

N/a'an ku sê Research Department



Camera Trap Studies – Update

N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary – September 2015

The monitoring of the resident carnivores on the grounds of N/a'an ku sê Lodge & Wildlife Sanctuary using motion-sensitive trail cameras continues to provide us with invaluable information on the activity of these often elusive animals.



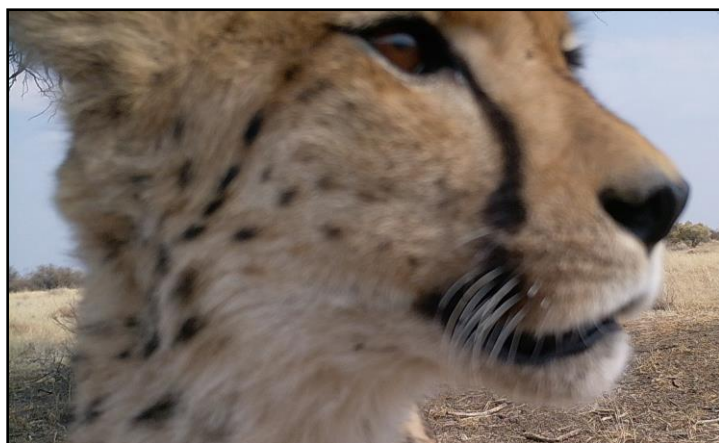
Regular activity is recorded on our main resident male cheetah (N074 – pictured above and left) who was caught at one of the known marking trees on the Sanctuary in September 2013 and remains on the property to this day.

Through the deployment of cameras on N/a'an ku sê we have now identified 4 different marking trees which have been visited by at least 5 different cheetahs, identified through spot-pattern analysis.

The monitoring of cheetah visitations to these marking trees is an important part of the understanding of cheetah spatial

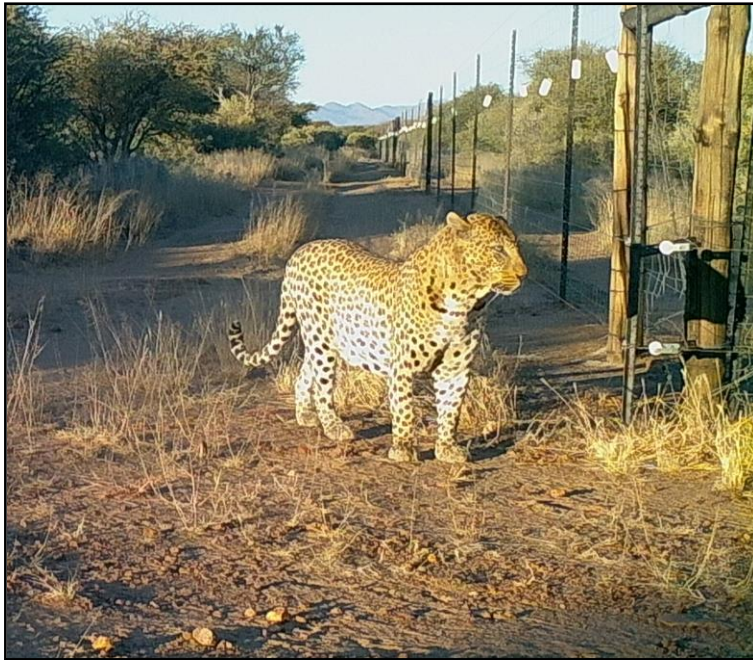


A previously unknown (and un-collared) cheetah visiting one of the newly discovered marking trees.



this can then be used to temporarily eliminate cheetah activity on commercial farmland during critical times such as calving and help reduce livestock losses during this vulnerable period.

ecology – moreover, it will form part of a study to look at the efficacy of using lion scat (droppings) as a deterrent against cheetahs as part of our carnivore conflict mitigation studies. The data from these cameras is being analysed by a student as part of her University project to determine the visit frequency of known cheetahs to these marking trees. We shall then place lion scat at the trees to monitor the effect it has on the cheetahs' 'normal' behaviour. It is hoped that



On another positive note, we obtained new images of our resident male leopard who has made N/a'a'n ku sê his home since the beginning.

It was feared that last year this impressive cat had been shot on a nearby commercial farm when livestock was being killed at an unprecedented rate. However spot pattern analyses proved that he is still alive and well – and obviously was not the individual responsible for the loss of livestock.

N/a'a'n ku sê's resident male leopard (above) – the most recent image obtained of this cat and (below right) foiling attempts to capture him for collaring

This (very) large male has proved very elusive; all attempts to capture and collar this leopard in the last 7 years for monitoring have proved futile. He has proved himself immune to any and all methods of luring him into a capture cage including:

- traps baited with fresh meat
- traps baited with his most recent warthog kill
- traps baited with perfumes/aftershaves (which has been shown to be a very successful method in other studies)
- traps baited with the urine of female leopard



The cameras deployed on N/a'an ku sê also allow us to capture beautiful images of some of the even more elusive wildlife that inhabits our property; cameras placed at a burrow dug into a large termite mound provided us with some of the best images we have ever managed to obtain of an extremely shy and secretive creature – the Aardvark.



Without these cameras our efforts to monitor and protect the vulnerable wildlife of Namibia would be so much harder and much less effective; so to all of you who continue to support our work with your generous donations:

Thank you

– from us and from the wildlife we work to preserve.

Stuart Munro

Head of Research

N/a'an ku sê Foundation