



Game Report



An impala ewe and her lamb by ranger Victoria Nuttall-Smith

MalaMala Game Reserve
November 2023

It's all about the wildlife!

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	39	31	Maximum	102	87
Minimum	15	20	Minimum	59	69
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
20.5		0.8		4	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	76
Leopard	109
Elephant	167
Buffalo	53
Cheetah	3
Cape Hunting Dog	17

**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	Impala – 2, Zebra – 2, Waterbuck – 1, Kudu – 1
Leopard	Impala – 22, Wildebeest – 1, Nyala – 1, Kudu – 1, Egyptian Goose – 1
Cheetah	N/A
Cape Hunting Dog	Impala – 4

**AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 23

2 ADULT FEMALES	10 YEARS 8 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 10 YEARS 5 MONTHS
5 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 6 MONTHS
9 CUBS	0 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 CUB	0 YEARS 9 MONTHS
3 CUBS	0 YEARS 4 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(47 sightings)

Another successful month for the Kambula pride, with at least 13 growing cubs and more expected, as two of the more estranged females seem to have made Campbell Koppies their den site, showing clear signs of suckle marks. Members of this pride spent 17 of their total sightings with the two Ndhzenga males who are diligently defending their territory to provide a safer environment for their offspring to thrive.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 1st, five lionesses and at least 10 cubs were at Mamba Waterhole.
- The bulk of the pride, including the three youngest cubs, were with their mothers and the two Ndhzenga males on the 5th, feeding on a zebra carcass near the confluence of the Ngoboswan Donga and the Sand River.
- They were near the Airstrip for the next two days.
- On the 10th, six lionesses with 13 cubs were with the Ndhzenga males at West Street Bridge where they killed a waterbuck and fed on it until the 12th.
- On the 13th, two of the estranged lionesses were at the Mlowathi Spot. They caught a zebra foal the next day north of Cambell Koppies.
- On the same day, the 13th, the rest of the pride were far south in their territory, south of the western parts of the Rock Drift Donga, where they caught an impala lamb.
- On the 14th, they were with the two Ndhzenga males at Lion Rocks while the other two females were back at the Mlowathi Spot, where they were joined by a third female.
- On the 18th, the two Ndhzenga males were with five lionesses and all 13 cubs at the Old Airstrip. Two of the more estranged females were at Mlowathi Springs.
- There was a very well-fed lioness at the Broken Dam on the 20th and the 21st.
- On the 22nd, five lionesses and only four cubs were at Sandpit Crossing, while the remaining six cubs were at the Windsock.
- That afternoon, one of the lionesses was with the two Ndhzenga males, north of the Sausage Spot when the males killed an impala lamb.
- The next day they were all together again with only one of the youngest cubs and one of the Ndhzenga males present. They were in the Sand River south of Kikilezihash Crossing. In the afternoon, two of the lionesses chased the Stone Drift female away and climbed a small

Jackalberry to retrieve her impala lamb kill, before heading back towards the rest of the pride.

- On the 24th, two lionesses chased the Flat Rock male leopard up a tree on the most eastern koppie of Campbell Koppies.
- On the 25th, these two lionesses were west of Campbell Koppies when the Ndhzenga male met up with them. They both showed clear signs of suckle marks, and it is thought that they are using Campbell Koppies as a den. They were seen on and around Campbell Koppies again on the 26th and the 29th.
- Five lionesses with 11 cubs (only one of the youngest cubs) were resting in the shade of a sycamore fig tree north of Styx Crossing on the 26th.
- On the 27th, five lionesses and 11 cubs were with the two Ndhzenga males finishing up a zebra carcass east of Dudley Lookout. They spent the next day digesting in the Sand River at Old Dudley Crossing.
- The same morning, the other two lionesses killed an impala in the Sand River at Sable Camp.
- On the 29th, five lionesses were with the oldest 10 cubs at Vulture Waterhole while the three youngest cubs were left alone south of the Tamboti Thickets. Another lioness, without any cubs, was west of Bicycle Crossing on the same day.
- On the 30th, one of the Kambula lionesses met up with her three cubs south of the Tamboti Thickets and took them back to the rest of the pride at Kapen Rocks with the two Ndhzenga males in tow.

THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 18

1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 4 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 7 YEARS 3 MONTHS
4 YOUNG ADULT MALES	± 4 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 YOUNG ADULT FEMALES	± 4 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	3 YEARS 11 MONTHS
7 SUB-ADULTS (3 FEMALES & 4 MALES)	± 2 YEARS 7 MONTHS
<i>WESTERN & CENTRAL EYREFIELD</i>	
(6 sightings)	

On the 7th, one lioness was seen at Mlowathi Open Area. The four young adult males and nine females, including sub-adults, were with the Northern Avoca male south of the Manyeleti River, east of Kigelia Crossing on the 8th. They were all together again at Tlebe Rocks the next day. Five young males and nine females were north of Buffalo Bush Dam on the 10th. On the 23rd and the 27th, three young males and two young females were at Clarendon Dam. One of the young males showed signs of an injury.

THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 16

2 ADULT FEMALES

± 10 YEARS 4 MONTHS

2 ADULT FEMALES

± 5 YEARS 4 MONTHS

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

3 YEARS 10 MONTHS

3 SUB-ADULTS (1 FEMALE & 2 MALES)

3 YEARS 3 MONTHS

6 CUBS

2 YEARS 3 MONTHS

2 CUBS

0 YEARS 11 MONTHS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

(1 sighting)

On the 20th, at least two lionesses were seen feeding on the remains of a kudu carcass east of the Sand River, south of River Rocks on Charleston.

THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1

1 ADULT FEMALE

4 YEARS 8 MONTHS

MARTHLY

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of this lioness this month.

THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 20

7 ADULT FEMALES

UNKNOWN AGES

6 ADULT FEMALES

± 7 YEARS 9 MONTHS

7 SUB-ADULTS

± 3 YEARS 2 MONTHS

EASTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings recorded of this pride in November.

MALE LIONS

THE NDHZENGA MALES = 2

1 ADULT MALE

± 8 YEARS 9 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE

± 8 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & CHARLESTON

Dominant over the Kambula and Styx Prides.

First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020

(24 sightings)

Still, in their prime, the two Ndzenga males are healthy and are successfully defending their large territory against potential invaders, providing a safe environment for their offspring to grow. They spent more than half their recorded sightings with members of the Kambula pride.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 2nd, they were stretching north, and were on the Gowrie Boundary north of Mlowathi Dam.
- The next day they had travelled to the southern end of their territory, Hyena Waterhole, where they stayed until the 4th.
- On the 5th, they shared a zebra carcass with the Kambula pride at the confluence of the Ngoboswan Donga and the Sand River. They followed the pride to the Airstrip the next day.
- They joined the Kambula pride at West Street Bridge on the 10th and 11th, where they shared a waterbuck kill with them.
- On the 13th, they were with the members of the Kambula pride along the western regions of the Rock Drift Donga, and they moved with them to Lion Rocks the next day.
- On the 16th, they were with one lioness of the Kambula pride at Mlowathi Dam.
- On the 18th, they were with the five lionesses and 13 cubs at the Old Airstrip.
- The next day they were with one lioness from the Kambula pride north of the Sausage Spot, when they caught and killed an impala lamb.
- On the 23rd, the larger of the two males was with five lionesses and 11 cubs in the Sand River, south of Kikilezihash Crossing while the smaller of the two males was with another lioness at Mlowathi Dam, unsuccessfully attempting to mate. In the afternoon the larger male trailed two lionesses who stole an impala lamb carcass from a leopard nearby.
- On the 25th, the smaller male was at Mlowathi Dam again in the morning before moving south to Piccadilly Triangle where his roaring was interrupted by a pair of mating tortoises. On his diversion, he linked up with two of the Kambula lionesses resting nearby.
- The two males were back together on the 26th east of the Tamboti Thickets.
- On the 27th, they finished a zebra carcass with the Kambula pride on Dudley Lookout and spent the next day resting in the area.
- On the 29th, they were roaring in front of MalaMala Camp across the Sand River.
- On the 30th, they joined a Kambula lioness and the three youngest cubs south of the Tamboti Thickets and followed them to the rest of the pride at Kapen Rocks.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

First encountered in late 2019.

(5 sightings)

On the 8th, he was with his four young sons and nine females of the Nkushima pride south of the Manyeleti River, east of Kigelia Crossing. The next day he was with them at Tlebe Rocks and at Buffalo Bush Dam on the 10th. On the 11th, he stole a kudu kill from the Eyrefield male leopard at Buffalo Bush Dam, where he stayed until the next day.

THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALES

± 10 YEARS 9 MONTHS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

Dominant over the Sand River Pride.

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve

(5 sightings)

On the 6th, he was seen feeding on an old carcass in the Sand River, south of Beaumont's Camp. He was in the area for the next two days, defending his food from the young male from the Styx pride. On the 11th, he killed an impala at the Windmill. He was at Charleston North Crossing on the 25th.

THE BLACK DAM MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 2 MONTHS

EYREFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve ...2022

(2 sightings)

They were only seen twice in November. On the 9th, they were seen with a lioness from the Nkushima pride at Matshapiri Dam. One of the two males stole an impala kill from the Sibuye female and her two cubs in the Mlowathi River at Mlowathi Dam Crossing on the 30th.

OTHER LIONS ENCOUNTERED:

Members of the **STYX PRIDE** were seen on two occasions this month. On the 7th, a young male was chased by the Southern Avoca male in the Sand River. On the 20th, five young lionesses were east of the Sand River, north of River Rocks.

On the 24th, two **unidentified females and one sub-adult male** were seen just west of the Kruger National Park Boundary north of Split Rock. It is assumed they were part of the Torchwood Pride.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	52 (13 cubs)
---------------------------------------	--------------

LEOPARDS
FEMALE LEOPARDS:

**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE
MALE CUB**

9 YEARS 10 MONTHS
0 YEARS 10 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

Mother of the Ngungwe female.

(13 sightings, 3 of female, 10 of female and cub, 0 of cub)

The Piccadilly female was our most viewed female leopard this month, being seen on 13 occasions, 10 of which she was with her young male cub. On the 5th, she was feeding on the remains of an impala ram carcass in the Maponyoleni Donga, north of its confluence with the Mlowathi River. From the 13th to the 15th, she shared a meal of an impala with her cub in the Manyeleti River, east of Manyeleti Crossing. They were together again on the 16th in the Mlowathi River, south of Lower Mlowathi Crossing and on the 17th, they were at Kigelia Crossing. From the 20th to the 23rd, they were in the Mlowathi River between Mlowathi Pans and Lower Mlowathi Crossing. On the 23rd, they were seen finishing up an impala lamb carcass north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.

THE NKOVENI FEMALE

11 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent early 2014.

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

(3 sightings)

The Nkoveni female was seen only three times, and by the end of November, she was showing signs of pregnancy. On the 3rd, she was on the northern parts of the Airstrip and on the 8th, she was at the Old Airstrip. On the 22nd, she was resting at a prominent pan north of Maxim's Lookout before she went on a territorial march and attempted to catch a scrub hare in the process without any luck.

THE ISLAND FEMALE

10 YEARS 9 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Tamboti female[†], independent first quarter of 2015.

Mother of the Drum Crossing female.

(3 sightings)

The Island female has been seen three times this month and seems to be denning, as she has distinctive suckle marks. On the 15th, she was north of Styx Crossing. She was on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary, east of the Matshapiri River on the 23rd and on the 28th, she was south of Donald's Crossing. We are unsure of where she is keeping this litter of cubs.

**THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE
MALE CUB**

7 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], orphaned on 22nd May 2017.
(8 sightings)*

The Three Rivers female started off the month with an impala ewe kill and hoisted the unborn foetus in a tree, north of the access to Rattray's Camp, which she fed on until the 4th. On the 11th, she was in the Sand River in front of Rattray's Camp. On the 15th, she was once again seen on the access road to Rattray's Camp. The next day she had moved further north and was seen at Princess Alice Pans. On the 19th, she was seen moving west away from the Rattray's Stones.

THE XINKHOVA FEMALE

2 YEARS 10 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

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

The Xinkhova female was only seen twice this month. On the 3rd and 4th, she was on the eastern ramp of the Causeway.

THE STONE DRIFT FEMALE

2 YEARS 10 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

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

The Stone Drift female remains one of our most-viewed leopards and is seen regularly. This month she made the most of the impala lambing season. On the 5th, she was east of the Windsock. She was only seen again later in the month, on the 20th, when she was east of the Causeway. The next day she had two impala lamb kills in a large jackalberry tree on the eastern bank of the Sand River, north of the Ngoboswan Donga, which she fed on until the 23rd. Later that afternoon, she was chased off another impala lamb kill by two Kambula lionesses. On the 24th, she was found east of Sandpit Crossing with an Egyptian goose kill in a marula tree. On the 25th, she was found chasing a herd of impala away from Maurice's Pan, but she did not manage to catch one. She was found in the same area on the 27th. She spent the last two days of November feeding on an impala ram kill in a tree at the Ngoboswan breakfast spot.

THE SIBUYE FEMALE

9 YEARS 10 MONTHS

2 CUBS

8 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

(15 sightings, 1 of female, 10 of female and cubs, 4 of the cubs)

The Sibuye female and her cubs were seen together on 10 occasions this month, she was seen alone once, and the cubs were found alone on four days. For the first two days of November, the three of them fed on an impala kill in the Maponyoleni Donga, west of the Mlowathi River. On the 6th and 7th, only the cubs were seen in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga, east of the Mlowathi River. On the 9th, the cubs were north of Mlowathi Dam, while the Sibuye female was further north of them on the Gowrie Boundary. On the 20th, they shared an impala lamb carcass in the Mlowathi River at Mlowathi Dam Crossing. Two days later, they were feeding on an impala ram carcass east of the Mlowathi River, south of the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga. On the 25th, they were in the Mlowathi River at the Gowrie Boundary with an untouched wildebeest calf carcass hoisted in a tree. On the 27th, the Sibuye female and one of her cubs were further east in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga when they were chased off by two inquisitive hyenas. On the last day of the month, they were feeding on an impala carcass when a Black Dam male lion ran in and stole it from them, leaving one cub stranded in a tree while he fed, and the Sibuye female and her other cub moved off northwards.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE

5 YEARS 10 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.

(7 sightings)

The Tlebe Rocks female was seen on seven days this month. On the 13th and 14th, she was mating with the Flat Rock male, they also shared an impala carcass south of Campbell Koppies. She was at Piccadilly Triangle on the 18th. On the 21st, she was at the Sausage Spot and moved towards Piccadilly Triangle the next day. On the 24th, she was up a large jackalberry south of the Causeway. The last time she was seen was on the 26th when she was taking a nap on the western boulders of Campbell Koppies.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

± 13 YEARS 10 MONTHS

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.**Mother of the Kapen female & the Redhawk male.*

(2 sightings)

The Lookout female was only seen twice in November. On the 6th, she was north of Hyena Waterhole, and on the 27th, she was mating with the Split Rock male at Styx Crossing.

THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE

5 YEARS 9 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of the Plaque Rock female on MalaMala this month, although it is reported that she is denning with three young cubs in the Sand River near Matumi Rocks.

MALE LEOPARDS**THE MAXIM'S MALE**

± 9 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.

(7 sightings)

On the 1st day of November, the Maxim's male had a nyala kill stolen by a hyena west of Sandpit Crossing. He stole an impala kill from the Three Rivers female on the 3rd, just north of Rattray's Camp. On the 6th, he was in front of the Main Deck at MalaMala Camp, roaring territorially at the Flat Rock male, who was on the opposite bank of the Sand River. The next day he was feeding on a baboon kill in the Sand River at Marthly Crossing. He was in the same area on the 11th and was much further south on the 18th, when he was seen at Elephant Slide Crossing. The last sighting of him this month was on the 25th, when he was south of the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot.

THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

6 YEARS 0 MONTHS

MARTHLY & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent in late 2019.

(5 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male was seen on five occasions in November. On the 1st, he had a kill stolen by hyenas on the Gowrie Boundary, west of the Mlowathi River. He was in the same area again on the 9th and was north of Campbell Koppies the next day. On the 17th, he was north of the Tlebe Rocks Donga, east of the Mlowathi River. He was then seen on the 23rd, at Wild Dog Rocks Open Area.

THE FLAT ROCK MALE

10 YEARS 7 MONTHS

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

(12 sightings)

Once again, the Flat Rock male was our most viewed male leopard, seen twice as much as any other male encountered in November. On the 2nd, he was west of Bicycle Crossing and was on Rhino Pens on the 6th, roaring at the Maxim's male who was across the Sand River. From the 13th to the 14th, he was mating with the Tlebe Rocks female and sharing a meal of an impala ewe, south of Campbell Koppies. On the 20th, he was in the Mlowathi River, north of its confluence with the Sand River, and the next day, he was south of the Causeway. On the 23rd, he killed an impala lamb far west of the middle section of the Mlowathi River. The next day he had another impala lamb kill hoisted in a tree on the most eastern koppie of Cambell Koppies, where he was chased up a tree by two of the Kambula lionesses. On the 27th, he was chased by elephants north of Maurice's Pan but managed to kill an impala shortly afterwards. On the last day of the month, he was in the northeastern section of Piccadilly Triangle.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

9 YEARS 4 MONTHS

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

(4 sightings)

He was first seen on the 5th, when he stole an impala ram kill from the Kapen female at the 5-Star Junction. The next day he was much further north at Two Toes Open Area. On the 22nd, he was north of Maurice's Pan. On the 27th, he was mating with the Lookout female at Styx Crossing. He left her shortly after and was chased by elephants before catching an impala lamb.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

6 YEARS 0 MONTHS

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

(3 sightings)

This nomadic male was seen only three times in November. On the 10th, he had a kudu carcass east of Buffalo Bush Dam, which he fed on until the next day before the carcass was stolen by the Northern Avoca male. On the 25th, he was relaxing on a termite mound just to the northeast of Matshapiri Dam.

OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED:

- **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** (5 sightings) – On the 3rd, she was with her cub at the Beaumont’s Hippo Pools. On the 7th, she was east of the Sand River north of River Rocks, and her cub was near Beaumont’s Hippo Pools. On the 9th, she was alone at Verreaux’s Crossing and on the 23rd, she shared an impala lamb carcass with her cub in the Rock Drift Donga, east of the Sand River.
- **KAPEN FEMALE** (4 sightings) – On the 5th, she had her impala kill stolen by the Split Rock male at the 5 Star Junction. On the 10th, she killed an impala lamb north of Hyena Waterhole. On the 12th, she shared an impala lamb kill with her cub in the Kapen River, west of Styx Crossing.
- **XIVAMBALANA MALE** (1 sighting) – This male with his distinctively broken tale was seen on the 19th, east of West Street Bridge, where he came across a couple of honey badgers. He managed to catch one but was attacked by the second individual causing him to drop his meal. They proceeded to chase him up a fallen-over tree before moving away from the area.
- **KANGELA MALE** (1 sighting) – this young male was seen on the 3rd east of the Matshapiri River about midway along its course.
- **2:3 NERVOUS MALE** (1 sighting) – on the 3rd, this nervous young male was north of Matshapiri Open Area Crossing.
- An **unidentified female** was north of the Parking Bay on the 18th but moved off before she could be identified.
- On the 22nd, a **young male** was seen far east on the Charleston Flockfield Boundary.
- An **unidentified male** was on the Old MalaMala Flockfield Boundary near the White Cloth on the 24th.
- An **unidentified female** was east of Campbell Koppies on the 28th but disappeared into a thicket before she could be identified.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	29 (5 cubs)
--------------------------------------	-------------

CHEETAH

There were three sightings of cheetah in November. On the 14th and 15th, a female cheetah with her older female cub were west of the Windmill. On the 21st, another female was seen north of Clarendon Dam.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	3 (1 cub)
-------------------------------------	-----------

CAPE HUNTING DOGS

At least **two packs** of Cape hunting dogs were recorded in November. We enjoyed a total of **17 sightings**.

The **TOULON PACK** were seen on seven occasions but interestingly, it seems that this large pack may be splitting up as smaller groups were encountered. On the 7th, a group of seven were at River Rocks. Another group of six, with one of the males being collared, were seen at Hyena Waterhole on the 9th, the same group killed an impala west of White Cloth Open Area on the 11th. This same group of six killed an impala lamb south of Styx Crossing on the 18th and killed another impala on the 20th on the Charleston Toulon Boundary east of the Sand River. This new group of six were seen interacting with four Spotted hyenas at Emsagwen Waterhole on the 28th. On the 30th, a group of four were on the Charleston Toulon Boundary east of the Sand River, while another group of at least 10, with a collared female, were seen in the Sand River in front of Rattray's Camp.

The usual '**PACK OF SIX**' were seen seven times with six adults and four growing pups. On the 1st, they were north of Hyena Waterhole and moved all the north towards Piccadilly Triangle on the 3rd. On the 6th, they killed an impala ram in the Matshapiri River, south of Emsagwen Waterhole. They were further north at Buffalo Bush Dam on the 10th and were back at Piccadilly Triangle the next day.

On the 16th, an **unidentified pack of seven** were at Emsagwen Waterhole.

On the 28th, there were **two unidentified packs** around Mlowathi Dam. The one pack comprised five males, one of which was collared, and the other pack had two collared males with five other individuals.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	41 (4 pups)
---	-------------

CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

Despite the arrival of summer, the usual rains expected in November have not appeared, and with some scorching hot days, we have seen the seasonal pans drying. Because of this, these two water-dependent species have been spending most of their time in the Sand River and along the banks.

There was a total of **167 sightings** of elephants in November, with 134 of those being sightings of herds. There were several occasions where elephants were seen interacting with the big cat species on MalaMala (see section on 'FLAT ROCK MALE' and 'SPLIT ROCK MALE' for more detail).

There were **53 sightings** recorded of Cape buffalo this month, most of which were of the old buffalo bulls along the Sand River, with only 9 herds seen.

OTHER SIGHTINGS OF INTEREST

- 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. On the 26th, five of the adults killed a female impala near the den site.
- Overall, there were **23 sightings** of **SPOTTED HYENA** recorded this month throughout the property.
- **Eight** sightings of **SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILLS** were recorded this month. A flock of three were at the Mlowathi Spot on the 3rd and killed a puffadder in the same area on the 17th. Two were seen west of the Sausage Spot on the 8th. Another group were seen at Pat's Drift Koppies on the 10th. At least three individuals were northwest of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 21st. Another two were seen east of the Mlowathi River, south of Mlowathi Dam on the 25th. A flock of five with one juvenile were at the Mlowathi Spot on the 26th. Another group were at the Sausage Spot on the 30th.
- There were **four** recordings of **BLACK-BACKED JACKALS** this month. The same individual was seen at the Airstrip on the 17th, 18th and 28th, while another was at Senegal Bush on the 17th.
- On the 14th, one **SERVAL** was seen east of Campbell Koppies.
- There were **four** sightings recorded of **HONEY BADGERS** in November. One individual was near Lion Rocks on the 2nd and two were near Matshapiri Open Area on the 24th. On the 19th, two individuals interacted with a male leopard (see the section on the 'XIVAMBALANA MALE: OTHER LEOPARDS' for more detail). Another two were at Buffalo Pans on the 26th.
- An **AFRICAN WILD CAT** was seen on the 14th, south of Kapen Rocks.
- Two **PANGOLINS** were seen this month.
- The arrival of the first **WOODLAND KINGFISHERS** and the first **IMPALA LAMBS** were recorded on the same day, the 5th, welcoming summer back to MalaMala.
- The first **WILDEBEEST CALVE** was seen on the 14th.