

## Raleigh International and Brown Hyenas



Raleigh venturers in front of the fibreglass igloo (photo by Trygve Cooper)

Between March and April 2003 three groups of Raleigh International venturers visited Lüderitz and the Sperrgebiet again. The Brown Hyena Project was lucky to spend two to three days during each phase with the venturers. Lots of work had to be done. We mapped parts of the study areas for hyena signs; radio tracked Dollar and Jewel, monitored

hyenas at Baker's Bay and renovated an old fibreglass igloo at False Plumpudding to use it as a research base. The latter was the hardest part for the venturers. Lots of rubbish in the area had to be collected, patches of fibreglass had to be repaired, the inside was cleaned and painted and finally a cement floor was laid. Within two days everything was finished and the igloo now shines with a friendly and bright yellow layer of paint in the inside. Before our departure the igloo was christened "Yellow Sub" and the cement floor was left to settle. We are still looking for some basic furniture for this new research camp before we can use it as a regular base.

*Thank you to...*

*Diaz Point Explorations, for letting us use the fibreglass igloo; Namdeb for supporting the materials for the renovation; Bresler de Beer, André van Niekerk and Steve Appleton for working on the fibreglass; and Raleigh International and Trygve Cooper (MET) for doing all the hard work. Forbidden Land/4x4Adventures donated a wonderful tent towards the project, which was used for the first time during the field trip with Raleigh International.*

## Aerial tracking of Emma, Dollar and Jewel

We finally started radio tracking our three radio collared hyenas in April. Gino Noli fitted the aerials on his plane and off he and his wife, Kathy, went. So far, he flew four times for the Brown Hyena Research Project and got four fixes for Emma and three each for Dollar and Jewel. On some occasions, we tracked the animals after getting an aerial fix to gain information about the accuracy of fixes. The fixes were only between 400 and 180m out and therefore very reliable. All animals are in an excellent condition. Emma is usually found just south of the Second Lagoon and Dollar and Jewel spend most of their days close to the seal colonies at Wolf and Atlas Bay. Aerial tracking is very expensive, but the Namibia Nature Foundation and Sidewinder Films donated money towards this specific project and we will be able to fly approximately once every three weeks until the end of November. This will give us the necessary insight into the brown hyenas movements and further information about their home ranges.

We will try to fit eight additional radio collars and three GPS collars during our trapping period between August and November 2003.

*Thank you to...*

*Gino Noli and Kathy Peard for all their help and enthusiasm; NNF and Sidewinder Films for financial support.*



Aerial tracking of Brown Hyenas

## New Adoptions

A Brown Hyena of the Saddle Hill Clan has been adopted by Forbidden Land/4x4 Adventures. His new name is Vojo, a combination of the first names of the adoption partners Volker and Johann.

We've got 13 brown hyenas still open for adoption and nine, which need further sponsoring and are listed below:

Name	Scientific Name	Gender	Age (years)	Study Area
Dollar	LHb210RC	male	7-9	Wolf/Atlas Bay
Jewel	LHb276RC	female	9-10	Wolf/Atlas Bay
Shalimar	LHb7	female	11-12	Wolf/Atlas Bay
Gypsy II		female	11-12	Luderitz Peninsula
Emma	LHb10	female	7-9	Luderitz Peninsula
Jose	LHb5	female	7	Luderitz Peninsula
Maria	LHb6	female	7	Luderitz Peninsula
Oldie	BBHb5	unknown	10-14	Baker's Bay
Andrea Wonder	BBHb3	female	14	Baker's Bay

## Brown Hyena Mortality

Unfortunately two brown hyenas were killed again in road accidents. A vehicle hit a young, approximately three year old female, 25 km east of Lüderitz on the tar road. Trouble was killed on exactly the same spot in November last year. The animals seem to have to cross the road there regularly and we will try to have a warning sign erected to avoid future accidents.



Brown Hyena road kill near Rotkop

The other accident happened in the Elizabeth Bay Mining area. A truck killed a 12-14 year old female on the haul out road. Fortunately she was not pregnant or lactating at the time of death.

## Fundraising and Donations

We were very busy during the last three months, trying to raise more funds for the projects. We finally received slot tins from **Divpack** in South Africa, which they generously donated. The tins are displayed at several places in town. With the help of **Namdeb** we also printed several hundred brochures in English and German, which one can find at the Tourist Office in town and which were distributed to several Tour operators.

We received a generous donation from **Caltex**, which will be used to cover a major part of the petrol expenses. The project leader, Ms Ingrid Wiesel, was invited to the Donor Function, which was held in Windhoek in March 2003, to receive the cheque.

**Namdeb** renewed their monthly contribution towards the Brown Hyena Project, which covers a portion of the basic costs and has kept the Brown Hyena Research Project "alive" for many years already, and they are currently reviewing other sponsoring options.

**BHP Billiton** has instituted an annual, company-wide Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) Awards Program and the Witspüts Project Exploration Drilling and Rehabilitation Work won an award of merit for its concerted efforts in maintaining a high standard of work, and contributing to the protection of the environment in this extremely sensitive area. The financial donation that accompanied the award was shared equally between the DRFN and the Brown Hyena Research Project.

The **Namibia Nature Foundation** and **Sidewinder Films** generously support the aerial tracking of Brown Hyenas, as mentioned in the article above.

Our Web Page is sponsored by Mr. **Riaan Laubscher** and Mr. Carinus Lemmer of **Upstart Technologies** in South Africa.

Proposals have been sent to several local companies and we hope to receive some positive replies soon. We also applied for funding with CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) within the SKEP (Succulent Karoo Ecosystem Planning) Programme and with the Namibian Biodiversity Programme.

## The Sad Story of Lucky Strike

Mr. Heini Soltau and Mrs. Brigitte Soltau reported an injured Brown Hyena near the Lüderitz Sewerage end of April 2003. We investigated immediately and had to find out, that the animal left front foot was caught in an illegal bird snare. The snare was around two of its toes and impossible for the hyena to remove it. We tried to catch the animal that day, but had to give up after two unsuccessful attempts. Three weeks later, the same hyena was seen by Nelson from the Portuguese Market near the turn off to the rubbish dump. As it was dark by the time we arrived, we could not attempt to catch it then, but the hyenas foot was badly swollen and still bleeding. It crossed the tar road to drink water at the palm trees and disappeared into darkness an hour later. We monitored the area for another week, but could not find the animal. Finally, during the first week of June, it was seen again by several people and finally reported by Carla Jooste. Again, it was next to the tar road close to the turn off to the rubbish dump. It stayed there for several days and we finally managed to sedate it on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June. The hyena, which we named Lucky Strike, was in a shocking condition. Its tow toes had either fallen off due to lack of blood circulation or were bitten off by the animal. It still had problems to walk properly and was incredibly malnourished. A healthy female Brown Hyena weights 40 kg, but Lucky Strike had lost an incredible amount of weight, possibly only weighing around 25 kg. We transported Lucky Strike to the Wolf Bay area and released her there. We provided some food and fresh water, but a lot of food is available along the beaches close to the seal colonies, so that Lucky Strike should gain weight soon. We could not fit a radio collar to monitor his recovery, as the neck was too thin, but we hope to see her again, as soon as the hyena monitoring at Wolf Bay starts later this year. We wish Lucky Strike all the best and hope to see her soon!



Lucky Strike limping, snare still attached to left front leg.



Paw missing two toes

*Thank you to...*

*Heini, Brigitte, Nelson, Carla and Jürgen Gossow for reporting the injured animal.*

*Steve Appleton and Andrew Cunningham for helping with the relocation of Lucky Strike.*

*Gino Noli, Kathy Peard, Rene Rossler, Olga Hartung and Bresler de Beer for monitoring the areas for Lucky Strike's re-appearance.*

### THE BROWN HYENA RESEARCH PROJECT WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND COMPANIES FOR THEIR HELP AND SUPPORT:

Namdeb	Upstart Technologies	Volker Jahnke	Portuguese Market
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Siemens	MET	Brigitte Soltau	Steve Appleton
BHP Billiton	MFMR	Heini Soltau	Andrew Cunningham
NNF	Riaan Laubscher	Carla Jooste	George Shimaneni
Sidewinder Films	Gino Noli	Jürgen Gossow	Jean May
Divpac	Kathy Peard	Ingrid Morgan	
Forbidden Land	Jessica Kemper	Rene Rossler	
4x4 Adventures	Jean-Paul Roux	Olga Hartung	
DPE	Trygve Cooper	Bresler de Beer	