



# Game Report



Hyena Cubs at their den by Victoria Craddock

MalaMala Game Reserve  
October 2023

*It's all about the wildlife!*

| THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY |        |         |                 |              |         |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------|-----------------|--------------|---------|
| Temperature                 |        |         |                 |              |         |
| Celsius (°C)                |        |         | Fahrenheit (°F) |              |         |
|                             | Actual | Average |                 | Actual       | Average |
| Maximum                     | 35     | 27      | Maximum         | 95           | 81      |
| Minimum                     | 14     | 18      | Minimum         | 57           | 65      |
| Rainfall                    |        |         |                 |              |         |
| Millimetres                 |        | Inches  |                 | Days of rain |         |
| 63                          |        | 2.5     |                 | 4            |         |

| TOTAL SIGHTINGS  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Lion             | 75  |
| Leopard          | 131 |
| Elephant         | 236 |
| Buffalo          | 41  |
| Cheetah          | 0   |
| 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             | Zebra – 3, bushbuck – 1, impala - 1, warthog – 1 |
| Leopard          | Impala – 6, duiker – 2, warthog – 1              |
| Cheetah          | N/A  |
| Cape Hunting Dog | Impala – 4                                       |

\*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS

## LION PRIDES

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### **THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 31**

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 ADULT FEMALES       | 10 YEARS 7 MONTHS   |
| 2 ADULT FEMALES       | ± 10 YEARS 4 MONTHS |
| 6 YOUNG ADULT FEMALES | ± 5 YEARS 3 MONTHS  |
| 5 YOUNG ADULT MALES   | ± 5 YEARS 2 MONTHS  |
| 1 SUB ADULT FEMALE    | 4 YEARS 5 MONTHS    |
| 1 SUB ADULT MALE      | 4 YEARS 5 MONTHS    |
| 9 CUBS                | 0 YEARS 10 MONTHS   |
| 1 CUB                 | 0 YEARS 8 MONTHS    |
| 4 CUBS                | 0 YEARS 3 MONTHS    |

*MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON*  
(34 sightings)

The members of the Kambula pride were seen on fewer occasions this month, and the lionesses with the cubs spent more of their time in the properties west of the Sand River. The other three lionesses still seem to be spending their time away from the bulk of the pride and are generally encountered in Marthly, along the Mlowathi River and around Campbell Koppies.

### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- From the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>, the lioness with the four youngest cubs spent their time near Vulture Waterhole on the northern banks of the Kapen River.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup>, the bulk of the pride, including five lionesses and 10 cubs, were with the two Ndhzenga males east of the Matshapiri River, south of the Hogvaal Donga and had moved further northwest on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, the mother with the four youngest cubs was encountered in the Sand River between Confluence Crossing and Flockfield Pools.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup>, four lionesses were seen with nine cubs south of Campbell Koppies.
- The next day, they were found crossing the Airstrip, heading steadily east towards the Sand River when the lost cub was located west of the Matshapiri Open Area. The cub was contacting calling and running west towards Maurice's Pan, where he eventually reunited with the rest of the pride.
- On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the female and the four youngest cubs were at Princess Alice Pans. The cubs were found there alone the next day while their mother spent some time with the rest of the pride at the Old Airstrip.
- Five lionesses and 10 cubs were at the Old Airstrip on the 12<sup>th</sup>, where they chased the unsuspecting Maxim's male from the area.
- On the 13<sup>th</sup>, one of the older cubs was found alone near the northern parts of the Airstrip.
- The youngest cubs spent more time with the rest of the pride, as five females and 14 cubs were seen looking well-fed in the Sand River at Dudley Lookout on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 20<sup>th</sup>, the four lionesses with 10 cubs, as well as the smaller Ndhzenga male, were south of Styx Crossing, where they were seen killing a warthog.

- The other three lionesses were seen north of Mlowathi pans looking very well fed on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; they were with the two Ndhzenga males at Matumi Rocks on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup>, five lionesses and several cubs were seen briefly west of Charleston North Crossing.
- The next day, the four young males and their sister (offspring of the Gowrie males) were at Charleston North, trailing a large herd of buffalo.
- The three lionesses killed an impala at Mlowathi Dam on the 28<sup>th</sup>, while the other five lionesses were with only three of their cubs and the two Ndhzenga males east of the Sand River, south of the Rock Drift Donga.

**THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 18**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 ADULT FEMALE                         | 10 YEARS 3 MONTHS  |
| 3 ADULT FEMALES                        | ± 7 YEARS 2 MONTHS |
| 4 YOUNG ADULT MALES                    | ± 4 YEARS 4 MONTHS |
| 2 YOUNG ADULT FEMALES                  | ± 4 YEARS 4 MONTHS |
| 1 SUB-ADULT MALE                       | 3 YEARS 10 MONTHS  |
| 7 SUB-ADULTS (3 FEMALES & 4 MALES)     | ± 2 YEARS 6 MONTHS |
| <i>WESTERN &amp; CENTRAL EYREFIELD</i> |                    |
| (6 sightings)                          |                    |

The Nkuhuma pride were encountered six times this month. The four young males in this pride, now adults, still seem to be spending a lot of time with the pride and have not been pushed out by their father. This is most likely due to the Northern Avoca male being the last of his coalition and needing his sons around for backup if he hopes to maintain his territory and his association with the pride. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, four young adult males, one sub-adult male and 9 lionesses were seen with the Northern Avoca male north of Buffalo Bush Dam. The next day, they were at Paddy's Pools. They were found east of Buffalo Bush Dam on the 19<sup>th</sup>, looking well-fed after leaving the Northern Avoca male further south to finish up a zebra kill that they had made the night before. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, seven females and one sub-adult male were east of Tlebe Rocks. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, four of the young adult males and one young female were with the Northern Avoca male in Clarendon Open Area, trailing a herd of Cape buffalo.

**THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 16**

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 ADULT FEMALES                   | ± 10 YEARS 3 MONTHS |
| 2 ADULT FEMALES                   | ± 5 YEARS 3 MONTHS  |
| 1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE                | 3 YEARS 9 MONTHS    |
| 3 SUB-ADULTS (1 FEMALE & 2 MALES) | 3 YEARS 2 MONTHS    |
| 6 CUBS                            | 2 YEARS 2 MONTHS    |
| 2 CUBS                            | 0 YEARS 10 MONTHS   |
| <i>SOUTHERN CHARLESTON</i>        |                     |
| (0 sightings)                     |                     |

There were no sightings recorded of this pride this month.

**THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1**

1 ADULT FEMALE

*MARTHLY*

(4 sightings)

4 YEARS 7 MONTHS

After no recorded sightings for months, this lone lioness finally returned to MalaMala in October. She spent time much further south of her usual territory in Marthly. This may be a result of the continuing presence of the three members of the Kambula pride in that area. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, she was in front of Rattray's Camp on the eastern bank of the Sand River. The next two days, she fed on a bushbuck kill on the Western Bank just south of Flockfield Drift. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, she was at Flockfield Camp.

**THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20**

7 ADULT FEMALES

6 ADULT FEMALES

7 SUB-ADULTS

*EASTERN EYREFIELD*

(0 sightings)

UNKNOWN AGES

± 7 YEARS 8 MONTHS

± 3 YEARS 1 MONTH

There were no sightings recorded of this pride in September.

## MALE LIONS

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

1 ADULT MALE

± 8 YEARS 8 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE

± 8 YEARS 3 MONTHS

*WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Kambula and Styx Prides.*

*First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020*

*(19 sightings)*

The two Ndhzenge males were encountered on 19 days in October. They were seen patrolling the far reaches of their large territory while still finding time to spend with the members of the Kambula pride and their growing offspring, with whom they were seen in 10 out of their 19 recorded sightings.

### **Noteworthy sightings:**

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, they were in the Kapen River at Hyena Waterhole, keeping a watchful eye over their youngest offspring, who were further east in the river with their mother.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, they were with the bulk of the Kambula pride around Matshapiri Open Area Crossing and east thereof.
- They were with two of the lionesses of the Kambula pride south of Fred's Tree on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 8<sup>th</sup>, they were at the Mlowathi Spot and roaring. They made their way all the way south to Jakkalsdraai Open Area, where they were found the next day. After some serious territorial marching, they were back at the Mlowathi Spot on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- On the 20<sup>th</sup>, the smaller of the males was seen with the bulk of the Kambula pride at Hyena Waterhole.
- The next day, he was with them again when they hunted and killed a warthog further east of where they had been the day before while the larger male was alone at Maxim's Lookout.
- The two males were back together on the 23<sup>rd</sup> north of Piccadilly Pans.
- They were with three lionesses of the Kambula pride at Matumi Rocks on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.
- They then made their way south on the 28<sup>th</sup> to join the other five lionesses and three cubs, who were east of the Sand River, south of the Rock Drift Donga.
- On the 31<sup>st</sup>, they spent a rainy morning near Flockfield Tower.

**THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1**

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 4 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD*

*First encountered in late 2019.*

(5 sightings)

The Northern Avoca male is still going strong and has been spending lots of time with his older sons, maintaining his association with the Nkuhuma pride even with the ever-looming threat of the Black Dam males and Ndhzenga males. He was seen east of Clarendon Dam on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was with four sons from the Nkuhuma pride south of Clarendon Dam on the 6<sup>th</sup>. He was with the pride again on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Paddy's Pools and was feeding on the last remains of a zebra kill east of the mid-section of the Matshapiri River the following day. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, he was with four of his sons and one female at Clarendon Open Area.

**THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1**

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 8 MONTHS

*SOUTHERN CHARLESTON*

*Dominant over the Sand River Pride.*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve*

(3 sightings)

On the 1<sup>st</sup>, the Southern Avoca male was near Jakkalsdraai Open Area. He was west of the Sand River near Beaumont's Camp on the 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, he was optimistically trailing a herd of buffalo, east of Charleston North Crossing.

**THE BLACK DAM MALES = 2**

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 1 MONTH

*EYREFIELD*

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve ...2022*

(1 sighting)

These two males were only seen once in October when they were south of the Gowrie Boundary, far east of Mlowathi Dam, on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**OTHER LIONS ENCOUNTERED:**

- Two adult lionesses and three sub-adult males of the **4-WAYS PRIDE** were feeding off the remains of a zebra and its foal from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. They were constantly harassed by scavengers and had to chase off up to 12 spotted hyenas and vultures at a time to protect their catch.

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED | 53 (14 cubs) |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|

**LEOPARDS**  
**FEMALE LEOPARDS:**

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**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE  
MALE CUB**

9 YEARS 9 MONTHS  
0 YEARS 9 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

*Mother of the Ngungwe female.*

(12 sightings, 7 of female, 4 of female and cub, 1 of cub)

The Piccadilly female was one of our most viewed leopards, being seen on 12 occasions, with four being with her young male cub. They were together on the 1<sup>st</sup> at her old rocky den site west of Lower Mlowathi Crossing. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, they were north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing, and again on the 11<sup>th</sup>, they were together north of Stwise. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, the cub was seen alone on Stwise and on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, they were together east of Stwise. The next day, she boldly stole the scraps of an impala kill from a pack of Cape hunting dogs north of Piccadilly Pans.

**THE NKOVENI FEMALE**

11 YEARS 2 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.*

(3 sightings)

The Nkoveni female was only seen three times in October. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, she was found with a young impala ram kill south of the Airstrip, which she fed on until the next day when she was chased away by a troop of baboons moving through the area. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, she was at Maxim's Lookout.

**THE ISLAND FEMALE**

10 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

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

*Mother of the Drum Crossing female.*

(5 sightings)

The Island female was first seen this month on the 7<sup>th</sup> when she was having a stare-down with the Three Rivers female around West Street Bridge. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, she was on a territorial march further northeast of West Street Bridge. She was further south in her territory on the 14<sup>th</sup>, where she was found in the Tamboti Thickets. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, she was on the eastern bank of the Sand River, north of West Street Bridge. She was seen north of Matshapiri Open Area on the 28<sup>th</sup>, looking like she might be pregnant.



**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE  
MALE CUB**

7 YEARS 3 MONTHS  
2 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

We viewed this female on 10 days this month. She was seen near Confluence Crossing on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, she was on the western bank of the Sand River south of West Street Bridge, facing off the Island female on the opposite bank. She fed on an impala ewe kill on the 15<sup>th</sup> north of the access to Rattray's Camp before it was stolen by the Maxim's male later that evening. The next day, she was found with a fresh impala kill in a tamboti tree south of Princess Alice Pans, which she fed on until the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**THE XINKHOVA FEMALE**

2 YEARS 9 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Nkoveni female, independent last quarter of 2022.*  
(2 sightings)

The Xinkhova female was seen twice this month, once on the 7<sup>th</sup>, when she was seen on the west of the Sand River, at Sandpit Crossing and on the 30<sup>th</sup>, when she was at the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot.

**THE STONE DRIFT FEMALE**

2 YEARS 9 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Nkoveni female, semi-independent.*  
(13 sightings)

The Stone Drift female is becoming more comfortable in her new territory. She has been seen scent-marking on multiple occasions between the Causeway, Maurice's Pan and West Street Bridge, mainly on the eastern bank of the Sand River. She was our most-viewed leopard this month, with 13 days' worth of sightings. She was seen near Maurice's Pan and Kikilezihash Crossing on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, she stole an impala kill from a Cape hunting dog in the Sand River under West Street Bridge. She hoisted the carcass in a jackalberry tree on the western bank of the Sand River, south of the bridge and fed on the remains until the 16<sup>th</sup>. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, she was chased south from Plank's Pan by the Flat Rock male and was found at Maurice's Pan the following day. On the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>, she was south of the Airstrip.

**THE SIBUYE FEMALE**

9 YEARS 9 MONTHS

**2 CUBS**

7 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.*

(9 sightings, 4 of female, 0 of female and cubs, 5 of the cubs)

The Sibuye female and her cubs are still spending most of their time near Mlowathi Dam. Unusually, no sightings were recorded of these three leopards together in October, although their tracks indicated they were together on numerous occasions. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, the Sibuye female was at Mlowathi Dam, while her cubs were further south in the Maponyoleni Donga. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, she was east of the Mlowathi River, north of the Tlebe Rocks Donga. The cubs were seen alone in the Maponyoleni Donga, south of Mlowathi Dam, on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup>. Only one cub was seen in the same area the next day, while the Sibuye female was further south. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, she was south of Mlowathi Springs. One of the cubs was seen in the Nwana Nonanshameni Donga, east of the Mlowathi River, on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**

5 YEARS 9 MONTHS

## CENTRAL &amp; WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.

(6 sightings)

The Tlebe Rocks female was seen six times in October. She was at Piccadilly Triangle on the 2<sup>nd</sup> but was found outside of her usual territory near Buffalo Bush Dam with a duiker kill on the 13<sup>th</sup>. She was back in her normal territorial range on the 21<sup>st</sup> when she was found south of Fred's Tree. The following day, she was in the same area with small remains of a duiker kill hoisted in a small Tamboti tree, which she fed on until the 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, she was northwest of Fred's Tree.

**THE LOOKOUT FEMALE**

± 13 YEARS 9 MONTHS

## NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

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

(6 sightings)

The Lookout female was in the Kapen River near Lower Kapen Crossing on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, she was at Beaumont's Camp in the same vicinity as the Mashaba female. She was back at Lower Kapen Crossing on the 17<sup>th</sup>. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, she was found north of Styx Crossing and was at Hyena Waterhole on the 28<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, she killed an impala north of Hyena Waterhole, which a hyena stole before she had the chance to move it to safety. She tried to steal it back, but the Split Rock male ran in and stole the carcass from the hyena, hoisting the kill and forcing the Lookout female to move on.

**THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE**

5 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Nkoveni female, independent last quarter of 2019.  
(6 sightings)

The Plaque Rock female was seen on six days this month. She seems to be sporting swollen mammary glands, indicating potential pregnancy. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, she was on the southern bank of the Sand River, west of Bicycle Crossing, while the Piccadilly female walked on the opposite bank. She was at the Old Airstrip on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and on the 9<sup>th</sup>, she was seen back at Bicycle Crossing before heading back towards the Old Airstrip the next day. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, she was in a large jackalberry at the Old Airstrip, watching as the Kambula pride chased the Maxim's male from the area.

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**MALE LEOPARDS**

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**THE MAXIM'S MALE**

± 9 YEARS 2 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD &amp; MALAMALA

*First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.*  
(7 sightings)

The Maxim's male was seen south of Campbell Koppies on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and was seen further south along the Sand River, north of the Ngoboswan Donga on the 10<sup>th</sup>. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, he was chased away from the Old Airstrip by the members of the Kambula pride. He stole the remains of an impala carcass from the Three Rivers female west of Rattray's Camp on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, he was at Elephant Rock Lookout. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, he was further west at Matumi Rocks.

**THE NGOBOSWAN MALE**

5 YEARS 11 MONTHS

MARTHLY &amp; WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Son of the Emsagweni female, independent in late 2019.*  
(4 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male was seen four times this month. He was south of the Old Borehole on the 14<sup>th</sup> looking to hunt and was then south of Mlowathi Springs the next day with two warthog piglet kills. On the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>, he had an impala kill in a jackalberry tree while two spotted hyenas waited patiently below in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga, east of the Mlowathi River. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, he was seen at Mlowathi Dam Crossing.

**THE FLAT ROCK MALE**

10 YEARS 6 MONTHS

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

(10 sightings)

The Flat Rock male was our most viewed male leopard this month, with a total of 10 sightings. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, he was in the Manyeleti River, east of Kigelia Crossing. He was further west in the Manyeleti River on the 5<sup>th</sup> and was north of Fred's Tree on the 8<sup>th</sup>. On the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, he was back in the Manyeleti River, east of Kigelia Crossing. He was seen at the Confluence of the Three Rivers on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> but was later seen at Plank's Pan, where he chased the Stone Drift female from the area. He was seen in the vicinity of Rhino Pens on the 26<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**THE SPLIT ROCK MALE**

9 YEARS 3 MONTHS

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

(7 sightings)

The Split Rock male was seen seven times in October. He was at New Rocks on the 11<sup>th</sup> and was found much further southeast on the 13<sup>th</sup>, when he was found at the Kruger National Park Boundary, north of the Sand River. He walked quite a distance north in his territory as he was seen at Drum Crossing the next day. He was east of West Street Bridge on the 25<sup>th</sup> and was seen further south the next day at Hyena Waterhole, where he was chased up a tree by a pack of Cape hunting dogs. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, his rest was interrupted again by another pack of Cape hunting dogs, who chased him up a marula tree. Later that afternoon, he managed to steal an impala kill from a hyena, who in turn had stolen that kill from the Lookout female. He hoisted the kill and fed on it until the next day.

**THE EYREFIELD MALE**

5 YEARS 11 MONTHS

*NOMADIC**Son of the Emsagweni female<sup>†</sup>, independent in late 2019.*

(0 sightings)

This nomadic male was not encountered this month.

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

- **REDHAWK MALE** (2 sightings) – He was seen twice this month, when he had an impala kill east of Two Toes Open Area on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and on the 26<sup>th</sup>, when he was on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary, west of the Kruger National Park Boundary.
- **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** (2 sightings) – The River Rocks female was seen with her cub on the eastern bank of the Sand River, south of the Rock Drift Donga, on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **MASHABA FEMALE** (1 sighting) – She was seen in the same area as the Lookout female around Beaumont’s Camp on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **KANGELA MALE** (5 sightings) – This young male seems to be settling in the central parts of MalaMala, as he was encountered between Campbell Koppies and West Street Bridge on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>—the last few sightings of which he was seen to be limping.
- **KAPEN FEMALE** (4 sightings) – The Kapen female was seen three times this month and her cub only once. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, she was south of Styx Crossing, and on the 20<sup>th</sup>, she was contact calling near the Old Borehole (Flockfield). Her cub was seen at Lion Rocks on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and she was seen alone on the 28<sup>th</sup> in the same area.
- **NKHOVA MALE** (1 sighting) – This male was seen on the 13<sup>th</sup> at Calabash Crossing.
- **XIVAMBALANA MALE** (1 sighting) – This male, with his distinctively broken tale, was seen between Tlebe Rocks and the Tlebe Rocks Donga on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- **NOTTENS MALE** (1 sighting) – This young male was seen once this month on the eastern bank of the Sand River, south of the Rock Drift Donga.
- An older **UNKNOWN FEMALE** with a 3:3 spot pattern was seen south of Matshapiri Dam on the 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the same female that was recorded in this same area in August.
- An **UNIDENTIFIED MALE** was at Drum Crossing on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED | 28 (4 cubs) |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|

## CHEETAH

In September, we recorded **no sightings** of cheetahs on MalaMala.

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

## CAPE HUNTING DOGS

**Four packs** of Cape Hunting Dogs were encountered in October, with a total of **nine sightings**.

The **TOULON PACK** were seen on two occasions, once in the Tjellahanga River on the 1<sup>st</sup> and then on the 20<sup>th</sup>, where at least 20 individuals were seen around Beaumont's Camp.

The **OTTOWA PACK** were only seen once this month on the 30<sup>th</sup>, where five adults and 12 pups shared a feast of two pregnant impala ewes north of the Airstrip.

The **PACK OF SIX** were seen on five occasions this month, with their numbers sitting at six adults and four pups. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, they were on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary near the Matshapiri River when they successfully killed an impala. The next day, they were closer to Kapen Rocks. They were around Piccadilly Pans on the 24<sup>th</sup> when the Piccadilly female leopard stole their impala kill and hoisted it into a tree before the pack moved off northwards. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, they caught an impala south of Matshapiri Open Area. The next day, they had an interaction with a male leopard at Hyena Waterhole (see section on 'SPLIT ROCK MALE' for more detail) before moving to New Rocks in the afternoon.

Four members of an **unknown pack** were north of Hyena Waterhole on the 30<sup>th</sup> and had an interaction with a male leopard in this area (see section on 'SPLIT ROCK MALE' for more detail). There were three males, one collared, and one female in this group. They could potentially be a part of the Toulon pack.

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED | 51 (16 pups) |
|---|--------------|

## CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

There were **17 sightings of herds** of Cape buffalo as well as **24 sightings of groups of bulls** recorded on the property this month. The majority of the small group of males were seen in the Sand River around Sandpit and Confluence Crossings. The herds were encountered throughout the property but were mostly found near the small dams in the north of the property.

There was a grand total of **236 sightings** of elephants recorded throughout MalaMala in October, 201 of which were herds of different sizes.

### OTHER SIGHTINGS OF INTEREST

- The **HYENA DEN** south of Tlebe Rocks was active on eight occasions this month, with two young cubs seen.
- The **HYENA DEN** on the eastern parts of the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary was active on five occasions this month, with two older cubs and one younger cub seen.
- Overall, there were 49 sightings of **SPOTTED HYENA** recorded this month throughout the property. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, there were at least 12 members of a clan harassing the members of the 4-Ways Pride of lions west of the Windmill, attempting to steal a piece of their Zebra kill.
- Seven flocks of **SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL**s were encountered this month. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, a flock of four adults were in Clarendon Open Area. A flock of six with one juvenile was at Mlowathi Dam on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and another group of four were further south in the Mlowathi River on the same day. Two adults were seen at the Mlowathi Spot the next day. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, the flock of six with one juvenile were south of Styx Crossing. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, another group of six were at Piccadilly Triangle. Two individuals were west of Campbell Koppies on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
- There were five recordings of **BLACK-BACKED JACKALS** this month. One was seen at the Airstrip on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. There was one at Mlowathi Dam on the 14<sup>th</sup> and one at Clarendon Open Area on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- There was a **CARACAL** on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary, west of the Kruger National Park Boundary on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- On the 25<sup>th</sup>, one **SERVAL** was seen east of Campbell Koppies.
- There were three sightings recorded of **HONEY BADGERS** in October. One was in the Tlebe Rocks Donga east of the Mlowathi River on the 14<sup>th</sup>. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, two were on the eastern ramp of the Causeway, and another two were west of Matumi Rocks on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- An **AFRICAN WILD CAT** was in the eastern section of Wild Dog Rocks Open Area on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A male **OSTRICH** spent a few days around Mlowathi Dam and was seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> in that area. He was at Clarendon Dam on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.