



# Game Report



A cub of the Island Female, by Ranger Gareth Nuttall-Smith

MalaMala Game Reserve  
JUNE 2022

*It's all about the wildlife!*

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	26	23	Maximum	79	73
Minimum	5	9	Minimum	41	49
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
1.5		0.05		2	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	64
Leopard	167
Elephant	186
Buffalo	102
Cheetah	0
Cape Hunting Dog	9

*\*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	2 buffalo, 3 zebra
Leopard	14 impala, 2 duiker, 1 leopard tortoise, 1 squirrel, 2 scrub hare, 2 vervet monkey, 1 monitor lizard, 1 unknown.
Cheetah	No recorded kills
Cape Hunting Dog	1 impala

*\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

## LION PRIDES

---

### **THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 24**

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

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

(29 sightings)

Closing on four years, the young cohort of lions of this pride appear to behave as they should for their age. The young lionesses are now mating with the Ndhzenga males, while the young males were not recorded this month - an indication that they have moved off in search of a land of their own.

The two lionesses raising the three cubs sired by the Gowrie males maintain their distance from the new dominant males. However, in contrast to previous months, they seem to be keeping the cubs in Marthly and west thereof.

At least two older lionesses have given birth, but no den sites have been discovered. So, it remains to be seen whether they have cubs or where they are denning.

### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- The two mothers with their 15-month-old cubs were the first representatives of this pride seen this month. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, the lionesses crossed Bicycle Crossing with three cubs. Unfortunately, it seems they have lost the fourth cub.
- On the 6<sup>th</sup>, one lioness and three Ndhzenga males had a zebra kill northwest of New Rocks.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup>, two lionesses kept the company of three Ndhzenga males as they rested in the Sand River opposite MalaMala Camp.
- A lactating female was found at Kapen Open Area on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the group consisting of lionesses and cubs was around the Broken Dam. This group was in the same area again on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- An older lioness was with a younger lioness north of Fred's Tree on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Three lionesses were with a Ndhzenga male around the Windsock on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The two lionesses and three cubs were at Kigelia Crossing on the same day.
- On the 20<sup>th</sup>, three lionesses were in the company of a Ndhzenga male west of Rattray's Camp.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, four lionesses feasted on a zebra kill north of the Rockdrift Donga. They were joined by three of the Ndhzenga males on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- A young lioness mated with a Ndhzenga male on the 27<sup>th</sup>, south of Princess Alice Pans. The pair moved east and were found again on the 28<sup>th</sup>, still engaging in mating activities.

### THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 22

1 ADULT FEMALE	± 10 YEARS 0 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 9 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 9 YEARS 3 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 6 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 5 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALES	± 2 YEARS 11 MONTHS
5 SUB ADULT MALES	± 2 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	2 YEARS 6 MONTHS
7 CUBS	± 1 YEAR 2 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

(8 sightings)

Sightings of this pride were scarce until the 25<sup>th</sup>. After that, they provided spectacular viewing by coming together for two family feasts.

#### Noteworthy sightings:

- Two females and three sub-adult males were around Gowrie Circle on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- From the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>, three lionesses and seven cubs shared the remains of a zebra carcass with the two Northern Avoca males around Mlowathi Dam.
- On the 28<sup>th</sup>, 20 lions were found feeding on the remains of a buffalo bull carcass in the Maponyeleni Donga. The group consisted of four adult females, two sub-adult females, five sub-adult males and seven cubs. The Northern Avoca males were also present.
- All twenty lions were at Mlowathi Pans on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

### THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 3 MONTHS
<i>MARTHLY</i>	
(0 sightings)	

The Marthly lioness was not seen on MalaMala this month. With the two lionesses of the Kambula using Marthly as a place of refuge for their cubs, this lioness has been pushed west.

**THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 14**

2 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 11 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 4 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 5 MONTHS
3 CUBS	1 YEAR 10 MONTHS
6 CUBS	± 10 MONTHS
<i>SOUTHERN CHARLESTON</i>	
(3 sighting)	

Sightings of this pride were recorded on three days this month.

**Sightings:**

- Four females, three sub-adults and six cubs were in Ingwe Donga on the 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Two females shared the remains of a buffalo carcass with the Southern Avoca males northwest of Mister's Koppies on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Six of the members of this pride were with the Southern Avoca males at Flat Rocks on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20**

7 ADULT FEMALES	UNKOWN AGES
6 ADULT FEMALES	± 6 YEARS 5 MONTHS
7 CUBS	± 1 YEAR 10 MONTHS
<i>EASTERN EYREFIELD</i>	
(0 sightings)	

No sightings of this pride were documented in June.

## MALE LIONS

---

### THE NDHZENGA MALES = 4

2 ADULT MALES

± 7 YEARS 4 MONTHS

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 11 MONTHS

*WESTERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Kambula, Styx and Southern Prides.*

*First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020*

(30 sightings)

On numerous occasions, three males were recorded together. Each time, the individual absent was the one with the club foot. Having sustained an injury to his hip in a dispute with another coalition earlier this year, he is likely struggling to keep up with his coalition mates.

### Noteworthy sightings:

- Three males were on the northern parts of the Airstrip on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The same three individuals were south of the Parking Bay on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Three males were around the central parts of the Tamboti Thickets on the 4<sup>th</sup>, while another was around Elephant Slide Crossing.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup>, two males were with a lioness from the Kambula pride at the White Stones. The other two males were with four Kambula lionesses east of Drum Crossing.
- The male with the club foot was at Mamba Waterhole on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Two males linked up around Maurice's Pan on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Tempted by the smell of a decomposing hyena, one male ascended a jackalberry tree to sniff a carcass that the Inyathini male had abandoned.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup>, one male was with three lionesses around Kapen Rocks. After nightfall, two more males crossed east onto MalaMala and were found south of the Airstrip.
- Three males were together north of Maurice's Pan on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They roared as they moved southwest towards West Street.
- On the 24<sup>th</sup>, three males linked up with lionesses from the Kambula pride who had killed a zebra north of the Rock Drift Donga.
- A male was alone north of Styx Crossing on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 28<sup>th</sup>, one male was alone south of Dudley Crossing while another mated with a lioness from the Kambula pride around West Street Pans.
- One male was around Flockfield Tower on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

### THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 9 YEARS 0 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

*Dominant over the Nkuhuma pride.*

*First encountered in late 2019.*

(7 sightings)

#### Sightings:

- The first sighting of these males was on the 10<sup>th</sup>, when they were south of Clarendon Dam; this is further east than we expect to see them.
- On the 25<sup>th</sup>, the two males were with three lionesses and seven cubs from the Nkuhuma pride south of Mlowathi Dam; they fed on the remains of an adult zebra. The group remained in the same area for the next two days.
- On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the two males kept the company of 18 Nkuhuma lions while they all fed on a buffalo bull's remains in the Maponyoleni Donga's lower reaches. The same grouping moved north and was around Mlowathi Pans on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

### THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 9 YEARS 4 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Sand River Pride.*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve*

(4 sightings)

The Southern Avoca males were seen on four days this month.

#### Sightings:

- Both males were northwest of Mister's Koppies on the 1<sup>st</sup>. They had killed a buffalo cow and were feasting on their bounty.
- Members of the Sand River pride joined the banquet on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The males were with members of the Sand River pride again on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, when they were at Flat Rocks.
- On the 12<sup>th</sup>, both males were together in central Toulon.

#### Other Lions Encountered:

The **STYX PRIDE** was seen on four days this month. Three females were with 10 cubs south of Beaumont's Camp on the 7<sup>th</sup>. One female and six cubs were south of Charleston North Crossing on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The group consisting of the three lionesses and 10 cubs was around Beaumont's Camp on the 14<sup>th</sup> and again on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	66 (26 cubs)
---------------------------------------	--------------

## LEOPARDS

### FEMALE LEOPARDS:

---

**THE ISLAND FEMALE  
2 CUBS**

9 YEARS 4 MONTHS  
2 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

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

*Mother of the Daughter of the Island female.*

(31 sightings; 8 of female, 7 of female and cubs, 16 of cubs)

The new cubs of the Island female are becoming showstoppers. Glimpses of these cubs were observed nearly every day this month.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- The first sighting of the cubs of the Island female was south of Matshapiri Open Area Crossing, in a rocky outcrop on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Island female was seen north of West Street on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The mother and both cubs were at the den-site south of Matshapiri Open Area Crossing on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The female had an impala kill in the Matshapiri River, north of Matshapiri Waterhole, on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The 11<sup>th</sup> was the last day the cubs were recorded at the den-site south of Matshapiri Open Area Crossing.
- The Island female moved the cubs north to a rocky outcrop in the Matshapiri River, south of Matshapiri Waterhole, on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- From the 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, the cubs were seen every day at the den, south of Matshapiri Waterhole.
- On the 18<sup>th</sup>, the Island female and all her offspring (both cub and the daughter of the Island female) were found in the Matshapiri River north of Drum Crossing. There was an impala carcass in the vicinity, and the Island female was likely moving dens when she happened upon her independent daughter.
- Mother and both cubs were at a new den-site north of Donald's Crossing on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 27<sup>th</sup>, the Accipiter male visited the mother and cubs at the den-site north of Donald's Crossing. His disposition towards the cubs is non-threatening, indicating that he assumes the cubs are his offspring.
- The last sighting of these leopards was on the 30<sup>th</sup> when one of the cubs was seen at the den north of Donald's Crossing.



**THE DAUGHTER OF THE ISLAND FEMALE**  
SOUTHERN MALAMALA

1 YEAR 10 MONTHS

*Daughter of the Island female, independent February 2022.*  
(10 sightings)

This young female was seen 10 times this month. She is covering lots of ground but still within the boundaries of her mother's territory.

**Noteworthy Sightings:**

- On the first day of the month, she was found south of Matshapiri Open Area. An unknown young male had an impala ram carcass in the area. She took advantage of his shy nature to commandeer his carcass.
- One morning, the 14<sup>th</sup>, she was found sniffing around a spotted hyena carcass north of West Street. That afternoon she was relocated north of Emsagwen Waterhole. Movement patterns like this speak to her young, nomadic lifestyle.
- On the 15<sup>th</sup>, she caused quite the raucous by killing not one but two vervet monkeys in the Matshapiri River, north of Drum Crossing.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>, she had an impala ewe stolen by the Accipiter male north of Drum Crossing.
- The last sighting of this female was when she was north of Matshapiri Open Area on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**  
**CUB**

4 YEARS 5 MONTHS

7 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.*  
(11 sightings, 6 of female, 4 of female and cub, 1 of cub)

11 sightings of this duo were recorded this month. For the first time, the cub was seen alone in a sighting.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- Mother and cub were together on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when they were east of Senegal Bush.
- Mother and cub were seen together on the 6<sup>th</sup> again when they were north of the eastern koppie of Campbell Koppies.
- The female was seen stalking impala around Piccadilly Pans on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 20<sup>th</sup>, three spotted hyenas chased the female up a tree while she was on territorial patrol around Mlowathi Koppies.
- On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the cub was alone on the eastern bank of the Mlowathi River, south of the Tlebe Rocks Donga.
- The Ngoboswan male made himself at home, feeding off the remains of an impala kill that the female had hoisted around Mlowathi Koppies on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Mother and cub were together on the last day of the month in the same area as the day before.

**THE SIBUYE FEMALE**

8 YEARS 5 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 on two days this month. The first sighting of this female was on the 12<sup>th</sup> when she was east of the Mlowathi River, south of the Gowrie Boundary. The second sighting was on the 28<sup>th</sup>, when she was further south than expected, around Mlowathi Koppies.

**THE NKOVENI FEMALE**

9 YEARS 10 MONTHS

**2 FEMALE CUBS**

1 YEAR 5 MONTHS

## WESTERN MALAMALA &amp; SOUTHERN MARTHLY

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

(35 sightings, 10 of female, of 7 female and cub/s, 18 of cub/s)

An astronomical 35 sightings of these three leopards were recorded this month. Interestingly, the female was seen with one or both of her cubs on seven days this month. This is in contrast to last month when the female was not recorded with either of her cubs.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 1<sup>st</sup>, the 2:2 cub was around the quarry south of the Old Airstrip, while the 3:2 cub was north of the Parking Bay.
- The female was alone on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when she was south of the Causeway.
- After being in separate parts of the territory the previous day, the two cubs reunited and were together around the Old Airstrip on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The mother and 3:2 cub were together on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, where they shared the remains of an impala carcass west of the Old Airstrip.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup>, the 2:2 cub joined her mother and sister as they fed on the last remains of the impala carcass from the previous day.
- On the 11<sup>th</sup>, this family put on a show. The Nkoveni female caught a young duiker but was forced to kill it in a tree as spotted hyenas were ready to steal her meal. Unbelievably, the 2:2 cub was confident enough to challenge her mother and stole the duiker carcass. Unfortunately, before any of the Nkoveni family members could enjoy their meal, the Maxim's male arrived and commandeered the carcass.
- The female was in the southern reaches of her territory on the 14<sup>th</sup>, when she was south of the Airstrip with the remains of a young impala.
- On the 25<sup>th</sup>, all three leopards fed on the remains of a hoisted impala carcass north of Maxim's Lookout.
- Hyena's stole an impala ram that the female had just killed around Petrie's Camp on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- On the closing day of the month, the 2:2 cub was around the MalaMala Camp pool. The 3:2 cub ventured beyond her comfort zone and was found east of the Sand River, south of the Ngoboswan Donga.

**THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE**

4 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(1 sighting)

The only record of this female was on the 29<sup>th</sup> when she was at Matumi Rocks. Unfortunately, the ranger who saw her could not confirm whether she had suckle marks.

**THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE**

12 YEARS 6 MONTHS

**2 CUBS**

9 MONTHS

NORTH/EASTERN MALAMALA AND EYREFIELD

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

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

The Emsagweni female was not seen in June. After her poor condition in May, rangers wonder whether she will ever be seen again.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE**

6 YEARS 2 MONTHS

**MALE CUB**

11 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(11 sightings, 6 of female, 4 of female and cub, 1 of cub)

At 11 months old, the cub of the Three Rivers female now stands taller than his petite mother.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- The cub of the Three Rivers female made his first recorded impala kill on the 5<sup>th</sup>, south of Petries Camp. Unfortunately, the victory was short-lived as spotted hyenas took advantage of his lack of experience.
- On the 10<sup>th</sup>, the female was without her cub while on territorial patrol around the Windsock.
- The mother and cub lost a carcass to the Maxim's male on the 11<sup>th</sup>, north of the old Kikilezi Breakfast spot.
- The female ventured out of her familiar territory, sniffing around on the eastern ramp of Kikilezi Crossing on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Mother and cub had a visitor in the form of the Maxim's male on the 20<sup>th</sup> when they were around Flockfield Camp. The female led her bouncy cub to minimal remains of kill in a large jackalberry tree west of West Street.
- Mother and cub were seen for the last time on the 27<sup>th</sup> when they played in the rain, west of West Street.

**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE  
DAUGHTER**

8 YEARS 5 MONTHS  
2 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

Only two sightings were recorded of this leopard this month. Having been absent in May, after much mating activity in February, it is possible this female had cubs but has lost the litter, resulting in her returning to the eastern reaches of her territory.

**Sightings:**

- On the 27<sup>th</sup>, this female made her debut for the month in style when she killed a scrub hare in the Mlowathi River, north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.
- On the 29<sup>th</sup>, she was in the area of Piccadilly Triangle, scent marking and reclaiming her territory.

**THE LOOKOUT FEMALE  
CUBS**

± 12 YEARS 5 MONTHS  
TBC

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.  
*Mother of the Kapen female & Son of the Lookout female.*  
(4 sightings)

After months of speculation, the Lookout female satisfied our curiosity this month when she introduced us to her two newest cubs!

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 5<sup>th</sup>, the mother and her two cubs were around Styx Crossing. The cubs are still shy around vehicles, and so we hope that we will be able to estimate their age next month.
- The female was alone on the 12<sup>th</sup> when she was north of the Tamboti Thickets.
- The mother was around Dudley Crossing on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**THE KAPEN FEMALE  
MALE CUB**

4 YEARS 8 MONTHS  
8 MONTHS

SOUTHERN FLOCKFIELD

*Daughter of the Lookout female, independent first quarter of 2019.*  
(0 sightings)

No sightings were recorded of the Kapen female this month.

## MALE LEOPARDS

---

### **THE MAXIM'S MALE**

± 7 YEARS 10 MONTHS

*WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA*

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

(11 sightings)

We saw an increase in the number of sightings of this male this month, with nearly triple the days recorded last month. In addition, he seems to have expanded his territory to include Marthly.

#### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, he was west of Kigelia Crossing.
- By the 8<sup>th</sup>, he had moved south and was found at Sand Pit Crossing.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup>, he was on the Causeway.
- He had an eventful day on the 11<sup>th</sup> when he stole a duiker kill from the Nkoveni female and her cubs in the morning and then did the same to the Three Rivers female and cub in the evening (see respective female's sections for more info).
- On the 15<sup>th</sup>, he had returned to Marthly and was found around Elephant Rock.
- He moved south overnight and was at Flockfield Camp with the Three Rivers female and cub on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>, he tormented the Inyathini male around the Giraffe Bones. The Maxim's male chased the Inyathini male up an apple leaf tree before sniffing at a hyena carcass that the Inyathini male had hoisted.
- The last sighting of this male was on the 29<sup>th</sup> when he was on territorial patrol south of the Causeway.

### **THE ACCIPITER MALE**

± 11 YEARS 10 MONTHS

*EASTERN & CENTRAL MALAMALA & FLOCKFIELD*

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

(6 sightings)

This male was seen on six days this month. As this leopard has exhibited before, he defied leopard 'norms' by interacting with his presumed offspring.

#### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- The first sighting of the month was on the 9<sup>th</sup> when he was around Emsagwen Crossing.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup>, he was north of Drum Crossing, where he stole the remains of an impala from the daughter of the Island female.
- He was east of Plank's Pan on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- On the 27<sup>th</sup>, he paid the den-site of the Island female a visit. The two young cubs interacted with the male, who presumes he is their father, while the Island female watched on.

**THE NGOBOSWAN MALE**

4 YEARS 7 MONTHS

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

(9 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male was absent for 18 consecutive days. From the 25<sup>th</sup> of May to the 12<sup>th</sup> of June, he was AWOL. Rangers breathed a sigh of relief when he was found with the Tlebe Rocks female and cub on the 12<sup>th</sup>, around Senegal Bush.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, he had a fresh duiker carcass south of Campbell Koppies.
- On the 18<sup>th</sup>, he was on patrol around Mlowathi Koppies.
- He was found frothing at the mouth north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Flat Rock male was found just west of him, also frothing at the mouth. The two males may have come into contact with one another just before they were found.
- On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, he had an impala ewe carcass hoisted in a jackalberry tree in the centre of Piccadilly Triangle.
- He shared an impala kill with the Tlebe Rocks female around the Mlowathi Spot on the 29<sup>th</sup> and was in a similar area the following day.

**THE EYREFIELD MALE**

4 YEARS 7 MONTHS

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

(2 sightings)

This male was seen twice this month—both times far southwest of where we expect to see him. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, he had the remains of a leopard tortoise east of Piccadilly Triangle. The second and last time he was seen this month was on the 6<sup>th</sup> when he was found around Mlowathi Koppies. Later that afternoon, he killed an impala ram but lost his kill to a clan of spotted hyenas. The Maribye male was also in the area and came to investigate the commotion. The Eyrefield male and Maribye male had a brief brawl in a marula tree before the young male fled the area.

**THE SPLIT ROCK MALE**

7 YEARS 11 MONTHS

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

(3 sightings)

This male was recorded on three days. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, he was around entrance Sibuye Drive. The final sighting of this male was on the 3<sup>rd</sup> when he was around Tamboti Pans East.

### Other Leopards Encountered:

- A young 3:3 **UNKNOWN MALE** was seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> around Matshapiri Open Area Crossing. The daughter of the Island female stole the remains of this male's impala kill.
- The **MARIBYE MALE** was seen for the first time on MalaMala this month when he was around Piccadilly Triangle on the 6<sup>th</sup> (see the section on Eyrefield male for a detailed account of their interaction).
- The **TENGILE FEMALE** was seen with her cubs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month. The three leopards were northwest of Calabash Crossing.
- An **UNKNOWN MALE** had the remains of an impala ram kill west of Kapen Rocks on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Rangers reported that he was shy around vehicles. Unfortunately, no further identification could be obtained as members of the Kambula pride were in the area and scared the leopard off the carcass.
- The **NTSUMI FEMALE** was seen briefly on the 14<sup>th</sup>. She had her young cubs with her so rangers could not view them for longer than the time it took them to cross the road.
- The **INYATHINI MALE** was seen for six days this month. He provided top-class leopard viewing between the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> as he hoisted and fed on the remains of a spotted hyena carcass in the area of Giraffe Bones. On the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup>, he attracted the unwelcome attention of the Maxim's male, who chased him up a tree. He was seen the next day, much further south, in the Tamboti Thickets, far from the Maxim's male.
- The **REDHAWK MALE** was recorded on four days. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, he killed a squirrel northeast of West Street. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, he made a brief appearance at the Kikilezihash Breakfast Spot, where the Three Rivers female, her cub and the Maxim's male had the remains of an impala carcass. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, he was northwest of Emsagwen Crossing. Rangers observed him killing a monitor lizard in the Sand River north of West Street on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- This month, a male known as the **WABAYIZA MALE** made his debut on MalaMala. He was found east of Piccadilly Triangle on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was seen again on the 11<sup>th</sup>, east of Manyeleti Crossing.
- The **FLAT ROCK MALE** was seen five times this month. The most noteworthy of the five sightings was on the 22<sup>nd</sup> when he was on the large rocks west of Lower Mlowathi Crossing. He scented vehemently and salivated heavily (see the section on the Ngoboswan male for more).
- The **XAXA MALE** was only seen once this month, when he was in the Tlebe Rocks Donga, south of Senegal Bush, on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The **TSHABALALA MALE** was seen once this month. He was north of Flockfield Camp on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the **HANYILE MALE** was around KK Crossing. He was seen again on the 23<sup>rd</sup> when he was in Ingwe Donga.
- The **FLOCKFIELD MALE** was chased up a tree north of the confluence of the Tjellahanga River and Sand River on the 27<sup>th</sup> by a pride of lions.
- The **NWETI MALE** was seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> around Beaumont's Camp.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	29 (12 cubs)
--------------------------------------	--------------

## **CHEETAH**

No sightings of cheetah were recorded on MalaMala in June.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	0
-------------------------------------	---

## **CAPE HUNTING DOGS**

Sightings of Cape hunting dogs were recorded on nine days this month. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, a pack killed an impala ewe north of the Broken Dam. Unfortunately, the Nkoveni female stole their kill; she then lost most of her pilfered carcass to spotted hyenas.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	38
---	----

## **CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS**

**186 elephant sightings** and **102 buffalo sightings** were recorded this month. With the landscape finally drying up, these large herbivores are drawing closer to the Sand River.

## **Other sightings of interest**

Three sightings were recorded of pangolin this month! The first sighting was at Matshapiri Open Area on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The following two sightings were west of the Mlowathi River, south of the Gowrie Boundary, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

This month recorded numerous sightings of African wild cats, honey badgers, African civets, and jackals. As winter makes itself known, sightings of this nature increase as the smaller creatures move earlier in the evening and have little grass to hide behind.