



Game Report



A dung beetle rolls its dung by ranger David den Hartog

MalaMala Game Reserve
February 2024

It's all about the wildlife!

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	40.8	33	Maximum	99	88
Minimum	16	21	Minimum	61.8	69
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
20.6		0.8		8	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	96
Leopard	134
Elephant	166
Buffalo	60
Cheetah	2
Cape Hunting Dog	33

**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 – 2, Wildebeest – 2, unknown – 1
Leopard	Impala – 15, Nyala – 1, scrub hare – 1, water monitor – 1
Cheetah	N/A
Cape Hunting Dog	Impala – 16, scrub hare – 2

**AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS*

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 24

2 ADULT FEMALES	10 YEARS 11 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 10 YEARS 8 MONTHS
4 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 7 MONTHS
9 CUBS	1 YEAR 2 MONTHS
1 CUB	1 YEAR 0 MONTHS
3 CUBS	0 YEARS 7 MONTHS
3 CUBS	0 YEARS 3 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON
(45 sightings)

The members of the Kambula Pride once again had a prosperous month. Within the bulk of the pride, at least 10 of the cubs have made it to the year mark, a significant milestone. The estranged lionesses are doing well, too, expanding and defending their territory to the north while the small cubs navigate life as young lions.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 2nd, one of the estranged lionesses was north of Mlowathi Dam and later joined the lioness with her three young cubs to the south of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.
- From the 3rd to the 4th, one lioness was seen mating with an Ndhzenga male further north in the Mlowathi River and at the Mlowathi Spot, respectively.
- The estranged lioness with her three cubs returned to their Campbell Koppies den on the 4th, while the bulk of the pride were at Princess Alice Pans.
- All three estranged lionesses were with the three cubs at the Sausage Spot on the 5th.
- The newest mother was seen alone with her cubs at the Campbell Koppies from the 8th to the 9th, and the cubs were alone on the 10th.
- The rest of the pride were with one of the Ndhzenga males at Buffalo Pans on the 8th, where they chased a family of warthogs but were not successful.
- On the 10th, the bulk of the pride finished off a zebra carcass at the Airstrip while the three estranged lionesses trailed a herd of buffalo west of the Mlowathi River.
- The bulk of the pride and Ndhzenga males rested on the Airstrip on the 12th. On the same day, the three youngest cubs of the pride were seen south of Mlowathi Dam.
- The bulk of the pride were feeding on a wildebeest kill north of the Ngoboswan Donga on the 16th and 17th.
- The estranged lioness with her three cubs was north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 16th.
- The three 7-month-old cubs were at the Parking Bay on the morning of the 18th; they were collected by a lioness in the afternoon.
- On the 19th, the estranged group were in the Mlowathi River north of the Tlebe Rocks Donga. They were joined by the Ndhzenga males the next day.
- On the 22nd and 23rd, the bulk of the pride had an unknown kill at Princess Alice Pans.
- On the 24th, the estranged lionesses killed a wildebeest north of the shortcut between Eastern and Western Mlowathi. They remained in this area for the following four days.
- Three groups of lions were seen on the last day of the month. The mother with the youngest cubs was in the Mlowathi River, the bulk of the pride were at New Rocks, and the remaining two estranged lionesses were at the Causeway.

THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 18

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

On the 1st, three lionesses and the seven sub-adults were seen on the Gowrie Boundary, east of the Mlowathi River, with the two Black Dam males nearby. On the 16th, two sub-adult males were seen at Clarendon Dam. Two of the young adult males were seen at Clarendon Dam on the 16th. 10 members of this pride were at the Old Borehole on the last evening of the month.

THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 26

7 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
6 ADULT FEMALES	± 7 YEARS 10 MONTHS
7 SUB-ADULTS	± 3 YEARS 5 MONTHS
6 CUBS	±1 YEAR 1 MONTH
<i>EASTERN EYREFIELD</i>	
(8 sightings)	

The Torchwood Pride made a few appearances in February. On the 6th, six females and at least two cubs were seen at Emsagwen Waterhole with the two Kruger males (see 'OTHER LIONS' for more information). They were there over the next two days with all six cubs present but had moved further south to White Cloth Open Area by the 9th. On the 11th, six lionesses and six cubs were finishing off a zebra kill at 4-Ways Crossing and were resting at Buffalo Bush Dam the next day when a pack of Cape hunting dogs arrived. Shortly afterwards, two of the lionesses chased the pack away from the area. On the 14th, they were seen west of the Kruger National Park Boundary, south of Clarendon Open Area. An old and frail lioness from this pride was at Mlowathi Dam on the 25th.

THE MARTHLY PRIDE = 1

1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 11 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 7 MONTHS
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 7 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 1 MONTH
3 SUB-ADULTS (1 FEMALE & 2 MALES)	3 YEARS 6 MONTHS
6 SUB-ADULTS	2 YEARS 6 MONTHS
<i>SOUTHERN CHARLESTON</i>	
(3 sighting)	

Members of the Sand River pride were seen on three occasions in February. On the 13th, three lionesses were west of Flat Rocks in the Sand River. On the 18th, four lionesses stole an impala kill from a pack of Cape hunting dogs around Ingwe Donga, west of Rocky Crossing. On the 21st, these four lionesses were feeding on the remains of a zebra carcass with one of the Nkuhlu males to the south of the Charleston Toulon Boundary, east of the Sand River.

MALE LIONS

THE NDHZENGA MALES = 2

1 ADULT MALE	± 9 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 ADULT MALE	± 8 YEARS 7 MONTHS
<i>WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & CHARLESTON</i>	
<i>Dominant over the Kambula.</i>	
<i>First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020</i>	
(23 sightings)	

The Ndhzenga males had another successful month and were able to keep any competing lions from entering their very large territory on MalaMala. They spent many days with the members of the Kambula pride and were seen scent-marking and roaring within their territory on numerous occasions.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 2nd, they were patrolling territory and announcing their dominance at Kigelia Crossing.
- On the 3rd, they were with one of the estranged lionesses in the Mlowathi River, north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing. One male was mating with the lioness.
- The smaller male was still mating with the same lioness at the Mlowathi Spot on the 4th.
- On the 7th, one male was seen at Donald's Crossing, heading north and later chased the Flat Rock male leopard up a tree to the east of Maurice's Pan.
- The next day, one male was with the bulk of the Kambula Pride at Buffalo Pans, while the other male was north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.
- They were back together on the 9th and were seen heading north at Hyena Waterhole. They were found sleeping soundly at Mlowathi Pans the next morning.
- On the 12th, they were resting with the bulk of the Kambula Pride on the Airstrip.
- They were at the Mlowathi Spot the next day before heading back to the Airstrip on the 14th.
- They were together on the 18th east of Princess Alice Pans looking well fed before they began territorially roaring later that evening.
- Their territorial march took them east over the Sand River the next day, where they were found to the northeast of West Street Bridge.

- On the 20th, they were with the estranged lionesses and cubs in the Mlowathi River, north of the Tlebe Rocks Donga.
- The next day, one of the males was found south of Kigelia Crossing on Marthly.
- Both brothers were together on the 28th at Hyena Waterhole.
- These males reclined with the Kambula pride on New Rocks on the 29th.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 8 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

± 11 YEARS 0 MONTHS

NOMADIC

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve

(1 sighting)

This old nomadic male was near Baumont's Camp on the 26th.

THE BLACK DAM MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 5 MONTHS

EYREFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in 2022

(1 sighting)

The Black Dam males were seen once this month. On the 1st, they were on the Gowrie Boundary to the east of the Mlowathi River with some members of the Nkuhuma Pride in the same area.

OTHER LIONS ENCOUNTERED:

The two **KRUGER MALES** were seen with the members of the Torchwood pride in February. From the 6th to the 8th, they were with the pride at Emsagwen Waterhole and were further south at White Cloth Open Area on the 9th. They are assumed to be the sons of the Mantimahle males, who were a coalition of males in the Kruger National Park, east of MalaMala.

The **NKHULU MALES** were seen three times this month. On the 13th, three males were south of Rocky Crossing, while one male was north of Jakkalsdraai Open Area. On the 21st, one male and four lionesses from the Sand River pride had a zebra kill east of KK Crossing.

Two **NO-ID** sub-adult males and one adult lioness were east of Kapen rocks on the 20th.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	69 (22 cubs)
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LEOPARDS
FEMALE LEOPARDS:

THE ISLAND FEMALE
CUB

11 YEARS 0 MONTHS
0 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

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

Mother of the Drum Crossing female.

(27 sightings, 5 of female, 17 of female and cub, 5 of cub)

Due to the Island female using Styx Rocks as her den site, we have enjoyed increased sightings of this leopard in February. On the 1st, she was seen sharing an impala kill with the Split Rock male in the Matshapiri River, east of Matshapiri Open Area. She was seen with her cub at Styx Rocks on the 2nd; her cub was seen there alone over the next two days. She returned to the cub at Styx Rocks on the 5th. On the 7th, they were together at Drum Crossing with an impala lamb kill; they were back at Styx Rocks the next day. On the 9th, the cub was seen alone at Styx Rocks and on the 10th, the Island female was seen to the north of West Street Bridge. She was with her cub again the next day when she walked him from Styx Rocks to the Hogvaal Donga near the Matshapiri River, only to find her stashed impala kill had been stolen by hyenas, so she walked her cub back to the den. They stayed at Styx Rocks from the 13th to the 16th, and she was seen alone at Buffalo Pans on the 17th. On the 19th and the 20th, both mother and cub fed on an impala lamb hoisted in a jackalberry tree in the Matshapiri River, south of Drum Crossing. On the 21st, she was in the area of her old den on the eastern bank of the Matshapiri River, north of Donald's Crossing. The mother and cub were south of White Cloth Open Area on the 22nd. The duo returned to Styx Rocks on the 23rd and were seen here on the 24th and 25th. They had unwanted company on the 25th when the 2:3 Young Male visited Styx Rocks. On the 28th, an unidentified leopard was chased off an impala ram kill by the Island female; her cub was with her.

THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE

7 YEARS 10 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(6 sighting)

The Three Rivers female was seen six times in February. On the 4th, she was west of the Airstrip Parking Bay, and on the 9th, she was seen just north of Rattray's Access. She was north of Rattray's Camp on the 14th, and rangers reported that she looked pregnant. On the 24th, this female was south of Maxim's Lookout. The Three Rivers female was around Flockfield Camp on the 28th; she was joined by the Maxim's male in the area on the 29th.

THE NKOVENI FEMALE

11 YEARS 6 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)

The Nkoveni female has been seen on numerous occasions this month moving between the Old Airstrip and the Western Boundary of MalaMala. It is thought that she may be keeping her new cubs at her old den on the ridge east of the Windsock, but no cubs have been seen. On the 3rd, she was feeding on an impala kill north of Princess Alice Pans and the next day she was seen just west of the Airstrip. On the 5th, she was at the Windsock heading west, but she was seen returning east the next day. She was resting to the north of the Windsock on the 7th and was seen in this area again on the 12th, moving east away from her presumed den site. On the 14th, she was seen in the central parts of the Old Airstrip. On the 18th, she surrendered an impala kill to the Plaque Rock female in the drainage line to the east of the Quarry at the Airstrip, presumably too close to her den to create a scene.

THE PICCADILLY FEMALE

10 YEARS 1 MONTH

MALE CUB

1 YEAR 0 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

Daughter of the Kikilezi female, independent first quarter of 2016.**Mother of the Ngungwe female.*

(11 sightings, 2 of female, 7 of female and cub, 2 of cub)

The Piccadilly female and cub, now nearly as big as his mother, shared an impala kill in the Mlowathi River, north of the Sand River, on the 3rd. The two of them were together again in the same area on the 8th when they moved towards the Sand River and met up with the Flat Rock male. She was seen alone at Kigelia Crossing on the 10th. The next day, she was east of that; her cub was also in the area, feeding on an impala lamb kill hoisted in a jackalberry tree. On the 16th, she was with her cub in the Mlowathi River, north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing, dangerously close to where the Kambula lioness was resting with her three young cubs. On the 18th, mother and cub were south of Manyeleti Crossing. On the 23rd, the duo had a nyala kill in the Mlowathi River, north of the confluence of the three rivers; they were here again the next day. Both mother and cub were northeast of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 26th. On the 27th, the Piccadilly female chased the Stone Drift female out of her territory. The cub was alone with a water monitor kill at Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 29th.

THE SIBUYE FEMALE
2 CUBS (1 MALE, 1 FEMALE)

10 YEARS 1 MONTH
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.

(13 sightings, 1 of female, 1 of female and cubs, 11 of the cubs)

The two cubs of the Sibuye female are thriving and becoming more independent as they approach the one-year mark. The two of them were seen on more occasions this month than their mother. One of the cubs of the Sibuye female was seen in the Mlowathi River north of the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga on the 7th; on the 9th, all three of them were in that area, looking well-fed. On the 10th, the two cubs were still in the same area, but there was no sign of the Sibuye female. Both cubs were seen between the Gowrie Boundary and Mlowathi Dam from the 12th to the 16th. On the 20th, both cubs were at the confluence of the Mlowathi River and the Nwana Nonanshemeni Donga and at least one of the cubs was seen in the same area the next day. On the 24th, the two cubs were on our northern boundary, east of the Mlowathi River, while the female was at Mlowathi Dam. On the 25th, only the cubs were seen north of Mlowathi Dam.

THE STONE DRIFT FEMALE

3 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

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

(9 sightings)

The Stone Drift female has shown plenty of confidence since her independence, and along with scent-marking her territory, she has begun to show more interest in spending time with male leopards. On the 1st, she was with the Flat Rock male at Maurice's Pan. They were still together the next day, sharing an impala lamb kill east of Sandpit Crossing. In the same sighting, she was observed trying to initiate the mating ritual with the Flat Rock male, but he was not showing any interest just yet. On the 4th, she caught a scrub hare at the Causeway and was chased by herds of wildebeest and zebra further north of Maurice's Pan the next day. She was back at Maurice's Pan on the 12th. The next time she was seen was on the 22nd when she had a little bit remaining of an impala carcass at Plank's Pan. On the 23rd, this young female held her ground in a fight with her older sister, the Plaque Rock female, a sign that she is starting to defend her territory. The next day, she was found at Plank's Pan; this was the first time she had been seen roaring, another milestone. She found herself in hot water on the 29th when she wandered into Marthly, where she linked up with the Flat Rock male before she was chased out of the area by the Piccadilly female.

THE XINKHOVA FEMALE

3 YEARS 1 MONTH

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

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

(3 sightings)

After months without a sighting, it is with great joy that we can report three days of viewing of this young leopard. She was south of Rattray's Access on the 19th and the 20th. On the 23rd, she lazed in a stately knob thorn tree east of Sand Pit Crossing. Hopefully she visits more frequently.

THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE

5 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(9 sightings)

The Plaque Rock female seems to have settled into her inherited territory and has been spending a lot of her time on the Western Bank between Bicycle Crossing and the Airstrip. On the 1st, she was west of the Boom Hut attempting to hunt impala. Two days later, she was north of the Airstrip Parking Bay. On the 7th, she was west of Sand Pit Crossing, resting very close to where we assume the Nkoveni female is denning with new cubs. On the 18th, she happened upon an impala kill; the Nkoveni female skulked away, not putting up a fight to defend her bounty, east of the Quarry at the Airstrip. She was still in this area the next day but had been chased off her stolen kill by the Maxim's male. She was seen crossing west over the northern parts of the Airstrip on the 20th. She fought with her younger sister, the Stone Drift female, on the 23rd, around the Causeway. On the 26th and 27th, she was around the Old Airstrip.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE

6 YEARS 1 MONTH

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.

(1 sighting)

On the 27th, this leopard rested in a marula tree at Fred's Tree.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

±14 YEARS 1 MONTH

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 seen on the 11th at Kapen Open Area, looking interested in a herd of impala. On the 20th, she was in the Tamboti Thickets to the east of Flockfield Pools.

MALE LEOPARDS

THE MAXIM'S MALE

± 9 YEARS 6 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.

(6 sightings)

The Maxim's male was seen on six occasions this month. On the 2nd, the Maxims male was feeding on an impala kill north of Rattray's Access. On the 17th, he was seen in the Sand River to the north of West Street Bridge. Two days later, he stole an impala kill from the Plaque Rock female and lay at the base of the tree guarding his quarry while she waited in the canopy. On the 20th, he was seen west of Rattray's Camp. On the 24th, he was at the Causeway. He spent the last day of the month with the Three Rivers female at Flockfield Camp.

THE FLAT ROCK MALE

10 YEARS 10 MONTHS

MARTHLY

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

(11 sightings)

The Flat Rock male spent the first two days of February with the young Stone Drift female. They were first seen together at Maurice's Pan and were east of Sandpit Crossing the next day, where she attempted to initiate mating without much interest from the Flat Rock male. There was also an impala lamb kill hoisted in a tree near the leopards. On the 7th, he was chased up a tree by one of the Ndhzenga males to the east of Maurice's Pan. The next morning, he was seen south of Bicycle Crossing and later met up with the Piccadilly female and her cub further west. On the 17th, he was feeding off small remains of an impala lamb kill in the northern parts of Piccadilly Triangle. On the 19th, he was around Senegal Bush watching a pack of Cape hunting dogs chasing impala. On the 20th, he was salivating heavily near Maurice's Pan and seemed to be trailing another leopard in the area. The next day, he was back at Bicycle Crossing. On the 27th, he interacted with the Piccadilly and Stone Drift females at Elephant Rock. On the 28th, he was at Bicycle Crossing. The last sighting of this male was in the Mlowathi River, north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing, on the 29th.

THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

6 YEARS 3 MONTHS

MARTHLY & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent in late 2019.

(3 sightings)

On the 1st, he was seen on the Gowrie Boundary, west of the Matshapiri River. He was mating with the Kuchava female in the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga on the 8th. On the 22nd, he was lazing in the Mlowathi River, north of the confluence with the Tlebe Rocks Donga.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

9 YEARS 7 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

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

(7 sightings)

On the 1st, he had an impala lamb kill with the Island female in the Matshapiri River north of Matshapiri Open Area Crossing. On the 4th, he killed an impala lamb on the eastern bank of the Sand River, south of West Street Bridge. He hoisted the carcass and fed on it until the next day. On the 9th, he was north of Maurices's Pan. On the 16th, he was heading east in the Rock Drift Donga from its confluence with the Sand River. He moved north and was scent-marking around West Street Bridge on the 23rd.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

6 YEARS 3 MONTHS

NOMADIC

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent in late 2019.

(0 sighting)

The Eyrefield male was not seen this month.

OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED:

- **KUCHAVA FEMALE** (1 sighting) – this female leopard was seen mating with the Ngoboswan male in the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga on the 8th.
- **TENGILE FEMALE** (2 sightings) – On the 11th, she was seen with her newest cub in a drainage line near the southern access to Beaumont's Camp. On the 16th, they were seen together on the eastern bank of the Sand River, south of the Rock Drift Donga.
- **KANGELA MALE** (2 sightings) – On the 5th, he was scavenging the remains of an impala carcass to the north of Maurice's Pan. Two days later, he was feeding off a fresh impala kill in the same area.
- **CUB OF THE KAPEN FEMALE** (4 sightings) – this young female was seen at Lion Rocks on the 3rd and further south on the Charleston Flockfield Boundary on the 9th. On the 27th, she was at Lion Rocks, and on the 29th, she was at Cheetah Pan.
- **N'WETI MALE** (1 sighting) – on the 11th, this male leopard was seen on the northern access to Beaumont's Camp.
- **REDHAWK MALE** (1 sighting) – this male was seen once this month on the 6th when he was found at Two Toes Open Area west of the Matshapiri River.
- **NKOVA MALE** (1 sighting) – he had an impala kill in F-Bend Open Area on the 25th.
- **2:3 YOUNG MALE** (3 sightings) – interacted with the Island female and cub on the 25th, at Styx Rocks. On the 26th and 27th, he enjoyed an impala lamb feast east of Drum Crossing.
- An **unidentified female** was seen at Mlowathi Pans on the 15th.
- **CUB OF THE RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** (1 sighting) – this young leopard was northeast of Charleston North Crossing on the 23rd.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED

30 (7 cubs)

CHEETAH

On the 26th and 27th, a female cheetah was seen in Flockfield. On the 26th she had an impala kill near Zebra Skull, on the 27th, she was east of the Borehole.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	1 (0 cubs)
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CAPE HUNTING DOGS

Cape hunting dogs have been a spectacle at MalaMala over the past couple of months. In a 29-day month, we had **33 sightings** of these endangered canines. As sightings increase, so does confusion around the identification of these packs. We consistently see six different packs on MalaMala.

Noteworthy sightings:

- Seven CHD killed an impala lamb north of Fred's Tree on the 1st.
- On the 2nd a pack of nine CHD killed an impala at Piccadilly Pans. The commotion caught the attention of the pack of seven, and the two packs had an altercation.
- A pack of four and a pack of nine had an altercation at Mlowathi Dam on the 4th. The larger pack made an impala kill in the same area.
- Seven CHD killed an impala lamb southeast of Mlowathi Dam on the 9th.
- Four CHD killed an impala in White Cloth Open Area on the 11th.
- On the 12th, seven CHD were chased by lions at Buffalo Bush Dam.
- Also on the 12th, four CHD made an impala kill east of Maurice's Pan.
- On the 13th, four packs of varying sizes were scattered throughout the property.
- A pack of nine fought with a pack of 12 at Mamba Waterhole on the 14th.
- Four CHD had their impala kill stolen by lions east of Rocky Crossing on the 18th.
- 14 CHD killed an impala lamb at Senegal bush on the 19th, this pack is easily distinguishable by a collared male who is missing half his tail.
- 17 CHD were in Piccadilly Triangle on the 20th, where they killed two scrub hares.
- On the 21st, 17 CHD killed three impalas east of Maurice's Pan.
- A pack of 14 were southeast of Maurice's Pan on the 22nd, while a pack of 12 were at Charleston North Crossing.
- On the 23rd, a pack of nine rested at the entrance to MalaMala Camp, while a pack of 14 were at the 5-Star Junction.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	± 64 (0 pups)
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

We recorded **166 sightings** of elephants in February with 113 of those sightings being of herds and the remaining 53 sightings were of bulls.

There was a total of **60 sightings** of Cape buffalo this month, with 50 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

- Overall, there were **16 sightings** of **SPOTTED HYENA** recorded in February.
- There were **two sightings** of **SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILLS** in February. On the 17th, a flock of 6 were seen at the Borehole on Flockfield. On the 19th, two individuals were seen at Clarendon Dam.
- There were **five sightings** of **BLACK-BACKED JACKALS** this month. An individual was seen at the Airstrip on the 4th where he was chasing impala lambs, as well as on the 14th, 18th and 19th. On the 18th, one jackal was feeding on the remains of an impala at Mlowathi Dam. On the 26th, there were two individuals south of Mlowathi Dam.
- **HONEY BADGERS** were seen on **six occasions** in February. One was seen at Fred's Tree on the 8th, and another two were seen northeast of West Street Bridge on the 9th. On the 15th, one was seen at the Tamboti Thickets and then three were west of the Boom Hut on the 18th. On the 19th, two were in the Mlowathi River, south of Mlowathi Pans. On the last day of the month, one was north of Mlowathi Dam.