



# Game Report



Two of the Ndhzenga males by Ranger Pieter van Wyk

MalaMala Game Reserve  
November 2021

*It's all about the wildlife!*

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	39	29	Maximum	102	85
Minimum	16	21	Minimum	61	69
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
123		4.84		13	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	88
Leopard	108
Elephant	147
Buffalo	29
Cheetah	3
Cape Hunting Dog	3

*\*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 warthog, 6 buffalo, 1 impala, 2 zebra, 1 waterbuck, 1 leopard
Leopard	22 impala, 1 duiker
Cheetah	No kills recorded
Cape Hunting Dog	1 impala

*\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

## **LION PRIDES**

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### **THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 29**

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

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

(51 sightings)

For the last few months, we have reported the challenges of attempting to keep up with the dynamics of this pride. With the sub-adults almost reaching adulthood, lionesses having new litters of cubs, the ageing of the dominant coalition (the Gowrie males), and the presence of new males in the area, this pride is very fragmented and spread out throughout their home range. This month was no different, with additional elements adding to the fragmentation of the pride. The sudden advancement north by the four Ndhzenga males and over 100mm of rainfall have contributed to the reduction of sighting of members of this pride. For the most part, the pride has shifted away from the Sand River and seem to spend time in the eastern section of their territory.

The groupings of this pride showed similar fragments as in previous months, with the three lionesses and cubs spending time in central Flockfield, making use of the rocks on Baby Elephant Walk used as a den site.

The bulk of the pride, consisting of one adult lioness and the sub-adults, was spread throughout the pride's territory and did not move together as one unit. The presence of the Ndhzenga males in their territory meant that these lions spent their time avoiding potential conflict. The remaining two lionesses continue to spend time in the area of MalaMala Camp.

### **Noteworthy sightings:**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, two lionesses had a warthog kill south of Old Wildebeest Crossing.

One adult lioness, three sub-adult males, three sub-adult females, five cubs and a Gowrie male had a buffalo bull kill north of the Kapen River, just west of the KNP break on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, three sub-adults were feeding on an elephant carcass south of Rattray's camp. Although, the sub-adults and the younger Gowrie male avoided the elephant carcass on the days when the Ndhzenga males fed on it. Four adult lionesses, a sub-adult male and the younger Gowrie male, had a buffalo kill east of White Cloth on the 24<sup>th</sup>; on the 25<sup>th</sup>, cubs joined them. Two adult lionesses and 11 sub-adults had two buffalo cow kills midway along Emsagweni on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The month ended in a brutal finale as 12 sub-adults killed the male leopard that we've referred to in the Game Reports over the last 18 months as the 'Marthly Nervous' male at Paddy's Pool's.

**THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 2**

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

The Marthly pride have a long history on MalaMala, dating back to the late nineties. In recent times the pride has experienced extreme hardship and this month added to the downward spiral of the pride. We received reports around the middle of the month that two lionesses from the Nkhumu pride and the Plains Camp males had killed the Marthly lioness in the western parts of the Sabi Sands. The death of the Marthly lioness has thrust her sub-adult daughter into independence. The surviving lioness was seen three times along the Sand River, between Matumi Rocks and Bicycle Crossing this month. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the young lioness had an adult female waterbuck kill in the Sand River east of Elephant Rock. She finished the kill the following day and moved west along the Sand River. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the lioness was west of Elephant Rock. Tracks, presumably of this female, indicate she is spending the majority of her time in the area of Matumi Rocks.

**THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20**

7 ADULT FEMALES	UNKOWN AGES
6 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 10 MONTHS
7 CUBS	± 1 YEAR 3 MONTHS
<i>EASTERN EYREFIELD</i>	
(2 sightings)	

Four lionesses were with a male from the Kruger National Park on a zebra kill southwest of Clarendon Dam on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The following day a fifth lioness had joined the five lions on the remains of the kill.

**THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 23**

1 ADULT FEMALE	± 9 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 8 YEARS 8 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	± 5 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 SUB ADULT FEMALES	± 2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
5 SUB ADULT MALES	± 2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 MALE CUB	1 YEAR 11 MONTHS
7 CUBS	± 7 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

(7 sightings)

Sightings of the Nkuhuma pride are up from last month. The month started with the three lionesses and their seven cubs, along with the two Northern Avoca males northeast of Mlowathi Dam. The following day only the three lionesses and their cubs were at Mlowathi Dam. A couple of days later, on the 4<sup>th</sup>, two of the lionesses and all seven cubs were at Mlowathi Dam again. The bulk of the pride was seen with both Northern Avoca males on the 15<sup>th</sup> at Gowrie boom, where they had a buffalo bull kill. The three lionesses were at Mlowathi Pans on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The following day four lionesses and the seven cubs were on a zebra foal kill in 4 ways Open Area. Nine pride members were on a buffalo bull kill near Gowrie boom again on the 27<sup>th</sup> with the two Northern Avoca males.

**THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 14**

2 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 4 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 FEMALE CUB	1 YEAR 11 MONTHS
3 CUBS	1 YEAR 11 MONTHS
3 CUBS	4 MONTHS
3 CUBS	3 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

(2 sightings)

The first of the two sightings of this pride was on the 13<sup>th</sup>, when the four lionesses and six cubs were at the confluence of the Tjellahanga River and the Sand River with the two Southern Avoca males. The last sighting of this pride was on the 17<sup>th</sup> when three lionesses and the four older cubs were at Charleston Rock.

## MALE LIONS

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### **THE GOWRIE MALES = 2**

1 ADULT MALE ± 10 YEARS 11 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE ± 9 YEARS 11 MONTHS

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Kambula and Marthly prides.*

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

(13 sightings)

This month, 13 sightings of the younger Gowrie male were recorded. The last confirmed sighting of both males together was on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October in eastern Flockfield. All 13 sightings of this male were in Flockfield. The Gowrie male was seen with members of the Kambula pride in all but two sightings. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, he was with members of the Kambula pride on a buffalo kill north of the Kapen River west of the KNP break. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, he was with members of the Kambula pride on a buffalo bull kill on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary east of White Cloth Open Area.

### **THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2**

2 ADULT MALES ± 8 YEARS 5 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

*Dominant over the Nkuhuma pride.*

*First encountered in late 2019.*

(11 sightings)

Sightings of the Northern Avoca males are down from last months 19 sightings. The abrupt advancement north by the Ndhzenga males is the likely cause of the reduction of sightings of these two males, as is the case with the Gowrie Males. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, both males were with members of the Nkuhuma pride northwest of the old borehole in Eyrefield. The following three sightings were of a male in Marthly on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, both males were with two lionesses from the Kambula pride at Matumi Rocks. When the four Ndhzenga males roared their way east towards MalaMala camp, the Northern Avoca males responded before moving northwards out of the area. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, the two males had an impala lamb kill at Mlowathi Dam. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, both males were on a buffalo bull kill at Gowrie boom with members of the Nkuhuma pride. The following day the males had moved south and were north of Stwise. Overnight one of the males moved back north while his brother linked up with a lioness from the Kambula pride west of MalaMala Camp on the 17<sup>th</sup>. One of the males was at Mlowathi dam on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The last sighting for the month was on the 27<sup>th</sup> when both males and members of the Nkuhuma pride had a buffalo kill at Gowrie boom.

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

2 ADULT MALES

± 8 YEARS 9 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Sand River Pride.*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve*

(1 sighting)

The only sighting of these two males for the month was on the 13<sup>th</sup> when they were with the Sand River pride members at the Tjellahanga River's confluence with the Sand River.

### **THE NDZHENGA MALES = 4**

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 10 MONTHS

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 4 MONTHS

*WESTERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant for the Styx and Southern Prides.*

*First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020*

(13 sightings)

November 2021 will forever mark the month the four Nhdzenga males advanced north into the heart of MalaMala, earning themselves a spot in our Game report. From scarcely being seen on MalaMala, the four males increased the pressure on the Gowrie males and their challengers (Northern Avoca and Plains Camp males). 13 sightings of the Nhdzenga males were recorded around the area of MalaMala camp in November. On the afternoon of the 8<sup>th</sup>, these four males announced their arrival into northern MalaMala in style. The four males crossed into MalaMala from the west and roared their way to the Sand River in front of MalaMala Camp. Their roars echoed around MalaMala camp all night as they laid down the challenge. The following day three of the males were around Piccadilly Pans and Campbell Koppies, with two of the males sporting injuries. It was unclear who inflicted the injuries as the Gowrie male was in eastern Flockfield on a buffalo kill, and the two Northern Avoca males were found the following day without a scratch. We suspect the males fought amongst themselves as they pursued a lioness from the Kambula pride. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, two males were still around Piccadilly Pans licking their wounds. Overnight these males moved south along the Sand River and were at the Ngoboswan Donga the following day. On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, two of the males were on the elephant carcass south of Rattray's Camp, while a third was at Styx Crossing on the 12<sup>th</sup>. A male was alone near the airstrip on the 15<sup>th</sup> and at Maurice's Pan the following day. Overnight he linked up with one of his brothers. The two of them were found south of the airstrip. A male was seen in the more familiar territory of the coalition near Beaumonts Camp on the 18<sup>th</sup> while one of his brothers was at Piccadilly Pans. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, a male was with a Kambula lioness was Old Wildebeest Crossing.

**Other Lions Encountered:**

- A sub-adult male and female were seen on Martial Loop on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Likely members of the 4 Ways pride.
- An unidentified adult male was in the Sand River west of Bicycle Crossing on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	<b>81 (27 cubs)</b>
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**LEOPARDS**

**FEMALE LEOPARDS:**

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**THE ISLAND FEMALE  
FEMALE CUB**

8 YEARS 11 MONTHS  
1 YEAR 4 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Tamboti female, independent first quarter of 2015*  
(20 sightings; 6 of female, 7 of female and cub, 7 of the cub)

The Island female and her cub continue to spend the bulk of their time in the vicinity of Drum Crossing and Buffalo Pans. Although the cub is only a year and four months old, it is noticeable that the Island female is starting to spend less time with her and is less tolerant of the cub when they are together. Typically female leopards will reach independence at a year and a half. If this is the case in this situation, the cub will likely be independent in the first quarter of 2022. However, with the rainy season on the horizon and impala lambs imminent, hunting opportunities will be plentiful and her learning curve steep. Could this fast track the cub of the Island female into independence?

**Noteworthy sightings for the month:**

On the 8<sup>th</sup>, the Island female and her cub were at Kikilezihash Crossing with an impala female and lamb kill. Unfortunately, a hyena stole the adult impala kill, but fortunately, the lamb kill had been safely hoisted. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, the cub was at West Street while the Island female was in the far eastern reaches of her territory on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary west of the KNP break. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, both mother and daughter had a female impala kill at the Giraffe Bones. Finally, both leopards were north of White Cloth Open Area with a duiker kill on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.



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

9 YEARS 3 MONTHS

10 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA &amp; SOUTHERN MARTHLY

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

(13 sightings, 2 of female, 8 of female and cub/s, 3 of cub/s)

The two cubs of the Nkoveni female are providing us with some of the best leopard viewing. They are at an age where they are energetic, inquisitive, and growing in confidence. The Nkoveni female and her two female cubs continue to spend the majority of their time in the core areas of the Nkoveni female's territory around MalaMala Camp. On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, all three leopards had an impala kill on the northern parts of the Old Airstrip. On the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, mother and daughters had an impala kill in the nyala berry tree west of MalaMala Camp. Mother and one of her daughters had two impala lamb kills west of the Booms on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and while the cub finished off her kill on the 17<sup>th</sup>, her mother and sister were west of the Parking Bay.

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

11 YEARS 11 MONTHS

2 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.*

(10 sighting, 5 of female, 2 of female and cubs, 3 of cubs)

The Emsagweni female has a new litter of cubs. On the 5<sup>th</sup> the Emsagweni female was found on the firebreak of Matshapiri Dam road south of Wilddog Rocks Open Area with suckle marks. The following day she was found on Ostrich Koppies, where she introduced her new cubs to the world. The cubs were estimated to be around 6 weeks old already as they moved around the rocks with ease and were confident in their abilities. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, only the two cubs were seen at their den site at Ostrich Koppies. The Emsagweni female was at 4 Ways Crossing on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The female was east of Ostrich Koppies on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 14<sup>th</sup> the Emsagweni female moved her two cubs through Wilddog Rocks Open Area. The two cubs were north of Ostrich koppies on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 17<sup>th</sup> the two cubs were at their den site at Ostrich Koppies. The Emsagweni female had an impala lamb kill east of Buffalo Bush Dam on the 19<sup>th</sup>. She was interrupted by a very far-from-home Lookout female and chased her out of the area.

**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE**  
**FEMALE CUB**

7 YEARS 11 MONTHS  
1 YEAR 8 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

(1 sighting of female)

The cub of the Piccadilly female is not a leopard that we've seen much of in her adolescence, and she is now at the age when she'll likely be independent soon. It'll be interesting to see whether the Piccadilly female will start to spend more time in Marthly or if this will be the area she carves out for her cub as the two spend less time together. The only sighting of the Piccadilly female this month was on the 10<sup>th</sup> when she was at Manyeleti Crossing.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE**  
**MALE CUB**

5 YEARS 8 MONTHS  
4 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(15 sightings, 1 of female and 14 of female and cub)

The Three Rivers female and her remaining cub were seen together on 14 occasions this month, with Princess Alice Pans being the core area of these two leopards. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, mother and son had an impala kill north of Princess Alice Pans. For the days of the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>, the two had two impala lamb kills southwest of West Street Pans. The Three Rivers female capitalised on the abundance of impala lambs and a stormy night killing five lambs north of Princess Alice Pans on the night of the 19<sup>th</sup>. The female and her son enjoyed the kills for a few days. On the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, the two leopards had an impala lamb north of Princess Alice Pans.

**THE LOOKOUT FEMALE**

± 11 YEARS 10 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 first viewed at exit Flockfield Lookout on the 5<sup>th</sup>. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, the Lookout female was far north from her usual territory. In the morning, she was chased by the Emsagweni female around Buffalo Bush Dam, and in the afternoon, she was mating with the Accipiter male. She was likely seeking out this large male, which is why she was so far from home. With her son independent, she is mating again and will likely have cubs by the second quarter of 2022.

**THE KAPEN FEMALE**  
SOUTHERN FLOCKFIELD

3 YEARS 7 MONTHS

*Daughter of the Lookout female, independent first quarter of 2019.*  
(1 sighting)

The only sighting of the Kapen female this month was on the 1<sup>st</sup>. She was around Zebra Skull, and we followed as she moved north into the Rock Drift Donga just west of Lion Rocks. All the while, she was hunting. It looked like she may be pregnant. Could November be the month we find the Kapen female with her first litter of cubs?

**THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE**  
WESTERN MALAMALA

3 YEARS 8 MONTHS

*Daughter of the Nkoveni female, independent last quarter of 2019.*  
(1 sighting)

The Plaque Rock female was seen once this month when she was with the Maxim's male at Stone Drift on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**  
CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

3 YEARS 10 MONTHS

*Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.*  
(4 sightings)

The Tlebe Rocks female was first seen around Piccadilly Pans on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The following day she had moved southeast and was found midway along Emsagwen. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, she had an impala lamb kill at Mlowathi Koppies. The month ended with some excitement when she was found east of Stwise, showing signs that she could be a mother.

**THE SIBUYE FEMALE**  
WESTERN EYREFIELD

7 YEARS 11 MONTHS

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female<sup>†</sup>, independent first quarter of 2016.*  
*Mother of the Tlebe Rocks female, Langa female & Xaxa male.*  
(3 sightings)

Unfortunately, the Sibuye female has lost her latest litter of cubs. The Sibuye female has started to seek out males in the area, and on the 11<sup>th</sup>, she was mating with the Ngoboswan male at Gowrie Boom. She was mating with the Ngoboswan male at Manyelethi Crossing again on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 15<sup>th</sup> she had an impala lamb kill in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga northwest of the Old Borehole.

## MALE LEOPARDS

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

± 7 YEARS 3 MONTHS

*WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA*

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

(5 sightings)

The Maxim's male was at Flockfield camp on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, the Maxim's male was midway along the airstrip. He was at the causeway on the 14<sup>th</sup>. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, the Maxim's male was in the company of the Plaque Rock female at Stone Drift. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, he was at Maurice's pan.

### **THE ACCIPITER MALE**

± 11 YEARS 3 MONTHS

*EASTERN & CENTRAL MALAMALA & FLOCKFIELD*

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

(4 sightings)

The Accipiter male was in the Matshapiri River south of Emsagwen Waterhole on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. He had an impala lamb kill north of White Cloth Open Area on the 12<sup>th</sup>. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, the Accipiter male was someways southeast of Emsagwen waterhole. He was mating with the Lookout female around Buffalo Bush Dam the following day.

### **THE NGOBOSWAN MALE**

4 YEARS 0 MONTHS

*NOMADIC (Marthly and western Eyrefield)*

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

(4 sightings)

This month, a similar trend to last month was noted, with fewer recorded sightings of this young male. We also received information that he spent time north of the Gowrie Boundary. It is possible the Maxim's male has started to pressurise to this younger male, forcing him to move further north. He was first seen on the 11<sup>th</sup> when he mated with the Sibuye female at Gowrie Boom. It is also likely that he spent time in the north seeking out this female as she came into esteros after losing her latest litter of cubs. He was seen mating with the Sibuye female at Manyelethi crossing on the 13<sup>th</sup>. He was at Mlowathi Koppies on the 17<sup>th</sup>. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, he was at Manyethiti Crossing.

**THE EYREFIELD MALE**

4 YEARS 0 MONTHS

*NOMADIC (Eastern Eyrefield and eastern MalaMala)*

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.  
(0 sightings)

The Eyrefield was not seen this month.

**THE SPLIT ROCK MALE**

7 YEARS 5 MONTHS

*CHARLESTON*

*Son of the Ostrich Koppies female<sup>†</sup>, independent latter half of 2015.*  
(3 sightings)

Last month we noted that the Split Rock male appeared to be shifting his territory north into southern Flockfield. The first sighting of this male was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when he was southeast of Cheetah Pan. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, the male had a standoff with the Hanyile male at Calabash Crossing. The Split Rock male was in the Rock Drift donga east of the Sand River on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Other Leopards Encountered:**

- The **MLOWATHI MALE** had a female impala kill in the Nwana Nonanshemei Donga on the 1<sup>st</sup>. He had the young **TSEMBA MALE** for company at the kill.
- The **TSEMBA MALE** was with the Mlowathi Male on the 1<sup>st</sup> with an impala kill in the Nwana Nonanshemei Donga northwest of the old borehole. 2<sup>nd</sup> he was on the same impala kill. He was at Mlowathi Dam on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The **INYATHINI MALE** was in the Sand River opposite Rattray's camp on the 1<sup>st</sup>. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, he had an impala kill in the Tamboti Thickets. 7<sup>th</sup> he was opposite Rattray's camp in the Sand River.
- The **SON OF THE LOOKOUT FEMALE** was at Buffalo Pans on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, he moved north from the Matshapiri River, South of Drum Crossing, to Loop in New Firebreak. Vulture waterhole on the 12<sup>th</sup>. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, he had an impala lamb kill at Vulture waterhole. Killed a tree squirrel southeast of Styx Crossing on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was fighting with the 2:1 Young male on the 27<sup>th</sup> south of Matshapiri Open Area.
- The **LANGA FEMALE** (*Daughter of Sibuye Female*) was at Mlowathi Dam on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** was on track between the camps on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The **2:1 NERVOUS YOUNG MALE** was northeast of West Street on the 4<sup>th</sup>. He was fighting with the son of the Lookout female south of Matshapiri Open Area crossing on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The **HANYILE MALE** was having a standoff with the Split Rock male at Calabash Crossing on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- A young female leopard was north of Mlowathi Dam on the 12<sup>th</sup>. It was likely the Langa female, but we were unable to identify her.
- A young leopard was seen at Matumi Rocks looking nervous on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The **FLAT ROCK MALE** was northeast of Matumi Rocks with a female impala kill hoisted in a sausage tree on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Could he have stolen this kill from the Young leopard who was nervous in the area? 28<sup>th</sup> he was northwest of Matumi Rocks.
- The **XIVINDZI FEMALE** was west of Ivory Pan on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- An unidentified male was east of Styx rocks on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, an unidentified male was south of Mlowathi Pans.

- An unidentified male was north of the MalaMala/Flockfield Boundary east of White Cloth Open Area on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. *Likely the 2:1 Young male.*
- On the 28<sup>th</sup>, a male we could not identify was south of Matumi Rocks.
- The "**MARTHLY NERVOUS**" **MALE** was killed by members of the Kambula pride north of Paddy's Pools on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	32 (6 cubs)
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### CHEETAH

We had three cheetah sightings this month, with each sighting being of different individuals. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, four males were in Clarendon Open Area. A female cheetah and her four-month-old cub were on the airstrip on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Finally, a nervous cheetah was seen briefly on the KNP break in the Split Rock Donga on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	7
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### CAPE HUNTING DOGS

This month we only had **three sightings** of Cape Hunting Dogs, a drastic decline from last months 13 sightings. All three sightings were of the pack of 12. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, they made an impala kill at Donald's Crossing, having come from the area of the Windmill. The following day they were around Lower Mlowathi Crossing. The pack was last seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> in the area of the Old Airstrip.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	12
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### CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

This month we recorded **147 sightings of elephants** and **29 sightings of Cape buffalo**. However, November saw the rains come, and with pans across the reserve filled up, sightings of these two water-dependent species declined from last month.

### Other sightings of interest

A serval was seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> in 4 ways Open Area.

An African Rock Python killed an impala lamb south of Stwise on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Other species of interest seen were **honey badges**, **African wild cats**, a pair of ostriches with chicks and a secretary bird.