



Game Report



The Kambula pride by ranger Nic Nel

MalaMala Game Reserve
January 2024

It's all about the wildlife!

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	37	31	Maximum	99	88
Minimum	16	20	Minimum	62	69
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
141		5.5		6	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	69
Leopard	103
Elephant	188
Buffalo	52
Cheetah	7
Cape Hunting Dog	26

**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, Buffalo – 1, Zebra – 1
Leopard	Impala – 15, Scrub Hare – 2, Warthog – 1
Cheetah	Impala – 1
Cape Hunting Dog	Impala – 15

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 24

2 ADULT FEMALES	10 YEARS 10 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 10 YEARS 7 MONTHS
4 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 6 MONTHS
9 CUBS	1 YEAR 1 MONTH
1 CUB	0 YEARS 11 MONTHS
3 CUBS	0 YEARS 6 MONTHS
3 CUBS	0 YEARS 2 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(48 sightings)

Another month has passed, and there has been no observed interaction between three of the older lionesses and the rest of the pride; it seems likely that this breakaway could become permanent. Due to this, we will be referring to the three older lionesses as the 'estranged lionesses' and the five lionesses with the 13 cubs as the 'bulk of the pride'. The three estranged lionesses of the Kambula pride started off the year by introducing us to their three newest cubs who were finally seen after being well hidden in their den on Campbell Koppies. The rest of the pride continues to thrive, spending most of the month on the Western bank.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 2nd, we were introduced to the three newest cubs from the estranged lionesses at Campbell Koppies. They were estimated to be around 6 weeks old.
- On the 3rd, five lionesses and 13 cubs joined the Ndhzenga males at the Airstrip where they stayed until the next day.
- On the 6th, three lionesses, and the two Ndhzenga males stole the remains of a buffalo kill from the members of the Nkuhuma pride at Buffalo Bush Dam, while at least one lioness and four cubs were left at the Airstrip.
- Two of the estranged lionesses were joined by the Ndhzenga males at the Sausage Spot the next day.
- One of these lionesses was mating with one of the Ndhzenga males at Piccadilly Triangle on the 8th and moved to the Mlowathi Spot on the 9th.
- The bulk of the pride was seen in the vicinity of Princess Alice Pans on the 8th and the 10th.
- The 12th and 13th were exceptionally rainy days, but the three estranged lionesses were seen between Plank's Pan and Campbell Koppies, while the bulk of the pride was in a very muddy area with the Ndhzenga males, west of the Airstrip.
- On the 14th, the three estranged lionesses were closer to the eastern koppie of Campbell Koppies when the newest mother walked to the Sausage Spot, leading us back to her new den site on the central rocky outcrop, where she met with her three young cubs.
- The next day, she had moved them to the Mlowathi Spot, where the other two females and the Ndhzenga males joined them.
- On the 19th, the largest of the estranged lionesses was mating with the larger Ndhzenga male at Lower Mlowathi Crossing while the new mother was with her three cubs at the Lookout Point on Campbell Koppies. They were joined by the mating pair the next day.
- These two continued mating on the 21st in the northern parts of Piccadilly Triangle. The other Ndhzenga male joined the two remaining females and the young cubs at the Mlowathi Spot.

- On the 23rd, the bulk of the pride was with the larger Ndhzenga male west of the Airstrip and the Smaller Ndhzenga male joined one of the estranged lionesses at Campbell Koppies where they fed on an impala kill.
- On the 25th, the bulk of the pride were found in the Rock Drift Donga at the Charleston Flockfield Boundary with three cubs missing. These cubs were found further north, closer to Styx Rocks. It was a particularly dangerous time for the cubs to be left alone as a young male from the Styx Pride was also in that area.
- The same day, the three estranged lionesses were with the smaller of the Ndhzenga males south of Campbell Koppies while the three youngest cubs played on the rocks around them.
- The next day, two lionesses and one of the older cubs were found on West Street Bridge moving quickly north. Shortly afterwards, they met up with the rest of the pride who were feeding on the remains of a zebra kill. All 13 cubs were in this position, and it seems after making the kill, the two lionesses went looking for their lost cubs.
- That afternoon, the larger Ndhzenga male attempted to mate with one of the estranged lionesses at the Mlowathi Spot and was met with quite an aggressive response while the other two lionesses and the three cubs were resting just to the north of them.
- From the 28th to the 30th, the estranged lioness with the three youngest cubs were resting in the Mlowathi River to the south of Lower Mlowathi Crossing and were joined by two Ndhzenga males and the other two estranged lionesses on the 30th.

THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 18

1 ADULT FEMALE	10 YEARS 6 MONTHS
3 ADULT FEMALES	± 7 YEARS 5 MONTHS
4 YOUNG ADULT MALES	± 4 YEARS 7 MONTHS
2 YOUNG ADULT FEMALES	± 4 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 YOUNG ADULT MALE	4 YEARS 1 MONTH
7 SUB-ADULTS (3 FEMALES & 4 MALES)	± 2 YEARS 9 MONTHS
<i>WESTERN & CENTRAL EYREFIELD</i>	
(4 sightings)	

There were four sightings of the members of the Nkuhuma pride in January. On the 4th, 10 members of the pride were seen at Buffalo Bush Dam where they were also found the next day feeding on a buffalo kill. On the 6th, their kill was stolen by the two Ndhzenga males and three estranged Kambula lionesses. After being chased off, three of the sub-adult females and one sub-adult male were found in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga, north of Campbell Koppies and six lionesses of different ages were found just south of Matshapiri Dam.

THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1

1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 10 MONTHS
<i>MARTHLY</i>	
(0 sightings)	

There were no sightings of this lioness this month.

THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 14

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

Members of the Sand River Pride were only seen on one occasion this month, and at least some of the lionesses have been forced into submission by the Nkhulu male coalition. Due to this takeover, the sub-adults of this pride have scattered and potentially killed by the new males. On the 24th, four lionesses were with a single Nkhulu male in the Sand River at KK Crossing.

THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 26

7 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
6 ADULT FEMALES	± 7 YEARS 9 MONTHS
7 SUB-ADULTS	± 3 YEARS 4 MONTHS
6 CUBS	±1 YEAR 0 MONTHS
<i>EASTERN EYREFIELD</i>	
(2 sightings)	

Six lionesses and their six cubs were seen twice in January. On the 12th, they were to the south of Emsagwen Waterhole and were moving steadily eastwards towards the Kruger National Park Boundary. The same group were seen again on the 20th, east of Buffalo Bush Dam, where they were feeding on the remains of an impala kill.

MALE LIONS

THE NDHZENGA MALES = 2

1 ADULT MALE	± 8 YEARS 11 MONTHS
1 ADULT MALE	± 8 YEARS 6 MONTHS
<i>WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & CHARLESTON</i>	
<i>Dominant over the Kambula.</i>	
<i>First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020</i>	
(31 sightings)	

The Ndhzenga males started off the year by spending much of their time with the members of the Kambula pride and their new offspring. Despite the potential split of the Kambula pride, the Ndhzenga males have still been seen spending time with both factions.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 3rd, they were with the bulk of the Kambula Pride at the Airstrip.
- The next day, the smaller of the two males chased off an invader, the Skorro male (see 'OTHER LIONS' section for more details on this male). He chased him north from Senegal Bush while his

brother remained with the Kambula pride at the Airstrip.

- On the 6th, they were joined by three Kambula lionesses when they stole the remains of a buffalo kill from the members of the Nkuhuma pride at Buffalo Bush Dam.
- They returned with these lionesses to Campbell Koppies the next day and stayed in that general area until the 10th as they were mating with one of the lionesses during this time.
- On the 13th, they were back with the bulk of the Kambula pride west of the Airstrip.
- On the 15th and the 16th, they were back with the three estranged lionesses and their new cubs at the Mlowathi Spot.
- From the 19th to the 25th, they seemed to exchange roles almost daily and at least one of the males was seen with the estranged lionesses in the vicinity of Mlowathi Koppies and Campbell Koppies, while the other would be with the bulk of the pride elsewhere.
- On the 23rd, one of the males shared an impala kill with one of the estranged lionesses at Campbell Koppies.
- On the 25th, the larger male was at Hyena Waterhole, protecting his territory from a young sub-adult male from the Styx pride, who was resting at Mamba Waterhole.
- On the 27th, the smaller male was back with the bulk of the Kambula Pride at the Airstrip, while his brother had made his way back north to the Mlowathi Spot to attempt to mate with one of the estranged lionesses.
- On the 30th, both males were with the three estranged lionesses and three cubs south of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 7 MONTHS

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 11 MONTHS

NOMADIC

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve

(1 sighting)

The Southern Avoca male was seen once this month on the 16th where he was west of Charleston North Crossing, looking very weathered but still fighting on despite his exile and the loss of his brother.

THE BLACK DAM MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 4 MONTHS

EYREFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in 2022

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of these two males this month.

OTHER LIONS ENCOUNTERED:

The **SKORRO MALE** was seen on the property on the 4th when he was chased north from Senegal Bush by the smaller Ndhzenga male. He is thought to be 6 years old and broke away from a pride that originates further north of MalaMala but has recently been spending time to our west.

On the 16th, we had an unusual visitor in the form of one of the **IMBALI MALES**, who was seen at the Windmill. This is a member of a coalition of three who are now dominant over the Leeupan pride in the Kruger National Park.

One of the **NKHULU MALES** was seen with members of the Sand River pride at KK Crossing on the 24th and is spending more time with this pride.

A young male from the **STYX PRIDE** was seen on the 25th at Mamba Waterhole.

A group of two lionesses and three sub-adult males have been seen on a few occasions over the last few months. In previous game reports, we referred to them as members from the **4WAYS PRIDE** but due to some uncertainty, we will just refer to them as **UNIDENTIFIED** until there is more clarity. This group was seen three times this month. On the 5th, they were west of the Tjellahanga River, midway along, and on the 8th, they were in the Rock Drift Donga to the south of Lion Rocks. Two lionesses and only two of the sub-adult males were seen on the 25th on the eastern bank of the Sand River, north of Verreaux's Crossing.

An **UNIDENTIFIED MALE** was seen at Gowrie Boom on the 30th.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED

62 (22 cubs)

LEOPARDS FEMALE LEOPARDS:

THE NKOVENI FEMALE

11 YEARS 5 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLI

Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent early 2014.

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

(5 sightings)

The Nkoveni female was only seen five times this month still looking heavily pregnant at the start of January. On the 2nd, she was seen at the Quarry to the east of the Airstrip. She was only seen again over two weeks later, on the 17th just further north of the Airstrip and on the 18th at the Windsock looking to head back west. On the 19th, she was to the north of Maxim's Lookout. She was last seen this month on the 27th to the south of the Airstrip Parking Bay.

THE PICCADILLY FEMALE
MALE CUB

10 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 YEAR 0 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

(15 sightings, 4 of female, 10 of female and cub, 1 of cub)

The Piccadilly female and her cub were some of our most viewed leopards this month. On the 1st, the Piccadilly female was seen alone to the east of Lower Mlowathi Koppies. The next day she was alone again at Elephant Rock Lookout. On the 4th, her cub was seen at Lower Mlowathi Crossing, and the next day, she joined him at the Mlowathi Spot. From the 6th to the 8th, they were south of Lower Mlowathi Crossing and were seen feeding on an impala lamb on the 7th. On the 10th, she was once again in the Mlowathi River, south of Lower Mlowathi Crossing with the remains of an impala lamb kill. She was joined the next day by her cub. On the 21st, they were chased away from Lower Mlowathi Crossing by one of the Ndzenga males, but they did not move far as they were seen at the Quarry east of the crossing the next day. On the 28th, she was at Piccadilly Triangle looking eagerly at a herd of impala. On the 30th, she was back together with her cub at Mlowathi Pans.

THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE
MALE CUB

7 YEARS 6 MONTHS
2 YEARS 6 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(1 sighting)

The Three Rivers female was only seen once this month, on the 1st, when she was at Maxim's Lookout.

THE ISLAND FEMALE
CUB

10 YEARS 11 MONTHS
0 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

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

(12 sightings, 5 of female, 5 of female and cub, 2 of cub)

It was an exciting start to the year for the Island female as her den site was located, and a young cub of approximately 6 weeks was seen. Her den site was discovered on the 1st on the eastern bank of the Matshapiri River, north of Donald's Crossing. She was seen there with her cub on the 1st, 2nd and the 4th. On the 5th, the cub was seen there alone. The Island female was seen patrolling her territory to the south of West Street Bridge on the 17th, with the Maxim's male rasping on the opposite bank. She was seen again at West Street Bridge on the 20th. On the 25th, she was found with her new cub at Styx Rocks. The next day, the cub was seen there alone, and the Island female was found north of West Street Bridge. On the 29th, they were seen together in the drainage line to the north of Styx Rocks.

THE SIBUYE FEMALE**2 CUBS**

10 YEARS 0 MONTHS

0 YEARS 10 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

*Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], independent first quarter of 2016.**Mother of the Tlebe Rocks female, Langa female & Xaxa male.**(18 sightings, 2 of female, 9 of female and cubs, 7 of the cubs)*

The Sibuye female and her cubs were the most seen leopards in January. On the 3rd, she was at Mlowathi Springs. She was with her female cub the next day at the confluence of the Mlowathi River and the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga, while her male cub was further east feeding on an impala kill with his presumed father, the Ngoboswan male. On the 8th, the cubs were in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga and were joined by their mother the next day. On the 10th, only the female cub was seen in the Mlowathi River north of Mlowathi Dam, but the next day, her brother and the Sibuye female were also seen in this area. The cubs were together on the 16th in the Mlowathi River, south of the Gowrie Boundary. They were all together on the 21st, south of Mlowathi Dam Crossing. The next day they were feeding on an impala kill east of their previous position. On the 23rd and 24th, they were all at Mlowathi Dam Crossing. They were seen further north on the Gowrie Boundary on the 25th and the 26th. On the 28th, one of the cubs was further east on the Gowrie Boundary while the Sibuye female was in a tree on the eastern bank of the Mlowathi River to the south of Mlowathi Dam Crossing.

THE XINKHOVA FEMALE

3 YEARS 0 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. It is thought that she may be exploring the territories to the west of her mother's territory, which is outside of MalaMala.

THE STONE DRIFT FEMALE

3 YEARS 0 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

*Daughter of the Nkoveni female, semi-independent.**(7 sightings)*

The Stone Drift female was seen on fewer occasions this month. She was north of West Street Bridge on the 1st and was only seen again two weeks later, on the 14th to the south of the Ngoboswan Donga, further east of the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot. She was in this area again on the 15th. On the 16th, she was chased by the Flat Rock male, north of Campbell Koppies. On the 19th, she was back in her comfort zone to the north of Maurice's Pan. She was seen here again on the 23rd and the 24th.

THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE

5 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(7 sightings)

Unfortunately, it seems that the Plaque Rock female may have lost her three new cubs as they have not been seen again since last month and she was seen mating on numerous occasions this month. On the 2nd, she killed an impala lamb at the Old Airstrip. She was then seen at the Causeway on the 10th, and two days later she was seen sharing a meal of an impala ram with the Maxim's male to the north of Maxim's Lookout. The two of them were seen together again at the same position on the 14th, where they were observed mating until the next day. On the 20th, she was seen to the east of the Quarry at the Airstrip and was at the Old Airstrip on the 25th.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE

6 YEARS 0 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.

(4 sightings)

As per last month, there were only four sightings of this female leopard this month. On the 6th, she was seen in the eastern parts of the Piccadilly Triangle. Then, she was seen to the south of Fred's Tree on the 14th, acting unusually nervous. On the 25th, she was scent-marking her territory in the central parts of Piccadilly Triangle and was seen the next day further south to the east of the Causeway.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

±14 YEARS 0 MONTHS

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

Mother of the Kapen female & the Redhawk male.

(3 sightings)

The Lookout female was only seen three times in January. On the 6th, she was in the Tamboti Thickets in Flockfield. She was seen again at Kapen Open Area on the 10th. On the 15th, she fed on an impala kill in a tree west of the Kapen River to the north of Hyena Waterhole.

MALE LEOPARDS

THE MAXIM'S MALE

± 9 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.

(6 sightings)

The Maxim's male was seen on the 2nd at the Old Flockfield Boma Crossing. He was next seen on the 12th sharing an impala ram kill with the Plaque Rock female to the north of Maxim's Lookout. Two days later they were mating in the same area and stayed there into the next day. On the 16th, he was seen alone at the Boom Hut west of MalaMala Camp. The next day, he was to the west of West Street Bridge, rasping while the Island female looked on from the eastern bank of the Sand River.

THE FLAT ROCK MALE

10 YEARS 9 MONTHS

MARTHLY

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

(8 sightings)

Once again, the Flat Rock male was our most viewed male leopard. On the 1st, he was to the east of Stwise. A week later, on the 8th, he was found to the east of Sandpit Crossing and was further south on the 15th. On the 16th, he was north of Campbell Koppies being followed by the Stone Drift female. On the 20th, he was treed by a pack of wild dogs to the north of Maurice's Pan, but he got his revenge shortly after when he ran in and stole their impala kill. He was far out of his usual territory on the 22nd, when he was found near Wild Dog Rocks Open Area, and a few days later, on the 28th, he was at Buffalo Bush Dam. The next day he was back in his normal territory in the Ngoboswan Donga, north of the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot.

THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

6 YEARS 2 MONTHS

MARTHLY & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent in late 2019.

(3 sightings)

On the first day of the year, the Ngoboswan male was seen mating with the Tlalamba female in the Mlowathi River, south of the Gowrie Boundary. On the 4th, he was sharing an impala kill with the male cub of the Sibuye female far east in the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga. He was found feeding on an impala ram in the Mlowathi River, south of Mlowathi Dam on the 19th.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

9 YEARS 6 MONTHS

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

(4 sightings)

The Split Rock male was only encountered four times in January. On the 3rd, he killed a scrub hare and two young impalas in Matshapiri Open Area and stayed in that area until the next day. On the 25th, he was at Styx Rocks and was curiously chuffing only to find that afternoon that the Island female had moved her den site here. He was at Matshapiri Open Area again on the 30th.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

6 YEARS 2 MONTHS

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

(1 sighting)

The Eyrefield male was only seen once this month, on the 1st in Matshapiri Open Area.

OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED:

- **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** (1 sighting) – the River Rocks female was only seen once in January when she was north of Calabash Crossing on the 24th.
- **2:3 YOUNG MALE** (2 sightings) – this young male was seen twice this month. On the 5th, he was at New Rocks and killed a scrub hare later that afternoon at Lion Waterhole. On the 31st, he was to the west of Kapen Rocks.
- **KAPEN FEMALE** (3 sightings) – She was seen with her cub on the 7th at Lower Kapen Crossing with an impala lamb kill that was subsequently stolen by a hyena. On the 9th, her cub was found alone east of Mamba Waterhole but on the 14th, they were back together just south of Mamba Waterhole.
- **THALAMBA FEMALE** (1 sighting) – this female was seen mating with the Ngoboswan male in the Mlowathi River, south of the Gowrie Boundary on the 1st.
- **NKOVA MALE** (2 sightings) – this young male leopard was seen twice this month. On the 5th, he was in the vicinity of Mister's Koppies on Charleston and on the 7th, he killed a warthog north of Flat Rocks.
- There was an **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE** seen at the Windssock on the 5th.
- On the 14th, there was an **UNIDENTIFIED MALE** at Donald's Crossing, who moved off into the thick bush after a rainy day and was unable to be followed for an accurate identification.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED

26 (5 cubs)

CHEETAH

There were **seven sightings** of cheetah in total for January. A female cheetah was seen near the Windmill from the 7th to the 10th. Another female cheetah was feeding on an impala carcass on the Gowrie Boundary, west of the Mlowathi River, on the 12th. A male cheetah was seen in Emsagwen Open Area on the 15th and was in Matshapiri Open Area the following day.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	3 (0 cubs)
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

It was another good month for the Cape Hunting Dogs, as there were **26 sightings** of them in total.

A pack of seven, with four males and three females, was seen on 14 occasions. On the 2nd, they were in White Cloth Open area and moved north to the Ngoboswan Donga the next day. On the 4th, four members were seen across the Sand River in front of MalaMala Camp. On the 14th, they killed an impala ewe to the south of the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot. The next day they were closer to Fred's Tree and killed an impala east of West Street Bridge on the 16th. On the 17th, they killed another impala east of Maurice's Pan. On the 20th, they chased the Flat Rock male leopard up a tree before catching an impala lamb, which the leopard stole from them shortly afterwards. They killed three impala lambs on the 22nd at Plank's Pan. Two days later, they killed another two impala lambs south of the eastern ramp of West Street bridge. That afternoon they chased a clan of hyenas on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary. On the 27th, they caught an impala at Hyena Waterhole and were harassed by three hyenas. They killed an impala ewe on the 29th, east of West Street Bridge. They were further north on the 31st, when they killed another impala lamb.

Members of the **TOULON PACK** were seen on 10 occasions in January. At least 10 members of the pack were seen on the 1st moving east along the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary. The next day, 12 of them made two impala kills to the north of Styx Crossing. They were at White Cloth Open Area the next day. Four members of the pack were at Charleston Rocks on the 7th and three members made an impala kill at Kapen Open Area on the 9th. Six members of the pack were at Kapen Rocks on the 12th, and 12 members were north of Trollip's Camp the next day. Four members of the pack were seen west of the Airstrip on the 30th and the 31st.

On the 4th, two **unidentified Cape hunting dogs** were seen to the south of Clarendon Open Area.

On the 15th, an **unidentified pack** of an unknown number were west of Buffalo Pans.

On the 21st, three Cape hunting dogs were seen north of the Airstrip and it is unclear which pack they belong to.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	25 (0 pups)
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

After some flooding and heavy rain leading to a burst of greenery and plenty of water to be found, these two water-dependent species were not seen along the river as often as in the drier months.

We recorded **188 sightings** of elephants in January, with 140 of those sightings being of herds, and the remaining **48 sightings** were of bulls.

There was a total of **52 sightings** of Cape buffalo this month, with 42 of those sightings being of the old bulls we see mostly on the banks of the Sand River and the remaining **10 sightings** were of herds.

OTHER SIGHTINGS OF INTEREST

- The **HYENA DEN** on the eastern parts of the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary was only active on two occasions earlier this month with the cubs being old enough to start to leave the den. It was only seen active on the 1st and the 4th.
- Overall, there were **13 sightings** of **SPOTTED HYENA** recorded this month throughout the property. On the 11th, five hyenas were found feeding on kudu carcass at Mlowathi Dam. Most other sightings were of lone individuals following their noses or groups following the Cape Hunting Dogs.
- There were **14 sightings** of **SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILLS** in January. On the 3rd, three individuals were seen north of the Ngoboswan Donga. On the 4th, a flock of four were seen and the Windmill and a flock of five were at the Sausage Spot. The next day, seven individuals were seen at Cheetah Pan and three were seen north of Campbell Koppies. There was a flock of five at Piccadilly Triangle on the 14th. One individual was seen north of Beaumont's Camp on the 21st and further north at Mlowathi Koppies, there was a flock of six. There was a flock of three at Wild Dog Rocks Open Area on the 26th and two were on Rhino Pens on the 28th. A flock of six with one juvenile were seen south of the Airstrip on the 29th and five were in White Cloth Open Area on the 31st.
- There were **8 sightings** of **BLACK-BACKED JACKALS** this month. Mostly, our resident at the Airstrip Parking Bay was seen on seven occasions. The other individual was at the Mlowathi Spot on the 15th.
- An **AFRICAN WILD CAT** was seen on the 1st to the north of the Airstrip.
- A **DENHAM'S BUSTARD** was seen on the 9th to the west of West Street Bridge.
- Three males and one female **OSTRICH** were seen near the Airstrip on the 13th and 14th.