



# Game Report



A cheetah surveys the Sand River by David den Hartog

MalaMala Game Reserve  
August 2023

*It's all about the wildlife!*

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	32	25	Maximum	90	77
Minimum	9	13	Minimum	48	56
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
0		0		0	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	108
Leopard	145
Elephant	173
Buffalo	67
Cheetah	14
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	3 buffalo, 1 kudu, 1 impala, 1 klipspringer, 1 Cape hunting dog, 1 hippo
Leopard	9 impala, 3 duiker, 1 hyena, 1 nyala, 1 vervet monkey, 1 leopard cub, 1 steenbok, 1 unknown
Cheetah	1 impala
Cape Hunting Dog	No kills recorded

*\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

LION PRIDES

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**THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 32**

2 ADULT FEMALES	10 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 10 YEARS 2 MONTHS
6 YOUNG ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 1 MONTH
5 YOUNG ADULT MALES	± 5 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	4 YEARS 3 MONTHS
9 CUBS	0 YEARS 8 MONTHS
3 CUBS	0 YEARS 6 MONTHS
3 CUBS	0 YEARS 1 MONTH

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON*

(61 sightings)

Many sightings were recorded of the Kambula pride in August, and they are thriving and growing in numbers monthly. The lioness with the three youngest cubs spent most of her time between the lower reaches of the Mlowathi River and the Causeway and was seen on numerous occasions with the other two members of the pride who do not have cubs currently. The other five lionesses and nine cubs were seen at Confluence Crossing on several occasions, and one of the lionesses was denning in that area with the newest members of the pride (detailed below). The three younger cubs were officially introduced to the rest of the pride on the 16<sup>th</sup>, where four females and 12 cubs were all together on the Airstrip.

**Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 1<sup>st</sup>, three females killed a klipspringer in the southern parts of the Mlowathi River and were joined shortly afterwards by the three youngest cubs of the pride.
- The next day, the mother of these three young cubs shared an impala kill with them further north of their position the day before.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the three lionesses were seen chasing and killing a kudu in the Sand River in front of MalaMala Camp. The three cubs joined them for this meal, which they fed on until the 5<sup>th</sup>, when the Ndzenga males joined them until the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Five lionesses and nine cubs were at Confluence Crossing on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup>. One of the lionesses gave birth in that area and moved her new cubs into the thickets.
- On the 12<sup>th</sup>, four lionesses and nine cubs were at Confluence Crossing when the new mother was spotted further south of their position carrying a week-old cub in her mouth across the Sand River. She carried another two cubs west over the river, presumably to find a more suitable den site. That evening, she brought one of the new cubs to the pride and dropped it amongst the eight-month-old cubs, who treated it roughly. It is unclear what happened next as it was dark by then, and they were not in that area the following day.
- On the 14<sup>th</sup>, four females were found feeding on a nyala kill at Sandpit Crossing while the nine cubs waited for them downstream at Kikilezihash Crossing. Later that evening, the females killed an impala at the Airstrip.
- On the 15<sup>th</sup>, three females and the three youngest cubs were at Lower Mlowathi Crossing, moving south after feeding on a zebra carcass. Several spotted hyenas finished off the carcass but were chased away by three different pride members.

- From the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, the mother of the newest cubs was found on the western bank of the Sand River south of West Street Bridge, which we assume she is using as a new den site.
- On the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, four females and ten cubs fed on a buffalo kill south of Styx Rocks while two younger cubs remained alone at Princess Alice Pans. The kill was stolen on the 21<sup>st</sup> by one of the Southern Avoca males.
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, five of the lionesses trailed a herd of buffalo to the Sand River in front of MalaMala Camp, where they attempted to hunt but were unsuccessful. However, they successfully chased the unsuspecting Flat Rock male up a tree in the same area.
- Two of the youngest cubs remained alone around the airstrip for five days, until the 24<sup>th</sup>, when they finally met up with the pride.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup>, the two Ndhzenga males joined three females at the mahogany trees at Matumi Rocks, where they fed on a hippopotamus carcass.
- On the 27<sup>th</sup>, the new mother attempted to hunt buffalo at Confluence Crossing but was unsuccessful.
- From the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup>, most of the pride was in the Sand River south of Kikilezihash Crossing. The lioness with the newest cubs also seems to have moved her den site to this area.

**THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 18**

1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 1 MONTH
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 7 YEARS 0 MONTHS
4 ADULT MALES	± 4 YEARS 2 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 4 YEARS 2 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 8 MONTHS
7 SUB-ADULTS (3 FEMALES & 4 MALES)	± 2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
<i>WESTERN &amp; CENTRAL EYREFIELD</i>	
(11 sightings)	

We had 11 sightings of the Nkuhuma Pride this month. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, four young males were on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary west of the KNP Break. They were north of Matshapiri Dam the next day. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, a female killed one pup at the Cape hunting dog's den south of the Gowrie Boundary. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, four of the young males were at Clarendon Dam with their father, the Northern Avoca male, while three lionesses and the seven sub-adults of the pride were at Matshapiri Dam. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, at least 14 members of the pride and the Northern Avoca male killed a buffalo bull at Buffalo Bush Dam, which was stolen the following day by the two Ndhzenga males and three lionesses of the Kambula Pride. The Nkuhuma Pride had moved north and were at Matshapiri Dam. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, two of the young males and the Northern Avoca male killed a buffalo at Emsagwen Waterhole. Two other young males from the pride joined them the next day before the two Ndhzenga males chased them away. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, two of the young males were east of Pat's Drift Koppies.

**THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 16**

2 ADULT FEMALES

± 10 YEARS 1 MONTH

2 ADULT FEMALES

± 5 YEARS 1 MONTH

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

3 YEARS 7 MONTHS

3 SUB-ADULTS (1 FEMALE & 2 MALES)

3 YEARS 0 MONTHS

6 CUBS

2 YEARS 0 MONTHS

2 CUBS

0 YEARS 8 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings recorded of this pride.

**THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1**

1 ADULT FEMALE

4 YEARS 5 MONTHS

*MARTHLY*

(0 sightings)

For another month, we have not seen the Marthly lioness. With Kambula lionesses using her territory, it is a grim possibility that she has moved away or died.

**THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20**

7 ADULT FEMALES

OF UNKNOWN AGES

6 ADULT FEMALES

± 7 YEARS 7 MONTHS

7 SUB-ADULTS

± 3 YEARS 0 MONTHS

*EASTERN EYREFIELD*

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings recorded of this pride this month.

## MALE LIONS

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### **THE NDHZENGA MALES = 2**

1 ADULT MALE

± 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE

± 8 YEARS 1 MONTH

*WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Kambula and Styx Prides.*

*First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020*

*(25 sightings)*

The two Ndhzenge males had their work cut out for them this month as they spent much of their time patrolling territory and moving large distances daily. There were several sightings of them with the Kambula pride and their thriving offspring. On more than one occasion, they chased the Northern Avoca male and some of his sons from the Nkuhuma pride. As these young males grow in confidence and venture further south into Ndhzenge male territory, the two dominant males will have to cover more ground to keep the young males honest.

### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 5<sup>th</sup>, they joined three lionesses and three cubs of the Kambula pride on a kudu kill in the Sand River in front of MalaMala Camp.
- On the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, they were in the Manyeleti River east of Kigelia Crossing with three members of the Kambula Pride.
- They were near West Street Bridge from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> before moving south towards the area of Zebra Skull on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup>, they stole a buffalo carcass from the Nkuhuma Pride and the Northern Avoca male at Buffalo Bush Dam.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup>, they fed on a hippopotamus carcass east of Matumi Rocks with three females from the Kambula pride.
- On the 28<sup>th</sup>, they stumbled on the Northern Avoca male and four young males from the Nkuhuma pride finishing off a buffalo kill at Emsagwen Waterhole. They proceeded to chase them further east and presumably far enough out of their territory as they were back in the Sand River north of West Street Bridge with the Kambula pride the following day.

### **THE BLACK DAM MALES = 2**

2 ADULT MALES

± 5 YEARS 11 MONTHS

*EYREFIELD*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in December 2022*

*(1 sighting)*

August is the first month the Black Dam males feature in their permanent section! Having established themselves in Eyrefield, it is fitting that they have their own section. They were only seen once this month, midway along the Gowrie Boundary on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1**

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 2 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

*First encountered in late 2019.*

(4 sightings)

The Northern Avoca male was again on MalaMala after several months with no sightings. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, he was at Clarendon Dam with four adult sons from the Nkhumama Pride. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, he helped the members of the Nkhumama pride kill a male buffalo at Buffalo Bush Dam, which they feasted on until the two Ndhzenga males and three lionesses of the Kambula Pride stole the kill the following morning. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, he killed a buffalo with two of his older sons from the Nkhumama pride at Emsagwen Waterhole. They were joined by two other young males from the Nkhumama pride the next day before being chased east by the Ndhzenga males.

**THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALES = 2**

2 ADULT MALES

± 10 YEARS 6 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Sand River Pride.*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve*

(3 sightings)

Only one of the Southern Avoca males was seen on MalaMala this month. The first sighting of this male was on the 16<sup>th</sup> west of Beaumont's Camp as he trailed four lionesses from the Talamati Pride. He stole the remains of a buffalo kill from the Kambula pride south of Styx Rocks on the 21<sup>st</sup>. He was missing several of his teeth and had several injuries on his hind legs, potentially from a begrudged lioness or previous interactions with the Nkukulu males. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, he followed two young females from the Styx Pride in the Sand River at Verreaux's Crossing.

**OTHER LIONS ENCOUNTERED:**

Members of the **STYX PRIDE** were encountered on two occasions. Eight members of the pride were at Calabash Crossing on the 4<sup>th</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, two females were with the Southern Avoca male in the Sand River at Verreaux's Crossing.

Two young male lions from the **TALAMATI PRIDE** were north of the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga east of the Mlowathi River on the 16<sup>th</sup>, finishing off the remains of a young buffalo kill.

Four lionesses from the **TALAMATI PRIDE** were west of Beaumont's Camp on the 16<sup>th</sup>, with a Southern Avoca male trailing them.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	61 (15 cubs)
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**LEOPARDS**  
**FEMALE LEOPARDS:**

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**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE  
MALE CUB**

9 YEARS 7 MONTHS  
7 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

*Mother of the Ngungwe female.*

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

The Piccadilly female spent most of her time in Marthly and around the lower reaches of the Mlowathi River, seen periodically with her growing cub. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, she shared an impala kill with her cub north of Matumi Rocks, where she ended up having an aggressive encounter with the Maxim's male, who then stole the kill. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, she was found with a freshly killed impala, which she was forced to hoist up a tree swiftly as a hyena ran in to investigate the reason for the alarm calls. Later, she moved towards Stwise to find her cub, who did not answer her calls. They were back together the next day, finishing off the remains of the previous day's catch. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, they were feeding on another impala kill east of Elephant Rock when two Honey Badgers confronted them. The next day, the Maxim's male stole their kill again, chasing the Piccadilly female and her cub out of the area.

**THE NKOVENI FEMALE  
2 CUBS**

11 YEARS 0 MONTHS  
4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent in early 2014.*

*Mother of the Plaque Rock female, Xinkhova female, and Stone Drift female.*

(4 sightings, 2 of the female, 2 of the female and cubs)

The Nkoveni female had a busy start to August with numerous encounters with the Three Rivers female and the loss of her cubs. This is potentially due to her movements further south of her usual territory on the Western Bank and, in doing so, ventured into the territory of the Three Rivers female. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, she was with her two cubs at the Parking Bay. This was the last time they were seen together on MalaMala. There were reports on the 7<sup>th</sup> that the Three Rivers female had killed at least one of the cubs. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, she was seen with just one of her cubs on the ridge east of the Windsock. There were reports of fighting between the Nkoveni female and the Three Rivers female on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>. They were both found that afternoon around Princess Alice Pans, rasping territorially. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, there were reports of a fight between these two females. The Nkoveni female spent the latter part of the month west of MalaMala and was not reencountered after the 11<sup>th</sup>.



**THE ISLAND FEMALE**

10 YEARS 6 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Tamboti female, independent first quarter of 2015.**Mother of the Drum Crossing female.*

(10 sightings)

The Island female was encountered mainly in the western regions of her large territory. The farthest east she was seen was west of the Windmill, where she mated with the Split Rock male on the 11<sup>th</sup>. From the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, she fed on a juvenile impala kill in a marula tree north of Styx Crossing. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, she was at Emsagwen Crossing with a duiker kill that the Flat Rock male later stole.

**THE DRUM CROSSING FEMALE**

3 YEARS 0 MONTHS

SOUTHERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Island female, independent February 2022.*

(0 sightings)

The Drum Crossing female has not been seen since the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, when she was at Sand Pit Crossing. Like many animals we suddenly stop seeing, we'll likely never know what happened to her. In the early stages of independence, she spent a lot of time in eastern MalaMala, and with the high density of leopards closer to the Sand River, she likely moved east into the Kruger National Park. There is always the possibility that something caught up with her, and she died prematurely. However, having grown up in a high lion and leopard density area, we believe she knows how to evade danger. Maybe one day she'll return, and if she does, she'll be reported on in the '**OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED**' section. However, for now, she will be removed from the Game Report.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE**

7 YEARS 1 MONTH

**MALE CUB**

2 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(13 sightings)

The Three Rivers female had a busy month defending her territory against the Nkoveni female, who has been putting pressure on her from the north. She was found mating with the Maxim's male on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Old Kikilezihash Breakfast Spot, and on the 4<sup>th</sup>, they were north of the Airstrip. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, it was reported that she had killed one of the cubs of the Nkoveni female. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, she was trailing the Nkoveni female near Princess Alice Pans, both rasping territorially. The next day, it was reported that these two females had a big fight, leaving the Three Rivers female nursing injuries around her neck. She was west of Rattray's Camp on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with superficial wounds on her neck and head. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, she was west of Rattray's Camp with an impala kill in a tamboti tree, which she fed on until the next day. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, she fed on a juvenile nyala north of Rattray's Camp.

**THE XINKHOVA FEMALE**

2 YEARS 7 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA &amp; SOUTHERN MARTHLI

*Daughter of the Nkoveni female, independent last quarter of 2022.*

(2 sightings)

She was seen less in August and seems to be spending more time in the western parts of her mother's territory. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, she had an impala kill on the western bank of the Sand River, south of West Street Bridge. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, she was at the Old Flockfield Boma Crossing.

**THE STONE DRIFT FEMALE**

2 YEARS 7 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA &amp; SOUTHERN MARTHLI

*Daughter of the Nkoveni female, semi-independent.*

(17 sightings)

The Stone Drift female appears to be spending most of her time in the eastern sections of her mother's territory, venturing further east of the Sand River more often, generally moving between the Causeway and West Street Bridge. She may have inherited this portion of the Nkoveni females' territory as she has been seen scent-marking, which could account for her mother's decreased sightings. From the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>, she fed on an impala kill in a jackalberry tree east of Sandpit Crossing while avoiding an encounter with the Ndhzenga males, who rested just a few metres away from her position. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, she was scent-marking on the western bank of the Sand River, south of the Causeway. She was scent-marking again on the 24<sup>th</sup> near the Giraffe Bones.

**THE SIBUYE FEMALE**

9 YEARS 7 MONTHS

**2 CUBS**

5 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

(9 sightings, 1 of female, 3 of female and cubs, 5 of the cubs)

There were numerous sightings of this female and her cubs this month, with signs of them in the Mlowathi River north of Mlowathi Dam and eastwards into the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup>, the two cubs were alone in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga east of the Mlowathi River. They were all together at Mlowathi Dam on the 8<sup>th</sup>. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, she was found west of Mlowathi Dam. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, they were all together with an impala kill north of the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga east of the Mlowathi River. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, only one cub was seen in this area.

**THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**

5 YEARS 7 MONTHS

CENTRAL &amp; WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.

(10 sightings)

Once again, the Tlebe Rocks female was primarily encountered in the area around Piccadilly Triangle and Campbell Koppies. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, she was seen at Stwise mating with the Flat Rock male. She was found on the 15<sup>th</sup> at Plank's Pan with the remains of a steenbok kill. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, she was on the western bank of the Mlowathi River at the Tlebe Rocks Donga, where she did not seem to take notice of the Ngoboswan male nearby. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, she was found quite far out of her usual territory when she joined the Flat Rock male who was feeding on a stolen duiker kill at Emsagwen Crossing.

**THE LOOKOUT FEMALE**

± 13 YEARS 7 MONTHS

**CUB**

1 YEAR 4 MONTHS

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

*Mother of the Kapen female & the Redhawk male.*

(1 sighting)

The Lookout female was only seen once this month in the Tamboti Thickets on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE**

5 YEARS 6 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(2 sightings)

The Plaque Rock female was only seen twice this month. She was at the Sable Camp Rotunda on the 16<sup>th</sup> and on the Old Airstrip attempting to hunt impala on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## MALE LEOPARDS

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

± 9 YEARS 0 MONTHS

*WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA*

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

(10 sightings)

The Maxim's male was mating with the Three Rivers female at the Old Kikilezihash Breakfast Spot and north of the Airstrip on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, respectfully. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, he had a stand-off with the Piccadilly female over an impala carcass on the northern bank of the Sand River opposite Matumi Rocks, where he ended up stealing the kill. He was near West Street Bridge on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, he stole another impala kill from the Piccadilly female and her cub east of Elephant Rock, which he finished the next day. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, he was at Maurice's Pan mating with the Ximungwe female.

### **THE NGOBOSWAN MALE**

5 YEARS 9 MONTHS

*MARTHLY & WESTERN EYREFIELD*

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

(6 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male made a few more appearances this month. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, he was seen northwest of the Mlowathi Pans and was seen two days later north of Campbell Koppies. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, he was in the Mlowathi River at the Tlebe Rocks Donga with the Tlebe Rocks female resting on the opposite bank, although they did not seem to notice one other. He was seen further east of that area on the 24<sup>th</sup>. He was mating with the Kuchava female on the 30<sup>th</sup>, south of the Gowrie Boundary, east of the Mlowathi River and on the 31<sup>st</sup>, west of the Mlowathi River.

### **THE FLAT ROCK MALE**

10 YEARS 4 MONTHS

*MARTHLY*

*Son of the Porcupine female. First seen on MalaMala in early 2017.*

(15 sightings)

Most sightings of the Flat Rock male in August were along the Manyeleti and Mlowathi Rivers. However, he was found further out of his usual range several times. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, he was mating with the Tlebe Rocks female at Stwise. From the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, he had a hyena kill hoisted in a tamboti tree north of Piccadilly Triangle. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, he narrowly missed being noticed by the two Ndhzenga males who walked past, roaring less than 50 metres from him. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, he was at Sandpit Crossing and moved north to rest in the Sand River opposite MalaMala Camp, where he was chased up a tree by the Kambula lionesses. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, he was far east of his known territory at Emsagwen Crossing, where he stole a duiker kill from the Island female. He was joined in the area later that afternoon by the Tlebe Rocks female. The next day, he walked some distance as he was back at Bicycle Crossing.

**THE ACCIPITER MALE**

± 13 YEARS 0 MONTHS

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

(0 sightings)

The Accipiter male was last seen on MalaMala on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 when the Maxim's Male chased him off a kill he had stolen from the Island female north of West Street Bridge. He was seen four times in December 2022 and looked worse for wear in all of them. Considering his age and his condition in the last few sightings of him, we have assumed that this once prolific male leopard of central MalaMala has died or at least moved off into the nomadic twilight years of his life. He is a male who will be remembered for his size and secretive nature, who provided us with many wonderful sightings and successfully raised cubs with at least the Lookout female, possibly more. His parental interactions with the Drum Crossing female have highlighted important aspects of the role of the male leopard in raising cubs, even though through paternity tests, we know he was not her father.

**THE SPLIT ROCK MALE**

9 YEARS 1 MONTH

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

(3 sightings)

The Split Rock male was only encountered three times in August. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, he was at Confluence Crossing and on the 11<sup>th</sup>, he was found mating with the Island female near the Borehole on Flockfield; on the 30<sup>th</sup>, he was in the Kapen River at Vulture Waterhole.

**THE EYREFIELD MALE**

5 YEARS 9 MONTHS

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

(8 sightings)

We will be reintroducing the Eyrefield male to the game report. Even though he appears to have adopted a nomadic lifestyle once again, he has been spending much of his time recently on MalaMala. Curiously, it has been noticed that he seems to lack a noticeable pair of testicles, the reason for which is still being investigated. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, he was seen with a duiker kill in the Matshapiri River at Matshapiri Open Area Crossing. From the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup>, he was feeding on an impala kill some distance northeast of West Street Bridge. Between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>, he spent his time between Matshapiri Open Area and Buffalo Bush Dam.

#### **OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED:**

- **REDHAWK MALE** (3 sightings) – This young male was seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, after months of no sign, south of the Gowrie Boundary at the eastern end of the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga. He was seen again much further south near New Rocks on the 10<sup>th</sup>. He chased two young male cheetahs north of Matshapiri Open Area on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There are high hopes he may choose to settle back on MalaMala as a territorial male.
- **KAPEN FEMALE** (3 sightings) – She was seen with her remaining cub west of Styx Crossing on the 8<sup>th</sup> and alone at the Windmill on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, she shared an impala kill with her cub west of Styx Crossing.
- **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** (5 sightings) – Her cubs were found alone east of Verreaux’s Crossing on the 4<sup>th</sup>. She was seen with her two cubs in the Rock Drift Donga east of the Sand River on the 8<sup>th</sup>, but on the 14<sup>th</sup>, she was in the same area with only one of her cubs feeding off the remains of the second cub. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, she was near Beaumont’s Hippo Pools with her remaining cub. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, they were both east of Verreaux’s Crossing with a duiker kill.
- **KUCHAVA FEMALE** (5 sightings) – She was seen on the Gowrie Boundary, far east of Mlowathi Dam, on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, she mated with the Ngoboswan male along the northern parts of the Mlowathi River.
- **KANGELA MALE** (7 sightings) – This young male has recently spent much of his time in central MalaMala. He was feeding on a vervet monkey kill northeast of West Street Bridge on the 7<sup>th</sup>. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, he was seen at Plank’s Pan. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, he had an impala kill north of Two Toes Open Area. On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, he was east of Kikilezihash Crossing with a nyala kill.
- **SON OF THREE RIVERS FEMALE** (1 sighting) – He was seen once this month east of Flockfield Tower on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **NOTTENS MALE** (1 sighting) – This young male was seen on the 31<sup>st</sup> at Beaumont’s Camp.
- **N’WETI MALE** (1 sighting) – He was at Charleston North Crossing on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- **XIMUNGWE FEMALE** (1 sighting) – She was mating with the Maxim’s male at Maurice’ Pan on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- An **UNIDENTIFIED YOUNG MALE** was seen on the 13<sup>th</sup> in the Tamboti Thickets, where a troop of baboons chased him. We presume this was the young 2:3 male.
- A shy **UNKNOWN FEMALE** was seen northeast of the Mhlabatini Donga on the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- A nervous **UNKNOWN CUB** of about five months of age was seen on the Kruger National Park Boundary on the Charleston Flockfield Boundary.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	35 (9 cubs)
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## CHEETAH

In August, we recorded **14 sightings** of cheetahs on MalaMala.

A female with three cubs was seen on five occasions. From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, they were in the areas around Flockfield Tower. On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, they were at Campbell Koppies.

Two young males were seen on four occasions. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, two young male cheetahs were in Jakkalsdraai Open Area. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, the two brothers were chased by the Redhawk male north of Matshapiri Open Area. They were west of that area the next day and moved north towards Rhino Pens on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, where a herd of buffalo chased them. They were last seen on the 25<sup>th</sup> at Gowrie Boom. Another female had an impala kill west of West Street Bridge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and moved to the Airstrip Parking Bay the next day. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, she was at the Old Airstrip before heading west and crossing over our boundary.

A female was feeding on a steenbok kill east of Clarendon Dam on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	8 (3 cubs)
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## CAPE HUNTING DOGS

**One pack** of Cape Hunting Dogs were seen in August, with **ten sightings**. The pack of six spent some time at their original den south of the Gowrie Boundary in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga before moving to a new den site just southeast of that position on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Their time there was short-lived, though, as a lioness from the Nkhumu pride found the den and killed one of the pups on the 10<sup>th</sup>. They then moved east towards Pat's Drift Koppies on the 11<sup>th</sup>, where we assumed they were looking for another new den. This was not the case, with the next sighting of the pack only being on the 27<sup>th</sup> when they were found just west of the Kruger National Park Boundary on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	15 (9 pups)
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## CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

As the temperatures start to rise with the August winds, the drier the conditions become, and so these two species frequent the flowing Sand River and the small dams in the northern part of the property. Sightings of both these species increased this month, with **173 sightings** of elephants and **67 sightings** of buffalo. The number of buffalo herds also increased this month, leading to several buffalo and lion interactions (see 'LIONS' section for more detail). The herd of elephants with the leucistic calf was seen on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

### OTHER SIGHTINGS OF INTEREST

- The **HYENA DEN** south of Tlebe Rocks was active on six occasions, with two young cubs seen.
- The **HYENA DEN** on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary was active only once on the 28<sup>th</sup>, with two new cubs seen.
- Overall, 36 sightings of **SPOTTED HYENA** were recorded this month throughout the property.
- Four flocks of **SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILLS** were encountered this month. There was a flock of six at Princess Alice Pans on the 18<sup>th</sup> and at West Street Bridge on the 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, another group of six was west of Emsagwen Waterhole with one juvenile. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, a flock of four was north of Campbell Koppies.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a **CARACAL** was on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary west of the Kruger National Park Boundary.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup>, a **SERVAL** was south of the most eastern parts of the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga.
- **SIDE-STRIPED JACKALS** were seen at Mlowathi Open Area on the 14<sup>th</sup> and north of the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **BLACK-BACKED JACKALS** were seen six times this month, mainly in the open areas near Clarendon Dam, the Airstrip and Mlowathi Dam.
- An **AFRICAN WILD CAT** was south of Mlowathi Dam on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Nine sightings of **HONEY BADGERS** scattered throughout the property were recorded in August.
- The first of the **MIGRANT BIRDS** have returned:
  - Yellow-billed kite – 15 August
  - Wahlberg's Eagle – 20 August
  - Common Greenshank – the end of August.