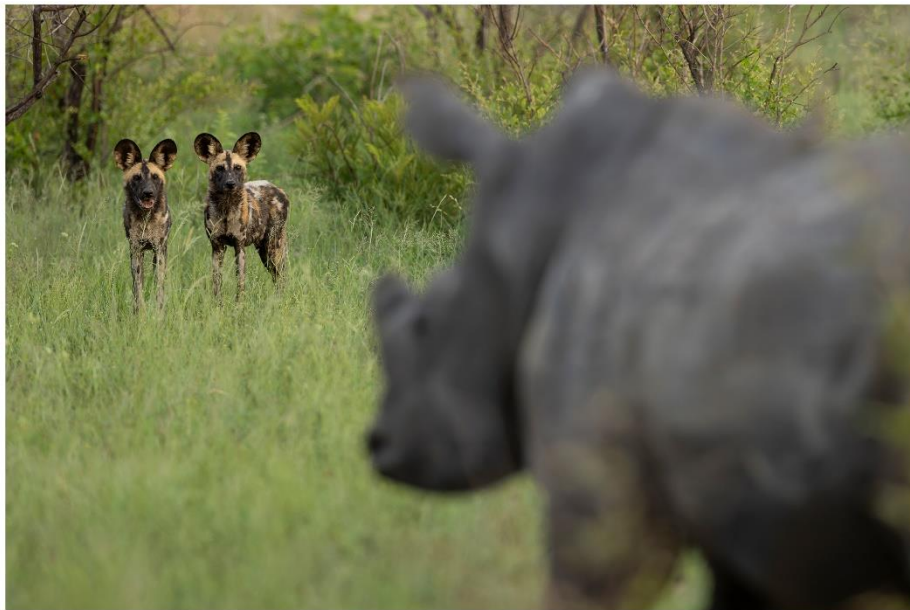




Game Report



Cape hunting dogs & White rhino, by ranger Jacques Briam

MalaMala Game Reserve
December 2024

It's all about the wildlife!

THE MONTH'S WEATHER SUMMARY					
Temperature					
Celsius (°C)			Fahrenheit (°F)		
	Actual	Average		Actual	Average
Maximum	40	34		104	93
Minimum	16	23		61	73
Rainfall					
Millimetres		Inches		Days of rain	
32.5		1.3		8	

TOTAL SIGHTINGS	
Lion	95
Leopard	151
Elephant	214
Buffalo	49
Cheetah	3
Cape Hunting Dog	14

**Sightings are tallied by day and not by drive. E.g., an individual leopard seen during the morning and afternoon drive on the same day is regarded as a single sighting.*

KILL STATS	
Lion	2 buffalo, 2 wildebeest, 2 zebra, 1 kudu, 1 warthog, 1 waterbuck
Leopard	13 impala, 3 duiker, 1 bushbuck, 1 monkey, 1 hare, 1 steenbok, 1 zebra
Cheetah	1 impala
Cape Hunting Dog	7 impala

*AGES ARE APPROXIMATIONS

LION PRIDES

THE KAMBULA PRIDE = 18

1 ADULT FEMALE	± 11 YEARS 6 MONTHS
4 ADULT FEMALES	± 6 YEARS 5 MONTHS
9 SUB-ADULTS	2 YEARS 0 MONTHS
1 CUB	1 YEAR 10 MONTHS
3 CUBS	1 YEAR 5 MONTHS

MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD, NORTHERN CHARLESTON

(46 sightings)

Once again, they spent much of their time split up this month and it seems like two of the lionesses having gone back into heat now that the sub-adults are around two years old.

Noteworthy Sightings:

- Two lionesses shared a warthog kill west of West Street Bridge on the 2nd and most members of the pride were in the Tamboti Thickets on the 4th.
- On the 5th, 16 members of the pride were at the Airstrip and they were at Princess Alice Pans with the Ndhzenga males the next day.
- Only four lionesses were at the Airstrip on the 8th and the next day three lionesses and two cubs were joined by the Ndhzenga males, while the rest of the pride were much further south at the confluence of the Sand River and the Rock Drift Donga.
- On the 11th, three lionesses were with the Ndhzenga males at Hyena Waterhole and two cubs were at West Street Bridge.
- At least 13 members of the pride were at Old Dudley Crossing on the 12th and we were given the unfortunate news from our neighbours in the west that one of the younger cubs was killed and an older sub-adult male badly injured by the Styx male earlier that morning.
- On the 14th, three lionesses and the remaining 11 sub-adults/cubs were finishing off a wildebeest kill at the Airstrip with the Ndhzenga males nearby. On the same day, another lioness was found at Flockfield Pools with her chest covered in porcupine quills.
- The bulk of the pride was still at the Airstrip on the 15th while one lioness was with the Ndhzenga males south of the Airstrip and the fifth lioness was closer to Rattray's Camp.
- Two lionesses were opposite Rattray's Camp on the 17th and the 18th, while one lioness was mating with the older Ndhzenga male north of Princess Alice Pans.
- On the 19th, the bulk of the pride were on Dudley Lookout while one lioness was west of West Street Bridge.
- Two days later, a lioness stole an impala kill from the Island female near White Cloth Open area and another two lionesses were with one cub at Hyena Waterhole.
- On the 22nd, the same three had a waterbuck kill north of Rattray's Camp and the rest of the pride were at the Parking Bay the next day.
- Four lionesses and 11 sub-adults/cubs, along with the two Ndhzenga males killed a buffalo far east along the Kapen River on the 24th and most of them remained feeding in this area until the 26th. Two of the lionesses were found at Maxim's Lookout on the 26th as well.
- 11 sub-adults/cubs were on Flockfield Lookout on the 27th and were joined by three lionesses the next day at White Cloth Open Area. The injured sub-adult male was found further west of them, looking very thin and with what seemed to be a badly broken leg.
- 14 members of the pride were far south near Beaumont's Camp on the 29th and the other two lionesses (one looking heavily pregnant) were in the Tamboti Thickets, while the injured sub-adult male was seen at Confluence Crossing on the 30th and the 31st.

THE NTSEVU PRIDE = 6

2 ADULT FEMALES

1 ADULT FEMALE

3 CUBS

MARTHLY, EYREFIELD, MALAMALA

(16 sightings)

11 YEARS 9 MONTHS

± 11 YEARS 6 MONTHS

1 YEAR 1 MONTH

On the 3rd, they were eating a zebra foal south of Mlowathi Dam and the next day, they were feeding on another zebra kill west of Mlowathi Pans. They had another kill on the 5th, this time a wildebeest calf, at the Mlowathi Spot and were south of the Causeway the next day. On the 8th, they were at Piccadilly Triangle and were near Kigelia Crossing two days later. They were west of Bicycle Crossing on the 12th and were at Manyeleti Crossing the next day, where their rest was interrupted by a charging herd of elephants. On the 14th, they were near Plank's Pan and were west of Bicycle Crossing on the 16th. They were only seen again on the 26th at the confluence of the Three Rivers and remained here until the 27th, when the older Ndhzenga male joined them. The next day they were further west of Bicycle Crossing with both Ndhzenga males.

THE SAND RIVER PRIDE = 5

2 ADULT FEMALES

1 ADULT FEMALE

1 ADULT FEMALE

1 SUB-ADULT FEMALE

SOUTHERN CHARLESTON

(2 sightings)

± 6 YEARS 5 MONTHS

4 YEARS 11 MONTHS

4 YEARS 4 MONTHS

3 YEARS 4 MONTHS

On the 19th, they were with one Nkuhlu male at River Rocks and one lioness was mating with an Nkuhlu male on the Charleston Toulon Boundary, east of the Sand River on the 23rd.

THE NKUHUMA PRIDE = 8

2 ADULT FEMALES

2 ADULT FEMALES

4 SUB-ADULTS (3 FEMALES & 1 MALE)

WESTERN & CENTRAL EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

± 8 YEARS 4 MONTHS

± 5 YEARS 6 MONTHS

± 3 YEARS 8 MONTHS

They were not seen on MalaMala in December.

THE TORCHWOOD PRIDE = 18

5 ADULT FEMALES

6 ADULT FEMALES

7 MALE CUBS

EASTERN EYREFIELD

(0 sightings)

UNKNOWN AGES

8 YEARS 8 MONTHS

±1 YEAR 11 MONTHS

They were not seen on MalaMala in December.

MALE LIONS

THE NDHZENGA MALES = 2

1 ADULT MALE ± 9 YEARS 10 MONTHS

1 ADULT MALE ± 9 YEARS 5 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA, FLOCKFIELD & CHARLESTON

Dominant over the Kambula pride and Ntsevu pride.

First Encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in September 2020.

(28 sightings)

They had another successful month and were seen looking healthy throughout their whole territory and have started to mate again with two of the Kambula lionesses coming back into heat.

Noteworthy sightings:

- They were north south of Donald's Crossing on the 2nd and joined the Kambula Pride at Princess Alice Pans on the 6th. One male remained here with the Kambula pride the next day, while the other brother was at the Airstrip.
- He was further south at Flockfield Drift on the 8th and both males were with members of the Kambula pride at the Airstrip the next day.
- They were with three Kambula lionesses at Vulture Waterhole on the 11th and at the Parking Bay on the 12th.
- They rejoined the remaining members of the Kambula pride at Flockfield Pools on the 13th and were with them at the Airstrip the next day with remains of a wildebeest kill.
- They were south of the Airstrip with one Kambula lioness on the 15th and one male was west of West Street Bridge on the 17th.
- On the 18th, the older Ndhzenga male was mating with a Kambula lioness north of Princess Alice Pans while his brother was north of Elephant Rock.
- The next day, the younger brother was east of West Street Bridge while the older male was further south at Kapen Open Area.
- On the 22nd, they were north of Elephant Rock and on the 24th, they joined the Kambula pride and killed a buffalo far east along the Kapen River.
- They enjoyed this feast with the Kambula pride on Christmas Day and on the 28th, they were with the Ntsevu pride west of Bicycle Crossing.
- On the 30th, they were found at Sandpit Crossing and walked southwards to West Street Bridge where they chased off a pack of Cape hunting dogs.

THE NKUHLU MALES = 5

2 ADULT MALES ± 6 YEARS 4 MONTHS

3 ADULT MALES ± 5 YEARS 4 MONTHS

CHARLESTON

Dominant over the Sand River pride.

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in 2022.

(5 sightings)

Only five of these males have been seen regularly for the last few months. Four members of this coalition were in F Bend Open Area on the 1st and one male was in Ingwe Donga on the 3rd. One male was with the Sand River pride at River Rocks on the 19th and two of them were finishing a kudu kill in this area the next day. On the 23rd, two males were with one Sand River lioness, one of which was mating with her, on the Charleston Toulon Boundary, east of the Sand River.

THE NORTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 11 YEARS 6 MONTHS

NOMADIC

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2019.

(0 sightings)

He has not been seen on MalaMala for a few months, but has been reported further east into the Kruger National Park.

THE SOUTHERN AVOCA MALE = 1

1 ADULT MALE

± 11 YEARS 10 MONTHS

NOMADIC

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in 2017.

(0 sightings)

He was not seen on MalaMala in December.

OTHER LIONS ENCOUNTERED:

- **STYX MALE & KAMBULA BREAKAWAY FEMALE** (6 sightings) – On the 3rd, they were at the confluence of the Kapen River and the Sand River and there were reports that they killed and injured two Kambula sub-adults/cubs on the 12th further west of Old Dudley Crossing. On the 18th, the Styx male was in the Sand River at the Rock Drift Donga and he was joined by the Kambula breakaway female two days later. On the 21st, they both walked into the four Kambula males resting on the Charleston Flockfield Boundary, east of the Sand River. The Styx male was chased off and the Kambula breakaway female caught up with her brothers. She was at Charleston North Crossing on the 27th and they were both at the confluence of the Sand River and the Rock Drift Donga on the 28th.
- **KAMBULA MALES** (5 sightings) – On the 21st, four of these males were resting on the Charleston Flockfield Boundary, when their sister and the Styx male walked into them. They chased the Styx male off but socialized with their sister for a while before going their separate ways. The next day they had killed a buffalo south of Jakkalsdraai Open Area and remained here until the 23rd. They were west of this area on the 24th and were at the confluence of the Sand River and the Rock Drift Donga on Christmas Day.
- **MSUTHU PRIDE** (1 sighting) – Four lionesses and at least seven cubs from this pride were seen on Trollip's Access Road on the 12th.
- **"KRUGER" MALE** (1 sighting) – He was on the Gowrie Boundary, west of the Mlowathi River on the 11th.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LIONS ENCOUNTERED	53 (14 cubs)
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LEOPARDS
FEMALE LEOPARDS:

THE PICCADILLY FEMALE

10 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN EYREFIELD, MARTHLY

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

Mother of the Ngungwe female & Matumi male.

(9 sightings)

She was south of Mlowathi Pans on the 3rd and south of Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 5th. On the 7th and 9th, she was north of Mlowathi Koppies along the Mlowathi River. She was west of Bicycle Crossing on the 12th and was at Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 22nd. Two days later, she was at Mlowathi Koppies and killed an impala lamb east of Sable Camp on the 28th. She was in the Maponyeleni Donga, west of the Mlowathi River on the 30th.

THE LOOKOUT FEMALE

±14 YEARS 11 MONTHS

FEMALE CUB

±8 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD

First encountered on MalaMala Game Reserve in late 2015.

Mother of the Kapen female & the Redhawk male.

(16 sightings, 12 of female, 3 of female & cub, 1 of cub)

They were seen numerous times in December. On the 4th, the cub was alone in the Kapen River, north of Hyena Waterhole and the Lookout female was found further north the next day, where she remained until the 6th. They were together at Vulture Waterhole on the 8th and she was alone at Kapen Open Area two days later. She was at Styx Crossing on the 12th and with her cub at Vulture Waterhole on the 15th and 16th. On the 18th, she had small remains of a duiker kill east of the Tamboti Thickets and she was in this same area on the 21st and 22nd. She had a Vervet monkey kill at Kapen Open Area on Christmas Day and was at Hyena Waterhole on the 29th. She was in the Tamboti Thickets on New Years Eve, with no sign of her cub for over a week.

THE XINKHOVA FEMALE

3 YEARS 11 MONTHS

WESTERN MALAMALA & SOUTHERN MARTHLY

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

(9 sightings)

She was at the Settling Ponds, west of MalaMala Camp on the 3rd and was at the Old Airstrip the next day. On the 7th, she had an impala lamb kill at the Old Airstrip and caught a Scrub hare here the next day. She had another impala lamb kill at the Old Airstrip on the 19th and was at Piccadilly Pans two days later. On the 24th, she was at the Hippo Pools west of Bicycle Crossing and she had an impala lamb kill west of the Old Airstrip on the 28th and 29th.

THE STONE DRIFT FEMALE**2 CUBS**

3 YEARS 11 MONTHS

1 MONTH

*WESTERN MALAMALA & WESTERN EYREFIELD**Daughter of the Nkoveni female, independent last quarter of 2022.**(14 sightings, 9 of female, 5 of female & cubs)*

She was seen on 14 occasions this month. She was south of the Ngoboswan Donga on the 5th and was further north near Plank's Pan on the 7th. On the 15th, she had an interaction at West Street Bridge with the Flat Rock male and the Matumi male and the next day she was south of Plank's Pan. On the 19th, her den site was discovered in the Ngoboswan Donga, east of the Sand River, where she was keeping two month-old cubs! She had an impala kill east of Kikilezihash Crossing on the 22nd and she was at Sandpit Crossing the next day. The den site was officially opened a week later and she was there with her cubs from the 27th to the 30th. On the 31st, she had an aggressive interaction with the Matumi male over an impala kill, just east of her den site.

THE SIBUYE FEMALE

10 YEARS 11 MONTHS

*WESTERN EYREFIELD**Daughter of the Kikilezi female[†], independent first quarter of 2016.**Mother of the Tlebe Rocks female, Langa female & Xaxa male, Son & Daughter of Sibuye female.**(2 sightings)*

She was only seen twice in December, seeming to spend more of her time further north of MalaMala with the Tortoise Pan male. She may have also moved further north to open a portion of her territory for her independent daughter to inherit. On the 5th, she was at Mlowathi Dam and she was in the Mlowathi River on the Gowrie Boundary on the 20th.

DAUGHTER OF THE SIBUYE FEMALE

1 YEAR 10 MONTHS

*NOMADIC**Daughter of the Sibuye female, independent last quarter 2024.**(7 sightings)*

Since her independence we have been seeing this young female regularly in the southern most parts of her mother's territory in Eyrefield. On the 4th, she was east of the Mlowathi River, south of the Tlebe Rocks Donga and remained here until the next day. She was in the Nwana Nonashemeni Donga, east of the Mlowathi River on the 11th and was south of Mlowathi Dam the next day. She was east at Matshapiri Dam on the 13th and was back west at Mlowathi Dam on the 16th. She was at Lower Mlowathi Crossing on Christmas Day.

THE ISLAND FEMALE

11 YEARS 10 MONTHS

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

(12 sightings)

The Island female is pregnant again and was looking particularly close to giving birth by the end of the month. On the 2nd, she was north of West Street Bridge and at Buffalo Pans on the 9th. She was north of Kapen Rocks on the 18th and had an impala kill at White Cloth Open Area two days later. She met up with the Flat Rock male south of Campbell Koppies on the 21st and was opposite Rattray's Camp on the 23rd. She was with the Split Rock male north of Piccadilly Crossing on the 26th and was at Styx Crossing the next day. She was east of West Street Bridge on the 29th and interacted with a pack of Cape hunting dogs on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary the next day.

THE THREE RIVERS FEMALE

8 YEARS 5 MONTHS

FEMALE CUB

9 MONTHS

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

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

On the 14th, she and her cub had an impala lamb kill hoisted north of Princess Alice Pans and they were at the Airstrip the next day. On the 20th, she was on the Western Boundary, north of Princess Alice Pans and was south of West Street Bridge on the 23rd.

THE NKOVENI FEMALE

12 YEARS 4 MONTHS

MALE CUB

11 MONTHS

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

(0 sightings)

They were not seen on MalaMala in December, spending their time further west.

THE KAPEN FEMALE

8 YEARS 2 MONTHS

*CENTRAL FLOCKFIELD**Daughter of Lookout female, independent first quarter 2019.**Mother of the New Rocks female.*

(2 sightings)

Unfortunately, there has been no further sign of her cubs and due to her mating behaviour last month, we are forced to assume the worst. She was at Hyena Waterhole on the 10th and Kapen Open Area on Christmas Day.

THE TLEBE ROCKS FEMALE
FEMALE CUB

6 YEARS 11 MONTHS
10 MONTHS

CENTRAL & WESTERN EYREFIELD

Daughter of the Sibuye Female, independent second quarter 2019.
(7 sightings, 4 of female, 2 of female & cub, 1 of cub)

On the 5th, she was at Piccadilly Triangle and she had an aggressive interaction with the young Matumi male at the Sausage Spot on the 8th. She was sharing an impala kill with her cub at Plank's Pan on the 11th and was far east in her territory near Emsagwen Crossing on the 15th. Her cub was south of Campbell Koppies on the 24th and they were together in this area the next day. She was alone south of the Mlowathi Spot on the 26th.

MALE LEOPARDS

THE FLAT ROCK MALE

11 YEARS 8 MONTHS

MARTHLY, WESTERN & CENTRAL EYREFIELD, NORTHERN MALAMALA

Son of the Porcupine female. First seen on MalaMala in early 2017.*
(15 sightings)

An interesting month for the Flat Rock male as he willingly spent some of his time with his adult son, the Matumi male. He was at Sandpit Crossing on the 2nd and was south of the Causeway on the 5th. He was north of Maurice's Pan on the 7th and far east at Emsagwen Crossing the next day. On the 11th, he was at the Ngoboswan Breakfast Spot and was with the Matumi male west of Mlowathi Pans two days later. He stole a duiker kill from vultures near Fred's Tree on the 14th and joined up with the Matumi male that evening. His son then followed him the next morning to West Street Bridge, where they bumped into the Stone Drift female. On the 17th, he had a kill west of Kigelia Crossing and was west of Buffalo Bush Dam on the 20th. He met up with the Island female north of Matshapiri Open Area the next day and was south of the Causeway on the 23rd. From the 26th to the 27th, he was found on Marthly and he moved further southeast to Matshapiri Open Area Crossing on the 28th.

THE MAXIM'S MALE

±10 YEARS 4 MONTHS

WESTERN FLOCKFIELD & MALAMALA

First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in early 2019.
(3 sightings)

He was seen on fewer occasions this month. On the 11th, he was south of the Airstrip and on the 20th and 31st, he was at Elephant Slide Crossing.

THE EYREFIELD MALE

7 YEARS 1 MONTH

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

(1 sighting)

He was only seen once in December, north of Clarendon Dam on the 12th.

THE MATUMI MALE

1 YEARS 11 MONTHS

*NOMADIC**Son of the Piccadilly female, independent in late 2024.*

(14 sightings)

He was seen on numerous occasions this month. On the 4th, he had an impala lamb kill west of Piccadilly Triangle and was south of Plank's Pan two days later. He was opposite MalaMala Camp on the 7th and had an interaction with the Tlebe Rocks female at the Sausage Spot the next day. From the 10th to the 12th, he was at Bicycle Crossing and met up with the Flat Rock male west of Mlowathi Pans on the 13th. He was joined again by the Flat Rock male the next afternoon, east of Fred's Tree and followed his father to West Street Bridge on the 15th, where they met up with the Stone Drift female. He was at Lower Mlowathi Crossing on the 18th and was at his old den site west of the Mlowathi River on the 27th. On the 31st, he had an aggressive encounter with the Stone Drift female over an impala kill in the Ngoboswan Donga, far east of the Sand River.

THE SPLIT ROCK MALE

10 YEARS 5 MONTHS

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

(5 sightings)

He was at Styx Rocks on the 9th and at Matshapiri Open Area Crossing on the 11th. The next day, he was at the confluence of the Rock Drift Donga and the Sand River and was north of Styx Crossing on the 21st. On the 26th, he was with the Island female north of Piccadilly Crossing.

THE N'WETI MALE

9 YEARS 0 MONTHS

*WESTERN CHARLESTON**First seen on MalaMala Game Reserve in mid-2018.*

(6 sightings)

As he is one of our more regularly encountered dominant males on Charleston, he is being included in the main section of the Game Report from this month. He was with the Nambu male north of Calabash Crossing on the 1st and he was at Charleston North Crossing on the 7th. He was back at Calabash Crossing on the 10th and on the 13th, he was with the Ntsumi female on the Western Boundary north of Pole in the Road. He was with the River Rocks female north of River Rocks on the 16th and was south of Beaumont's Camp on the 19th.

OTHER LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED:

- **RIVER ROCKS FEMALE** (6 sightings) – She was west of Jakkalsdraai Open area on the 8th and was far east of Charleston North Crossing on the 11th. On the 16th, she was with the N’weti male north of River Rocks and on the 22nd, she was with the Nkova male at Pumphouse Pans. On Christmas day, she had an impala kill midway along the Charleston Flockfield Boundary and on the 29th, she was south of Beaumont’s Camp.
- **NEW ROCKS FEMALE** (3 sightings) – She was southeast of Styx Crossing on the 23rd and north of Lion Rocks on the 30th. She was chased off by the Island female at Piccadilly Crossing on the 26th.
- **TENGILE FEMALE & FEMALE CUB** (3 sightings) – She was at Calabash Crossing on the 3rd and her cub was east of Calabash Crossing with a duiker kill on the 29th. The Tengile female joined her here the next day.
- **KUCHAVA FEMALE** (1 sighting) – She was midway along the Gowrie Boundary on the 24th.
- **NTSUMI FEMALE** (1 sightings) – She was with the N’weti male west of Trollip’s Camp on the 13th.
- **MASHABA FEMALE** (1 sighting) – She was at Calabash Crossing on the 16th.
- The same **NERVOUS 3:3 FEMALE** who was seen last month had a steenbok kill at Tjellahanga Rocks on the 6th.
- An **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE** was in the Sand River at Verreux’s Crossing on the 1st and west of Jakkalsdraai Open Area on the 21st.
- **NAMBU MALE** (7 sightings) – He was with the N’weti male north of Calabash Crossing on the 1st and was west of Jakkalsdraai Open Area on the 3rd. On the 4th, he was south of Mamba Waterhole and had small remains of a zebra foal kill west of Mamba Waterhole on the 7th. On the 11th, he was near River Rocks and on the 12th, he was in the Sand River in front of Trollip’s Camp. He was at the confluence of the Sand River and the Rock Drift Donga on the 29th.
- **NKOVA MALE** (3 sightings) – He had an impala kill south of Jakkalsdraai Open Area on the 6th and had a bushbuck kill in the Tjellahanga River north of the Sand River on the 20th. On the 22nd, he was with the River Rocks female at Pumphouse Pans.
- **2:3 MALE** (2 sightings) – He was east of Drum Crossing on the 20th and was further east at Paddy’s Pools on the 29th.
- **HANYILE MALE** (1 sighting) – He was in the Tjellahanga River at the Sand River on the 20th.
- **SON OF SIBUYE FEMALE** (1 sighting) – He was on the Kruger National Park Boundary, north of the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary on the 31st.
- An **UNIDENTIFIED MALE** was seen west of Mlowathi Pans on the 16th and a **NERVOUS, YOUNG MALE** was midway along the Charleston Flockfield Boundary on the 26th.

TOTAL NUMBER OF LEOPARDS ENCOUNTERED	39 (6 cubs)
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CHEETAH

A **FEMALE** killed an impala lamb at Styx Crossing on the 22nd and a **MALE** was southeast of Clarendon Dam on the 24th. Two **NERVOUS MALES** were at Clarendon Dam on New Years Eve.

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

- **PACK OF NINE (5 ADULTS, 4 PUPS)** (9 sightings) – They were at Styx Crossing on the 9th and were at Emsagwen Waterhole two days later. They were at Matshapiri Dam on the 13th, along with 8 hyenas, and were west of Matshapiri Dam on the 23rd. They killed an impala at Old Wildebeest Crossing the next day and caught another two impala lambs far south of Campbell Koppies on Christmas Day. The next day there were only three pups seen with the adults at 4 Ways Crossing and from then on only eight individuals were seen. On the 27th, they were at Clarendon Dam and ran into the Ndhzenga males at West Street Bridge the next day before killing an impala at Matshapiri Open Area. They killed an impala lamb on New Years Eve on the MalaMala Flockfield Boundary, east of the Matshapiri River.
- **TOULON PACK (6 ADULTS, 1 PUPS)** (4 sightings) – It seems that this pack is officially down to seven members. On the 1st, they killed three impala lambs near Flockfield Tower and were at Ivory Pan on the 8th. They were at River Rocks on the 29th and were in the Sand River north of Rattray’s Camp the next day.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CAPE HUNTING DOGS ENCOUNTERED	16 (5 pups)
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CAPE BUFFALO AND ELEPHANTS

We recorded **214 sightings** of **Elephants** in December with 185 of those sightings being of herds and 29 sightings were of lone bulls and bachelor groups.

There was a total of **49 sightings** of **Cape buffalo** this month, 33 of which were of groups of dagga boys with the remaining 16 sightings were of larger herds.

OTHER SIGHTINGS OF INTEREST

- Overall, there were **24 sightings** of **SPOTTED HYENA** throughout the property.
- **BLACK-BACKED JACKALS** were seen on **13 occasions**, mostly being the family of six around the Airstrip Parking Bay.
- There were five sightings of **SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL** and two sightings of **FLAMINGOES** flying over the Sand River.
- **CAPE CLAWLESS OTTERS** were seen in the Sand River four times, **HONEY BADGERS** were seen twice and there was a pair of mating **SERVALS** at Clarendon Dam on the 2nd.