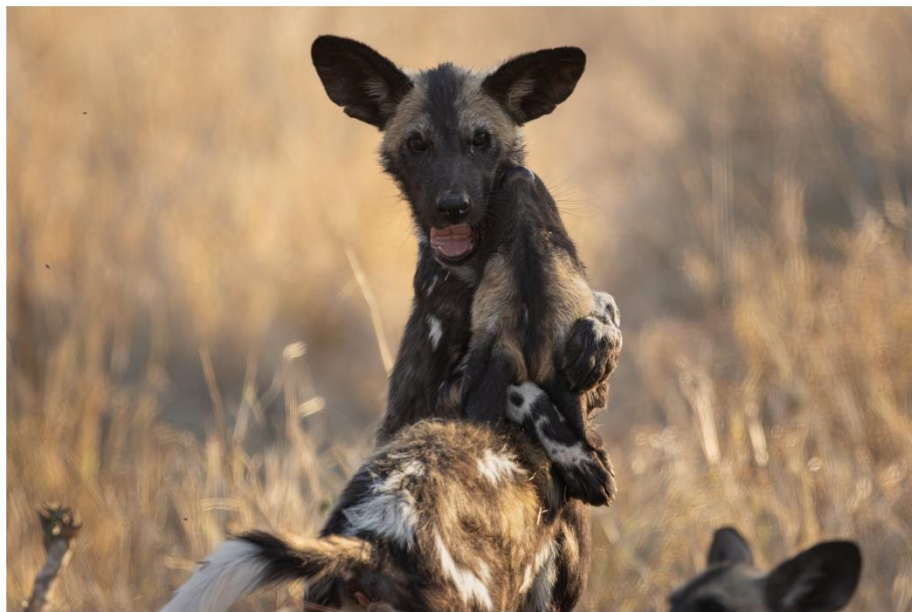




Game Report



Painted Wolf pups by ranger David den Hartog

MalaMala Game Reserve
September 2024

It's all about the wildlife!

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	39	28		102	82
Minimum	9	15		48	59
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
6.5		0.3		3	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	66
Leopard	128
Elephant	229
Buffalo	63
Cheetah	1
Cape Hunting Dog	40

**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	5 impala, 4 buffalo, 1 hippo, 1 giraffe, 1 steenbok, 1 waterbuck, 1 warthog, 1 zebra
Leopard	26 impala, 4 bushbuck, 4 duiker, 1 catfish, 1 mouse, 1 steenbok
Cheetah	N/A
Cape Hunting Dog	5 impala, 1 bushbuck, 1 steenbok

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 18

1 ADULT FEMALE	± 11 YEARS 3 MONTHS
4 ADULT FEMALES	± 6 YEARS 2 MONTHS
9 CUBS	1 YEAR 9 MONTHS
1 CUB	1 YEAR 7 MONTHS
3 CUBS	1 YEAR 2 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(18 sightings)

The members of the Kambula Pride were seen this month moving far and wide throughout their large territory, seemingly in search of larger game to feed the insatiable appetites of their yearling cubs.

Noteworthy Sightings:

- On the 1st, the entire pride was at Styx Crossing and east of Campbell Koppies two days later.
- They were in the same area on the 4th and were joined by the Ndhzenga males at the Sausage Spot the next day.
- Only the 13 cubs were in the Manyeleti River, west of the Sand River on the 6th and the whole pride was seen on the 17th with the Ndhzenga males at Confluence Crossing.
- They were still with the two males the next day further north, near the Accipiter Donga.
- On the 19th, they were near Campbell Koppies when they killed an impala ram, who was stolen by the older Ndhzenga male, but the pride continued south and found the Ntsevu pride with the remains of a giraffe kill, on which they proceeded to gorge themselves. Only 7 cubs were with the Ndhzenga males in this area the next day.
- On the 24th, they returned to MalaMala from the west at Flockfield Drift and walked across the Sand River and back to the giraffe carcass south of Fred's Tree. They were south of this area the next morning, while one lioness was south of the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot.
- They were feeding on the remains of a hippo carcass to the north of West Street Bridge from the 26th to the 27th.
- On the 28th, they were feeding on the remains of a male buffalo with the two Ndhzenga males far east along the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary and were back in the Sand River at West Street Bridge the next day.
- They killed an impala on the 30th, south of Lion Waterhole, but it was swiftly stolen by the Ndhzenga males.

THE NCUHUMA PRIDE = 8

2 ADULT FEMALES	± 8 YEARS 1 MONTH
2 ADULT FEMALES	± 5 YEARS 3 MONTHS
4 SUB-ADULTS (3 FEMALES & 1 MALE)	± 3 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN & CENTRAL EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

Members of this pride were not seen on MalaMala in September, but there were reports from the northern Sabi Sands that at least one lioness was looking heavily pregnant by the end of the month.

THE NTSEVU PRIDE = 10

2 ADULT FEMALES

1 ADULT FEMALE

3 CUBS

MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALAMALA

(16 sightings)

11 YEARS 6 MONTHS

± 11 YEARS 3 MONTHS

0 YEARS 10 MONTHS

There were fewer sightings of the Ntsevu pride this month and the four youngest cubs have not been seen for weeks, leading us to believe they may have succumbed to the mange they were suffering from. The condition of the three older cubs seems to be improving as time goes on.

Noteworthy sightings:

- The lionesses and three older cubs killed a zebra foal to the east of Campbell Koppies on the 9th and they were south of the Causeway the next day.
- The six of them were with the Ndhzenga males at Mlowathi Dam on the 13th.
- On the 15th, one lioness was feeding on the remains of an impala west of the Causeway but later made her way eastwards to the rest of the pride who had killed an adult male giraffe to the south of Fred's Tree.
- One lioness caught a waterbuck at Elephant Rock on the 16th, but members of the pride were seen at the giraffe kill every day until the 19th, when the Kambula pride chased them off the remains.
- On the 18th, the mother of the four youngest cubs was seen west of Bicycle Crossing calling for her cubs but with no sign of them, while another lioness caught an impala at Sandpit Crossing when she came to the Sand River for a drink.
- On the 20th, they were at Bicycle Crossing and the three lionesses were at Matumi Rocks on the 27th.
- On the 30th, the lionesses had finished an impala kill south of Campbell Koppies before killing a warthog further east.

THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 8

2 ADULT FEMALES

1 ADULT FEMALE

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

2 SUB-ADULT FEMALES

± 2 CUBS

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

(5 sightings)

± 6 YEARS 2 MONTHS

4 YEARS 8 MONTHS

4 YEARS 1 MONTH

3 YEARS 1 MONTH

± 2 WEEKS

Good news for the Sand River pride this month as their numbers are beginning to grow. On the 2nd, four lionesses were with three Nkuhlu males on the Charleston Toulon Boundary, east of the Sand River. Five lionesses were with one Nkuhlu male at the confluence of the Sand River and the Tjellahanga River on the 18th. One of the lionesses gave birth to at least two cubs and is using Flat Rocks as her den site where they were seen on the 24th. On the 28th and 29th, three lionesses shared a buffalo kill with one Nkuhlu male at Calabash Crossing.

THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = Unknown

7 ADULT FEMALES

6 ADULT FEMALES

6 CUBS

EASTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

UNKNOWN AGES

± 8 YEARS 5 MONTHS

±1 YEAR 8 MONTHS

They were not encountered on MalaMala this month.

MALE LIONS

THE NDHZENGA MALES = 2

1 ADULT MALE

± 9 YEARS 7 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE

± 9 YEARS 2 MONTHS

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

(18 sightings)

Still dominant over much of MalaMala's territory, the two Ndzenga males show no sign of slowing down and were seen throughout their large territory this month.

Noteworthy sightings:

- On the 1st, they attempted to take down a young hippo at Pedro's pub but were unsuccessful and they were at Matumi Rocks the next day.
- They were on the Airstrip on the 4th and with the Kambula pride at the Sausage Spot on the next day.
- One male was on the Airstrip again on the 9th and they were both with the Ntsevu pride at Mlowathi Dam on the 13th, where they chased a young leopard up a tree (see "SIBUYE FEMALE" section).
- On the 14th, they were at Bicycle Crossing, but the younger male followed his nose south of the Causeway to remains of an impala kill up a tree which he proceeded to climb and steal.
- They were at Confluence Crossing with the Kambula pride on the 17th and followed them northwards to the Accipiter Donga the next day.
- On the 19th, they were with the Kambula pride at Campbell Koppies when the younger male killed a steenbok and later the older male stole an impala kill from the pride.
- By the next day, they had rejoined the pride at a giraffe kill south of Fred's Tree.
- On the 22nd, they followed descending vultures to an impala carcass south of the Airstrip and were chased by a herd of elephants at Charleston North Crossing on the 27th.
- They joined the Kambula pride at a buffalo kill far east on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary on the 28th and followed them to West Street Bridge the next day.
- On the 30th, they stole an impala kill from the Kambula pride south of Lion Waterhole.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 11 YEARS 3 MONTHS

*EYREFIELD**First encountered in late 2019.*

(1 sighting)

On the 1st, he was on the Gowrie Boundary, west of the Matshapiri River, trailing a herd of buffalo.

THE NKUHLU MALES = 6

2 ADULT MALES

± 6 YEARS 1 MONTH

4 ADULT MALES

± 5 YEARS 1 MONTH

CHARLESTON

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in 2022

(6 sightings)

Males from this coalition were seen on six occasions in September. On the 2nd, three of them were with the Sand River pride on the Charleston Toulon Boundary, east of the Sand River. Two of the males were at Rocky Crossing on the 5th and five of them were west of Jakkalsdraai Open Area on the 8th. Two males were at Island Crossing on the 10th and one male was with five lionesses from the Sand River pride at the confluence of the Tjellahanga River and the Sand River on the 18th. One male joined the members of the Sand River pride at a buffalo kill at Calabash Crossing on the 28th.

THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 11 YEARS 7 MONTHS

NOMADIC

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of this male on MalaMala this month, although there have been reports that he has moved further north of MalaMala.

OTHER LIONS ENCOUNTERED:

- **STYX MALE & KAMBULA BREAKAWAY FEMALE** (6 sightings) – On the 3rd, they were at the confluence of the Sand River and the Rock Drift Donga when the River Rocks female walked into them, but managed to get away. They were at Styx Crossing on the 9th, Lion Rocks on the 18th, and were at Charleston North Crossing on the 19th. They were midway along the Charleston Flockfield Boundary trailing a herd of buffalo on the 26th and were at Charleston North Crossing on the 29th.
- **TALAMATI MALE & NKUHUMA MALE** (6 sightings) – These two males were at Clarendon Dam on the 8th and were feasting on a buffalo bull kill west of Charleston North Crossing on the 11th. They had another buffalo kill in the same area from the 21st to the 24th.
- **GIJIMA MALES** (1 sighting) – On the 25th, these two males were resting with very full bellies on Beaumont's Southern Access.
- Three **UNIDENTIFIED YOUNG MALES** were at Clarendon Dam on the 3rd.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	50 (18 cubs)
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LEOPARDS
FEMALE LEOPARDS:

**THE PICCADILLY FEMALE
MALE CUB**

10 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 YEAR 8 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

Mother of the Ngungwe female.

(15 sightings, 7 of female, 8 of the cub)

The Piccadilly female started off another month with a territorial challenge, this time with the Tlebe Rocks female to the north of Campbell Koppies. Her son was on the western parts of Campbell Koppies on the 7th, watching the Island female and Flat Rock male mating nearby. On the 12th, she was at Piccadilly Triangle and her son was at Lower Mlowathi Crossing. He killed a mouse here the next day, while she was seen at the Causeway. Her son was still at Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 15th with an impala kill and she had an impala kill of her own near Bicycle Crossing, which was stolen by the Flat Rock male, who followed her to Piccadilly Pans the next day. On the 19th, her son was at Piccadilly Triangle and the next day she was mating with the Maxim's male near Flockfield Camp, when they bumped into the Three Rivers female and cub, before continuing westwards. She was at Kikilezihash Crossing on the 22nd, moving back northwards towards her territory and her son was near Elephant Rock Lookout on the 23rd. Her son was at Mlowathi Pans on the 26th.

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

10 YEARS 8 MONTHS
1 YEAR 6 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

Mother of the Tlebe Rocks female, Langa female & Xaxa male.

(10 sightings, 1 of female, 3 of female & cubs, 6 of the cubs)

Both the cubs were seen on the Gowrie Boundary, far east of the Mlowathi River on the 2nd and only the female cub was with the Sibuye female in the same area on the 5th. The female cub was still in this area the next day and all three of them were together at Mlowathi Dam on the 7th. She was alone at Mlowathi Springs on the 8th and the female cub was chased up a tree by the Ndhzenga males on the 13th, further east of Mlowathi Dam. Both females were at Mlowathi Dam again on the 15th. The male cub was at Mlowathi Springs on the 19th. On the 26th, all three of the were feeding on an impala kill northwest of Mlowathi Pans and the male cub was further west two day later.

THE NKOVENI FEMALE
2 CUBS

12 YEARS 1 MONTH
8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA

Daughter of the Mashaba female, independent early 2014.

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

(6 sightings, 6 of female & cubs)

On the 9th, the Nkoveni female stole a kill from her daughter, the Xinkhova female, to the east of the Airstrip and was found with her cubs the next day with another impala kill east of the Airstrip Quarry. They remained in this area until the 11th. She killed an impala on the 16th at the Old Airstrip, which she shared with her cubs. They had a fresh impala kill along with a scavenged impala kill to the north of Maxim's Lookout on the 24th and the 25th.

THE STONE DRIFT FEMALE

3 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & WESTERN EYREFIELD

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

(19 sightings)

She was our most viewed leopard this month. On the 1st, she was with the Flat Rock male east of the Sand River, south of the Causeway with little remains of an impala kill. The next day she was at Sandpit Crossing with a hoisted duiker kill and a fresh impala kill, which was later stolen by a hyena. She was at Buffalo Pans on the 4th and two days later, she stole a kill from a pack of Cape hunting dogs and hyenas to the south of West Street Bridge. On the 8th, she was at Kikilezihash Crossing and had an impala kill at the Hippo Pools south of the Causeway on the 11th. She remained in this area until the 14th, when the kill was stolen by an Ndhzenga male. On the 15th, she had the remains of an impala kill east of Sandpit Crossing. On the 22nd, she hoisted an impala kill into a Sausage tree, just north of Maxim's Lookout and was still in this area the next day. On the 25th, she was in the Sand River opposite Maxim's Lookout and fed on a bushbuck kill near Kikilezihash Crossing on the 27th and 28th. On the 29th, she stole an impala kill from her sister, the Xinkhova female, east of the Old Airstrip.

THE XINKHOVA FEMALE

3 YEARS 8 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLI

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

(7 sightings)

On the 3rd, she was on the Old Airstrip and on the 9th, she had an impala kill east of the Airstrip, which was stolen by her mother later that evening. On the 23rd, she was at the entrance to MalaMala Camp and the next day she moved between two impala kills, both at the Old Airstrip. On the 27th, she was at Sable Rotunda and killed an impala at the Old Airstrip two days later. Unfortunately, this kill was later stolen by her sister, the Stone Drift female, but she remained in the area until the 30th.

THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE

8 YEARS 2 MONTHS

1 CUB

6 MONTHS

*WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & WESTERN MALAMALA**Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], orphaned on 22nd May 2017.**Mother of the Nsuku male.*

(3 sightings, 1 of female, 2 of female & cub)

She was only seen on three occasions in September. On the 18th, her and her cub were north of Princess Alice Pans with an impala kill, which she dragged westwards over the boundary. Two days later they were at Flockfield Camp with another fresh impala kill and were interrupted that evening by the mating Maxim's male and Piccadilly female who moved passed and were then trailed by the Three Rivers female. On the 27th, she was scent-marking to the west of West Street Bridge.

THE ISLAND FEMALE

11 YEARS 7 MONTHS

*WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & SOUTHERN MALAMALA**Daughter of the Tamboti female[†], independent first quarter of 2015.**Mother of the Drum Crossing female.*

(9 sightings)

The Island female was seen on fewer occasions in September. On the 7th, she was mating with the Flat Rock male at Campbell Koppies, far north of her territory, and they were mating again west of Piccadilly Triangle two days later. She was at Flockfield Lookout on the 14th and had a duiker kill at Piccadilly Crossing on the 17th. She was at Confluence Crossing the next day and was further northeast of West Street Bridge on the 19th. On the 23rd, she was north of Styx Crossing and was mating with the Flat Rock male north of Matshapiri Open Area on the 26th, and at Ostrich Koppies on the 27th.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

±14 YEARS 8 MONTHS

1 CUB

±5 MONTHS

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

(5 sightings, 5 of female & cub)

They were seen five times this month. On the 20th, she and her cub fed on an impala kill in the Kapen River, west of Hyena Waterhole and on the 23rd, they had another impala kill east of Dudley Lookout where they remained until the 24th. She was with her cub west of Styx Crossing on the 28th and they fed on an impala kill at Styx Crossing on the 29th.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE**1 CUB***CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD**Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.**(5 sightings, 4 of female, 1 of female & cub)*

6 YEARS 8 MONTHS

7 MONTHS

She had a territorial dispute on the 1st with the Piccadilly female to the north of Campbell Koppies and the next day she was with the Flat Rock male, unwillingly sharing her duiker and impala kills with him in the Maonyeleni Donga, west of the Matshapiri River. On the 5th, she was south of Campbell Koppies and was in the same area with her cub on the 7th. On the 19th, she was west of Ostrich Koppies and only tracks of the two of them were seen later in the month.

MALE LEOPARDS

THE MAXIM'S MALE*WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA**First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.**(4 sightings)*

± 10 YEARS 1 MONTH

There were fewer sightings of the Maxim's male in September. He was mating with the Piccadilly female at Flockfield Camp on the 20th. On the 25th, he was at Flockfield Pools with an impala kill, which he stole from a crocodile, and he was at the Treehouse two days later. He was at Bicycle Crossing at the end of the month.

THE FLAT ROCK MALE*MARTHLY, WESTERN & CENTRAL EYREFIELD**Son of the Porcupine female. First seen on MalaMala in early 2017.**(11 sightings)*

11 YEARS 5 MONTHS

On the 1st, he was south of the Causeway with the Stone Drift female and small remains of an impala carcass. The next day he stole a duiker kill from the Tlebe Rocks female in the Maonyeleni Donga, west of the Matshapiri River and on the 7th, he was mating with the Island female at Campbell Koppies, while the son of the Piccadilly female watched on. On the 15th, he stole an impala carcass from the Piccadilly female near Bicycle Crossing and was with the Piccadilly female at Piccadilly Pans the next day. He was in the Mlowathi River, far north of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 20th and two days later, he was on the Causeway. On the 26th, he was mating with the Island female to the north of Matshapiri Open Area and again at Ostrich Koppies on the 27th.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

10 YEAR 2 MONTHS

*FLOCKFIELD, MALAMALA & CHARLESTON**Son of the Ostrich Koppies female[†], independent latter half of 2015.*

(7 sightings)

On the 2nd, he was west of Emsagwen Crossing and midway along the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary on the 9th. He was north of the Tamboti Thickets on the 13th and the next day he was feeding on a scavenged impala kill in the Matshapiri River, near Donald's Crossing. On the 17th, he was fighting with the younger Nkova male at River Rocks, while a nervous, unknown female watched on. He was north of Piccadilly Crossing on the 22nd and on the 26th, he was at the Treehouse.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

6 YEARS 10 MONTHS

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

(2 sightings)

He was at Matshapiri Dam on the 15th and on the 30th, he had an impala kill south of the Gowrie Boundary, west of the Matshapiri River.

THE NGOBOSWAN MALE

6 YEARS 10 MONTHS

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

(0 sightings)

There were no sightings of the Ngoboswan male on MalaMala this month.

OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED:

- **KAPEN FEMALE** (2 sightings) – She was west of the Windmill on the 13th and at Kapen Rocks on the 26th.
- **DAUGHTER OF THE KAPEN FEMALE** (1 sighting) – On the 1st, she was chased off by the River Rocks female south of the Kapen Breakfast Spot.
- **KUCHAVA FEMALE & 2 CUBS** (2 sightings) – On the 29th and 30th, this female and her two 5-month-old cubs were feeding on a duiker kill south of most eastern parts of the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga.
- **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE & MALE CUB** (10 sightings) – She had an altercation with the young Daughter of the Kapen female on the 1st and chased her off eastwards from the Kapen Breakfast Spot. On the 2nd, she shared a bushbuck kill with her cub near Beaumont's Hippo Pools and he was still there the next day, while she walked into some lions further north of Beaumont's Camp, but managed to get away unscathed. She was in the Kapen River near Dudley Lookout on the 5th and her cub was in the Sand River opposite Beaumont's Camp on the 11th. On the 13th, the cub had a bushbuck kill on Verreaux's Loop and was still there the next day. On the 20th, she was in the Rock Drift Donga, east of the Sand River and the cub was south of Beaumont's Camp on the 27th.
- **NTSUMI FEMALE & 2 CUBS** (4 sightings) – The two cubs were north of Beaumont's Camp on the 3rd and all three were joined by the N'weti male at an impala kill west of Charleston North Crossing on the 5th, before being chased off by a herd of elephants. She was seen with only one cub at Beaumont's Camp on the 21st and she was south of the camp on the 24th.
- **WATIKA FEMALE** (1 sighting) – This unusual visitor was at Clarendon Dam on the 2nd.

- **XIVINDZI FEMALE & CUB** (2 sightings) – She was at Ivory Pans on the 18th and in Ingwe Donga with her cub on the 25th.
- **2:3 MALE** (1 sighting) – He was in the Matshapiri River, near Emsagwen Waterhole on the 18th.
- **HANYILE MALE** (3 sightings) – He was at Calabash Crossing on the 10th, at Flat Rocks on the 13th, and at Rocky Crossing on the 23rd.
- **MOLWATHI MALE** (1 sighting) – Called the ‘elusive ghost leopard’ by some, he is rarely seen, but was hunting catfish in the mud at Matshapiri Dam on the 6th.
- **NKOVA MALE** (2 sightings) – On the 4th, he was mating with an unknown female leopard near F Bend Open Area and he was near Calabash Crossing the next day. On the 17th, he was with the same female at River Rocks when the Split Rock male arrived and the two males proceeded to have an aggressive interaction with no severe injuries observed.
- **N’WETI MALE** (3 sightings) – On the 5th, he was with the Ntsumi female and two cubs at an impala kill west of Charleston North Crossing, when they were all chased by a herd of elephants. He was at the confluence of the Sand River and the Rock Drift Donga on the 8th and on the 15th, he was south of Calabash Crossing.
- **TORTOISE PAN MALE** (2 sightings) – He was on the Gowrie Boundary, east of the Mlowathi River on the 15th and the 16th.
- **XAXA MALE** (2 sightings) – Also known as the “Shasha male”, was east of Tlebe Rocks on the 23rd and was finishing up a steenbok kill far northeast of West Street Bridge on the 29th.
- **UNKNOWN 3:3 FEMALE** (2 sightings) – This shy female was mating with the Nkova male near F Bend Open Area on the 4th and the 17th, when they were interrupted by the Split Rock Male.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	42 (14 cubs)
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CHEETAH

One male cheetah was seen at Clarendon Dam on the 26th.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CHEETAH ENCOUNTERED	1 (0 cubs)
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

We recorded **229 sightings** of **Elephants** in August with 199 of those sightings being of herds and the remaining 30 sightings were of lone bulls and bachelor groups.

There was a total of **63 sightings** of Cape buffalo this month, with 41 of those sightings being of the old bulls and the remaining 22 sightings were of larger herds.

CAPE HUNTING DOGS

- **TOULON PACK (7 ADULTS, 3 PUPS)** (17 sightings) – This pack was seen at their den site in the southwest corner of MalaMala on 15 occasions. Six adults killed an impala at Sandpit Crossing on the 3rd, before returning south and five adults were north of Calabash Crossing being trailed by four spotted hyenas on the 11th.
- **“FLOCKFIELD PACK” (6 ADULTS, 10 PUPS)** (15 sightings) – Unofficially named the “Flockfield Pack” as they were encountered in central and eastern Flockfield. On the 2nd and 3rd, they were on the Old MalaMala Flockfield Boundary and killed an impala north of Styx Crossing on the 5th. They killed an impala at West Street Bridge on the 6th, which was stolen by a spotted hyena, thereafter returning to the Old MalaMala Flockfield Boundary, where it seemed they decided to den. Five adults killed a nyala at Drum Crossing on the 7th and an impala at Styx Crossing the next day. The alpha female was seen in the vicinity of the den on the 9th and all the adults were in this area the next day. They killed a steenbok at White Cloth Open Area on the 11th and the whole pack were further east on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary the next day. They moved their den to the Kapen River, east of Piccadilly Crossing on the 14th and killed an impala nearby the next day. They remained in this general area until the 17th and then a dead pup was found on the 20th, with no further sign of the pack afterwards.
- **TWO MALES** were seen on three occasions, at the Airstrip on the 15th and then again at Confluence Crossing on the 25th, where they killed a bushbuck. They were seen again on the 30th, near West Street Bridge. These are the two males that were left behind after their alpha female was killed last month.
- **THREE INDIVIDUALS** killed an impala far east of Mlowathi Dam on the 16th and were seen near Ostrich Koppies on the 27th. They were at Pat’s Drift Koppies on the 28th and north of Campbell Koppies on the 30th.
- An **UNKNOWN PACK** were at Mlowathi Dam on the 10th.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED

21 (13 pups)

OTHER SIGHTINGS OF INTEREST

- Overall, there were **28 sightings** of **SPOTTED HYENA** throughout the property. A new den site was also discovered to the west of Jakkalsdraai Open Area with at least two young cubs seen.
- **OSTRICHES** were seen on **6 occasions** and **SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL**s were seen **3 times** this month.
- **BLACK-BACKED JACKALS** were seen **5 times**, **CAPE CLAWLESS OTTERS** were in the Sand River **twice**, and an **AFRICAN CIVET** was seen on **two occasions**.
- There were individual sightings of **AFRICAN WILD CAT**, **CARACAL** and **PORCUPINE**.