



Game Report



A silhouette of grey go-away birds by ranger Lauren Dent

MalaMala Game Reserve
May 2024

It's all about the wildlife!

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	33	27.7	Maximum	91.4	81.8
Minimum	11	14.8	Minimum	51.8	58.6
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
15		0.6		3	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	99
Leopard	157
Elephant	198
Buffalo	77
Cheetah	2
Cape Hunting Dog	25

**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	4 impala, 3 buffalo, 2 elephant, 1 hyena, 1 kudu, 1 warthog
Leopard	9 impala, 2 bushbuck, 1 duiker
Cheetah	1 impala
Cape Hunting Dog	4 impala, 1 scrub hare

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 18

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

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(23 sightings)

Sightings of the Kambula Pride were more consistent in May, with double the sightings recorded this month. All 13 cubs are thriving and growing. The five lionesses are constantly on the move, seeking food for their demanding family.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 4th and the 5th, the five lionesses with the 10 older cubs were seen with the Ndhzenga males at Princess Alice Pans.
- By the 6th, they had moved east to Kikilezihash Crossing, but from the 7th to the 8th, they were back at the Airstrip.
- The whole pride was at Princess Alice Pans, where they killed an impala ram on the 10th.
- The next day, they were once again with the Ndhzenga males at Kikilezihash Crossing.
- On the 12th, three cubs were left alone west of West Street Bridge and a single lioness was seen at Princess Alice Pans.
- The following day, the bulk of the pride was at the Parking Bay, while one lioness collected the three cubs from West Street.
- The whole pride was east of the Sand River, opposite Rattray's Camp on the 19th.
- On the 21st, they were west of Jakkalsdraai Open Area.
- On the 22nd and the 23rd, they were between the Charleston Flockfield Boundary and Kapen Open Area and were joined by the two Ndhzenga males on the second day.
- On the 24th, where they were seen south of Campbell Koppies.
- On the morning of the 28th, the three youngest cubs were found at West Street Pans and were collected by their mother that afternoon. They rejoined the rest of the pride at the Old Airstrip later that evening to feed on a warthog kill.

THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = Unknown

7 ADULT FEMALES	UNKNOWN AGES
6 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 1 MONTH
7 SUB-ADULTS	± 3 YEARS 8 MONTHS
6 CUBS	±1 YEAR 4 MONTHS

EASTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of this pride in May.

THE NTSEVU PRIDE = 6

2 ADULT FEMALES

1 ADULT FEMALE

3 CUBS

CUBS

MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALAMALA

(42 sightings)

11 YEARS 2 MONTHS

± 10 YEARS 11 MONTHS

0 YEARS 6 MONTHS

± 2 WEEKS

Exciting news this month as this small pride grows in numbers! One of the lionesses gave birth and as with the previous lioness, she seems to be using Campbell Koppies as her den site.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 1st, they killed an impala ram with the two Ndhzenga males near the Mlowathi Spot.
- Two of the lionesses killed a hyena south of the Ngoboswan Donga on the 3rd.
- On the 4th, all six of them were feeding on the remains of an impala kill at the Mlowathi Spot.
- The next day, the pregnant lioness stole an impala carcass from some vultures at Piccadilly Triangle while the rest of the pride were north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing.
- The three cubs were alone north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 6th, while the lionesses rested north of Campbell Koppies.
- On the 8th, two lionesses stole the remains of an impala kill that was stashed in a tree to the west of MalaMala Camp, while the third lioness also stole an impala kill from the Stone Drift female south of Maurice's Pan.
- On the 14th, the lionesses were west of Campbell Koppies, it was clear that the one female had recently given birth.
- The next day, the new mother went into a thicket in the middle of Piccadilly Triangle where there was audio of the new cubs!
- On the 21st, the new mother left one lioness at the northern end of Piccadilly Triangle and led us to her new den site on Campbell Koppies, where two tiny cubs were seen amongst the rocks. The third lioness and three older cubs were further north up the Mlowathi River.
- One lioness and three cubs were joined by a lioness at Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 25th.
- On the 27th, one lioness, with the three cubs, joined an Ndhzenga male on a kudu kill, near Bicycle Crossing, while another lioness was roaring on the opposite bank.
- All three lionesses and the three cubs were near Elephant Rock on the 29th before the one lioness left to make her way back to her young cubs on Campbell Koppies.
- On the 31st, the three cubs were found at the Mlowathi Spot and were collected by their mother, who was covered in blood, and taken back to an unknown kill near Bicycle Crossing.

THE NCUHUMA PRIDE = 16

3 ADULT FEMALES

2 ADULT FEMALES

7 SUB-ADULTS (3 FEMALES & 4 MALES)

WESTERN & CENTRAL EYREFIELD

(3 sightings)

± 7 YEARS 9 MONTHS

± 4 YEARS 11 MONTHS

± 3 YEARS 1 MONTH

There were three sightings of the Nkuhuma Pride in May. On the 2nd, five lionesses and one sub-adult male were seen at Clarendon Dam. They were on the Gowrie Boundary, east of the Mlowathi River three days later. On the 7th, six females were with one young male at Mlowathi Dam Crossing.

THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 5

2 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 10 MONTHS
1 ADULT FEMALE	4 YEARS 4 MONTHS
1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE	3 YEARS 9 MONTHS
2 SUB-ADULT FEMALES	2 YEARS 9 MONTHS
CUBS	± 2 MONTHS
<i>SOUTHERN CHARLESTON</i>	
(2 sightings)	

Five lionesses were seen with two Nkhulu males on the 25th at KK Crossing and one lioness killed a kudu in the Sand River at Rocky Crossing on the 31st.

MALE LIONS

THE NDHZENGA MALES = 2

1 ADULT MALE	± 9 YEARS 3 MONTHS
1 ADULT MALE	± 8 YEARS 10 MONTHS
<i>WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & CHARLESTON</i>	
<i>Dominant over the Kambula.</i>	
<i>First Encountered on MalaMala September 2020</i>	
(21 sightings)	

It was another busy month for the two Ndhzenga males, who split their time between the Kambula pride and the Ntsevu pride while trying to maintain their territorial boundaries.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 1st, they shared an impala kill with the Ntsevu pride at Mlowathi Koppies and were still with them the next day to the west of Campbell Koppies.
- They were both with the Kambula pride at Princess Alice Pans on the 4th and the 5th and moved to Kikilezihash Crossing with the pride on the 6th.
- The next day, they were found separately; one male was near the confluence of the Tlebe Rocks Donga and the Mlowathi River, while the other male was north of Maurice's Pan.
- They were together again on the 8th at Emsagwen Crossing.
- On the 10th, they joined the Ntsevu pride just to the south of Campbell Koppies but returned to the Kambula pride the next day at Kikilezihash Crossing.
- They then went on a territorial mission, first heading south towards Kapen Open Area on the 14th and then walking all the way north to Mlowathi Dam by the 16th.
- On the 19th, they were with a lioness of the Ntsevu Pride southeast of Stwise when they were chased by a herd of elephants.
- They were with the Kambula pride again on the 23rd east of the Kapen Breakfast Spot.
- On the 27th, the larger of the two males killed a male kudu with some members of the Ntsevu pride on the southern bank of the Sand River, west of Bicycle Crossing and were joined in this area by the other male the next day.
- On the 30th, they found a dead elephant cow east of Campbell Koppies and feasted on that carcass until the end of the month.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 10 YEARS 11 MONTHS

EYREFIELD

First encountered in late 2019.

(0 sightings)

This male was not seen on MalaMala in May.

THE BLACK DAM MALES = 2

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 8 MONTHS

EYREFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in 2022

(0 sightings)

They were not seen this month.

THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 11 YEARS 3 MONTHS

NOMADIC

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve

(0 sightings)

This old male was seen twice this month. On the 8th, he was in the Rock Drift Donga at the confluence of the Sand River and he was west of Beaumont's Camp on the 12th.

OTHER LIONS ENCOUNTERED:

- **STYX PRIDE** (5 sightings) – Four lionesses and one young male from the Styx pride were in the Sand River north of Trollip's Crossing on the 11th. Two days later, they were feeding on a buffalo kill in the Sand River, south of Beaumont's Camp where they stayed until the 14th. On the 30th, three lionesses killed a buffalo cow in the Sand River at the confluence of the Rock Drift Donga and were joined by a fourth lioness the next day.
- **4-WAYS PRIDE** (4 sightings) – Two lionesses and three sub-adult males were seen on the 25th to the south of Lion Rocks and on the 28th near the Borehole in eastern Flockfield. On the 30th, they were found feeding on an elephant bull carcass south of Paddy's Pools where they stayed feasting on the remains until the following day.
- **MASUTU PRIDE** (1 sighting) – Two females and 3 cubs (4-6 months old) were seen on the 17th with the Gijima males on a buffalo kill to the south of Beaumont's Camp. This is the breakaway group from the Talamati Pride.
- **NKHULU MALES** (2 sightings) – Two males were with members of the Sand River pride at KK Crossing on the 25th and one male was at Rocky Crossing on the 30th.
- **GIJIMA MALES** (2 sightings) – One male was seen on the access road to Trollip's Camp on the 7th. Two males were with the Masutu pride on the 17th, feeding on the remains of a buffalo kill to the south of Beaumont's Camp.
- Two **UNIDENTIFIED MALES** were seen along the northern parts of the Mlowathi River on the 5th.
- One **UNIDENTIFIED MALE** was seen at Charleston Rocks on the 24th.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	63 (21 cubs)
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LEOPARDS
FEMALE LEOPARDS:

THE PICCADILLY FEMALE
MALE CUB

10 YEARS 4 MONTHS

1 YEAR 4 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

Mother of the Ngungwe female.

(26 sightings, 10 of female, 11 of female and cub, 5 of cub)

Once again, the Piccadilly female spent much of her time with her growing cub around Piccadilly Triangle and the lower reaches of the Mlowathi River. Together, they were the most-seen leopards this month. On the 2nd and 3rd, they were at Lower Mlowathi Crossing and were further upriver the next day. On the 6th, the Piccadilly female was trying to stalk some impala when a black-backed jackal announced her position, ruining her hunt. Both leopards were together on the 8th at Manyeleti Crossing. She was seen on a few occasions alone, between the 9th and the 14th, moving between Sandpit Crossing and the northern parts of Piccadilly Triangle. On the 16th, they were together to the north of Piccadilly Triangle, watching as two mating leopards moved through the area (see 'STONE DRIFT FEMALE'). They were both found midway along the Mlowathi River on the 17th and the 18th. The next day, she was east of the Causeway and was found with her cub on the 20th, feeding off the remains of a bushbuck kill on the northern parts of Rhino Pens, where they stayed until the 21st. On the 23rd, they were eating an impala ram at Kigelia Crossing which was later stolen by a hyena. They moved back to Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 25th and stayed in the area until the 28th. On the 29th, the cub was in the same area but the Piccadilly female was near Elephant Rock.

THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE
2 CUBS

7 YEARS 10 MONTHS

2 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(8 sightings, 8 of female, 0 of female & cubs, 0 of cubs)

There was no sign this month of the newest cubs of this female leopard, but she still has suckle marks and seems to have moved her cubs to a more secret location. On the 6th, she was sharing an impala ram with the Maxim's male west of Confluence Crossing. She walked past Rattray's Camp during breakfast on the 11th and was at Flockfield Tower the next day. On the 19th, she was at Princess Alice Pans before moving eastwards to the Old Flockfield Boma Crossing. She was at the Rattray's Camp sign on the 24th and was rasping at West Street Bridge on the 25th, 30th and 31st.

THE ISLAND FEMALE

11 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD, SOUTHERN MALAMALA

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

(9 sightings)

Once again, the Island female was seen on nine occasions. On the 1st, she was at Styx Crossing and was east of West Street Bridge on the 3rd. Two days later, she was on the southern parts of Flockfield Lookout and was at Buffalo Pans on the 11th. On the 15th and the 17th, she was north of West Street Bridge. On the 19th, she was at Donald's Crossing, and the next day, she was chased up a tree by a pack of Cape hunting dogs further northeast of Maurice's Pan. On the 27th, she was at Maurice's Pan.

THE NKOVENI FEMALE

11 YEARS 9 MONTHS

2 CUBS

4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLI

*Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent early 2014.**Mother of the Plaque Rock female, Xinkhova female, and Stone Drift female.*

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of this female leopard or her cubs on MalaMala in May.

THE XINKHOVA FEMALE

3 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLI

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

(5 sightings)

There was an increase in sightings of this young female leopard this month. On the 11th, she was on the western bank of the Sand River, south of West Street Bridge and the next day she was at Maxim's Lookout. She was seen here again on the 19th and was at the Quarry east of the Airstrip on the 23rd. On the 31st, she was just to the north of Maxim's Lookout.

THE PLAQUE ROCK FEMALE

6 YEARS 3 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

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

(6 sightings)

She was seen on six occasions in May, most of which were with the Maxim's male, despite signs of suckle marks. On the 2nd and 3rd, she was mating with the Maxim's male, between feeding on a bushbuck kill, south of the Causeway. On the 18th, she was seen north of the Airstrip and was mating with the Maxim's male again at West Street Bridge on the 24th and at Confluence Crossing on the 25th. On the 28th, she was feeding on an impala kill south of the Boom Hut before heading towards the drainage line north of the Settling Ponds, where she seemed to be contact calling.

THE STONE DRIFT FEMALE

3 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

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

(14 sightings)

On the 1st and 2nd, she was finishing up and impala kill to the east of Plank's Pan. She was around Maurice's Pan on the 6th and 7th. On the 8th, she was feeding on an impala ram south of Maurice's Pan before it was stolen by a lioness. On the 11th, she was east of the Causeway but moved further southeast the next day towards Maurice's Pan. On the 15th, she was mating with the Flat Rock male to the east of the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot and followed him north to Piccadilly Triangle the next day. On the 23rd, she was at Sandpit Crossing and on the 26th, she was just south of the Causeway where she was also seen on the 30th.

THE SIBUYE FEMALE

10 YEARS 4 MONTHS

2 CUBS (1 MALE, 1 FEMALE)

1 YEAR 2 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

(24 sightings, 4 of female, 7 of female and cubs, 13 of the cubs)

Sightings were consistent again for this female leopard and her two older cubs. They were at Mlowathi Dam from the 1st to the 4th but only the Sibuye female was seen further north on the Gowrie Boundary on the 5th. The next day, the male cub was in the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga and on the 9th, the Sibuye female and her female cub were back at Mlowathi Dam. From the 10th to the 12th, the female cub was found on the wall of Mlowathi Dam. Both cubs were at Mlowathi Dam Crossing on the 14th and were joined by their mother the next day. At least one cub was seen at Mlowathi Dam from the 16th to the 19th. On the 20th, all three of them were feeding on the remains of a duiker kill midway along the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga. Only the Sibuye female was seen in the Mlowathi River on the Gowrie Boundary on the 24th. On the 27th, they chased two honey badgers around at Mlowathi Dam and were further north the next day.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

±14 YEARS 4 MONTHS

NORTHERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

Mother of the Kapen female & the Redhawk male.

(3 sightings)

This older female was seen three times this month. On the 1st, she was seen in the Tamboti Thickets and on the 9th, she was at Flockfield Lookout in the same area as a nervous young male. On the 25th, she was north of Hyena Waterhole.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**2 CUBS**

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.

(12 sightings, 7 of female, 4 of female & cubs, 1 of cubs)

6 YEARS 4 MONTHS

3 MONTHS

She was with her two cubs at her den site east of Campbell Koppies on the 2nd and she was seen alone the next day further south. One cub was seen in the rocky area at the Sausage Spot on the 10th, but all three of them were together to the northeast of Campbell Koppies on the 14th and 15th. They were south of Campbell Koppies on the 18th and she was east of the Causeway, territorial marking on the 21st. On the 25th, she was southeast of Fred's Tree and was east of Sandpit Crossing the next day. She was far east in her territory at the confluence of the Matshapiri River and the Mhlabatini Donga on the 27th, but was back at Campbell Koppies on the 30th.

MALE LEOPARDS

THE MAXIM'S MALE

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.

(11 sightings)

± 9 YEARS 9 MONTHS

We enjoyed more than double the sightings of the Maxim's male this month compared to April. On the 2nd and 3rd, he was mating with the Plaque Rock female and feeding on a bushbuck kill to the south of the Causeway. On the 5th, he was feeding on an impala ram kill to the west of Confluence Crossing and was joined by the Three Rivers female the next day. He was south of the Treehouse on the 8th and for the third month in a row he had a standoff with the Flat Rock male, this time at Old Wildebeest Crossing on the 12th. He was mating with the Plaque Rock female again on the 24th at West Street Bridge and the next day at Confluence Crossing. He was still around West Street Bridge on the 26th and on the 29th, he finished off the impala kill left behind by the Plaque Rock female south of the Boom Hut. He was on the Causeway on the 31st.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

NOMADIC

Son of the Emsagweni female, independent in late 2019.

(0 sightings)

6 YEARS 6 MONTHS

This nomadic male was not seen this month.

THE FLAT ROCK MALE

11 YEARS 1 MONTH

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

(11 sightings)

Sightings of the Flat Rock male remain consistent. On the 4th, he was south of the Ngoboswan Donga and was feeding on an impala ram in the same area two days later. On the 8th, he was west of Maurice's Pan and was south of the Ngoboswan Donga on the 11th. The next day, he had yet another standoff with the Maxim's male from the eastern bank of Old Wildebeest Crossing. On the 15th, he was mating with the Stone Drift female south of the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot and was still with her the next day at Piccadilly Triangle. On the 23rd, he was feeding on an impala kill east of the Causeway, which was later stolen by a hyena. He was at Senegal Bush the next day and was here again on the 30th. He was further east near Emsagwen Crossing on the 31st.

THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

6 YEARS 6 MONTHS

*MARTHLY & WESTERN EYREFIELD**Son of the Emsagweni female, independent in late 2019.*

(3 sightings)

He was seen on three occasions this month. On the 1st, he was feeding on an impala kill east of the Mlowathi River, further south of the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga and was in the Mlowathi River, north of the Tlebe Rocks Donga on the 10th. On the 18th, he was south of Mlowathi Springs.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

9 YEARS 10 MONTHS

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

(8 sightings)

On the 7th, he was far north in his territory to the northeast of Maurice's Pan and was west of Mamba Waterhole on the 12th. On the 14th, he was in the Hogvaal Donga, east of the Matshapiri River and was at Matshapiri Open Area on the 17th. On the 22nd, he was on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary, east of Drum Crossing and was at Kapen Open Area the next day. He was at Dudley Lookout on the 28th and the 29th.

OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED:

- **KAPEN FEMALE & FEMALE CUB** (10 sightings) – On the 1st, she was seen at Vulture Waterhole and was at New Rocks the next day. On the 3rd, the daughter of the Kapen female made her first observed kill east of Mamba Waterhole, an impala ram. On the 11th, the Kapen female was near the Borehole. Her daughter was east of the Kapen River, midway along, on the 15th and was south of Styx Crossing on the 16th. The Kapen female was at Styx Crossing on the 20th, and her daughter was south of Lion Waterhole the next day. On the 26th, she was at the Kapen Breakfast Spot and on the 30th, she watched on as the lionesses of the Styx pride killed a buffalo in the Sand River south of the Rock Drift Donga.
- **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE AND MALE CUB** (3 sightings) – On the 1st, she was west of Mamba Waterhole, and on the 10th, she was mating with the N’weti male at Beaumont’s Camp. On the 17th, her cub was at the Sand River and the Rock Drift Donga confluence.
- **XIVINDZI FEMALE** (2 sightings) – The Xivindzi female has a cub who seems to be around 8 weeks old and is denning in the Sand River at Flat Rocks. They were seen here on the 7th and she was seen in this area again on the 20th.
- **N’WETI MALE** (2 sightings) – On the 10th, he was mating with the River Rocks female at Beaumont’s Camp and he was at the confluence of the Kapen River and the Sand River on the 23rd.
- **2:3 YOUNG MALE** (2 sightings) – He was west of Matshapiri Open Area on the 4th and was treed by a group of Cape hunting dogs on the 13th to the east of Mamba Waterhole.
- **NKOVA MALE** (2 sightings) – He was at Calabash Crossing on the 15th and the 21st.
- There was a **NERVOUS YOUNG MALE** (3:2 spot pattern) near Flockfield Lookout, the same area as the Lookout female, on the 9th. He was seen again in the same area on the 14th.
- There was an **UNIDENTIFIED MALE** at Maurice’s Pan on the 6th.
- An **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE** was seen south west of the Windmill on the 23rd.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	30 (8 cubs)
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CHEETAH

On the 25th, a male cheetah was seen to the east of Clarendon Dam before crossing into the Kruger National Park. A female cheetah was found feeding on an impala lamb kill on the 27th near Mlowathi Pans, but was chased off by descending vultures and managed to leave the area just before one of the Ntsevu lionesses arrived on the scene.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	2 (0 cubs)
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

We recorded **198 sightings** of **Elephants** in May with 134 of those sightings being of herds and the remaining 64 sightings were of bulls, an overall increase from last month, likely due to the drier conditions causing more of these animals to stay near the still-flowing Sand River.

There was a total of **77 sightings** of Cape buffalo this month, with 61 of those sightings being of the old bulls we see mostly on the banks of the Sand River and the remaining 16 sightings were of herds.

CAPE HUNTING DOGS

We enjoyed a total of **25 sightings** of Cape hunting dogs in May. The **TOULON PACK**, made up of 11 individuals, was seen most regularly.

Noteworthy Sightings:

- The pack of three, comprising two males and one female, killed an impala on the southern bank of the Manyeleti River, near Kigelia Crossing on the 2nd and were at Mlowathi Dam the next day. They killed an impala ram at Old Wildebeest Crossing on the 4th and killed an impala ewe west of Bicycle Crossing on the 8th. They were still at Bicycle Crossing the next day.
- One individual was seen on the Kruger National Park Boundary, north of the Charleston Toulon Boundary on the 3rd and another three individuals were seen here on the 8th. The same three were at that same spot again on the 17th and a group of four were at Ingwe Donga on the 20th. By the 22nd, we learned that they were denning in the area west of the Kruger National Park Boundary, north of the Charleston Toulon Boundary and all four adults were seen with 9 pups on the 25th and 26th. Only the four adults were seen on the 27th.
- The members of the Toulon Pack were seen on 11 occasions this month. On the 11th, they were at the Windsock and were at Manyeleti Crossing the next day. On the 13th, they chased a young male leopard up a tree near Mamba Waterhole and were at F Bend Open Area the next day. They were at Beaumont's Camp on the 15th and killed an impala ram on the eastern bank of the Sand River opposite Dudley Camps on the 17th. On the 20th, they chased the Island female up a tree near Buffalo Pans. On the 28th, they killed an impala in F Bend Open Area and lost their kill at Ingwe Donga to a hyena the next day.
- A group of six were seen south of Emsagwen Waterhole on the 13th.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED

33 (9 pups)

OTHER SIGHTINGS OF INTEREST

- Overall, there were **40 sightings** of **SPOTTED HYENA** throughout the property. The den site at F-Bend Open Area was active on 6 occasions, and the den site south of Tlebe Rocks was active once on the 12th, when six members of the clan fed off an impala ram carcass at the den. There also seems to be another den at Lion Rocks, as young cubs and other clan members were seen in this area on several occasions.
- There were **three sightings** of **SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL**s in May.
- There were **15 sightings** of **BLACK-BACKED JACKALS** this month, who were mostly seen around the Airstrip or at Mlowathi Dam.
- **HONEY BADGERS** were seen on **four occasions** in May throughout the property.
- There were **two sightings** of **AFRICAN WILD CATS**. One individual was seen on the 5th alone the Gowrie Boundary, east of the Mlowathi River, and a mother and her kitten were seen northeast Maurice's Pan on the 10th.
- A **SECRETARY BIRD** was seen on **four occasions** this month, mostly west of West Street Bridge, where she seems to be nesting.
- **SERVALS** were seen **twice** this month. A mother and her kitten near the Windmill on the 20th and one relaxed individual near Styx Crossing on the 22nd.
- There were **INDIVIDUAL SIGHTINGS** of a **PANGOLIN**, **WATER MONGOOSE** and a **SIDE-STRIPED JACKAL** this month.