



# Game Report



Photo by Ranger Pieter van Wyk

MalaMala Game Reserve  
December 2021

*It's all about the wildlife!*

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	36	31	Maximum	97	87
Minimum	15	22	Minimum	59	71
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
87.5		3.4		7	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	87
Leopard	118
Elephant	124
Buffalo	21
Cheetah	1
Cape Hunting Dog	10

*\*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 waterbuck, 1 buffalo, 1 zebra, 4 impala, 1 wildebeest
Leopard	18 impala, 1 duiker, 2 warthog
Cheetah	1 impala
Cape Hunting Dog	1 impala

*\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

### **LION PRIDES**

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

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

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

(56 sightings)

This month we recorded 56 sightings of members of this pride. With the unrest of a potential coalition take-over continuing, groupings of this pride have been recorded far and wide within their territory. Typically, at this time of the year, the pride would shift their territory west of the Sand River. However, we have not seen this play out this summer as they have remained in their typical dry season distribution along the Sand River and east thereof. The presence of the Ndhzenga males on the western bank of the Sand River has resulted in this as the lionesses with cubs stay in the east of their range, and the sub-adults avoid the new males.

This month the grouping of the lionesses and cubs spent most of their time along the Matshapiri River from Emsagwen Crossing to the Sand River. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, two lionesses and five cubs were on a buffalo calf kill in the Matshapiri River south of the confluence of the Hogvaal Donga. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, we watched a lioness kill a wildebeest calf south of the Airstrip. She carried the kill to West Street Bridge, where her two small cubs were left between drives. In the middle part of the month, the older five cubs were left at Emsagwen Crossing, and it was a while before the lionesses returned. Thoughts were that the lionesses had abandoned the cubs – two of the cubs died during the time. The oldest litter of three made it through when the lionesses returned around the 20<sup>th</sup>. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, the two youngest cubs in the pride were with four lionesses at the White Cloth open area. This grouping of lions linked up with the three oldest cubs at Emsagwen Crossing around the 20<sup>th</sup>. By the end of the month, only the three oldest cubs and one of the younger cubs were still with their mothers.

The adult lioness and sub-adults grouping was seen on 13 occasions, not always as a full compliment. They were seen throughout the Kambula pride's range and had a zebra kill west of Jakkalsdraai Open Area (6<sup>th</sup>), impala kill at the Sausage Spot (23<sup>rd</sup>), an impala ram kill at Princess Alice Pans (24<sup>th</sup>) and a kudu calf kill (28<sup>th</sup>) near Drum Crossing. The last Gowrie male also spent time with them this month.

A lioness was mating with the Ndhzenga males on the 12<sup>th</sup> near Kapen Breakfast Spot and on the Airstrip in the latter days of the month.

**THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1**

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE

2 YEARS 9 MONTHS

*MARTHLY*

(5 sightings)

The young Marthly lioness was seen on five days in December. Regularly guests reported a lioness in the Sand River outside MalaMala Camp. Given where the Marthly lioness has been seen, it is more than likely that she is the lioness that guests saw in the mid-day hours. Rangers were seldom able to relocate the lioness on the afternoon game drive, which suggests that she is choosing to adopt secretive habits that do not draw unnecessary attention to her presence in the area.

On the 1<sup>st</sup>, she was seen just south of the Causeway. She was seen again on the 20<sup>th</sup>, west of Bicycle Crossing. She moved northeast overnight as she was seen again on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Lower Mlowathi Crossing. The last sighting of this lioness was on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Elephant Rock Lookout.

**THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20**

7 ADULT FEMALES

UNKOWN AGES

6 ADULT FEMALES

± 5 YEARS 11 MONTHS

7 CUBS

± 1 YEAR 4 MONTHS

*EASTERN EYREFIELD*

(0 sightings)

The Torchwood pride was not seen this month. Considering the time of year, it is unusual that this pride of lions has not been seen. Their absence can likely be attributed to the fact that the Kambula pride have not shifted into their typically wet season range west of the Sand River and are therefore providing a strong presence in the eastern sections of their territory, the area that borders the boundary of the Torchwood pride. In recent months, the Northern Avoca males and Nkuhuma pride

have also spent more time further east. These factors have more than likely kept the Torchwood pride outside of our boundaries.

**THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 22**

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

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

(6 sightings)

The first sighting of the month was on the 4<sup>th</sup> when the three lionesses, seven cubs and both Northern Avoca males were north of Mlowathi Dam. Almost two weeks later, on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the three lionesses, their seven cubs and one Northern Avoca male were south of Mlowathi Dam. The following day the lionesses and cubs were east of the Mlowathi River, opposite Mlowathi Dam, without the company of the Northern Avoca male. The next day they hadn't moved too far and were north of the Nwana Nononshameni Donga with very little remains of an impala kill. When vultures descended into the area the two Northern Avoca males who were at Mlowathi Dam linked up with the lionesses and cubs. The last sighting of members of this pride was on the 26<sup>th</sup> when one lioness and eight of the sub-adults were east of Tlebe Rocks.

**THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 14**

2 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 4 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	2 YEARS 0 MONTHS
3 CUBS	1 YEAR 11 MONTHS
3 CUBS	5 MONTHS
3 CUBS	4 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

(1 sighting)

This month, the only sighting of the Sand River pride was on the 21<sup>st</sup>, when two females and six cubs were with the Southern Avoca males near Charleston Rock.

## MALE LIONS

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### THE GOWRIE MALES = 1

1 ADULT MALE (presumed dead) ± 11 YEARS 0 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE ± 10 YEARS 0 MONTHS

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Kambula and Marthly prides.*

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

(6 sightings)

Only the "younger" Gowrie male was seen for the second consecutive month. Again, we recorded a dramatic decline in sightings of this male, likely due to him avoiding the coalitions that are applying pressure from the north and the west, respectively.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, he was with the bulk of the pride northeast of West Steet Bridge. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, he was with three lionesses south of Matshapiri Open Area. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, he was by himself on the KNP Break around the MalaMala/Flockfield boundary. On this occasion, he made his presence known with a territorial roar. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, he was with members of the Kambula pride at Piccadilly Pans. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, he was sharing a kudu calf kill with a lioness and two subadults from the Kambula pride east of Drum Crossing.

### THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES ± 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

*Dominant over the Nkuhuma pride.*

*First encountered in late 2019.*

(6 sightings)

Both males were with the three lionesses and cubs from the Nkuhuma pride north of Mlowathi Dam. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, one male was with the lionesses and cubs from the Nkuhuma pride south of Mlowathi Dam. The same male was at Mlowathi Dam the following day. Both males were found at Mlowathi Dam on the 19<sup>th</sup> before they followed vulture activity leading them to the members of the Nkuhuma pride. The last two sightings for the month were of one male at Mlowathi Dam on the 28<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2**

2 ADULT MALES

± 8 YEARS 10 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Sand River Pride.*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve*

(2 sighting)

Both the males were in the Sand River west of Charleston Rock. A couple of days later, on the 21<sup>st</sup>, both males were with members of the Sand River pride at Charleston Rock.

**THE NDHZENGA MALES = 4**

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 11 MONTHS

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 5 MONTHS

*WESTERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant for the Styx and Southern Prides.*

*First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020*

(13 sightings)

For the second consecutive month, the Ndhzenga males were the most viewed male lions on the reserve. Two males were in the Sand River south of West Street on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Three lionesses from the Kambula pride were on West Street Bridge. The two males chased the three lionesses north to the Airstrip. Three males were together at Mlowathi Koppies the following day. As night fell, the males started to roar, chasing the sub-adults from the Kambula pride eastwards out of the area. One male was at Princess Alice Pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>. The following day this male was north of Flockfield Tower. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, a male was near Drum Crossing, and in the afternoon, he was on an impala kill near Maurice's Pans. Three males were mating with a lioness from the Kambula pride near Kapen Breakfast Spot on the 12<sup>th</sup>. One male was at Charleston North Crossing on the 18<sup>th</sup>, while a second was further north of him. Two males were on the Airstrip on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The following day they were near Charleston North Crossing. One male was with two lionesses from the Kambula pride on the Airstrip, while a second male was south of Princess Alice Pans on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Lions Encountered:**

- Three lionesses and 11 cubs of the **STYX PRIDE** were with two Ndhzenga males around Trollips Camp on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	<b>75 (30 cubs)</b>
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## LEOPARDS

### **FEMALE LEOPARDS:**

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#### **THE ISLAND FEMALE**

8 YEARS 10 MONTHS

#### **FEMALE CUB**

1 YEAR 4 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

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

(19 sightings; 7 of female, 9 of female and cub, 4 of the cub)

The Island female and her cub were seen 19 times this month. Though the cub is becoming increasingly more independent, the duo was seen together nine times in the month. This month, the Island female has been seen advancing southwards, with the cub on the cusp of independence. The Island female might be expanding her range before she is required to bequeath a portion of her territory to her daughter.

On the 1<sup>st</sup>, the female was seen at Drum Crossing. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the female had an impala kill at Giraffe Bones. The female and the cub had an impala kill in the same area on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. Both the female and cub moved to Matshapiri Open Area on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, the Island female was at Exit Flockfield Lookout. That afternoon the Lookout female was at the same position following the scent of the Island female, evidence that the Island female is looking to extend her territory? On the 21<sup>st</sup>, the Island female and her cub were avoiding the Maxim's male in the area of Maurice's Pan. The female and cub were unscathed west of Maurice's Pan the following day. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the female was seen on the eastern bank of the Sand River, south of Confluence Crossing, while the cub was in the Matshapiri River, north of Drum Crossing. The mother and daughter duo had an impala kill stolen from them by the Son of the Lookout female east of the Tamboti Thickets on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Both leopards had another impala kill at Buffalo Pans on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The final sighting of the month was of the Island female and cub at Maurice's Pan on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **THE SIBUYE FEMALE**

7 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

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

(4 sightings)

The Sibuye female was seen on four occasions in December. On the first day of the month, she was mating with the Ngoboswan male east of the confluence of the three rivers. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, she was east of the Mlowathi River, north of Senegal Bush. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, she killed an impala lamb and was found in the same area again on and 30<sup>th</sup>, north of Mlowathi Dam.



**THE NKOVENI FEMALE**

9 YEARS 4 MONTHS

**2 FEMALE CUBS**

11 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA &amp; SOUTHERN MARTHLI

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

(16 sightings; 2 of female, 8 of female and cub/s, 6 of cub/s)

The two cubs of the Nkoveni female are developing a sense of adventure. This month, the cubs were recorded apart from their mother and even one another on several occasions.

The two cubs of the Nkoveni female had an impala lamb kill north of the Airstrip on the 3<sup>rd</sup> while their mother was at the Broken Dam. The cubs were west of the Old Airstrip on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Both cubs were on an impala lamb kill northwest of the Booms on the 8<sup>th</sup>. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, one of the cubs was finishing off the kill from the day before while her mother and sister were north of the Airstrip. One of the cubs was at the Broken Dam on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Both cubs were seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> but in separate sightings. The one cub was west of MalaMala Camp, while the other was northwest of the Booms. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, the Nkoveni female and both her cubs were on an impala lamb kill west of the Booms. However, one mistake meant they lost the kill to a patient hyena. The Nkoveni female and both of her cubs were north of the Airstrip on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The female had a warthog piglet kill hoisted in a jackalberry tree near the Broken Dam on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The female and one cub had an impala kill west of MalaMala Camp on the 26<sup>th</sup>. All three were northwest of the Airstrip on the 27<sup>th</sup> and were on the Old Airstrip the following day. One cub was near the Booms on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**THE LOOKOUT FEMALE**

± 11 YEARS 11 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 first sighting of this older female was on the 13<sup>th</sup> when she was in a marula tree northwest of New Rocks. On the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup>, the Lookout female was at exit Flockfield Lookout. In the morning, the Island female had been here, and the Lookout female was clearly following the scent of the Island female. It will be interesting to observe what, if any, territorial shifts unfold in the months to come.

**THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE**

12 YEARS 0 MONTHS

**2 CUBS**

3 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.*

(14 sighting; 3 of female, 4 of female and cubs, 7 of cubs)

Sightings of the Emsagweni female have increased since her cubs were discovered. The Emsagweni female has moved her densite from Ostrich Koppies to Tlebe Rocks.

The Emsagweni female was north of Ostrich Koppies on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The female and both cubs were north of Wild Dog Rocks Open Area on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The two cubs were at Tlebe Rocks on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of the month. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Emsagweni female led her two cubs to an impala ram kill west of the rocks, where they spent the next two days. On the third day of feeding off the kill, they were joined by the Mlowathi male who, due to his lack of aggression, is the likely father of the cubs. The cubs were on Tlebe Rocks on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The female was on Tlebe Rocks the following day. Mother and cubs were on Tlebe Rocks on the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, only the cubs were seen at Tlebe Rocks.

**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE**

7 YEARS 11 MONTHS

**FEMALE CUB**

1 YEAR 9 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

(5 sightings; 2 of female, 0 of female and cub, 3 of cub)

The Piccadilly female and her cub are seldom seen together anymore. At 21 months, the cub is showing signs of independence.

The Piccadilly female was at Paraffin Drift on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The cub of the Piccadilly female was at Kigelia Crossing on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Having not been exposed to many vehicles while growing up, she is still somewhat nervous. The cub was again south of Kigelia Crossing on the 19<sup>th</sup>. She chased a squirrel north towards the Manyelthi River and was soon lost as she descended the southern bank of the river. The Piccadilly female was northwest of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The cub was at Parrafin Drift on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE**

5 YEARS 8 MONTHS

**MALE CUB**

5 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(7 sightings; 3 of female and 4 of female and cub)

The Three Rivers female was seen seven times this month. Three times alone and four in the company of her cub.

The Three Rivers female was seen west of Princess Alice Pans on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Both the female and her cub were north of Princess Alice Pans on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The female had an impala lamb kill on the southeast of Pete's Bridge on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the female and the cub were east of Princess Alice Pans. They were seen together again on the 15<sup>th</sup>, just north of Princess Alice Pans.

**THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**

3 YEARS 11 MONTHS

CENTRAL &amp; WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

(5 sightings)

Having made a good recovery after the injury she sustained to her back right leg, sightings of the Tlebe Rocks female have started to increase.

The Tlebe Rocks female was west of Emsagwen Open Area on the 18<sup>th</sup>. She was showing signs that she has cubs. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, she had an impala kill stolen from her by a hyena south of Lower Mlowathi Crossing. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, she was found with an impala lamb kill north of the Sausage Spot and the following day she finished off the kill. We followed her south in the hope that she'd lead us to her den, but she went into the drainage system south of Campbell Koppies, and we were unable to follow. On the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> she was on the Sand River's eastern bank south of the Causeway with a kill that was too obscured to identify.

**THE KAPEN FEMALE**

4 YEARS 2 MONTHS

SOUTHERN FLOCKFIELD

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

(1 sighting)

The only sighting of this young female was on the 30<sup>th</sup> when she was found on a scent marking patrol south of Lion Waterhole. It is difficult to confirm whether or not she is lactating conclusively, but it does not seem to be the case.

**THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE**

3 YEARS 9 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(1 sighting)

The Plaque Rock female had an impala lamb kill hoisted in a brown ivory tree east of Elephant Rock on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

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**MALE LEOPARDS**

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**THE MAXIM'S MALE**

± 7 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD &amp; MALAMALA

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

(6 sightings)

The first sighting of this male was on the 8<sup>th</sup> when he was around the Old Airstrip. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, he was south of the Parking Bay. He was at West Street Pans on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The Maxim's male came across the Island female and her cub near Maurice's Pan on the night of the 21<sup>st</sup>. We quickly lost the three leopards as the Island female, and her cub moved away from the threat posed by the Maxim's male. The Maxim's male had an impala kill hoisted south of the Parking Bay on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The last time this male was seen in 2021 was at the lookout, after which he was named.

**THE NGOBOSWAN MALE**

4 YEARS 1 MONTH

NOMADIC (Marthly and western Eyrefield)

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

(8 sightings)

Sightings of the Ngoboswan male increased in the month of December. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, he was observed mating with the Sibuye female east of the confluence of the three rivers. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, he was at Lower Mlowathi Crossing. He was south of Manyelethi Crossing on the 7<sup>th</sup> and back at the confluence of the three rivers on the 9<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>, he was found in the area around Mlowathi Koppies. The Ngoboswan male was seen at Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Ngoboswan male hunted impala unsuccessfully in the open area north of Piccadilly Pans.

**THE ACCIPITER MALE**

± 11 YEARS 4 MONTHS

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

(2 sightings)

The Accipiter male was on a territorial patrol in the area east of the Matshapiri River north of the Hogvaal Donga on the 6<sup>th</sup>. He was the last leopard seen in 2021, as he made an after dark appearance north of the Ngoboswan Donga on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**THE EYREFIELD MALE**

4 YEARS 1 MONTH

*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 5 MONTHS

*CHARLESTON**Son of the Ostrich Koppies female<sup>†</sup>, independent latter half of 2015.*

(1 sighting)

The Split Rock male was only seen once this month when he was west of the southern parts of Jakkalsdraai open area on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Leopards Encountered:**

- The **2:1 YOUNG MALE** was in Matshapiri Open Area on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was north of White Cloth Open Area on the 5<sup>th</sup>. East of Drum Crossing on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** was at the confluence of the Rock Drift Donga and the Sand River on the 4<sup>th</sup>. She was on the eastern bank of the Sand River, north of Beaumonts camp on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The **SON OF THE FLOCKFIELD FEMALE** killed a warthog piglet southwest of Jakkalsdraai Open Area on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Southeast of Charleston North Crossing on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- An unidentified female was in Jakkalsdraai Open Area on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Likely the Kapen female.
- The **INYATHINI MALE** was south of Hyena Waterhole on the 5<sup>th</sup> and at the waterhole on the 12<sup>th</sup>. He was near the Tree House on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The **NCHILA MALE** was at Calabash Crossing on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- A **NO ID MALE** was east of Elephant Rock on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The **TENGILE FEMALE** was in the Sand River west of KK Crossing on the 8<sup>th</sup>. At Calabash Crossing on the 20<sup>th</sup>. We suspect she may have cubs somewhere in the area. She had an impala kill on the Sand River's western bank north of Calabash Crossing on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- A male was briefly seen in the Matshapiri River south of Matshapiri Open Area on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A leopard was seen on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> while following three lionesses from the Kambula pride in Matshapiri Open Area. We were unable to determine who the leopard was as we did not want to disadvantage it with spotlights.
- A leopard was seen briefly in the Matshapiri River north of Matshapiri Open Area Crossing on

the 15<sup>th</sup>.

- The **N'WETI MALE** was southeast of Charleston North Crossing on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The **MLOWATHI MALE** was interacting with the Emsagweni female and cubs on an impala ram kill west of Tlebe Rocks on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The **FLAT ROCK MALE** was south of Stwise on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The **LANGA FEMALE** was on the eastern bank of the Mlowathi River in the northernmost reaches of the river on our property on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The **TSEMBA MALE** was at the confluence of the Nwana Nononshemeni Donga and the Mlowathi River on the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The **SON OF THE LOOKOUT FEMALE** was north of Drum Crossing on the 16<sup>th</sup>. South of Styx Crossing on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Loop in new Firebreak on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Stole the Island female and cubs impala kill on the 24<sup>th</sup> east of the Tamboti Thickets. He was northeast of Donalds Crossing on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- A young male was north of Mlowathi Dam on the 30<sup>th</sup>. This could have been the XaXa male or the Tsemba male.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	35 (8 cubs)
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### CHEETAH

The year ended with an exciting sighting of a female cheetah south of Senegal Bush on the 31<sup>st</sup>. We watched as the female stalked, catch and then lost an impala lamb to a spotted hyena.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	1
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### CAPE HUNTING DOGS

This month we enjoyed regular sightings of cape hunting dogs, with there being a total of **ten sightings**. The pack of 12 that was seen three times last month were seen on three occasions this month again, while the Toulon pack was seen seven times. The pack of 12 were seen at Buffalo Pans on the 5<sup>th</sup>, at Piccadilly pans on the 15<sup>th</sup>, where they killed an impala but had it stolen from them by hyenas and the last sighting of them was the following day at Senegal Bush. The Toulon pack were viewed at Ivory pan on the 4<sup>th</sup>. In the middle of the month, they spent time in southern Flockfield before heading back south into Charleston towards the end of the month.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	42
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### **CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS**

This month we recorded **124 sightings of elephants** and **21 sightings of Cape buffalo**. With surface water scattered across the reserve, sightings of these two water-dependent species are widely spread.

### **Other sightings of interest**

A **SIDE-STRIPPED JACKAL** was trying to avoid three lionesses from the Kambula pride and a leopard in Matshapiri Open Area on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, an **AFRICAN WILD CAT** was at the MalaMala Stones.

Two **AFRICAN ROCK PYTHONS** were seen this month. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> one was around Flockfield Tower, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> one made an impala lamb kill near Maurice's Pan.