition was on the 25th when one male was north of Senegal Bush.

Other Lions Encountered:

- A male (referred to as '**Kruger male**') was with members of the Torchwood pride. The group of lions fed on the remains of a giraffe carcass on the 8th, 9th and 10th.
- A group of **three young, unknown males** fought with the Ndhzenga males in the area of Flockfield Tower on the 30th.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	65
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LEOPARDS

FEMALE LEOPARDS:

THE ISLAND FEMALE DAUGHTER

9 YEARS 2 MONTHS

1 YEAR 7 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Tamboti female, independent first quarter of 2015

(14 sightings; 5 of female, 1 of female and daughter, 8 of the daughter)

14 sightings of this mother and daughter duo representatives were recorded in March. The title of 'duo' is quickly becoming obsolete as they look as if they are leading two separate lives. This month, the two females were only recorded together on one occasion, on the 7th, where they had remains of an impala ewe carcass at the confluence of the Sand and Matshapiri Rivers. Both leopards exhibited hostile behaviour, indicating that the female now considers her daughter independent. Currently, the mother is seen in the southern half of her territory while the daughter is settling in the northern parts of the territory.

Noteworthy sightings:

- The female was seen at West Street on the 1st.
- On the 4th, the daughter was seen about a kilometre east of Fred's Tree.
- The female was at Donald's Crossing on the 5th.
- After a less-than-warm reception from her mother the day before, the daughter was alone in Matshapiri Open Area on the 8th. She was in the same area again on the 9th, 10th and 13th.
- The female had an impala carcass on the 19th, west of Styx Crossing. She had the misfortune of having her carcass commandeered by the Tshabalala male, who chased the female up a tree before feeding on her carcass. The Accipiter male arrived on the scene and chased the Tshabalala male. The female dropped from the tree's canopy in the pandemonium and fled the area.
- Excluding the occasion when the female and daughter were together earlier in the month, the furthest south that the daughter was recorded was north of West Street on the 24th, where she had remains of an impala kill.
- The last sighting of one of these two leopards was on the 30th, when the female was south of the Ngoboswan Donga.

THE SIBUYE FEMALE

8 YEARS 2 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

Mother of the Tlebe Rocks female, Langa female & Xaxa male.

(1 sighting)

The only sighting of this female was on the 28th. She was with a young male leopard northwest of the Old Borehole. Both leopards fed on the remains of a duiker kill. It is unclear who killed the duiker and who was the thief. The ranger in the sighting reported that the female looked to be lactating.

THE NKOVENI FEMALE
2 FEMALE CUBS

9 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 YEAR 2 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLI

Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent early 2014.

Mother of the Plaque Rock female.

(34 sightings, 8 of female, 16 of female and cub/s, 10 of cub/s)

This month, we recorded more sightings than days in the month – this speaks to the fact that the cubs are gaining confidence and exploring more independently.

Noteworthy sightings:

- In the first five days of the month, all three leopards were together around MalaMala Camp.
- On the 6th, both cubs were around the Parking Bay while the female was further south, around Petrie's Camp.
- On the 12th, the Nkoveni female and one cub were on the northern parts of the Airstrip, while the second cub explored the area south of Pete's Bridge.
- On the 13th, all three leopards were seen in different parts of the territory. The female was west of the Old Airstrip, while one cub was around the MalaMala Stones, and the other was around the Parking Bay.
- The three leopards reconvened on the 14th when they fed on the remains of a waterbuck calf carcass that the female had hoisted in the marula tree known loosely as 'The Hand of God'. The mother and both cubs were in the same spot the following day.
- The three leopards were together in the vicinity of MalaMala Camp on the 16th and 17th.
- On the 18th, the sisters explored the Old Airstrip, while the female was north of Maxim's Lookout.
- The three leopards had another waterbuck calf kill on the 21st, this time south of the Causeway.
- The Nkoveni female was alone on the 24th when she was seen around the Broken Dam.
- The female was south of the Causeway on the 25th while her cubs were together on Jeremiah's Loop.
- On the 30th, the Nkoveni female put on a show by killing an impala ram on the Old Airstrip.
- All three leopards were together on the last day of the month. The Nkoveni female hoisted the impala ram carcass before making space for the cubs to feed.

THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE

4 YEARS 0 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(1 sighting)

The Plaque Rock female was only seen on the 24th when she was in the most western reaches of the Sand River.

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE
2 CUBS

12 YEARS 3 MONTHS
6 MONTHS

NORTH/EASTERN MALAMALA AND EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], independent first quarter of 2012.

Mother of the Ngoboswan and Eyrefield Males.

(4 sightings, 2 of female, 0 of female and cub/s, 2 of cub/s)

Two sightings were recorded of the Emsagweni female in March. Her cubs were also seen twice, both times without their mother. Over the last few months, we have seen this female spend more time in the northern reaches of her territory. This shift may be the result of push and pull factors. Push: the Ngoboswan male is extending his territory north. Pull: the Mlowathi male, the presumed father, holds territory north of MalaMala.

Sightings:

- The female was seen alone on the 3rd, north of the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga.
- She was alone again on the 11th, northeast of the Old Borehole.
- On the 18th, the cubs were without their mother, north of the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga
- On the 26th, the female cub was alone northeast of the Old Borehole, where she was observed killing a dwarf mongoose. This is the first recorded kill from the cubs of this litter.

THE PICCADILLY FEMALE
DAUGHTER

8 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 YEARS 0 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLI

Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], independent first quarter of 2016.

(5 sightings, 3 of female, 2 of Daughter)

The Piccadilly female and her daughter were not recorded together. Having concluded her mating activities of the previous month, sightings of this female were less frequent than in February.

Sightings:

- The female was around Stwise on the 3rd.
- On the 11th, the daughter had an impala hoisted in a sausage tree west of Bicycle Crossing. The Flat Rock male joined her and fed on the kill.
- On the 21st and 22nd, the female was around the confluence of the three rivers.
- The daughter was west of Kigilia Crossing on the 25th, where she had remains of an impala hoisted.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE
MALE CUB**

5 YEARS 11 MONTHS
8 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Kikilezi female, orphaned on 22nd May 2017.*

(9 sightings, 1 of female and 8 of female and cub)

A total of nine sightings were recorded of the Three Rivers female. Her boisterous male cub was present in all but one of the sightings.

Sightings:

- The first sighting of the mother and son was on the 4th. The leopards had an impala ewe kill south of Maxim's Lookout. Unfortunately, this feast was short-lived as two spotted hyenas stole most of their meal.
- The two leopards had another impala ewe kill around Confluence Crossing on the 7th, 8th and 9th.
- Mother and son moved north after finishing the impala carcass and were at the Old Kikilezihash Breakfast Spot on the 10th and 11th.
- The female was alone on the 19th when she was north of Maxim's Lookout.
- On the 21st, the pair reunited and fed on the remains of a young impala south of the Airstrip.

**THE KAPEN FEMALE
MALE CUB**

4 YEARS 5 MONTHS
5 MONTHS

SOUTHERN FLOCKFIELD

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

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

The 30th was the only day that a sighting of this female was recorded. The Kapen female was found flicking her tail flirtatiously in the presence of the Flockfield male around Zebra Skull. The Split Rock male joined the two leopards and chased them both west.

With limited information, it is challenging to interpret interactions of this nature. Either: the female had her cub nearby, and in an attempt to distract the Flockfield male, she gave him signals that she was ready to mate. Alternatively, she has lost her cub and is coming into a new oestrus cycle. Hopefully, April will provide answers to these questions.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

± 12 YEARS 2 MONTHS

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

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

(2 sightings)

The Lookout female was seen twice this month. Much excitement surrounds this leopard as she was reported to have suckle marks when she was seen around the eastern reaches of the Kapen River on the 3rd. She was seen again on the 28th, in the area of the Five Star junction, but the terrain made it impossible to confirm whether she was lactating.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE

4 YEARS 2 MONTHS

CUB

4 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.

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

In contrast to previous months, the Tlebe Rocks female flaunted her precious cub this month. At four months old, the male cub of the Tlebe Rocks female is relaxed around vehicles and has begun feeding on carcasses. The female seems to have taken a liking to the donga, after which she is named, with the majority of the sighting this month being in and around the Tlebe Rocks Donga.

Noteworthy sightings:

- The mother and cub were seen on the 3rd in the Mlowathi River, north of the Tlebe Rocks Donga.
- On the 4th, the mother and cub had remains of an impala ewe kill in the same area as they were seen the previous day. Unfortunately, two hyenas stole the kill before the female had time to hoist it.
- On the 5th, the female was found in a leadwood grove on the eastern bank of the Mlowathi River, north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing. Rangers followed the female north to Mlowathi Pan's, where she reunited with her cub.
- On the 6th, the female and cub had a young duiker kill in the Tlebe Rocks Donga.
- A scavenger must have stolen the duiker carcass from the leopards as the female was found with a whole impala lamb kill on the 7th in the Tlebe Rocks Donga.
- The female was alone on the 18th at Lower Mlowathi Crossing.
- The last sighting of this mother and cub was on the 29th when they were west of Tlebe Rocks.

MALE LEOPARDS

THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

4 YEARS 4 MONTHS

MARTHLY & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.

(13 sightings)

In keeping with the trend, the Ngoboswan male remains the most viewed male leopard on MalaMala. Sightings of this male appear to be widespread as he is seen as far north as Mlowathi Dam and as far south as Sand Pit Crossing. While he is covering substantial ground, his movements are predictable. This, coupled with his consistent mating activities, would suggest that he has settled in a territory of his own.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 2nd and 3rd, he was in the area west of Piccadilly Triangle.
- He was at Manyeleti Crossing on the 11th. Overnight he covered ground and was at Mlowathi Dam the following day.
- On the 17th, he had an impala kill hoisted at Mlowathi Pans.
- He had an impala kill at the Quarry East of Fred's Tree on the 23rd.
- On the 25th, he was west of Mlowathi Dam.
- The last sighting of this male was on the 27th when he was at Sand Pit Crossing.

THE ACCIPITER MALE

± 11 YEARS 7 MONTHS

EASTERN & CENTRAL MALAMALA & FLOCKFIELD

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

(5 sightings)

Recorded sightings of this male were up this month.

Sightings:

- On the 13th and the 14th, he had an impala carcass in the area of Wildebeest Loop.
- On the 19th, this male appeared to come to the defence of the Island female, who had been treed by the Tshabalala male (see the section on the Island female for more).
- He was in the presence of his presumed son, the Redhawk male, on the 21st south of Emsagwen Waterhole.
- The last sighting of this male was on the 23rd when he was south of West Street Bridge.

THE MAXIM'S MALE

± 7 YEARS 7 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.

(3 sightings)

This male was seen on three days this month. On the 1st, he was found lounging in a sausage tree on the western bank of the Sand River north of West Street. He was next seen around the MalaMala Stones on the 22nd. The final sighting for the month was on the 28th when he crossed West Street Bridge.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

4 YEARS 4 MONTHS

NOMADIC (*Eastern Eyrefield and eastern MalaMala*)

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.

(0 sightings)

The Eyrefield male was not seen this month.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

7 YEARS 8 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

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

(3 sightings)

The Split Rock male was seen three times this month. On the 7th, he was around Kapen Rocks. On the 20th, he had a standoff with the Hanyile male east of Baumonts Camp. The last sighting of this male was on the 30th when he chased the Flockfield male and Kapen female in the area of Zebra Skull. One wonders whether he was chasing the Flockfield male in an attempt to protect his offspring (presuming he is the father of the Kapen females cub) or to mate with the Kapen female.

Other Leopards Encountered:

- The **Redhawk male** was seen on **five days** this month. Sightings of this young and nomadic male are generally around the Matshapiri River and east thereof.
- The **Flat Rock male** was seen on **nine days** this month. Sightings of this male occur west of the Mlowathi River and in Marthly. On the 2nd, he was further east than expected when he was around Piccadilly Triangle. On the 5th, he entertained guests as he fished for aquatic creatures in the Sand River around Matumi Rocks. He shared an impala kill with the daughter of the Piccadilly female on the 11th at Elephant Rock.
- On the 6th, a **skittish unidentified male** was recorded south of Kikilezihash Crossing.
- The **Inyathini male** had a hoisted impala ewe kill south of Kapen Breakfast Spot on the 7th.
- The **Tengile female** was in the area of River Rocks on the 10th.
- An **unknown male** (possibly the same individual seen on the 6th) was north of Donalds Crossing on the 17th.

- The **Tshabalala male** was west of Styx Rocks on the 19th. He chased the Island female up a marula tree before the Accipiter male arrived on the scene and chased the Tshabalala male out of the area.
- The **Flockfield male** was north of Jakkalsdraai Open Area on the 20th. He was involved in an interaction with the Kapen female and Split Rock male on the 30th (read more in the section on the Kapen female).
- The **Hanyile male** was east of Baumonts Camp on the 20th. The Split Rock male was also in the area.
- An **unidentified young male** was northwest of the Old Borehole on the 28th. He kept the company of the Sibuye female (refer to the section on the Sibuye female for details).

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	30 (8 cubs)
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CHEETAH

A young male was at Clarendon Dam on the 31st. Although the cheetah was shy, respectful viewing practices meant that rangers and guests could follow him from Clarendon Dam to Matshapiri Dam, where he stopped to have a drink.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	1
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

Two different packs of Cape hunting dogs were seen on **17** days in March.

A pack of 11 Cape hunting dogs have been seen frequently in northeastern Eyrefield. The movements of this pack, coupled with the knowledge that the alpha female was heavily pregnant at the beginning of the month, suggest that the pack are denning on the property.

On the 17th, a pack member was attacked by a lioness in the area of Maurice's Pan. A spotted hyena nipped the lioness, and she released the Cape hunting dog. On the 25th, the pack killed an impala ram northeast of Elephant Rock.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	17
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

This month we recorded **150 sightings of elephants** and **53 sightings of Cape buffalo**. As the vegetation begins to dry, both of these large water-dependent species are returning to the Sand River to quench their thirst.

Other sightings of interest

A **Southern African python** was south of the Airstrip on the 3rd.

The last day of the month was a **honey badger**-themed day as this feisty species was recorded in two separate sightings. Two honey badgers were north of Cheetah Pan, while another two were around the Windsock.