



Game Report



Crocodiles in the Sand River by Ranger Gareth Nuttall-Smith

MalaMala Game Reserve
April 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	81
Minimum	14	18	Minimum	57.2	65
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
120		4.72		9	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	79
Leopard	117
Elephant	130
Buffalo	50
Cheetah	0
Cape Hunting Dog	23

**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 zebra, 1 impala
Leopard	12 impala, 1 leopard toitose
Cheetah	No recorded kills
Cape Hunting Dog	4 impala, 1 duiker, 1 scrub hare

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 25

3 ADULT FEMALES	± 9 YEARS 1 MONTH
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 10 MONTHS
6 SUB ADULT FEMALES	± 3 YEARS 8 MONTHS
5 SUB ADULT MALES	± 3 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 11 MONTHS
3 CUBS	1 YEAR 1 MONTH
1 CUBS	11 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(34 sightings)

Members of this pride were recorded in 34 sightings this month.

The most noteworthy developments include the sub-adult lionesses spending time with the Ndhzenga males without fear. The sub-adult males were seen less this month, with their sisters spending time with the adult lionesses, the young males are spending their time in the southern parts of the property, away from the Ndhzenga males. In addition, the group that consists of two lionesses and four cubs were not seen this month. Reports suggest that the cubs are being kept west of the boundary.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 1st, five adult lionesses and one sub-adult lioness were in the area of Piccadilly Triangle, where they unsuccessfully attempted to hunt zebra.
- Another sub-adult lioness joined the group seen the previous day, as five adult lionesses and two sub-adult lionesses were northeast of Maurice's Pan on the 2nd.
- Three groupings of this pride were seen on the 3rd. One sighting included a lioness mating with a Ndhzenga male around West Street.
- Two lionesses linked up with the mating pair on the 4th, and all four lions remained in the vicinity of West Street.
- For the first time since the Ndhzenga males arrived on MalaMala, they were recorded in the company of the sub-adult females from the Kambula pride. On the 5th, three adult lionesses and four sub-adult lionesses were with two of the Ndhzenga males at the Rock Drift Donga.
- Two lionesses were with two Ndhzenga males on the 6th, around the Thamboti Thickets.
- On the 12th, a lioness was with two of the Ndhzenga males around Flockfield Pools.
- Four adult lionesses, two sub-adult lionesses and two Ndhzenga males fed off the remains of a zebra carcass north of Piccadilly Crossing on the 13th. One lioness and one male were observed mating in this sighting.
- One more sub-adult lioness had joined the group from the day before when the nine lions

were east of the Tamboti Thickets on the 14th.

- On the 15th, three lionesses, four sub-adult lionesses and one Ndhzenga male were around the Windsock.
- On the 16th, a group of three sub-adult males and one sub-adult female was on the western bank, around the Charleston Toulon Boundary.
- Five females and one Ndhzenga male were northeast of West Street on the 22nd. One of the lionesses mated with the male, while three of the lionesses exhibited signs of being heavily pregnant.
- Three lionesses linked up with three Ndhzenga males on the morning of the 24th in the area of Piccadilly Triangle. Staff at MalaMala Camp reported that the lionesses moved west, where they made a kill of sorts in the Sand River, around the swimming pool.
- The three lionesses remained in the area around MalaMala Camp on the 25th and 26th.
- Three lionesses were in the company of a Ndhzenga male on the 27th. One lioness engaged in mating activities with the Ndhzenga male. Another mating group consisting of two lionesses and two Ndhzenga males, was west of West Street on the same day.
- Mating activity was recorded again on the 29th between one lioness and two of the Ndhzenga males in the area of Princess Alice Pan's.
- Four adult lionesses were with two Ndhzenga males in the Tamboti Thickets on the last day of the month.

THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE
MARTHLY
(9 sightings)

3 YEARS 1 MONTHS

The young Marthly lioness has become a permanent feature around MalaMala Camp and into Marthly. She was seen on nine days this month, a record number of times since the loss of her mother.

Sightings:

- From the 6th – 8th, the Marthly lioness was a permanent feature at Bicycle Crossing.
- On the 9th, she moved south and was around Sand Pit Crossing, where she attempted to hunt a herd of waterbuck in a spectacular display.
- She was around Elephant Rock on the 10th.
- On the 11th, she returned to the area of Bicycle Crossing.
- The young lioness was on the Causeway on the 18th.
- She was seen at Kigelia Crossing on the 21st and again on the 25th.

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	1 YEAR 9 MONTHS
6 CUBS	± 8 MONTHS
<i>SOUTHERN CHARLESTON</i>	
(2 sighting)	

The Sand River pride were recorded on two days this month. The first of the two sightings of members of this pride was on the 2nd when two lionesses and six cubs were around Ivory Pans. The following time members of this pride were seen was on Toulon when four lionesses, two sub-adult lionesses, two sub-adult males, and six cubs were together on the 24th.

THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20

7 ADULT FEMALES	UNKOWN AGES
6 ADULT FEMALES	± 6 YEARS 3 MONTHS
7 CUBS	± 1 YEAR 8 MONTHS
<i>EASTERN EYREFIELD</i>	
(5 sightings)	

Members of this pride were seen on five days this month.

Sightings:

- On the 19th, four lionesses, two sub-adult males and five cubs were in the southern parts of Matshapiri Open Area.
- Two groups were seen on the 20th. One was of three lionesses east of Matshapiri Open Area Crossing, and one was of five lionesses and seven cubs northeast of Drum Crossing.
- Four females and six sub-adults were east of Buffalo Bush Dam on the 22nd.
- The most exciting sighting of members of this pride took place in the Split Rock Donga on the 23rd. Two adult females and two sub-adult males had an altercation with two KNP males. It is unclear what caused the fight, but it is likely that sub-adult males are becoming threatening and need to explore their independence.

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

(8 sightings)

This month noted a rise in the number of sightings of sub-adults from this pride. Of the eight sightings, six included one or more of the sub-adults.

Noteworthy sightings:

- A group consisting of three lionesses, one sub-adult male and seven cubs was in the company of the two Northern Avoca males at the base of Stwise on the 15th.
- Two groups of members of this pride were seen on the 19th. One such group included four sub-adult males, three adult females and seven cubs. The Northern Avoca males were also in attendance.
- On the night of the 20th, rangers watched as three adult females, four sub-adult males, two sub-adult females, and seven cubs all reunited with the Northern Avoca males east of Piccadilly Triangle.
- On the morning of the 21st, only the four sub-adult males and two sub-adult females were seen north of Campbell Koppies.
- On the 27th, one adult lioness and one sub-adult lioness attempted to steal a kill from a pack of Cape hunting dogs when both species were south of the Tlebe Rocks Donga.
- On the 28th and 29th, the three lionesses and seven cubs were with the Northern Avoca males north of Senegal Bush.

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

(32 sightings)

The Ndzenga males continue to make their dominance known, with 34 sightings of members of this coalition in April.

The dispute that unfolded with the younger unknown coalition seems to have unified this coalition as the Ndzenga males were recorded together more than in previous months.

Noteworthy sightings:

- Three males were west of Drum Crossing on the 2nd.
- Three males were seen on the 3rd. One mated with a lioness from the Kambula pride around West Street. Another was with a second lioness around Elephant Slide Crossing, while the third was alone on the Airstrip.
- One male was around Kapen Open Area, while two were with adult and sub-adult lionesses of the Kambula pride in the Rock Drift Donga on the 5th.
- On the 7th, two males stole an impala ram kill from the Nkoveni female north of the Windsock.
- Three lions were on the southern bank of the Sand River, around Matumi Rocks on the 11th. They crossed west before settling around Stwise, where they fed on the remains of a scavenged impala ram carcass.
- On the 12th, two males linked up with two lionesses from the Kambula pride around the Treehouse.
- Three of the four males were with members of the Kambula pride, north of Piccadilly Crossing on the 13th. The lions fed on the remains of a zebra carcass.
- One male was with five females at Maurice's Pan on the 23rd.
- On the 24th, one male was found at the Causeway. Two more males were with members of the Kambula pride at Piccadilly Triangle. After much roaring, the three males linked up before they settled around Piccadilly Pans.
- On the 27th, one male was in the company of three lionesses from the Kambula pride. One lioness engaged in mating activities with the Ndzenga male. Another mating group consisting of two lionesses and two Ndzenga males was west of West Street on the same day.
- Mating activity was recorded again on the 29th between two of the Ndzenga males and one Kambula lioness in the area of Princess Alice Pan's. The smallest of the four Ndzenga males had remains of an impala ram carcass around Mamba Waterhole on the same day.
- The last sighting of these males was around the Tamboti Thickets on the 30th. Four lionesses from the Kambula pride were also present.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 8 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

Dominant over the Nkuhuma pride.

First encountered in late 2019.

(13 sightings)

In comparison to previous months, April noted an increase in the number of times these males were seen. Reports from the north suggest increasing pressure from males to the north. The Ndzenga males also seem to have settled further south, leaving the entirety of the Mlowathi River available to this coalition.

Noteworthy sightings:

- One male was northeast of Mlowathi Dam on the 8th.
- Both males were with 11 members of the Nkuhuma pride at the base of Stwise on the 15th.
- One male was alone, west of Tlebe Rocks, on the 18th.
- On the 19th, the two males were with 14 members of the Nkuhuma pride north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.
- The males were with 16 members of the Nkuhuma pride on the 20th in the area of Piccadilly Triangle. The 18 lions put on a mighty display as they roared and then attempted to hunt impala.
- Both males were together on the 22nd, northeast of Campbell Koppies.
- On the 24th, both males were in the area of Senegal Bush.
- Only one male was around Senegal Bush on the 25th.
- On the 27th, the two males were found around the Old Borehole. Later the third estranged male of this coalition was found southeast of Mlowathi Dam. The estranged male ran south, fleeing the reverberating roars of his brothers.
- The two males were with the lionesses and seven cubs of the Nkuhuma pride on the 28th and 29th, around the Tlebe Rocks Donga.

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 third consecutive month, the Gowrie male was not seen on MalaMala. After years of dominating a significant portion of this game report, this is the last month the coalition will feature. The surviving Gowrie male and Nkuhuma male continue to spend to our west.

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

(0 sighting)

This coalition was not recorded on MalaMala in April.

Other Lions Encountered:

- Two KNP males had an altercation with members of the Torchwood pride in the Split Rock Donga on the 23rd.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	81 (24 Cubs)
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LEOPARDS

FEMALE LEOPARDS:

THE ISLAND FEMALE

9 YEARS 3 MONTHS

DAUGHTER

1 YEAR 8 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Tamboti female[†], independent first quarter of 2015

(12 sightings; 5 of female, 0 of female and daughter, 7 of the daughter)

The female and her daughter were not recorded together in April. With the female looking heavily pregnant and the daughter proving to be an excellent huntress, the necessity for their bond no longer exists.

Noteworthy sightings of the female:

- The female was around Buffalo Pans on the 8th and 9th.
- The female was midway along the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary on the 14th.
- On the 16th, the female was northwest of Matshapiri Open Area.

Noteworthy sightings of the daughter:

- The daughter was found with an impala lamb kill in the northwestern parts of Matshapiri Open Area on the 5th. Rangers observed as she killed a second impala less than 100m from her existing kill. She was in the same area the following day.
- On the 15th, the young female was around Marshapiri Open Area.
- She was seen around Matshapiri Open Area on the 23rd and 24th.

THE SIBUYE FEMALE

8 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

(3 sightings)

The Sibuye female was seen three times in April. The first time she was seen was on the 14th when she was north of Mlowathi Dam. She shared a kill with the Mlowathi male on the 19th, in the Nwana Nonashameni Donga. The last sighting of this female was on the 27th when a pack of Cape hunting dogs stole her impala ewe kill in the Tlebe Rocks Donga.

THE NKOVENI FEMALE

9 YEARS 8 MONTHS

2 FEMALE CUBS

1 YEAR 4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLI

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

(29 sightings, 6 of female, 14 of female and cub/s, 9 of cub/s)

At 16 months old, the cubs of the Nkoveni female are fast approaching independence. This month, 9 sightings were recorded of the cubs alone. In contrast to previous months, the sightings of the cubs without the female tend to showcase the youngsters alone, not together, an indication that their solitary natures are beginning to reveal themselves.

Noteworthy sightings:

- All three leopards fed on the remains of an impala ram carcass on the 1st, at the Old Airstrip.
- The female and one cub were at the Old Airstrip again on the 2nd. The second cub rejoined the group, and the three leopards were together again on the 3rd.
- On the 4th, the female was at the Causeway, while the 3:2 cub was at Bicycle Crossing.
- Rangers observed as the female killed an impala ram around the Airstrip on the 7th. Unfortunately, the kill was stolen by two of the Ndhzenga males.
- One cub was on the MalaMala Stones, while the female and other cub had an impala kill southeast of the MalaMala Stones on the 8th. All three leopards fed on the carcass on the 9th.
- In the morning of the 12th, the cubs were together on the Old Airstrip. In the afternoon, the female and one cub were found with the remains of an impala ram kill on Jeremiah's Loop.
- All three leopards were together on the 17th when they were west of the Old Airstrip.
- On the 18th, north of Maxim's Lookout, the three leopards were together again.
- On the 19th, the female was alone in the Sable Rotunda.
- The female was north of the Old Airstrip, while the 2:2 cub was around Sand Pit Crossing on the 23rd.
- The female and 3:2 cub were found with remains of an impala kill on the northern parts of the Old Airstrip on the 24th. The 2:2 cub joined her mother and sister after the sun had set.
- The last sighting of this family was on the 28th when the 3:2 cub was in the central parts of the Old Airstrip.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE

4 YEARS 2 MONTHS

CUB

5 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.

(9 sightings, 5 of female, 4 of female and cub)

In four of the nine recorded sightings, the Tlebe Rocks female was seen with her cub. The bulk of the sightings of this pair concentrated around the confluence of the Mlowathi River and Tlebe Rocks Donga.

Noteworthy sightings:

- The first sighting of the female was on the 2nd when she was north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing. She was found at the same position on the 4th and again on the 7th.
- The female was alone again on the 9th when she was southeast of Mlowathi Dam.
- Both the female and the cub were southwest of Tlebe Rocks on the 18th.
- The duo were together again on the 20th at Mlowathi Pans.
- The female moved south overnight and was around Piccadilly Triangle on the 21st.
- Mother and cub were at the Sausage Spot on the 29th. The female attempted to hunt a porcupine but was unsuccessful.

THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE

4 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(1 sighting)

The Plaque Rock female was only seen on the 4th when she was around Matumi Rocks. We cannot confirm yet, but we suspect she has a litter of cubs.

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE

12 YEARS 4 MONTHS

2 CUBS

7 MONTHS

NORTH/EASTERN MALAMALA AND EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], independent first quarter of 2012.**Mother of the Ngoboswan and Eyrefield Males.*

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

The only sighting of this female was on the 21st when she was seen moving north from Wild Dog Rocks Open Area.

Her cubs were not seen this month.

**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE
DAUGHTER**

8 YEARS 3 MONTHS
2 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], independent first quarter of 2016.
(3 sightings)

The Piccadilly female was only seen on three days in April. If her mating activity in February resulted in conception, she should start showing signs of pregnancy next month.

Sightings:

- On the 4th, the female was north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.
- She was in the area of Stwise on the 24th.
- The last sighting of the female was on the 26th when she was south of Gowrie Boom.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE
MALE CUB**

6 YEARS 0 MONTHS
9 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], orphaned on 22nd May 2017.
(7 sightings, 6 of female and 1 of female and cub)

Last month, the Three Rivers female was seen with her cub in all but one sighting. This month the obverse is true. Of the seven recorded sightings, only one included her nine-month-old cub.

Sightings:

- The first sighting of the female was on the 14th, around the Old Flockfield Boma Crossing.
- The female was seen again on the 19th, around Petries Camp.
- On the 23rd, she was without her cub when she was found on a territorial patrol around the Wind Sock.
- On the 25th, a barking bushbuck alerted rangers to the presence of the female as she carried out her territorial patrol before hunting impala around Flockfield Camp.
- The female and her cub were around the Parking Bay on the 29th; this was the only recorded sighting of the cub.
- The last sighting of the female was on the 30th when she was south of West Street.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

± 12 YEARS 3 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. The first of the two sightings was on the 3rd when she was east of the White Cloth. The next time she was seen was on the 28th, at Styx Rocks. Rangers reported distinct suckle marks around her teats, a sure sign that she has a litter of cubs stashed away.

THE KAPEN FEMALE

4 YEARS 6 MONTHS

MALE CUB

6 MONTHS

SOUTHERN FLOCKFIELD

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

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

The Kapen female remains a difficult leopard to find. The only sighting of this female was on the 8th when she was north of Zebra Skull. Unfortunately, her cub was not with her, so no conclusion has been reached regarding her unusual interaction with the Flockfield and Split Rock males on the 30th of March.

MALE LEOPARDS

THE MAXIM'S MALE

± 7 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.

(1 sighting)

On the morning of the 19th, this male was seen walking in front of Sable Camp while on territorial patrol. He was not seen again this month.

He appears to have reverted to his shy tendencies. However, with his tracks littered all over the Western Bank, it is clear that he is still the dominant male in the area.

THE ACCIPITER MALE

± 11 YEARS 8 MONTHS

EASTERN & CENTRAL MALAMALA & FLOCKFIELD

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

(1 sighting)

The only recorded sighting of this male was on the 8th when he was at Buffalo Pan's.

THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

4 YEARS 5 MONTHS

*MARTHLY & WESTERN EYREFIELD**Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.*

(14 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male continues to reinforce his dominance with large territorial patrols. This month he was recorded on 14 days. His territorial loop appears to encompass Sand Pit Crossing, Ostrich Koppies, Mlowathi Dam, and the area around the Causeway.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 2nd, he was on the Causeway.
- He was at Mlowathi Dam on the 3rd.
- He fed on the remains of a hoisted impala ram carcass at the Quarry East of Fred's Tree on the 5th and 6th.
- From the 12th- to 15th, he was east of Piccadilly Triangle, where he fed on the remains of a hoisted impala ram carcass.
- On the 16th, the Ngoboswan male was in the Mlowathi River, where he had a vocal altercation with the Xaxa male. No physical contact was observed between the two leopards.
- On the 25th, he was in the northeastern parts of his territory when found at Ostrich Koppies and followed to Wild Dog Rocks Open Area.
- He was further south on the 27th when he was in the area of Plank's Pan.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

4 YEARS 5 MONTHS

*NOMADIC (Eastern Eyrefield and eastern MalaMala)**Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.*

(3 sightings)

The Eyrefield male was seen on three days this month.

The first sighting for the month was on the 1st when he killed and fed on a large leopard tortoise at Clarendon Dam. He was seen again on the 5th and 7th, both times in the area of Buffalo Bush Dam.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

7 YEARS 9 MONTHS

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

(0 sightings)

No sightings were recorded of the Split Rock male in April.

Other Leopards Encountered:

- The **Hanyile** male was around River Rocks on the 2nd.
- The **Red Hawk** male was seen on five occasions this month. Sightings of this male are concentrated around the Matshapiri River, south of Emsagwen Waterhole.
- The **Tengile** female was seen four times this month. In three sightings, her two cubs were present. This mother is keeping her offspring in the area of Calabash Crossing.
- Five sightings were recorded of the **Inyathini** male this month. Sightings of this male range from as far south as Vulture Waterhole and as far north as Buffalo Pans.
- On the 7th, the **Flockfield** male was on Charleston Koppies.
- The **Tsemba** male was seen on the 10th when he attempted to steal an impala kill from a pack of Cape hunting dogs east of Mlowathi Dam.
- The **Mlowathi** male and his presumed son, the **Xaxa** male, were both in the area of Mlowathi Dam on the 11th.
- An **unidentified young** male was around the Old Borehole on the 12th.
- The **Flat Rock** male was seen on six days this month. He appears to share a territorial boundary with the Ngoboswan male, as both leopards have been seen scent marking south of Stwise.
- The **Mlowathi** male shared a kill with the Sibuye female in the Nwana Nonashameni Donga on the 19th.
- On the 22nd, the **N'weti** male was at the Kapen Breakfast Spot.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	34 (6 cubs)
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CHEETAH

No cheetah were recorded on MalaMala Game Reserve for April.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	0
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

Three different packs of Cape hunting dogs were seen on **23** days in April.

The pack denning in the north continue to be the most frequently viewed group. They were seen on 18 days this month. Sightings of the pups improve in quality as they are becoming curious and are moving around the den more.

Both the Toulon pack and the Leeupan pack were also seen twice respectfully in April.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	53 (6 Pups)
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

This month we recorded **130 elephant sightings** and **50 sightings** of **Cape buffalo**. With 120mm of rainfall, far above average, sightings of these two species were similar to what we expect to see in summer, scattered throughout the reserve.

Other sightings of interest

In the early parts of the month, guests and rangers enjoyed frequent sightings of a relaxed **honey badger** in the area of Princess Alice Pan's.

For the first time in months, a **Cape clawless otter** was seen at Confluence Crossing on the 13th.

A **Southern African python** was seen killing a scrub hare on the Old Airstrip on the 28th.