

TRAPPING OF LUDERITZ BROWN HYENAS: OUR 'NEW' FRIENDS!

In August it was time again for our annual brown hyena trapping session. Dairen Simpson, the trapper from America, came to spend his time in the area around Wolf and Atlas Bay to set and monitor the traps. The main aim was to fit the GPS collars to gain more insight into the brown hyena movements. These collars were provided by Duke University and are used as part of a long-term collaboration project. We successfully fitted GPS collars on Havoc, a young male at Wolf Bay and Gypsy II, our main breeding female on the Luderitz Peninsula. So far the GPS transmitters work fine and we will retrieve the collars in February next year. It will be extremely exciting to see how far these animals move and where they spend most of their time.

Gino continues with the aerial tracking of radio collared brown hyenas: Minerva and Remus, who live in the area around Agate Beach; Emma from the Luderitz Peninsula; Jewel and Norbi around Atlas and Wolf Bay and Lisi II at E-Bay.

Thank you to

Siemens for providing us with Walkie Talkies to communicate in the field; Norbert Klosta for sponsoring one of the radio collars; Dairen Simpson for spending sleepless nights in the field; Jessica Kemper, Jean-Paul Roux, Anthony Grant and Trygve Cooper for being the best trapping assistants and Luderitz Smokeries for donating bait.

So far our telemetry results show, that the brown hyena home range size is as large as 230 km², but a

lot more information is needed for individual home range estimates.



Trapping team with sedated brown hyena



Havoc wearing his new GPS collar

NEW COLLABORATION WITH SAVE THE RHINO TRUST

Save the Rhino Trust contacted the Brown Hyena Research Project in order to establish whether we are interested in collaboration. Save the Rhino Trust had at least three brown hyenas in the Ugab region, which were seen in the staff village stealing chickens. Unfortunately a goad herder killed one of the hyenas, as he obviously regarded the animal as a

problem. Save the Rhino Trust has a strict policy, that under no circumstances may a person working for them kill or destroy, for whatever reasons, any wild animal in the area.

We decided to radio collar the two remaining brown hyenas as soon as possible to monitor them and to make them a conservation issue to avoid future killings. Dr. Hartmut Winterbach will travel to Ugab as soon as he is available to fit these collars and we will keep you informed about our progress.

NEW ADOPTIONS

Again, some of our brown hyenas were so lucky to find new adoption parents. Andrea Wonder, who lives in the area around Baker's Bay, was adopted by Luderitz Bay Shipping & Forwarding in August and Lucky Strike was adopted by Fabienne Berens. Raleigh Expedition 03d adopted brown hyena Max after their trip to Baker's Bay and Michael Mullen adopted Mr. White Socks.



Brown hyena "Max" at Baker's Bay (photo taken by Charlie Pratt)

UPDATE ON LUCKY STRIKE

During our trapping session, we tried hard to find signs of Lucky Strike, who was relocated into the Wolf Bay area in June. She had lost two toes due to an injury inflicted by an illegal bird snare in the Luderitz area. We hoped to be able to find out, if she is well, but unfortunately we couldn't find her. This is not necessarily bad news and we will continue to monitor the area for signs of her.

SLOT TINS

We collected our first slot tin at the Luderitz Yacht Club beginning of September. The "millions" of coins collected added up to N\$ 300-00. Thanks to everybody who contributed to that amount especially to Orthi. Carry on like this!!

BAKER'S BAY MONITORING PROJECT



Establishing a photo ID of brown hyenas at Baker's Bay (photo taken by Ronel van der Merwe)

The Baker's Bay monitoring project commenced in June 2002. As this area is part of Namdeb's Pocket Beach Mining Project, the Brown Hyena Research Project was asked to carry out a pre-/post impact study on brown hyena behaviour and population ecology. The first population estimate surprised all of us, as there are far more hyenas foraging at the seal colony than expected. We could identify 12

different adult individuals, all in an excellent condition.

This high number of brown hyenas worried us, as vehicle traffic would increase on the roads close to the seal colony due to mining activities. Together with Namdeb we worked out several mitigation strategies, such as strict enforcement of speed limits and reduced traffic during nighttime to avoid road-kills as much as possible.

Luckily, the mining project will happen further away from the Baker's Bay area than originally planned and we are relieved about these new developments.

Nevertheless, Namdeb will continue to support the monitoring project and we have applied for further funding to gain information about the movement of brown hyenas in this unique environment and this data can be used in connection with future land use plans.

*Thank you to ...
Namdeb for supporting the project and
EnviroScience for their valuable input and help.*

FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

Our fundraising activities were very successful during the last three months. We received several donations from local companies, such as **Luderitz Bay Shipping & Forwarding**, **First National Bank of Namibia**, **Luderitz Stevedores** and **Namibian Breweries**. **Coastal Electric & Hardware** sponsored equipment for the Van Reenen Bay study site.

Namdeb continues to support the Project with monthly donations and will exchange our current project vehicle with a second hand Toyota in near future. Their support is essential for the continuation of the project and is highly appreciated.

Siemens sponsored two Walkie Talkies for our trapping period and they are busy organizing a mobile solar unit for our research station at Baker's Bay and Van Reenen Bay.

We received an incredible generous donation from the **Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust**. We will meet with their representative soon to discuss the use of the grant. More information will therefore be given in the next newsletter.

A big thank you for accepting our slot tins goes to **Luderitz Yacht Club**, **Coastway Tours**, **Sandrose**, **Diaz Coffee Shop**, **Ritzies**, **Luderitz Safaris and Tours**, **Kolmanskop Coffee Shop**, **German Club** and **Namibia Wildlife Resorts**.

We have applied for funding with the **Commercial Bank Go Green Fund** and the **Rufford Foundation** in Great Britain and will hopefully hear from them before the end of the year.

We also had positive reply from **Conservation International**, where we applied to do a predator based questionnaire project in southern Namibia to establish predator occurrence, density and conflicts. With this grant, we will be able to employ an assistant from January next year.

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

Namdeb	First National Bank	Jean-Paul Roux
Caltex	Luderitz Yacht Club	Trygve Cooper
Siemens	Luderitz Smokeries	Volker Jahnke
Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust	Upstart Technologies	Daggie Jahnke
Namibia Nature Foundation	Coastal Electric & Hardware	Carla Jooste
Sidewinder Films	MET	Ingrid Morgan
Forbidden Land	MFMR	Rene Rossler
4x4 Adventures	Riaan Laubscher	Bresler de Beer
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