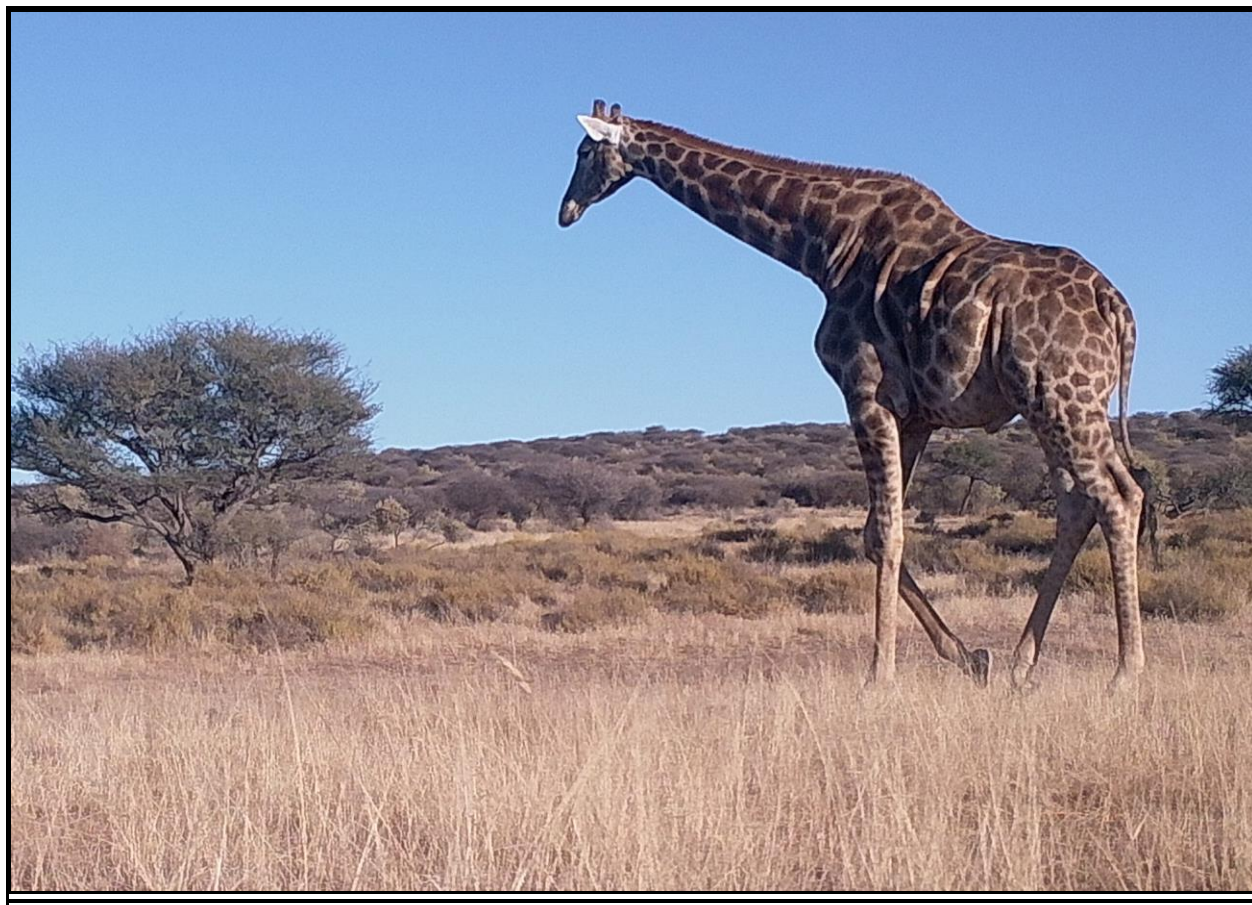




N/a'an ku sê Research Department



Camera Trap Studies – Update

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

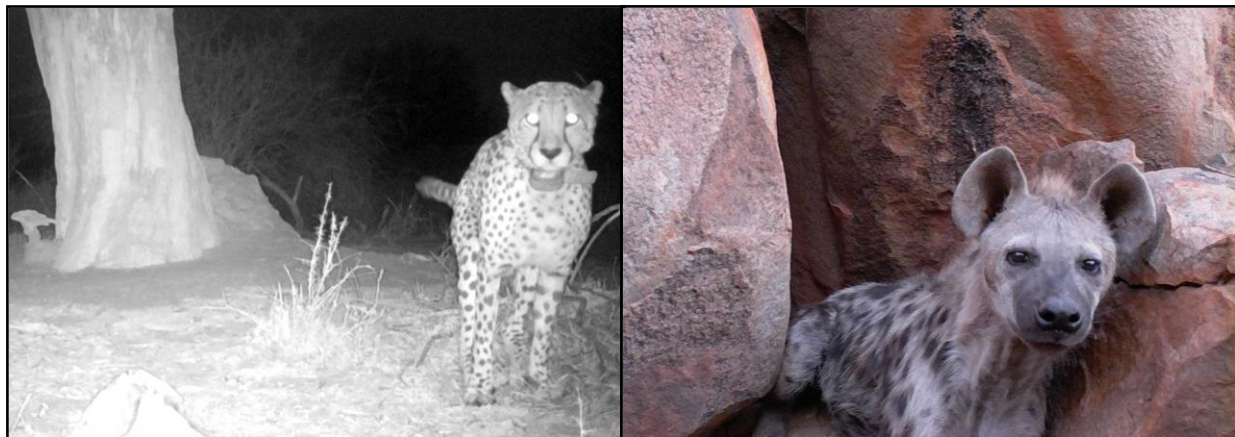
The use of motion-triggered trail cameras (camera traps) in 2015 has continued to be a vital component in the wildlife monitoring on our three sites; *N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary, Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate* and *Kanaan Desert Retreat*.

Their non-invasive nature ensures that little or no stresses to the animals are associated with the data which they gather. However these data are invaluable in the identification, through spot-pattern analyses, of large carnivores such as leopard, cheetah and spotted hyena.



Spotted hyena photographed on the Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate showing spot patterns on both sides of this individual from which all future identifications can be made.

They have allowed us to monitor territorial marking trees of cheetah and also breeding dens of spotted hyaena in the Namib desert.



(LEFT) Resident cheetah male N074 at one of the marking trees on *N/a'an ku sê Wildlife Sanctuary* and **(RIGHT)** a young spotted hyaena at one of the den-sites on *Kanaan*.

Our resident wild male leopard has made several appearances on cameras on the sanctuary this year – though refusing to allow himself to be captured for us to fit him with a GPS satellite collar for monitoring.



(ABOVE RIGHT) Here he can be seen walking through a small river bed which is one of his main routes when travelling through N/a'an ku sê.

(BELOW) The leopard jumps over a thorn bush 'boma', surrounding a temporary quarantine enclosure, to investigate the young leopard within.



Brown hyaena are an important part of our ecosystem; acting as the garbage collectors of carcasses left behind by other predators or by natural deaths.

With this species however it is very difficult to identify individuals as they do not have unique spot patterns which can be used.

(ABOVE RIGHT) A brown hyena photographed at a waterhole on Kanaan and **(BELOW RIGHT)** one removing bones/debris from the refuse pit on N/a'an ku sê.



Our most famous leopard “Lightning” has made several appearances on camera this year. In July she was fitted with her 3rd GPS satellite collar since she was released in 2009 maintaining her claim to fame as the ‘longest continuously monitored leopard in the world’



Lightning photographed on a fresh springbok that she had successfully hunted.

She is currently busy raising her 3rd litter of cubs for which we have had visual confirmation. In addition she remains a proven livestock-friendly predator with no cases of livestock depredation attributed to her; her known prey species from identified kill sites are springbok, warthog, kudu, mountain zebra and baboon to date.



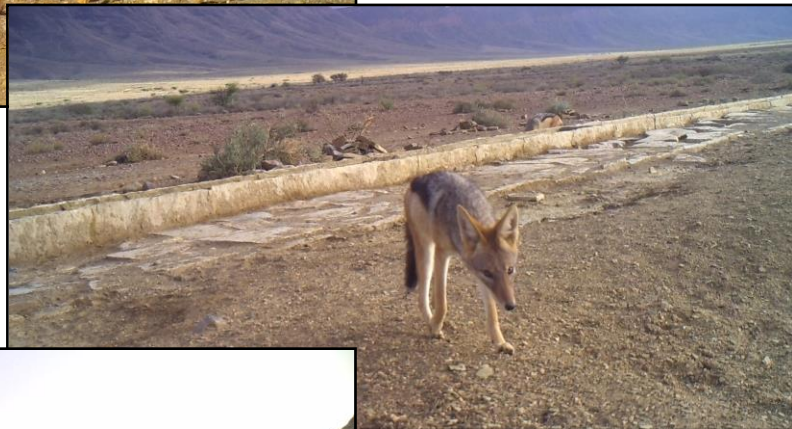
Lightning with cubs at a water-trough on Neuras. If you look closely you will see the ‘eye-shine’ of the 2nd cub behind the bush (right of centre) in the photo on the left.

Despite the fact that we set these cameras out with the main purpose of trying to monitor and identify the large carnivores on our three locations, many other animals are photographed, what we call “accidental” captures.....

.....and here is a selection of them for your edification and entertainment!



(LEFT) Steenbok



(RIGHT) Black-back jackal



(LEFT) Klipspringer



(RIGHT) Baboons grooming



(LEFT) Eland, zebra and guinea fowl

(RIGHT) a pair of slender mongoose



(LEFT) Marabou stork



(LEFT) African wild cat



(RIGHT) a springhare



From all of us here at N/a'an ku sê we want to wish you a prosperous and happy 2016

and most of all a huge

Thank you

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

Stuart Munro

N/a'an ku sê Foundation