

EXPLORING NEW AREAS: FANTASTIC RESEARCH TRIP TO SADDLE HILL AND SYLVIA HILL OR “FINDING VOJO”

We decided to extend our study areas further north and included the area around Sylvia Hill into our brown hyena monitoring programme to estimate brown hyena population size along the coast between the ports of Luderitz and Walvis Bay.



Female brown hyena at den near Sylvia Hill

Our first research trip took place in March 2003, where we joined the lobster survey done by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. As that trip proved to be extremely valuable, we decided to visit that area biannually. Luckily, Volker Jahnke from Coastway Tours and Johann du Toit from 4x4 Adventures were more than interested to help us and organised and financed our second trip through their company Forbidden Land. Furthermore they invited Frikkie Kraamwinkel, a South Africa based journalist to join the trip, who managed to convince

Toyota to supply an extra vehicle. Trygve Cooper from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and Jessica Kemper from the African Penguin Conservation Project were on board as well. We decided to split the trip and to spend two days each at Saddle Hill and Sylvia Hill. And off we went into the dunes.



Facing the dunes.....

It was an incredibly beautiful journey. The landscape was amazing and we only got stuck once. So we arrived at Saddle Hill Camp early on the afternoon of the first day and had enough time to relax in the wonderful camp before starting to work early the next morning.

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NEW ADOPTIONS

One of our brown hyenas at Baker's Bay "Goofy" was adopted by Mrs. Gisela Wolters in October. Thank you very much for your support!

SLOT TINS

Luderitz Safaris and Tours collected N\$ 529-24 and Kolmanskop Coffee Shop N\$ 183-58. Thanks very much to everybody for their support. Sadly two of our slot tins were stolen and we hope to be able to avoid this in future.

GETTING INVOLVED WITH STRIPED HYENAS

We received a phone call from Turkey beginning of January 2004. One striped hyena was caught in a box trap by an illegal hunter, who had previously already captured two individuals, which were sold to a Turkish zoo. The Turkish National Parks Department removed all three hyenas and Mr. Batur Avgan, the assistant wildlife editor of the Atlas Magazine, tried to fit these animals with radio collars before they are returned to the wild. There are only 5000-14000 striped hyenas left in the wild and their international conservation status is Lower Risk: near threatened. In Turkey they were historically widespread, but no recent records are known.



Captured striped hyena in Turkey (photo provided by Batur Avgan)

This capture, though illegal, is the first live record of these animals in Turkey for a long time.

The Brown Hyena Research Project decided to help with this extremely important project and we sent two of our radio collars, which were removed from brown hyenas recently and have therefore only a limited amount of battery life left to Turkey. These collars will be fitted to the pair, which spent a year in the zoo, as the third hyena is slightly injured and has to remain with the Turkish National Parks Department until it is fit for release into the wild.

We will keep you informed about the progress and hope that the reintroduction goes smoothly and that these animals are not illegally captured again.

FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

We receive a monthly donation from **Namdeb**, which is used to cover the basic running costs. They will also exchange our current project vehicle with a second hand Toyota in January 2004.

Siemens and **Shell Solar** sponsored a mobile solar unit for our research station at Baker's Bay and Van Reenen Bay and for the use with our new research vehicle.

A big thank you again 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**.

The **Commercial Bank Go Green Fund** approved of our proposal and we got funding for the Baker's Bay Monitoring project for another three years. We will purchase a GPS collar soon and will try to fit it in March of this year.

Our predator questionnaire project, supported by the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**, will launch in February and we herewith welcome Ms Justina Anghuwo, who will assist with the project.



NEW LOGO

We haven't started using it yet, but this is what it will look like: our new logo. A huge **THANK YOU** to Forbidden Land, 4x4 Adventures and Coastway Tours, whose creation all this was!

BAKER'S BAY RESEARCH CAMP

We are still looking for furniture for our Research Camp at Baker's Bay. We still need the following and would be grateful if you could help:

- Camping table and two chairs
- Two single mattresses
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Thank you very much to...

Jean-Paul Roux for supplying a gas stove.

VAN REENEN BAY RESEARCH

Our two project students Barbara Kolar and Tanja Jäkel have already spent two months at Van Reenen Bay, observing brown hyena foraging behaviour at the seal colony. They've still got one month to go and we are all excited to hear about their results. The last study took place between November 2001 and January 2002 but they have already met some good old hyena friends such as Schlappohr. We will report about their observations soon

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The next morning Jessica and myself explored the area around Saddle Hill. Lots of hyena activity along the beaches, but as soon as we walked inland, not many signs were seen. On our second day, we decided to hike around Dolphin Head, starting at the seal colony and working our way back south. Volker, Trygve, Johann and Frikkie hiked north of Dolphin Head in a mountain range that ends close to a waterhole. Jessica and myself climbed mountains, we never thought we could, in search for Vojo, the brown hyena, which was adopted by Volker and Johann some months ago. Nearly at end of our climbing session, right on top of a mountain at a cliff face, we caught the glimpse of a brown hyena, but not Vojo. So where was he? Sure, he was looking for the company of other men and slowly found his way to the waterhole, where the others were already waiting. He went to the waterhole, had a good drink and disappeared into the desert again. So much for putting effort in our search.

Ok then, we were unlucky, but we knew it would be our turn at Sylvia Hill. We arrived there in the afternoon of the third day and after having a fantastic supper, prepared by Godfrey, who really knew what luxury means, and after a good night sleep to rest our feet, we walked to the hyena den, which we knew from our March trip. And finally, Jessica and myself were lucky. Joined by Trygve, we were sitting right above the den entrance, when a female brown hyena walked sleepily out and decided to spend the rest of the day sleeping outside. It was incredible. We watched her for a long time until slowly moving away from the den not to disturb the hyena and to tell our story in camp. In the end everybody was happy and we drove back to Luderitz with lots of new experiences and observations, which won't be forgotten easily.

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

Namdeb	Luderitz Yacht Club	Trygve Cooper
Caltex	Luderitz Smokeries	Volker Jahnke
Siemens	Upstart Technologies	Daggie Jahnke
Shell Solar	Coastal Electric & Hardware	Johann du Toit
Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust	MET	Frikkie Kraamwinkel
Namibia Nature Foundation	MFMR	Carla Jooste
Sidewinder Films	Diaz Point Exploration	Rene Rossler
Forbidden Land	Luderitz Safaris and Tours	Ronel van der Merwe
Coastway Tours	Kolmanskop Coffee Shop	Steve Appleton
4x4 Adventures	Riaan Laubscher	George Shimaneni
Namibian Breweries	Gino Noli	Gisela Wolters
Luderitz Bay Shipping &	Kathy Peard	Kolette Grobler
Forwarding	Jessica Kemper	Norbert Klosta
First National Bank	Jean-Paul Roux	



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 – Commercial Bank of Namibia
Lüderitz Branch
Account number: 1610 007182

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:

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e-mail:

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Signature:

Thank you very much for your support!