



# Newsletter

Issue 19 September 2007



THIS NEWSLETTER IS SHORTER THAN USUAL. I DID NOT SPEND MUCH TIME IN THE FIELD AND ALSO SPENT QUITE A BIT OF TIME AWAY FROM LUDERITZ. HOWEVER, SOME THINGS DID HAPPEN AND I'M SURE I WILL HAVE PLENTY TO REPORT IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

## REMOTE DOWNLOADS

Four hyenas are fitted with GPS collars with the option to download data remotely. The initial plan was to locate the animals by air and to drive afterwards close to the recorded GPS position to do the download. However, we had to realise that the hyenas often rest many kilometres away from any road and that the distances between the hyenas are too far to be able to do more than one download per day. Therefore we needed to go with plan two, which meant, that we had to do the download from the air. Gino and I were both not too happy about it, as we struggle a bit not to get too sick (see previous newsletters), but there was no way around it. The image to the right shows the flight pattern during data download (35 to 40 minutes of flying in circles) – the arrow indicates the position of the hyena – just to give the readers an idea about the procedure. However, Gino and I manage to do two data downloads per flight, which is perfect. Once the remaining seven collars are fitted (five on brown and two on spotted hyenas) we will need about one week of flying approximately every two months to download all data.



## MINERVA AND THE ROADKILL MISTERY

In the last newsletter we reported about a roadkill of a brown hyena cub near Lüderitz. Luckily it turned out not to be Tosca's only surviving cub (see above). However, our first tracking flights for Minerva, who was recently fitted with a GPS collar, revealed, that she spent a lot of time close to the road, where the roadkill occurred. There are several old den sites in this area and we decided to have a look at them to see whether one of them is active. We found a lot of brown hyena spoor in one of the areas and there were some signs of activity around one of the den sites including quite a bit of fresh faeces in the surrounding latrines. We also received Minerva's signal close by and therefore decided to leave the area, as we did not want to disturb her too much. However the den site is situated in a valley that is crossed by the tar road exactly at the spot, where the cub was killed. We therefore assume that the dead cub must have been Minerva's, but we will monitor the area closely to get more concrete information. But for now, we assume that the roadkill mystery has been solved.

## NEWS



I was invited by **Flora & Fauna International** in Chester to give a talk about the Brown Hyena Research Project. The **Predator Conservation Trust** in the UK helped to organise the talk and also prepared a fundraising table, where merchandise was sold. The talk went extremely well and we also showed the South African produced documentary that was shown in **50/50** two years ago.

Our new Toyota Hilux finally got its Brown Hyena Research Project stickers. We opted for the option of magnetic stickers, which were done by **Simoné Kock** in Cape Town. I'm looking forward to use them on our next long field trip in October!



## FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

We haven't done any fundraising apart from our very successful fundraising talk with **Flora & Fauna International (FFI)** in Chester. We raised £ 500 during the evening from FFI and the **Predator Conservation Trust UK** sold £ 64 of merchandise and made an additional donation of £ 436.

Proposals for the continuation of funding have to be submitted to the **Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Fund**, **Predator Conservation Trust UK** and **Namdeb (Pocket Beaches)** soon.

The following grant proposals are still pending:

- Brown hyena conservation in the Sperrgebiet (Nedbank Go Green Fund)

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

Namdeb Diamond Corporation	Raleigh International	Luderitz Safaris & Tours	Trygve Cooper	Kolette Grobler	Pisces Environmental Services
Chevron Namibia	Luderitz Bay Shipping & Forwarding	Riaan Laubscher	Volker & Daggie Jahnke	Wilfried Erni	Westair
Siemens	Luderitz SPAR	Andrew Cunningham	Rene Rossler	Erich Looser	Albert Harness
Shell Solar	Upstart Technologies	Alex MacKay	Ronel v.d. Merwe	Jürgen Syvertsen	Oranjemund Moth Club
Predator Conservation Trust UK	ESRI	Gino Noli	Steve Appleton	Morag Burrell	
OK Grocer	MET	Kathy Peard	George Shimaneni	Luderitz Backpackers	
	MFMR	Jessica Kemper	Gisela Wolters	Mark Noffke	
		Jean-Paul Roux		Mandy Noffke	



**BROWN HYENA RESEARCH PROJECT**  
Contact Details



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**If you would prefer to do a bank transfer, the details are as follows:**  
**Brown Hyena Research Project – Nedbank Namibia**  
**Lüderitz Branch, Branch Code 461610**  
**Account number: 11010015204**

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**ADOPTION AND DONATION FORM**

Post form to Brown Hyena Research Project, P. O. Box 739, Lüderitz, Namibia or  
**e-mail to strandwolf@iway.na**

- Adopt/Sponsor a brown hyena for one year (N\$/ZAR 1500-00, Euro/US\$ 250-00, £ 150-00)
- Become a friend of the Brown Hyena Research Project - annual fee: N\$/ZAR 500-00, Euro/US\$ 50-00, £ 35-00 discount for members from Namibia (60%) and other African countries (30%)
- I would prefer to donate N\$/ZAR, Euro/US\$, £

I enclose a cheque for the amount of N\$/ZAR, Euro/US\$, £

Name:

Postal Address:

Country:

Tel.:

e-mail:

Date:

Signature:

Thank you very much for your support!