



Game Report



Photo by Ranger Kerry Lee Roberg.

MalaMala Game Reserve
February 2022

It's all about the wildlife!

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	36	32	Maximum	97	89
Minimum	20	23	Minimum	68	73
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
11		0.43		4	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	64
Leopard	103
Elephant	121
Buffalo	33
Cheetah	0
Cape Hunting Dog	13

**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 wildebeest, 2 impala
Leopard	14 impala, 2 duiker, 2 nyala, 1 rock python, 1 unknown
Cheetah	No recorded kills
Cape Hunting Dog	3 impala, 1 steenbok

**AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 23

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

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(37 sightings)

Thirty-seven sightings were recorded of members of this pride in February. Six were of the lionesses with the four cubs, 14 were of adult lionesses in the company of one or more Ndhzenga male(s), and 17 were of fragments of the sub-adult group. The distributions of the aforementioned groups remain unordered, except the lionesses and cubs. The group that is made up of two lionesses and four cubs is consistently seen in the most eastern parts of their territory, away from where the Ndhzenga males spend their time.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 1st, two lionesses were with a Ndhzenga male around Princess Alice Pan's.
- Two females were mating with two Ndhzenga males on the Western Bank on the 2nd.
Additionally, two sub-adult females were on the Charleston Flockfield Boundary on the same day.
- On the 3rd, two lionesses were mating with two Ndhzenga males around Pete's Bridge.
- A group of one adult lioness, three sub-adult males and three sub-adult females fed off remains of a wildebeest carcass on the Airstrip on the 6th.
- On the 7th, a group consisting of one adult lioness, three sub-adult males and three sub-adult females was in the area of Princess Alice Pans. Two lionesses were not far south of this group, around Rattray's Camp with one Ndhzenga male.
- On the 11th, two lionesses were with four cubs west of the Hogvaal Donga. The cubs were in the same place the following day. However, the females were not present.
- A lioness was mating with a Ndhzenga male at Princess Alice Pan's on the 13th.
- Two groups of sub-adults were seen on the 14th. One sub-adult male and one sub-adult female were around Petrie's Camp, while a group consisting of two sub-adult females and

one sub-adult male were observed hunting impala in the open area around the White Cloth.

- On the 16th, a sub-adult male was in the area north of Flockfield tower. A Ndhzenga male was also in the area. The young male made a hasty retreat northward, while the Ndhzenga male moved west, roaring and scent marking. In an attempt to gauge where the Ndhzenga male was, the young lion ascended a marula tree and used it as a vantage point.
- Two lionesses were with four cubs north of Emsagwen Crossing on the 18th.
- On the 20th, two lionesses were with a Ndhzenga male around Hyena Waterhole. The same group were joined by another Ndhzenga male and Kambula lioness and were found in the area of the Tamboti Thickets on the 21st.
- A lioness was mating with a Ndhzenga male on the 22nd, on Campbell Road. Two more lionesses were with another one of the Ndhzenga males west of Drum Crossing.
- On the 23rd, a group of two sub-adult females and one sub-adult male was around the Borehole. Another group of three sub-adult females was at Styx Crossing.
- On the 27th, one lioness was with a Ndhzenga male at Kapen Open Area.

THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1

1 SUB ADULT FEMALE

2 YEARS 11 MONTHS

MARTHLY

(6 sightings)

The Marthly lioness was seen on six days in February.

Marthly and the area around MalaMala Camp have been uncharacteristically quiet in terms of lion activity. As a result of the absence of other lions in this area, the Marthly lioness has been less reclusive and exhibited more 'typical' characteristics. Guests enjoyed quality sightings of her this month.

Sightings of this lioness:

- She was at Paraffin Drift on the 9th.
- On the 13th, she was found at the Causeway. Rangers followed as she moved towards the confluence of the three rivers and then west in the Manyelethi River before she stopped at Manyelethi Crossing.
- On the 15th, the Marthly lioness was in the Sand River, around Sand Pit Crossing.
- She was around the Causeway again on the 16th.
- On the morning of the 24th, this lioness was found just south of MalaMala Camp.
- The final sighting of the Marthly lioness was on the 26th when she had an impala ewe kill at Kigelia Crossing.

THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20

7 ADULT FEMALES
6 ADULT FEMALES
7 CUBS

EASTERN EYREFIELD
(0 sightings)

UNKOWN AGES
± 6 YEARS 1 MONTH
± 1 YEAR 6 MONTHS

The Torchwood pride was not seen in February.

THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 14

2 ADULT FEMALES
2 ADULT FEMALES
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE
3 CUBS
3 CUBS
3 CUBS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON
(1 sighting)

± 8 YEARS 7 MONTHS
± 4 YEARS 7 MONTHS
2 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 YEAR 1 MONTH
7 MONTHS
6 MONTHS

Two lionesses from the Sand River pride were south of Tjellahanga Pans on the 16th. No other sightings of members of this pride were recorded.

THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 22

1 ADULT FEMALE
2 ADULT FEMALES
1 ADULT FEMALE
3 ADULT FEMALES
1 ADULT FEMALE
1 SUB ADULT FEMALES
5 SUB ADULT MALES
1 SUB ADULT MALE
7 CUBS

WESTERN EYREFIELD
(3 sightings)

± 9 YEARS 8 MONTHS
± 9 YEARS 2 MONTHS
± 8 YEARS 11 MONTHS
± 5 YEARS 9 MONTHS
± 5 YEARS 7 MONTHS
± 2 YEARS 7 MONTHS
± 2 YEARS 7 MONTHS
2 YEARS 2 MONTHS
± 10 MONTHS

Members of the Nkuhuma pride were only seen three days in February. On the 9th, the group, including three lionesses and seven cubs, was with a Northern Avoca male, west of the Mlowathi River, south of the Gowrie Boundary. The same group were seen with a Northern Avoca male on the 16th, south of Mlowathi Dam. Again, the three lionesses and seven cubs were with a Northern Avoca male on the 25th. This time they were east of the Mlowathi River, south of the Gowrie Boundary.

MALE LIONS

THE NDHZENGA MALES = 4

2 ADULT MALES ± 7 YEARS 1 MONTH

2 ADULT MALES ± 6 YEARS 7 MONTHS

WESTERN CHARLESTON

Dominant for the Styx and Southern Prides.

First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020

(21 sightings)

The Ndzenga males were seen 21 days in February. In 14 of the sightings of these males, lionesses from the Kambula Pride were present. Previously, sightings of these males have concentrated on the western bank. In February, there was a slight shift in their distribution as they have started to spend time on the Sand River's eastern bank. While statistically, the numbers remain similar to that of January, sightings of these males were more dispersed than they have been.

Noteworthy sightings:

- Ndzenga males were observed mating with lionesses from the Kambula pride on six occasions. They were in the company of lionesses from the Kambula pride on 14 occasions (for more details, read the section on the Kambula pride).
- One Ndzenga male and two lionesses from the Kambula pride were west of Hyena Waterhole on the 15th. The male had a swollen jaw, which made it difficult for him to grip the neck of the lioness with whom he was mating. The same individual has been seen since and his jaw has recovered, indicating that the swelling was likely as a result of an insect sting and not a traumatic injury.
- Another male of this coalition was at the White Stones on the 15th, where he fed of the last remains of an impala lamb carcass.
- The last sighting of members of this coalition was on the 27th when one male was with a female from the Kambula pride at Kapen Open Area.

THE GOWRIE MALES = 1

1 ADULT MALE ± 10 YEARS 2 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 first time since the coalition moved onto MalaMala in September 2015, none of the Gowrie males were recorded on the property this month. We have received reports that the remaining Gowrie male has been seen in the western parts of the Sabi Sands. Reports suggest that he has linked up with the Nkhumama male, his likely offspring from 2016.

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 sightings)

The Southern Avoca males were not recorded on MalaMala in February.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 8 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

Dominant over the Nkuhuma pride.

First encountered in late 2019.

(10 sightings)

The Northern Avoca males were seen on ten days this month. Sightings of this coalition are concentrated between the Gowrie Boundary and Mlowathi Dam. Of the ten days they were seen, they were together only once. On three occasions, one male was recorded with members of the Nkuhuma pride. With the Ndhzenga males' recent advancements and one Northern Avoca male showing signs of deterioration, this coalition appears to have aborted their mission to advance south and gain dominance over the Kambula pride. Instead, their new tactic seems to include focusing their energy on protecting the area in which the three lionesses and seven cubs from the Nkuhuma pride reside.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 10th, both of the males were at Mlowathi dam. The two males were not alone. While they lay resting on the western side of the dam, the XaXa male leopard watched from the dam wall. There was no interaction between the lions and the young male leopard.
- One male was with three lionesses and seven cubs from the Nkuhuma pride south of Mlowathi Dam on the 16th.
- On the 25th, a male was with the same group of lionesses and cubs north of the bifurcation of Eastern Side Mlowathi.

Other Lions Encountered:

- The **Nkuhuma nomadic male** was at Scotia Dam on the 6th, the Rock Ridge female and her cubs were also in the area.
- A **no ID male** was in the area of the Windmill on the 15th.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	42 (11 cubs)
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LEOPARDS

FEMALE LEOPARDS:

THE ISLAND FEMALE

9 YEARS 0 MONTHS

FEMALE CUB

1 YEAR 6 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Tamboti female; independent first quarter of 2015

(17 sightings; 5 of female, 4 of female and cub, 8 of the cub)

The Island female and her cub were seen on 17 days in February. This month seems to have brought a clear shift in this mother and daughter dynamic. As predicted in January, the Island female exhibited less tolerance towards her daughter. The cub proved that she is prepared for independence as she was observed with at least three antelope kills of her own this month.

Noteworthy sightings:

- The cub of the Island female was seen alone at Buffalo Pan's on the 5th.
- Both leopards were around the central parts of Buffalo Pans on the 7th, the Redhawk male (previously known as 'Son of the Lookout female') was also in the area, but no interaction was recorded.
- Rangers watched as the cub of the Island female killed an impala lamb at Buffalo Pans on the 8th.
- Both the mother and the cub were in the Matshapiri River, north of Drum Crossing, on the 9th. This interaction may well have been the last affectionate interaction between the mother and daughter. The Island female and cub groomed one another before the cub turned from her mother and walked away, ignoring the calls of the female. The two have been seen together since, but their interactions have been more hostile.
- On the 10th, the cub was further north in the Matshapiri River, north of where she had been seen with her mother the previous day.
- The mother and daughter were together at Drum Crossing on the 14th and 15th. The Island female exhibited dominant behaviour by snarling and posturing whenever the cub attempted to feed off an impala ram carcass she had in the area.
- On the 18th, the cub was found with little remains of a kill in the Matshapiri River, north of Drum Crossing.
- The cub killed and hoisted an impala lamb on the 27th in the area south of Maurice's Pan.
- On the 28th, the Island female was on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary. She scent-marked and roared as she moved west towards White Cloth Open Area.

THE NKOVENI FEMALE
2 FEMALE CUBS

9 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 YEAR 1 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent early 2014.

Mother of the Plaque Rock female.

(26 sightings, 7 of female, 13 of female and cub/s, 6 of cub/s)

The trio of the Nkoveni female and two cubs were the most viewed leopards on MalaMala this month. The cubs are exploring more. This month we recorded numerous sightings where two of the three were together while one was seen elsewhere. As the cubs are older and less dependent on their mother, the Nkoveni female is making more use of her territory and is frequently around the Airstrip.

Noteworthy sightings:

- The Nkoveni female was seen hunting around the Quarry on the 3rd. After two failed attempts, she killed an impala ram.
- On the 4th, all three leopards fed off remains of another impala ram north of the Parking Bay.
- The female and the 2:2 cub were around the Causeway on the 10th. The female called for the 3:2 cub, but they did not reunite in that sighting.
- On the 11th, the 2:2 cub was alone west of MalaMala camp.
- On the 12th, the female was found on Campbell Road while the 3:2 cub was at the Settling Ponds. The 2:2 cub was not seen that day.
- The female and both cubs were around the Booms on the 17th and the 18th.
- The 3:2 cub was around the Booms on the 21st.
- On the 22nd and 23rd, all three leopards fed off remains of a nyala lamb around the southern parts of the Old Airstrip.
- The 3:2 cub of the Nkoveni female was alone on Jeremiah's Loop on the 25th, where she practised her hunting by tormenting tree squirrels.
- The Nkoveni female and both cubs shared a nyala lamb kill south of Sable Camp on the 28th.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

± 12 YEARS 1 MONTH

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

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

(1 sighting)

The only sighting of this female was on the 13th when she was on the MalaMala Flockfield boundary east of the White Cloth Open Area. Thoughts were that she looked heavily pregnant.

THE EMSAGWENI FEMALE
2 CUBS

12 YEARS 2 MONTHS
5 MONTHS

NORTH/EASTERN MALAMALA AND EYREFIELD

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

Mother of the Ngoboswan and Eyrefield Males.

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

The Emsagweni female and her cubs were only viewed for four days this month. This mother appears to be keeping her cubs in the northern parts of her territory.

Sightings of this female:

- On the 3rd, the female was alone when she was south of the Gowrie Boundary, west of the drainage line north of Matshapiri Dam.
- On the 10th, the female and her two cubs were east of Tlebe Rocks, where they had both an African rock python kill and a small antelope of sorts. It is unclear whether the snake killed the antelope before being killed by the female or if the female killed both prey species.
- The female and both cubs were in the drainage line north of Matshapiri Dam on the 20th. They fed on remains of an unidentified antelope kill.
- The last sighting of this female was on the 28th when she was alone in the area of Pats Drift Koppies.

THE PICCADILLY FEMALE
DAUGHTER

8 YEARS 1 MONTH
1 YEAR 11 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

(12 sightings, 10 of female, 1 of female and cub, 1 of cub)

The Piccadilly female was seen in 11 sightings this month, once with her daughter and once her daughter was seen alone. With her daughter now independent, the Piccadilly female is showing intention to reclaim her 2019-2020 territory, around Piccadilly Triangle and west thereof. Most of the sightings of this female included mating activity with the Ngoboswan male.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 4th, the Piccadilly female was mating with the Ngoboswan male in the Sand River opposite MalaMala Camp.
- On the 5th and 6th, the Piccadilly female, Ngoboswan male and Tlebe Rocks female were all in the area northeast of Campbell Koppies. The Piccadilly female and Tlebe Rocks female had a brief altercation. Over the two days, the Ngoboswan male and Piccadilly female were observed mating intermittently and feeding on an impala ram carcass remains.
- The female was with the Ngoboswan male again on the 9th. The pair had an impala lamb kill hoisted in a bushwillow tree around Piccadilly Triangle. However, food was not the primary focus, with the pair mating regularly.
- On the 10th, the female was mating with the Ngoboswan male around Rhino Pens.

- The Piccadilly female and Ngoboswan male were together again on the 14th in the area north of Piccadilly triangle. No mating activity was recorded.
- The Piccadilly female was alone on the 16th, on the northern parts of Rhino Pens.
- The Piccadilly female was with the Flat Rock male on the 26th. The two leopards had remains of an impala ram kill hoisted in a marula tree on Gowrie Trust Road. No mating activity was recorded.

THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE

3 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(1 sighting)

The Plaque Rock female is a female that is seen infrequently. This month was no different with her being viewed once when she was in the area of Elephant Rock on the 13th.

THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE

5 YEARS 10 MONTHS

MALE CUB

7 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(2 sightings, 2 of female and 0 of female and cub)

In contrast to recent months, the Three Rivers female was only seen twice this month. In neither of the sightings was she in the company of her son. The Nkoveni female has been seen in the areas we expect to see the Three Rivers female. It is likely that the Three Rivers female is choosing to keep her cub away from her encroaching neighbour.

THE KAPEN FEMALE

4 YEARS 4 MONTHS

MALE CUB

4 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 was found around the Rockdrift Donga on the 6th of the month when she hunted impala after sunset. This was the only sighting of this first-time mother.

THE SIBUYE FEMALE

8 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

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

(1 sighting)

The only sighting of this female was on the 2nd when she was around the Mlowathi River, south of the Gowrie Boundary.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE

4 YEARS 1 MONTH

CUB

3 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.

(5 sightings, 1 of female, 4 of female and cub)

All five sightings of this female occurred in the first ten days of the month. Of the five sightings, the female was only without her cub on one occasion. After an altercation with the Piccadilly female, the Tlebe Rocks female was only seen once more in February, on the 9th, when she was at Lower Mlowathi Crossing. The presence of the Ngoboswan male and Piccadilly female might have prompted this female to move her young cub to a new den site.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 5th and 6th, the Tlebe Rocks female and cub had the unwelcome company of the Ngoboswan male and Piccadilly female. The Ngoboswan male and Piccadilly were feeding off remains of an impala ram kill that was just to the east of the den site on Campbell Koppies where the Tlebe Rocks female had been stashing her cub. Although we cannot confirm, it is likely that the kill was made by the Tlebe Rocks female and then stolen by the Ngoboswan male and Piccadilly female.

MALE LEOPARDS

THE MAXIM'S MALE

± 7 YEARS 6 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.

(3 sightings)

The Maxim's male was only seen on three days this month. The first sighting of this leopard was on the 4th when he was east of West Street Pans. The next sighting of this male was on the 15th when he was north of Maxim's Lookout. The final sighting of the Maxim's male was on the 22nd when he was in a sausage tree on the western bank of the Sand River, north of West Street Bridge. In contrast to January, the Maxim's male appeared to be more shy traits this month. Out of respect for the leopard, rangers gave him space.

THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

4 YEARS 3 MONTHS

NOMADIC (Marthly and western Eyrefield)

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.

(14 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male remained the most viewed male leopard on MalaMala in February.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 1st, he was on the eastern ramp of the Causeway.
- Between the 4th and the 14th, the Ngoboswan male spent most of his time in the company of the Piccadilly female. The pair were recorded mating repeatedly (refer to the section on the Piccadilly female for a more detailed account of the mating activity).
- The Ngoboswan male was alone on the 21st when he was scent marking around the confluence of the three rivers.
- On the 22nd, this male stole a francolin kill from a pack of Cape hunting dogs east of Plank's Pan. The Cape hunting dogs surrounded the base of the knob thorn tree that the Ngoboswan had ascended. The Ngoboswan male snarled at the pack as he plucked the feathers from the kill he had pilfered.
- On the 26th, the Ngoboswan male was on the eastern bank of the Sand River, around Sand Pit Crossing.
- He moved a fair distance north and was found north of Mlowathi Pans on the morning of the 27th.
- The Ngoboswan male was northeast of Fred's Tree on the 28th.

THE ACCIPITER MALE

± 11 YEARS 6 MONTHS

EASTERN & CENTRAL MALAMALA & FLOCKFIELD

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

(2 sightings)

For the second month, the Accipiter male was only seen twice.

On the 13th, this male had two kills (an impala ram and an impala lamb) in the Matshapiri River, north of Drum Crossing. He was seen again on the last day of the month when he was east of Plank's Pan.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

7 YEARS 7 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

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

(2 sightings)

The Split Rock male was seen twice this month. He was in the northern reaches of his territory on the 8th when he was found near the Kapen Breakfast Spot. The next time this male was seen was on the 26th when he was north of 2nd Turning Jakkalsdraai.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

4 YEARS 3 MONTHS

NOMADIC (Eastern Eyrefield and eastern MalaMala)

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent late 2019.

(0 sightings)

No sightings were recorded of the Eyrefield male again this month.

Other Leopards Encountered:

- The **INYATHINI MALE** had 10% remains of an impala kill hoisted in a jakkalberry tree in the Tamboti Thickets on the 1st. He had 80% remains of a young impala in the same tree on the 15th and 16th.
- The **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** was at River Rocks on the 4th. She was seen again on the 15th when a pack of Cape hunting dogs stole an impala ram kill from her.
- The **FLOCKFIELD MALE** (previously known as the son of the Flockfield female) fed on little remains of a pangolin carcass on the 4th, in the area west of Zebra Skull. He was at Zebra Skull again on the 23rd. On the 26th, he was around Sibuye Drive.
- The **ROCKY RIDGE FEMALE AND TWO CUBS** had an impala kill in the area of Scotia dam on the 5th and 6th. On the 6th, the Nkhumama male lion treed the three leopards while he rested in the shade of the trees they had climbed.
- The **REDHAWK MALE** (previously referred to as the son of the Lookout female) was seen on five days this month. He is not yet territorial, but he seems to be spending time in the area between Buffalo Pans and The White Cloth.
- The **XAXA MALE** was at Mlowathi Dam on the 10th. The two Northern Avoca males were also at the dam, but there was no interaction between the lions and the young male leopard.
- The **TSHABALALA MALE** (previously referred to as the 2:1 young male) was south of Drum Crossing on the 13th.
- An **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE** was seen at Matumi Rocks on the 22nd.
- The **N'WETI MALE** was in the Sand River south of Baumonts Camp on the 23rd.
- The **FLAT ROCK MALE** was seen on two days this month. He was first seen on the 5th, where he was in the presence of the Daughter of the Piccadilly female, who had a grey duiker kill around Elephant Rock. He was seen again on the 26th, where he fed off an impala ram carcass, most likely one he had stolen from the Piccadilly female.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	33
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CHEETAH

No cheetah were encountered in February.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	0
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

February was the month for Cape hunting dogs as we enjoyed **thirteen** days' worth of viewing. The most noteworthy sighting of this species occurred when a pack of Cape hunting dogs attempted to hunt a small family of klipspringers. The klipspringers outwitted the pack by remaining calm and positioning themselves on a boulder that was insurmountable to the Cape hunting dogs.

While the Cape hunting dogs did not kill any klipspringers this month, they did kill three impala, a steenbok, a scrub hare, a francolin, and an unidentifiable antelope.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	33
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

This month we recorded **121 sightings of elephants** and **33 sightings of Cape buffalo**. With a lower-than-average rainfall in February, water supplies became scarce, meaning both of these species sought out the Sand River as a means to quench their thirst.

Other sightings of interest

An African wild cat was seen south of the Airstrip on the 11th.

14 sightings were recorded of southern ground hornbills this month.