



Game Report



Cape hunting dogs play in the Sand River by ranger Mrisho Lugenge

MalaMala Game Reserve
December 2023

It's all about the wildlife!

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	36	29	Maximum	97	83
Minimum	17	21	Minimum	62.2	70
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
173		6.81		12	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	80
Leopard	113
Elephant	259
Buffalo	56
Cheetah	3
Cape Hunting Dog	31

**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	2 – impala
Leopard	9 – impala, 3 – Egyptian goose, 4 – scrub hare, 1 – duiker, 1 – bushbuck, 1 – warthog
Cheetah	NA
Cape Hunting Dog	4 – nyala, 1 – scrub hare, 4 – impala

**AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 21

2 ADULT FEMALES	10 YEARS 9 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 10 YEARS 6 MONTHS
4 YOUNG ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 5 MONTHS
9 CUBS	1 YEAR 0 MONTHS
1 CUB	0 YEARS 10 MONTHS
3 CUBS	0 YEARS 5 MONTHS
CUBS	0 YEARS 1 MONTH

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(44 sightings)

The Kambula pride had another good month, with nine of the cubs making it past the year mark. The younger cubs continue to grow too, and the pride now consists of 21 confirmed individuals. Three of the oldest estranged lionesses spent most of their time close to Cambell Koppies, which they are still using as their den for the newest members of the pride, who we are yet to see.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 1st, five lionesses and 13 cubs were with the Ndhzenga males south of Styx Rocks. Their tracks came from a leopard carcass further north of their position (see 'XIVAMBALANA MALE' in the 'OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED' section). It is assumed from the injuries on the leopard that he was killed by the Kambula pride and Ndhzenga males during the night.
- The next day, the five lionesses were with all the cubs at Princess Alice Pans. The other three lionesses were further north at Mlowathi Dam on the same day.
- On the 4th, one lioness was at the Broken Dam on Jeremiah's Loop when she ran west over the boundary, following the calls of other members of the pride, while another member of the pride was seen at the Settling Ponds later that day.
- On the 6th, the bulk of the pride was in the Kapen River, east of the Sand River. Three days later, they had crossed back west over the Sand River and were resting near Rattray's Camp.
- On the 8th, the three older lionesses headed across the Causeway back towards Campbell Koppies; the two Ndhzenga males trailed them.
- Five of the lionesses with 13 cubs were north of Rattray's Camp on the 9th, while one of the estranged lionesses was at Piccadilly Triangle, and another was with the two Ndhzenga males at Mlowathi Dam.
- On the 10th, the newest mother in the pride killed an impala in the rain west of her den at Campbell Koppies.
- One lioness enjoyed a young wildebeest kill with one of the Ndhzenga males west of Mlowathi Dam on the 12th.
- The newest mother was at Campbell Koppies again on the 12th and the 14th and was joined by another lioness on the 15th and the 17th.
- On the 13th and 14th, the bulk of the pride was north of the Kapen River, between Styx Crossing and Hyena Waterhole, with all 13 cubs; the three youngest cubs showed signs of mange.
- On the 15th, they were much further north, east of the mid-section of the Matshapiri River, with only 11 cubs (two of the youngest cubs were missing).
- On the 17th, five lionesses were with 13 cubs north of Styx Crossing.
- They were found the next day with one of the Ndhzenga males north of Drum Crossing; they stayed here until the next day. Two of the youngest cubs were left alone here on the 20th.

- One of the estranged lionesses was at the lookout point on Cambell Koppies on the 21st and shared an impala kill with the other two lionesses at the Quarry East of Fred's Tree the next day.
- On the 23rd, the bulk of the pride was with at least one of the Ndhzenga males near Princess Alice Pans. They stayed there until the next day, when the young cubs found an unfortunate leopard tortoise to play with.
- From the 24th to the 26th, the three estranged females were in Piccadilly Triangle with the two Ndhzenga males.
- On the 27th, two of these females were with the two males on the Airstrip, while the mother of the youngest cubs was west of Campbell Koppies.
- On the last two days of the year, the group of three lionesses was around Campbell Koppies. On the 30th, they kept the company of the Ndhzenga males, but they were alone on the 31st.

THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 18

1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 5 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 7 YEARS 4 MONTHS
4 YOUNG ADULT MALES	± 4 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 YOUNG ADULT FEMALES	± 4 YEARS 6 MONTHS
1 SUB ADULT MALE	4 YEARS 0 MONTHS
7 SUB-ADULTS (3 FEMALES & 4 MALES)	± 2 YEARS 8 MONTHS
<i>WESTERN & CENTRAL EYREFIELD</i>	
(0 sightings)	

There were no sightings of this pride in December.

THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 16

2 ADULT FEMALES	± 10 YEARS 5 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 5 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 11 MONTHS
3 SUB-ADULTS (1 FEMALE & 2 MALES)	3 YEARS 4 MONTHS
6 CUBS	2 YEARS 4 MONTHS
2 CUBS	1 YEAR 0 MONTHS
<i>SOUTHERN CHARLESTON</i>	
(5 sightings)	

Five females and one sub-adult male started the month with the Southern Avoca male in the Sand River east of Flat Rocks. It seems that at least some of the lionesses have accepted the new Nkuhlu males as the dominant coalition, as they were seen together on several occasions this month. On the 17th, two lionesses were seen with one of the Nkuhlu males at Rocky Crossing. The three of them were together again at KK Crossing two days later and were joined by three other lionesses at Island Crossing on the 20th. Five lionesses were east of the Sand River, opposite Beaumont's Camp on the 22nd.

THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1

1 ADULT FEMALE

MARTHLY

(0 sightings)

4 YEARS 9 MONTHS

There were no sightings of this lioness this month.

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 3 MONTHS

There were no sightings recorded of this pride in November.

MALE LIONS

THE NDHZENGA MALES = 2

1 ADULT MALE

1 ADULT MALE

*WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & CHARLESTON**Dominant over the Kambula and Styx Prides.**First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020*

(23 sightings)

± 8 YEARS 10 MONTHS

± 8 YEARS 5 MONTHS

The Ndhzenга males are intent on either expanding their territory or ensuring no other males come near the core of their territory where the Kambula pride are rearing two sets of their cubs. They have been seen on numerous occasions in the region of Mlowathi Dam and crossing north over the Gowrie Boundary. Hopefully, they do not stray too far on their territorial ventures, as their offspring in the Kambula pride still rely on them for protection (see the blog on the MalaMala website for an update on these males).

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 1st, they were south of Styx Rocks with the bulk of the Kambula Pride.
- On the 4th, the smaller of the two males was feeding on an impala ram carcass in the Mlowathi River, east of Mlowathi Pans. The larger of the two was south of Manyeleti Crossing, roaring.
- The next day they were seen together south of Plank's Pan before crossing west over the Sand River.
- On the 7th, they found the Three Rivers female with an impala kill in a tree south of the Airstrip. She ran off, and one of the males climbed up the tree to retrieve the carcass but fell out quite unceremoniously, luckily without injury.
- On the 8th, they followed three Kambula lionesses across the Causeway towards their den site at Campbell Koppies.
- On the 9th, they were with one of the Kambula lionesses at Mlowathi Dam, attempting to mate with her again.

- The smaller of the two males was feeding on a wildebeest carcass with a Kambula lioness west of Mlowathi Dam on the 12th.
- He ventured south the next day and joined another Kambula lioness who answered his roaring in the Sand River south of the Causeway.
- Both males were back together on the 16th at Mlowathi Dam, moving north towards the Gowrie Boundary, roaring and scent marking.
- The smaller of the two males was at the Mlowathi Spot on the 18th, while the other male was with the Kambula pride north of Drum Crossing.
- On the 23rd, at least one of these males was with the bulk of the Kambula Pride at Princess Alice Pans.
- The next day, the two males were back together and were seen with two of the estranged lionesses at Lower Mlowathi Crossing.
- On the 27th, both males were roaring with two lionesses on the northern parts of the Airstrip.
- The last time they were seen this year was on the 30th when they reclined with the Kambula lionesses at Campbell Koppies.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 6 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

First encountered in late 2019.

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of the Northern Avoca male this month.

THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 10 MONTHS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in mid-2017.

(1 sighting)

There was only one sighting recorded of the Southern Avoca male in December. On the 1st, he was with some members of the Sand River pride in the Sand River, east of Flat Rocks.

THE BLACK DAM MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 3 MONTHS

EYREFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in December 2022.

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of these two males on MalaMala in December. This may result from the strong presence of the Ndhzenga males in the north.

OTHER LIONS ENCOUNTERED:

Members of the **NKUHLU COALITION** were seen on a few occasions this month. On the 17th, one male was with two members of the Sand River pride at Rocky Crossing, and they were at KK Crossing two days later. On the 20th, the three of them were joined by three more lionesses from the Sand River Pride at Island Crossing.

On the 20th, five lionesses from the **STYX PRIDE** were east of the Sand River, south of the Rock Drift Donga.

On the 24th and the 25th, an **UNKNOWN PRIDE** made up of two lionesses and three sub-adult males was seen near the Windmill.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED

55 (13 cubs)

LEOPARDS

FEMALE LEOPARDS:

THE PICCADILLY FEMALE MALE CUB

9 YEARS 11 MONTHS

0 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

Mother of the Ngungwe female.

(13 sightings, 4 of female, 8 of female and cub, 1 of cub)

On the 2nd, she was at her old den on the prominent rocks west of the Mlowathi River, north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing. She was with her cub in the same area on the 5th. On the 8th, she was found as a large herd of impala alarmed at her north of Elephant Rock Lookout. The next day, she shared an impala lamb kill with her cub at Bicycle Crossing. They shared another impala lamb at Kigelia Crossing on the 12th. On the 15th, she was seen alone at Mlowathi Koppies. She was with her cub again on the 20th and 21st, where they spent some time in the Mlowathi River, south of Mlowathi Pans. They were in the same area on the 22nd when the young male cub spotted the Flat Rock male and proceeded to stalk him before running back towards his mother. The cub was still in this area on the 23rd. On Christmas morning, her cub was found at Lower Mlowathi Crossing with an impala kill, which a hyena swiftly stole. The cub chased and taunted the hyena but did not successfully retain its kill. He returned to Lower Mlowathi Crossing, where the Piccadilly female called for him. Both mother and cub were northwest of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 29th.

THE NKOVENI FEMALE

11 YEARS 4 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.*

(8 sightings)

On the 1st, the Nkoveni female, looking heavily pregnant, killed an impala lamb on the Airstrip and dragged it east into the bushes. The Maxim's male was in the vicinity, but he did not steal the kill or chase her off. On the 12th, she was in the same area as her eldest daughter, the Plaque Rock female, around the Parking Bay. She later killed a warthog in the same area. On the 16th, she was at the Settling Ponds on Jeremiah's Loop before crossing west. On the 22nd, she was at the Old Airstrip. The next day, she had moved further south and found her daughter, the Stone Drift female, at Kikilezihash Crossing, where she chased her towards the Sand River's eastern bank. There was a brief sighting of the Nkoveni female west of the Airstrip before she moved west on the 25th. On the 28th, she was at the Windssock. The last time she was seen this month was on the 30th, near Maxim's Lookout.

THE ISLAND FEMALE

10 YEARS 10 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

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

(4 sightings)

The Island female was seen four times this month. On the 16th, she crossed west over West Street Bridge. She was seen again on the 28th when she was at Drum Crossing. The next day, she was at Piccadilly Crossing. She ended her year at West Street Bridge on the 31st. She still has suckle marks, and we hope to find her den in early 2024.

THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE

7 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(7 sightings)

On the 1st, the Three Rivers female was found stalking impala north of Flockfield Tower. She soon gave up and returned towards a pile of garden refuse at Rattray's Camp, where the audio of her new cubs was heard, confirming that she was using this area as her den site. The next day, she was at Confluence Crossing. On the 7th, she was feeding on an impala kill in a tree when the Ndhzenga male lions found her. She managed to get away before one of the male lions jumped up the tree to retrieve the carcass. On the 11th, she was found at the Windssock and crossed west while rasping and following the scent of another leopard. On the 13th, she was in the Sand River in front of Rattray's Camp. On the 28th, she was at Flockfield Camp.

THE XINKHOVA FEMALE

2 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

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

(0 sightings)

This young female leopard was not seen on MalaMala this month.

THE STONE DRIFT FEMALE

2 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

Daughter of the Nkoveni female, semi-independent.

(11 sightings)

On the 2nd, she was feeding on a scrub hare east of Maurice's Pan. On the 5th, she killed another scrub hare in the same area before being chased away by the Flat Rock male. She was still in the same area over the next two days despite the presence of the male leopard the night before. On the 12th, she was north of the Ngoboswan Donga, east of the Sand River. She had crossed over to the Western Bank on the 16th and was seen near Maxim's Lookout, but she returned to the eastern bank of the Sand River that afternoon and was seen near the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot. The next day, she was around Maurice's Pan and was not seen again until the 21st, when she was feeding on the remains of an impala lamb in a tree east of the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot. A few Spotted hyenas were in the area, which attracted the attention of the Split Rock male, who chased the female from her kill. On the 23rd, she was on the western bank of Kikilezihash Crossing when her mother chased her east. She was at Sand Pit Crossing on the 28th. She was seen at Maurice's Pan on the last day of the year.

THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE

5 YEARS 10 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(7 sightings)

It is confirmed that the Plaque Rock female is currently denning on the southern bank of the Sand River, south of Matumi Rocks. The den site is visible from the northern bank of the Sand River on MalaMala, and the cubs were seen once on the 1st and the 3rd. On the 2nd, she was west of MalaMala Camp. On the 12th, she was at the Airstrip Parking Bay with her mother, the Nkoveni female in the same area. She was the only leopard seen on the 19th, when she was found just north of the Airstrip. On the 28th, she was north of the Parking Day. This leopard finished the year with a bang, as she was seen killing three Egyptian goose chicks on the Old Airstrip.

THE SIBUYE FEMALE

9 YEARS 11 MONTHS

2 CUBS

9 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], independent first quarter of 2016.**Mother of the Tlebe Rocks female, Langa female & Xaxa male.**(17 sightings, 1 of female, 8 of female and cubs, 8 of the cubs)*

One cub was seen alone on the Gowrie Boundary, in the Mlowathi River on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th. All three of them were together on the 6th when they crossed south over the Gowrie Boundary into the Mlowathi River before heading for a drink at Mlowathi Dam. One of the cubs was seen south of Mlowathi Dam on the 8th. On the 12th, they were all together south of Mlowathi Dam. The next day, they all shared an impala kill in the Mlowathi River, east of Mlowathi Pans. On the 14th, their kill was stolen by two hyenas, and they met up with the Ngoboswan male, who showed no aggression towards the cubs. One cub was seen the next day in the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga, east of the Mlowathi River. On the 18th, she was alone east of the Mlowathi River, north of the Tlebe Rocks Donga. She was back with her cubs in the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga on the 21st. On the 24th, the Sibuye female was stalking an impala at Mlowathi Dam while one of her cubs was south of Mlowathi Dam Crossing and the other was north of Mlowathi Springs. All three leopards were at Mlowathi Springs on the 28th. Only the cubs were seen on the 29th, playing in the rain in the Mlowathi River, south of Mlowathi Dam Crossing. The three leopards were at the Old Borehole on the 31st, and one cub killed a scrub hare.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE

5 YEARS 11 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.**(4 sightings)*

On the 4th, she rested in a large Jackalberry tree in the middle of Piccadilly Triangle. She was further north of that position on the 6th. On the 12th, she was at Mlowathi Pans and was seen south of Campbell Koppies the next day. She was around the confluence of the Tlebe Rocks Donga and the Mlowathi River on the 14th.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

13 YEARS 11 MONTHS

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

*First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.**Mother of the Kapen female & the Redhawk male.**(4 sightings)*

The Lookout female was seen four times this month. She was north of Hyena Waterhole on the 8th and the 22nd. On Christmas Day, she was found at Lower Kapen Crossing with an impala lamb killed in a tree, which she fed on until the next day.

MALE LEOPARDS

THE MAXIM'S MALE

± 9 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.

(6 sightings)

On the 1st, he was east of the Windssock at the Airstrip with the Nkoveni female in the vicinity. He was in the Sand River at the confluence of the Matshapiri River on the 8th. On the 10th, he walked past the deck at Main Camp during dinner. He was seen again on the 18th at the Old Airstrip. On Christmas Eve, he was chased by a herd of elephants in the Sand River, south of the Causeway. On the 29th, we observed strange behaviour, as this dominant male appeared to hide from the Split Rock male who scent-marked around West Street while he was in the area.

THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

6 YEARS 1 MONTH

MARTHLY & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Son of the Emsagweni female[†], independent in late 2019.

(4 sightings)

The Ngoboswan male was seen on four days this month. On the 10th, he was east of Stwise, and on the 14th, he was east of the Mlowathi River, east of Mlowathi Pans, when he spent some time with the Sibuye female and her two cubs. On the 29th, he was north of Mlowathi Springs. On the 30th, he was at the Old Borehole.

THE FLAT ROCK MALE

10 YEARS 8 MONTHS

MARTHLY

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

(7 sightings)

On the 5th, he chased the Stone Drift female away from the area of Maurice's Pan. He fed on a bushbuck kill at the Confluence of the Three Rivers on the 8th. On the 15th, he was east of Maurice's Pan, and the next day, he was on the eastern bank of the Sand River north of West Street Bridge being watched by the Split Rock Male who was just south of him when he moved away northwards. On the 22nd, he was in the Mlowathi River, east of Mlowathi Pans, in the same area as the Piccadilly female and her cub. On the 30th, he was on the eastern ramp of the Causeway. The last sighting of this male was on the 31st when he was at Senegal Bush.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

9 YEARS 5 MONTHS

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

(9 sightings)

The Split Rock male was our most viewed male leopard this month. He was at Matshapiri Open Area on the 1st. On the 4th, he was at Styx Crossing. He was feeding on the remains of a duiker kill east of Drum Crossing on the 7th and was at Donald's Crossing the next day. On the 15th, he was east of Lion Rocks and had moved north to West Street Bridge the next day, where he stared down the Flat Rock male before moving east, thoroughly scent-marking the area as he moved. He was further north on the 21st, where he stole an impala lamb kill from the Stone Drift female. On the 29th, this male put on a show, roaring and scent-marking from Matshapiri Open Area to West Street Bridge before continuing south.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

6 YEARS 1 MONTH

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

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of the Eyrefield male in December.

OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED:

- **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** (4 sightings) – On the 1st, the female cub of the River Rocks female was east of the Sand River, far south of the Rock Drift Donga. They were together again on the 3rd, where they were seen in the Sand River in front of Beaumont's Camp. Her cub was seen alone again just east of the Sand River across from Beaumont's Camp on the 6th. The female was alone at Charleston North on the 31st.
- **XIVAMBALANA MALE** (0 sightings) – Sadly, this male leopard was found dead on the 1st. He was found north of Styx Rocks, where the majority of the Kambula pride and the two Ndhzenga males were resting. Because of his injuries and their proximity, it is assumed that the lions mentioned above killed him during the night.
- **NOTTEN'S MALE** (1 sighting) – this young male was seen south of Trollip's camp on the 6th.
- **2:3 YOUNG MALE** (2 sightings) – this ordinarily nervous young male was a lot more relaxed when he was seen in the Matshapiri River, south of Emsagwen Waterhole on the 21st and on the 24th, when he was at Matshapiri Open Area, again, more relaxed than usual.
- **N'WETI MALE** (1 sighting) – this male was only seen once in December. On the 23rd, he was on the access road to Trollip's Camp.
- **KAPEN FEMALE** (4 sightings) – the female was only seen once, while her young daughter was seen on three occasions. On the 28th, the female was around Zebra Skull while her daughter was at Cheetah Pan. The cub killed a scrub hare at the borehole on the 29th. The cub was seen again at New Rocks on the 31st.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED

24 (5 cubs)

CHEETAH

There were three sightings of cheetah in December. On the 12th, a lactating female was seen at the Airstrip before making her way to the Sand River north of West Street Bridge. Two young males were at the Windmill on the 15th. On the 23rd, a very nervous young male was seen at Clarendon Open Area.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	4 (0 cubs)
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

We recorded a whopping 31 sightings of Cape hunting dogs this month. Pack configurations and identification have been immensely confusing as it was rare that any pack had a consistent composition. It seems that the Toulon Pack is splitting into four new packs but is still interacting with other fragments of the former pack.

On the 6th, a pack of seven killed a Nyala bull at Flockfield Pools; they had a dramatic interaction with a wake of vultures who attempted to chase the dogs off their kill. On the 11th, a pack of four killed an impala lamb at Hyena Waterhole. Four Cape hunting dogs killed an impala lamb at Mamba Waterhole on the 13th. On the 22nd, eight members killed two impala lambs near Baumont's Camp. A pack of six adults and four sub-adults killed two impala lambs and a scrub hare east of Maurice's Pan on the 23rd. A pack of 12 individuals lost an impala kill to spotted hyenas at Kapen Open Area on the 25th. We ended the year with two packs seen on the 31st: a pack of three with an impala kill at Princes Alice Pans and a larger pack in northwestern Charleston.

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

We recorded **259** sightings of **elephants** this month, 182 sightings of herds, and 77 sightings of bulls.

As summer's heat continues, we see more **buffalo** bulls along the Sand River. This month, we recorded 52 sightings of males along the river; we also encountered four herds this month, bringing the total number of buffalo sightings to **56**.

OTHER SIGHTINGS OF INTEREST

- The **HYENA DEN** on the eastern parts of the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary was active on nine occasions this month, with two older cubs and one younger cub seen.
- Overall, 32 sightings of **SPOTTED HYENA** were recorded this month throughout the property. Some were around other species of predators, such as leopards and Cape hunting dogs.
- **SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILLS** were seen on **ten days** this month. A single individual was seen at Hyena Waterhole on the 7th. A flock of three were at Mlowathi Koppies on the 8th and the 14th. The same group was at Mlowathi Pans on the 16th and was seen at Piccadilly Triangle on the 17th. They were east of Bicycle Crossing on the 19th and were at the Sausage Spot the next day. On the 21st, they were at the Mlowathi Spot and Piccadilly Triangle on the 22nd. A large flock of nine with one juvenile were at Bicycle Crossing on the 12th. Five individuals were at Piccadilly Triangle on the 18th.
- There were **seven** recordings of **BLACK-BACKED JACKALS** this month. Six of those were of the same individual inhabiting the Airstrip Parking Bay area. There were also two individuals seen at Mlowathi Dam.
- There were **seven** sightings recorded of **HONEY BADGERS** in December.
- An **AFRICAN WILD CAT** was seen on the 2nd near Clarendon Dam and another at the Airstrip on the 29th.
- A **SOUTHERN AFRICAN ROCK PYTHON** was seen near the Main Camp on the 16th.