

World Lion Day 10 August 2015: In honour of Lions, children and a Chief with a vision

"If our land had no wildlife, our eyes would be hungry" – Chief Ndziwa of Onguta Village, Ehirovipuka Conservancy, Namibia.

The neatly clad students of Onguta 'Tented' school, bursting with energy and excitement, were ready to present their well-prepared plays, dances and speeches, when a visiting Headmaster asked me to "tell these children about CECIL". So, what could I tell them ...CECIL is dead, Terrace Male and Rosh, together with an untold number of nameless lions - males, females & cubs alike, are shot, poisoned, trapped, traded & tortured, left to die slow, painful deaths; I also told them of the reasons why people kill wild animals ... fear of these large, ferocious carnivores, loss of income due to livestock predation and about the revenue derived from trophy hunting. Silence followed my speech, until a young boy raised his voice... "Is there no way to help these animals AND the farmers, so that both may stay alive?" *The time has come for Namibia's lions to be regarded as a greater asset alive than dead*, not only in its national parks but also in the communal conservancies, which are in essence, our wilderness areas. Namibia boasts approximately 79 registered Communal Conservancies (MET March 2013), of which less than 50% can claim the presence of resident lions; those conservancies adjacent to or in close proximity to protected areas such as Parks and tourism concessions, may be home to lion prides, mostly small groups of 2-3 females and cubs often without a resident male, solitary lions or male coalitions passing through. Within most communal conservancies, land-use generally includes settlement areas, hunting zones and core-conservation areas, the latter demarcated for wildlife protection (breeding areas) and photographic tourism, where no-one may settle, no livestock may graze and no hunting may take place. Such conservancies must generate sufficient revenue annually to support amongst others, management committees & game guards and to supplement the livestock-loss compensation fund, this derived from consumptive (trophy hunting and 'meat-hunting') and non-consumptive (photographic tourism and game-capture) utilization of their wildlife. Each year, quotas are set for 'shoot and sell' (meat-hunting) as well as trophy hunting and without this revenue, conservancies are unable to function, unless they are lucky enough to have well-visited tourist lodges in their core-conservation areas, where tourists are primarily drawn by promised sightings of elephant, rhino and lion (as well as other large carnivores); in some community lodges, a predator fund has been established in support of communal farmers. And herein lies the dilemma: with Namibia's most recent lion population estimates ranging between 1113 - 1644 (Namibia Large Carnivore Atlas, 2012), found mostly within parks and state protected areas, there are too few lions in communal conservancies outside of the protected areas, to offer the sightings needed to attract tourists; the communal farming communities therefore struggle to attach a value to these 'living' lions when insufficient funding filters down to compensate for livestock losses & to support their needs. The AfriCat Communal Carnivore Conservation Programme (CCCP), which drives the Hobatere Lion Research Project (AHLRP) and the Livestock Protection Programme (LPP) is, however, making headway in a number of communal conservancies in the Kunene Region of north-west Namibia, where lions are either resident or visitors and where photographic lodges are rapidly developing innovative ways to support these programmes as well as the affected farmers; once such lodges are able to prove the value of the 'living' lion by generating more revenue and employment, the greater the tolerance and acceptance will be.



AfriCat Research & Community Support

Read more about the Hobatere Lion Research Project:
<http://www.africat.org/hobatere-lion-research-project-update-june-2015>

AfriCat Hobatere Lion Research Project

Background

The project started in April 2013. In the first year the lion population and pride structures within Hobatere were studied and the extent of lion movement between Hobatere, the Etosha National Park and the surrounding conservancies and farmland. This was done using trail cameras as well as one individual fitted with a GPS-Satellite collar (Hpl-1). Methods to reduce Human-Lion Conflict in the study area such as building lion-proof livestock kraals, were also tested.

The AfriCat Hobatere Lion Research Project has gained momentum and now boasts seven lions fitted with GPS-Satellite collars (4 males and 3 females). We have been able to deploy more trail cameras in the study area and now have a good idea of the lion population within the Hobatere Concession Area as well as the movement of lions between Hobatere, western Etosha and the surrounding farmland. Soon we will be expanding the project further afield, into the surrounding communal farmland and other protected areas.

Project Study Area

The Hobatere lion population falls within the Etosha sub-population and in the medium to high density category according to the distribution maps published by Namibia Large Carnivore Atlas (2012), Fig. 1 right.

The fences of Hobatere and Etosha are far from lion-proof. Lions can freely move in and out, occasionally they cross the southern, western



Fig. 1: Lion (*Panthera leo*) distribution in Namibia, Namibia Large Carnivore Atlas (2012)



and northern boundaries of Hobatere yet more often move between western Etosha National Park and Hobatere. Lions also regularly move through the Etosha boundary fence onto adjacent communal farmland where they cause conflict with the communal livestock farmers of the #Khoa di //Hoas and Ehirovipuka Conservancies.

Although communal conservancies have added substantially to the network of conservation areas in Namibia, these areas are not fully protected in the same manner as national parks.

In the last few years, the range of lions in the Kunene region has increased but lion numbers are declining more than those of other large carnivores. This is mainly because lions are more aggressively hunted as problem and trophy animals than other carnivores, when compared with the actual losses that they cause.

Project Summary

A study of the Lion (*Panthera leo*) population within the Hobatere Concession Area and movements between the Hobatere Concession Area, western Etosha National Park and adjacent communal farmland.

MET Research Permit No.:

1938/2014, renewed as 2066/2015

Principal Investigator:

Tammy Hoth-Hanssen

Project Location:

Hobatere Concession Area & Western Etosha National Park, adjacent farmland in communal conservancies to the south, west and north including primarily Ehirovipuka, Omatendeka, Anabeb, !Khoa di //Hoas and the Etendeka & Palmwag Concessions.



The lion population in and around Hobatere is part of a continuous population with a range encompassing most of the Kunene Region from the Namib Desert to the Etosha National Park. The lion population in and around the Western part of this range is well studied but little is known of those closer to Etosha as the population dynamics and conservation pressures differ between the areas. The lion population density and activity patterns in Hobatere were studied by Dr P. Stander before 2007, a number of individuals were collared but little information is available from 2007 to the start of this project in 2013.

2014-2015

This newsletter reports on the AfriCat Hobatere Lion Research Project (AHLRP) findings during the second study year, from July 2014 - June 2015. We have summarised the study results under the key questions that we have tried to answer.

What is the lion density and population size within the 34 000 ha Hobatere Concession Area?

We were able to get a good understanding of the lions that inhabit the area by the use of trail cameras as well as tracking and observing the lions.

The Lions of the Hobatere Concession Area

We have positively identified 22 lions that frequent the Hobatere Concession Area (34 000 hectares)

The Hobatere Males

Two adult males are regularly seen in Hobatere; they have been fitted with GPS-Satellite collars and named Volkel (Hpl-2), his collar was donated by the Volkel Battalion 313, Netherlands, and Masialeti (Hpl-6, meaning 'the last one' in the Lozi language); these males are most likely siblings, they are regularly solitary, often seen together or with the known lionesses.

Volkel (below) was collared at Hobatere Lodge on 04.10.2014 and re-collared in western Etosha at Renostervlei on 03.05.2015, due to a faulty collar.



Nose close-up Hpl-2 (Volkel)



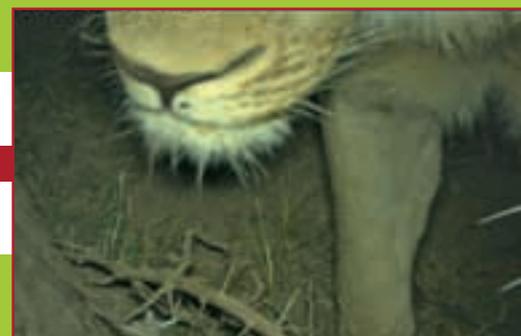
Measuring Canines Hpl-2 (Volkel)



Volkel (Hpl-2)

Trail Cameras

We started the project by setting trail cameras at the three waterholes in Hobatere. When more cameras became available some were set up at baiting stations where lions were attracted with meat and others along roads known to be used by lions. Since then, better quality trail cameras have been donated to the project and also positioned at the waterholes, baiting stations and along roads and game trails. The cameras at water and bait sites are far better at capturing regular photographs of lions, which can be used to estimate population size and structure.



Typical trail camera photographs of lions in Hobatere

Trail camera photograph of the lioness Meebelo T-1

Rare close-up photograph of whisker spots

Hpl-6 (Masialeli) (below) was collared at Hobatere Campsite on 07.06.2015. His VHF-collar, originally fitted in 2012, was removed and replaced with a GPS-Satellite collar. One older, scrawny, unknown male was briefly observed in the vicinity of Hobatere Tree House waterhole in mid-October 2014, but has not been seen since.



Weighing Hpl-6 (Masialeli)



Collaring Hpl-6 (Masialeli)



Collecting Urine from Hpl-6 (Masialeli)



Meebelo (T-1), Hobatere's oldest Lioness



SPOTS (Hpl-1) and her three youngest cubs (Dec 2014 {born Oct 2014})



(Hpl-1) SPOTS' whisker-spot pattern

The Hobatere North Lionesses

Two loosely-associated prides have been identified, which spend the majority of their time in Hobatere. Each pride is made up of two adult lionesses and their offspring and neither pride has a resident male. The Hobatere Lodge pride comprises nine lions at present and consists of two lionesses, presumed to be mother and daughter and their offspring.

The older female was collared as part of another unknown project; she wears a defunct VHF collar and a brand mark 'T-1' is faintly visible on her forelegs. She has been named Meebelo (which means 'born at a place of hunger' in the Lozi language). Despite numerous attempts to immobilise her and replace her collar, we have been unable to get close enough to dart her. She has raised two females, born in July/August 2013.

The other adult female is named SPOTS (Hpl-1); her collar was donated by the Dutch Charity, Stichting SPOTS. She was first collared on 27.10.2013 at Hobatere Lodge waterhole, the collar was replaced on 23.09.2014 at Hobatere Airfield bait-site. SPOTS has raised two females, (estimated born October-December 2012) and three younger cubs (born approx. 03.10.2014). Hpl-1 has been seen with one male, possibly Hpl-6 (prior to collaring). The two lionesses and their offspring spend time together as a larger pride but are often separate.



SPOTS (Hpl-1) with her new collar

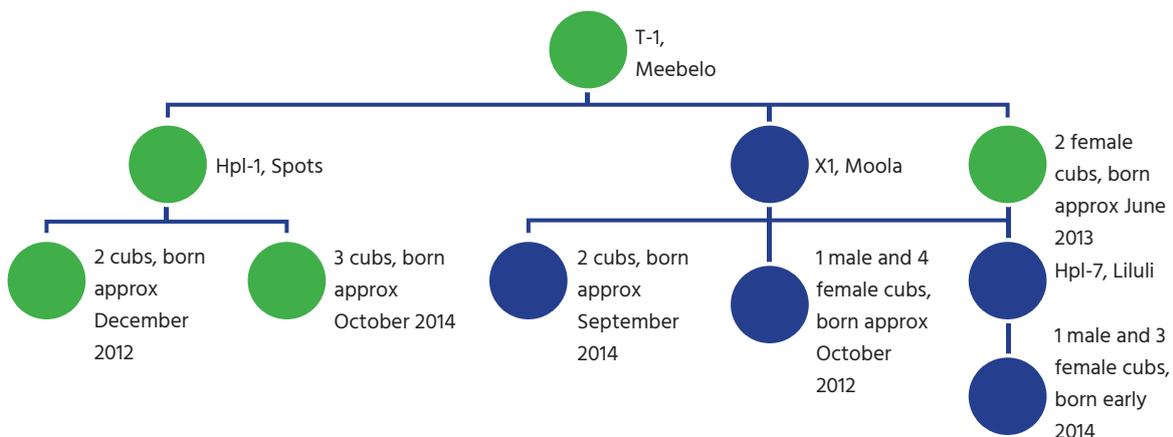


Lion Guard Jackson, with SPOTS (Hpl-1)



(Hpl-1) SPOTS's cubs in February 2015

A probable family tree depicting the lionesses of Hobatere and their sub-adult offspring as at July 2015. Hobatere North pride in Green, Campsite lions in Blue



Hobatere Campsite Lionesses

The Hobatere Campsite waterhole is frequented by two lionesses who are probably mother & daughter and their offspring (nine lions). The older adult lioness has been named 'Moola' (meaning 'favoured one'), she bears a brand mark 'X1', from a previous study. From the start of the AHLRP, she raised 5 cubs (which were born between October and December 2012), to the approximate age of 2.5 yrs; it is suspected that only three of these offspring have survived to the time of writing. The family group is photographed regularly by trail cameras at the Hobatere Campsite waterhole and are occasionally seen with the collared Hobatere males (Hpl-2 + Hpl-6). X-1 was seen with two young cubs (born approximately September 2014) towards the end of 2014. At the time of writing, only one of the young cubs has survived. (Post script: we lack much data on these individuals, but one sub-adult and one small cub were trapped on adjacent farmland January-April 2015, we thus suspect that X-1's offspring were those individuals killed). Recently the second, younger lioness (Hpl-7 - Liluli, meaning 'dust', collar donated by Maggy & Trevor, UK) with three sub-adult cubs (one male, two females), have been seen both on trail cameras and by observers at the Hobatere campsite. Her cubs are younger than those of X-1 (Moola). Liluli was immobilised and fitted with a GPS-Satellite collar on 08.06.2015. The two lionesses and their cubs tolerate each other but we do not have enough information to tell whether they form a closely bonded pride.



Measuring Liluli's teeth (Hpl-7)



Collecting blood samples from Liluli (Hpl-7)



Gaob - Hampton (Hpl-3): Whisker-spots and monitoring blood oxygen



Gaob - Hampton (Hpl-3), the day after collaring



Muna (Hpl-4) , before reversing the immobilising drugs



Gaob - Hampton (Hpl-3) while immobilised, measuring body temperature.

The Etendeka Lions:

Three lions were collared in the Etendeka Concession during May. Two males, one named Gaob-Hampton (Hpl-3), (meaning 'King Hampton' in the Damara language)* and the other Tara (Hpl-5), as well as a female named Muna (Hpl-4). (* collar donated by Hampton School, Middlesex, UK). Muna and Tara mean 'Look & See' in Herero. The three lions were named by the local Herero and Damara people who live in the Omatendeka and Anabeb Conservancies. These lions represent the expansion of the project to the communal areas further west of Etosha.



Tara (Hpl-5) guarding Muna (Hpl-4) when she was immobilised



Tara (Hpl-5) whisker-spots



Collaring Muna (Hpl-4)



Tara (Hpl-5) face

Collared Lions

To date seven lions have been collared.

ID	Name	Gender	Collaring location	Date collared
Hpl-1	SPOTS	F	Hobatere airstrip bait	22.09.2014
Hpl-2	Volkel	M	Renostervlei western ENP	03.05.2015
Hpl-3	Gaob-Hampton	M	Etendeka	27.05.2015
Hpl-4	Muna	F	Etendeka	28.05.2015
Hpl-5	Tara	M	Etendeka	28.05.2015
Hpl-6	Masialeli	M	Hobatere campsite	07.06.2015
Hpl-7	Liluli	F	Hobatere campsite	08.06.2015

Body Measurements

When each lion is immobilised for collaring, we take important body measurements and samples.



Canines Hpl-1 (SPOTS)



Canines Hpl-4 (Muna)



Canines Hpl-5 (Tara)



Canines Hpl-6 (Masialeli)



Canines Hpl-7 (Liluli)



Foot pad Hpl-4 (Muna)



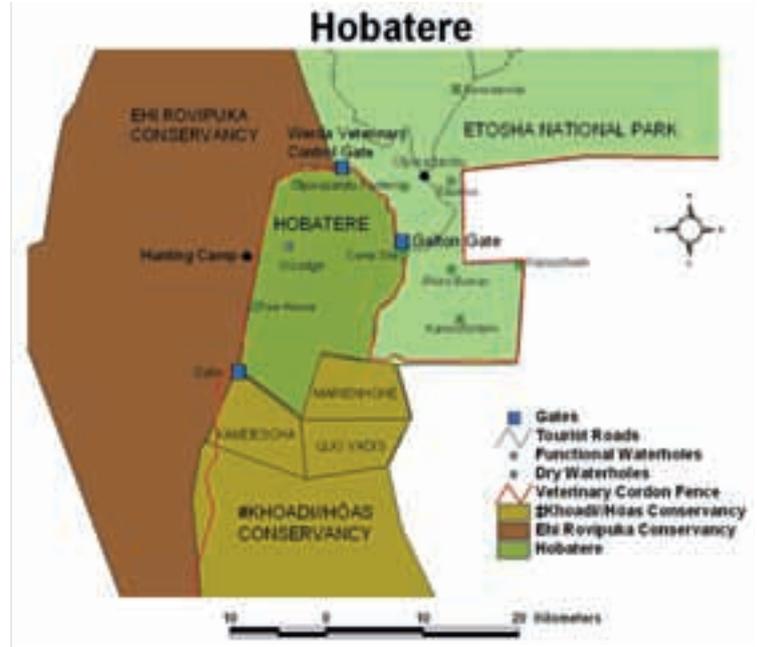
Foot pad Hpl-5 (Tara)



Foot pad Hpl-7 (Liluli)

What are the activity patterns of lions located in Hobatere?

We were able to map lion activity using the trail camera photos and the information from their GPS-Satellite collars as well as observations by the research team, MET Rangers, Campsite assistants and farmers adjacent to the Hobatere boundary fence.



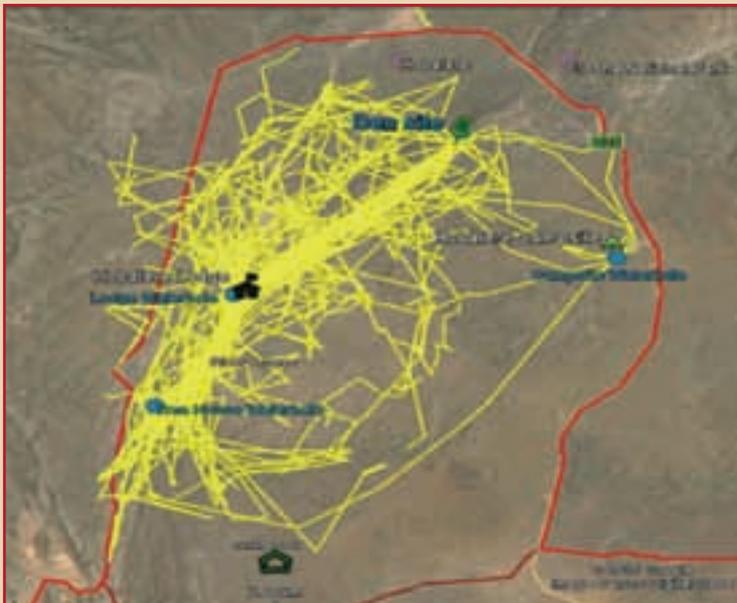
The Hobatere Concession Area; (Courtesy of Ministry of Environment & Tourism, Etosha Ecological Institute, 2014)

Movement patterns of collared lions

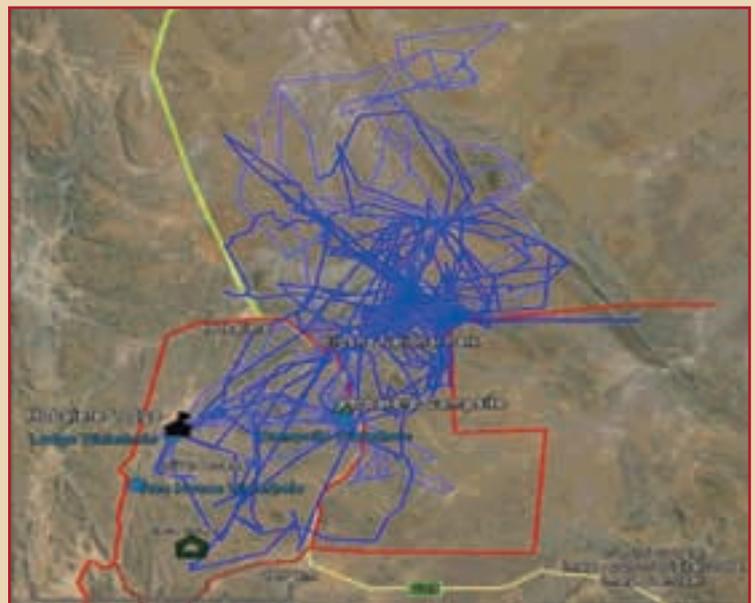
The seven lions have been fitted with GPS- Satellite collars; these record the lion's location every two hours and send that location via a satellite link to where we can access it almost immediately. The daily movements of the lions are recorded and described by linking the consecutive locations with straight lines, marking not the exact path taken by the lions but the shortest distance between known locations. The home ranges of the lions can then be established by plotting all the movement lines onto the same map. The maps below show the home ranges of SPOTS (Hpl-1) around the Hobatere Lodge from October 2013 to April 2015 and the information for Volkell (Hpl-2) from October 2014 - April 2015, plotted over Google Earth satellite imagery of the study area.

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Home range of Hpl-1 (SPOTS) October 2013 to April 2015

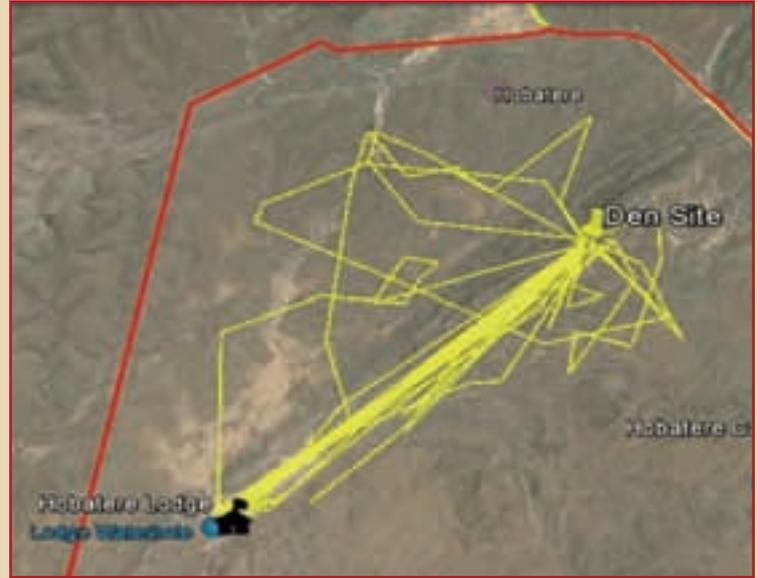


Home range of Hpl-2 (Volkell) October 2014 to April 2015



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From the maps (p.5) it is clear that SPOTS (Hpl-1) has a home range that covers most of the Hobatere Concession, especially the North and Western parts. Since collaring, as far as we can ascertain, she has never entered the Etosha National Park. She spends most of her time in close proximity to the Lodge Waterhole, the Tree House Waterhole or moving between the two. At no time did she spend more than 36 hours outside of the Hobatere fence, i.e. on communal farmland. Hpl-2 (Volkel) has a far larger home range. He spends most of his time near the Renostervlei Waterhole and the Otjovasando Airfield in Western Etosha. Occasionally, he moves further afield visiting the Hobatere area and other parts of Etosha. He has moved out of the protected areas of Hobatere and Etosha on three occasions. Twice onto the farm Ermo, and once onto the communal farmland near Werda. The map right, shows SPOTS' movements between the 24th of September and the 11th of November 2014, while she had cubs in her den. During this time, she spent up to three days in the den between quick journeys straight to the nearest waterhole and back (approx. 16km return). The denning period lasted approximately 81 days.



Hpl-1 (SPOTS) movements while she had cubs in the den

Where do the lions go in and out along the southern, western and northern boundaries and why?

The southern boundary of Hobatere, which stretches from the south-western corner of the Kaross Block (western ENP) to the Kamdescha Veterinary Control Gate, is approx. 18-20 km in length; large sections of this fence have been flattened by elephants and not repaired, providing easy entry and exit for wildlife, including predators and livestock.

2007-2010 saw the start of the AfriCat Livestock Protection Programme (LPP) along the Hobatere southern boundary, whereby eight nocturnal livestock kraals were upgraded or built in order to provide a safe-haven for cattle, horses, donkeys, goats and sheep.

Livestock is often seen within Hobatere during the day and at night and most often the cattle are not kraaled, despite lion activity in the area. Lions move out of Hobatere after livestock, the most common 'hot spots' being along the C35 between Kaross Block and Hobatere, Marienhoeh-Pos, Kameeldoring-Pos and Kamdescha 1+2 (farms along Hobatere southern boundary). Farmers & herdsmen set gin-traps (leg-hold) and wire snares, killing any trapped animal found.



Leg-hold traps used to catch lions on farmland adjacent to Hobatere

The western and northern boundaries of Hobatere form part of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF or Red Line); the farming communities of Werda and the 'Sesfontein farmers' are settled against the fence, whilst Onguta, Orongurru and Arisona villages are based 1-10 km from the fence.

From visual inspection of the fences, monitoring of lion spoor and with the use of satellite collars, it is clear that there are multiple areas where lions can easily cross all of Hobatere and Etosha's fences.

Are the animals found outside Hobatere still part of a pride within Hobatere or have they established a viable population outside of the area, and if it is a viable population, how much movement takes place back into the area?

During years 1 and 2 of the AHLRP, no lions were found outside of Hobatere for any length of time; the SPOTS-pride spent 2 days outside of Hobatere, then returned. Individuals, mostly males, were observed either along the western or northern boundaries, as well as in the Veterinary Cordon corridor, but returned to Hobatere soon thereafter. We have no evidence to suggest that any lions in this area spend more than 36 hours at a time outside the protected areas of Hobatere and Etosha National Park.

Have the lions found within the Hobatere, established a viable population within the area and do they move between western Etosha National Park (ENP) and Hobatere?

The SPOTS-pride, comprising 2 adult females, 4 sub-Adults and 3 small cubs (born October 2014), infrequently visited by the two collared males, have successfully hunted and raised 4 cubs to above 12 months of age. There is no evidence of their movement into western Etosha National Park. Lioness X-1, her 3 sub-Adults and one small cub are intermittently seen at the Campsite Waterhole. Because they are absent from the campsite waterhole for extended periods of time, we believe that this group moves back and forth between Hobatere and western ENP. The collared males (Hpl-2 & Hpl-6), Liluli (Hpl-7) and her 3 sub-adult cubs move regularly between the Etosha National Park and Hobatere.

Determine whether the 'problem' lions found on farmland are coming from western Etosha or from Hobatere?

Lions are known to move from Northern Hobatere and Western Etosha to the Werda community and farmland where they have killed livestock. AfriCat has erected a fence enclosing the entire village of Werda, in order to protect both humans and livestock, as the lions that have moved through this village have become habituated to human presence, showing little fear. Reports from the Ehrovipuka Event Book (01 April 2013 - 28 February 2014) indicate that at Werda Village, five lions killed a horse and four lions killed 2 cows between 17.03-31.03.2013; tracks indicate that these lions came from Hobatere (report AfriCat Lion Guardian German Muzuma). Since first collaring SPOTS in October 2013, as far as can be ascertained, she has only been involved in a single case of livestock predation. This occurred in June 2015, near the Werda Village. Her GPS position was noticed outside the Hobatere boundaries, within 2km of Werda. She moved out of Hobatere close to

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01:00am and had returned to the park by 6:30am the same night. When the lion guardians inspected the place where she had spent the intervening time, they found the carcass of a heifer which had clearly been eaten by lions. Tracks of more than one lion were seen re-entering Hobatere.

Since collaring Hpl-2 (Volkel) in October 2014, he has only been involved in one instance of livestock predation outside the protected areas. He killed a cow near

Werda, crossing the fence of the Etosha National Park approximately 2km north of Werda.

Lions are also known to move out of the Kaross block of Etosha and Southern Hobatere and kill livestock around the settlements of Hartseer and Marienhoehe. Other instances of livestock predation by lions and retaliation by people against the lions in the study area are summarised in the following table:

Livestock Predation	Location	Conditions	Lion Mortality	Location/method
3 horses (Arisona)	Hobatere Concession Area	Livestock within protected area	none	-
1 donkey foal (Arisona)	Hobatere CA	Livestock within protected area	none	-
1 Brahman bull (Kamdescha)	Hobatere CA	Livestock within protected area	none	-
3 cows (Arisona)	Ombonde River, sw Hobatere, Arisona Farm	Cattle not kraaled, roaming widespread due to drought	3 males (2 sub-adults and one male)	Ombonde river/leg-hold traps/shooting
3 cattle (Arisona/Palmfontein)	Otjeombonde/Palmfontein Core Conservation Area	Cattle grazing within Core Conservation Area	1 male	Otjeombonde/Palmfontein Core Conservation Area/poison
1 cow (scratched/missing)	Farm Arisona	Livestock not kraaled	none	-
1 cow	West of Werda, along Hobatere northern border	Livestock not kraaled	none	-
1 cow	North of Werda	Livestock not kraaled	none	-
4 cows	Hobatere CA	Livestock within protected area	none	-
1 cow	Sn Boundary Kaross (Farm Marienhöhe)	Livestock not kraaled	One sub-adult lioness	Leg-hold trap/shooting
1 calf	Hobatere CA	Livestock not kraaled, grazing within protected area	one small cub	Leg-hold trap/shooting/clubbing
1 cow	Farm Wildeck	Livestock not kraaled	1 sub-adult male	Leg-hold trap/shooting
1 donkey & foetus	North of Werda	Donkey foaled alongside western Etosha boundary fence	2 lions reported wounded, never found	Shot at lions on carcass
1 cow	Orumaua, western boundary ENP	Livestock not kraaled/Lions exit ENP through holes	2 sub-adults	Leg-hold trap/shooting
Zebra kill	Otjeombonde waterhole	Lion on carcass	1 adult male (dysfunctional collar)	Shot by MET
Total: 23 livestock			10 lions	

What conservation strategies and mitigation methods can be implemented to protect these lions as well as reduce livestock loss?

Until the numbers and population dynamics of the so-called Hobatere lions have been established, the lion hunting quota should be put on hold; despite the fact that only 2 lions (one male and one female) were on quota 2013 for Thormaehlen & Cochrane Hunting Safaris and only one male lion for 2014, there is no research data yet available to establish whether or not this off-take is sustainable.

Observations thus far indicate that only two males frequent the 2 waterholes, 2 females (Hpl-1 and T—l) have been resident since 27.10.2013 and two adult females (X1 and Hpl-7) may move back and forth between western ENP and Hobatere. At this point in time, two of the known lionesses have young cubs; should one of these lionesses be shot as a trophy, the cubs have little chance of survival. We do not know which of the males is dominant, thus random off-take may remove the stronger male, leaving the weaker males as mates.

In order to establish greater tolerance of lions, their value to the conservancy member, farmer and child has to be established. For the farmer trying to survive along the Hobatere borders where the boundary fences are porous, lions move from a protected area onto farmland to kill their livestock; a lion has no value unless there is proof that the Conservancy lions generate revenue.

With the development of two Photographic tourism ventures within the Hobatere Concession area, the Campsite / Roadside Concession and the main Lodge Concession, the small number of known lions within Hobatere should be protected and regarded as high photographic tourism value; these lions will only become valuable to these communities once the revenue gained filters down to the individual.

AfriCat's Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation measures include:

1. Erecting strong, 2m high nocturnal kraals or repairing and upgrading existing kraals, for use when the lions are in the area: 16 kraals have been built in the Ehirovipuka and !Khoa di //Hoas Conservancies;
2. Re-instating herdsmen to take care of the livestock during the day whilst in the field;
3. Conservation Education, whereby the youth as well as the adult community

member accept the lions' role in a balanced ecosystem and understand the value as a sustainable tourist attraction.

The AfriCat 'Lion Guard' Programme: these men monitor & report on lion whereabouts, encourage and guide farmers to adopt the AfriCat Livestock Protection programme, report incidents, patrol fences with Ministry of Environment & Tourism (MET), monitor & report poaching and other illegal activities, identify priority villages for kraal-building and carry the message of Conservation from the highest authorities to the farmer. Essentially, these men are assigned to various areas and play a vital role in protecting the Hobatere lions and mitigating lion-farmer conflict on communal farmland.

Do the lions leaving Hobatere fall into the categories of "occasional or habitual" stock raiders?

As far as can be ascertained through the monitoring of the SPOTS-pride and Hpl-2 (Volkel), these lions would be regarded as occasional stock-raiders. Further studies will establish the regularity of movement onto farmland.

Acknowledgments

Cover photograph: Many thanks to Anja Denker Wildlife Photography & Visual Art; Ministry of Environment & Tourism, Etosha Ecological Institute, Ministry of Veterinary Services, Ehirovipuka & !Khoa di //Hoas Conservancies, Dr Sam Ferreira (Large Mammal Ecologist at SANParks, Kruger National Park), Dr. Adrian Tordiffe (Research Veterinarian, Department of Research & Scientific Services, National Zoological Gardens of South Africa), Senior Lecturer (Pharmacology), University of Pretoria.

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Africat's Wish List 2014/2015
"In order to make a real difference, your support on any level will be sincerely appreciated"
- the Africat Team in the field -

Essential Salaries:
Research Veterinarian: A much-needed professional will supervise & ensure scientifically sound Large Carnivore Research Projects, manage & monitor the animals in our Carnivore Care Centre and support farming communities in conflict zones.
NS 325 000.00 per annum
<http://www.africat.org/about/team-africat/our-vet-team>

Lion & Wild Dog Guards: these dedicated community members are elected by their Conservancies, essentially carrying the message of conservation from the highest authorities to the farmer.
Cost approx.: NS 20 000.00 per month / NS260 000.00 per annum;

Livestock Protection Programme:
To effectively reduce livestock loss through better protection and to minimise the destruction of lions & other carnivores, Africat builds nocturnal 'kraals' for committed communities, assisted by community leaders and the Lion Guards. <http://www.africat.org/support/donate/build-a-kraal>
Approx. Cost per livestock kraal (depending on size/number of livestock):
NS 40 000.00 - NS60 000.00 per kraal;

Africat North Research & Community Support Projects:
Field Vehicles, 4x4 pick-ups fitted with extra long-range fuel tanks, water containers, heavy-duty springs and tyres, etc. <http://www.africat.org/about/africat-north>
Costs: NS350 000.00 - NS650 000.00

'Conservation Through Education':
Africat's Environmental Education programme is popular amongst schools nationwide and requires a second Educator's Salary and accommodation close to the EE Centre. Costs approx.: Educator's Salary NS20 000.00 per month / NS 250 000.00 per annum.

Motion Detection Cameras (Trail Cameras) / GPS-Satellite & VHF Collars:
To effectively gather data, both visual (trail cameras) and location, movement, etc. (collars), the various projects require
Cost approx.: NS8 000.00 per camera | Collars: Lion GPS / Satellite \$28 000.00 - NS 30 000.00 each; Cheetah | Leopard VHF collars approx. NS3 500.00 each.

Mobile Field Clinic:
4x4 truck, with long-range fuel tanks, water containers, heavy-duty springs and tyres, extra power-supply, etc. Africat's field projects are expanding to include communal support and will be modified to allow basic surgical procedures in the field.
Cost approx.: Vehicle NS 800 000.00.

Community School and Hostel:
The 'Onguta Primary School' in the Ehirovipuka Conservancy, Kunene Region, north-western Namibia, provides a basic education for grades 1-4; the classrooms comprise two, dilapidated Safari-tents, sand floors and too few desks and chairs.
Cost Phase 1 approx.: (2 classrooms, store room + 4 toilets) approx. NS 600 000.00 - 800 000.00

Land Purchase to establish 'Centre for Adult Learning', Kunene Region, north-west Namibia:
Africat proposes the development of a Centre of Learning for Adults and Youth in the Kunene Region, supporting communal conservancies. For this, a portion of land must be purchased in close proximity to communal farmland.
Cost: approx. NS 2 250 000.00.

info@africat.org - www.africat.org - www.africat.co.uk



Africat group page:

www.facebook.com/pages/Africat-Namibia/1653333615685367?e=hl

Africat Environmental Education page:

www.facebook.com/pages/Africat-Environmental-Education/270729123046968

Africat Charity page: www.facebook.com/TheAfricatFoundation

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