



Our Hyenas in 2019

by Ingrid Wiesel

There were many ups and downs for our hyenas this year. It started quite sadly for our Garub spotted hyenas, as the majority of them were killed during the conflict situation with the feral horses in the Namib Naukluft Park. However, two survived and we could see that Caspar was lactating and therefore would have offspring somewhere. We finally got images of her cub in October 2019 and hope that a new clan is going to establish itself at Garub again.

On the other hand, our brown hyenas were not breeding at all. Alaika and Obelixa seemed to be too old to breed and KC somehow followed their 'example'. I visited all dens to look for activity and finally had a 'good' feeling of the right type of activity at SP3 Den and therefore set-up two camera traps. My feeling was right and we captured images of a 'new' breeding female of the Atlas Bay clan with two young cubs. Alaika also visits the den on occasion, but spends most of her time near a fresh water spring close to Bain's Bay. No sign of cubs for the E-Bay clan though...

We also spend a lot of time at Baker's Bay escorting and advising film crews. This gave us the opportunity to do a lot of field work in the area and to establish an ID book of hyenas foraging at the seal colony. We used these images to identify hyenas that we capture on our camera traps that are set up in the area around Baker's Bay and on travel routes to inland areas.

We have planned to fit the breeding females in Atlas Bay and E-Bay with satellite collars next year and, dependent on funding, two animals at Baker's Bay. We also need to replace many of our camera traps. They have 'survived' ten or more years and become more and more difficult to service. Therefore, I have spent the last three months writing grant proposals instead of doing much data analysis to present in a newsletter. However, there will definitely be more hyena stories to tell next year...



With this, we wish you a good start into the New Year.



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