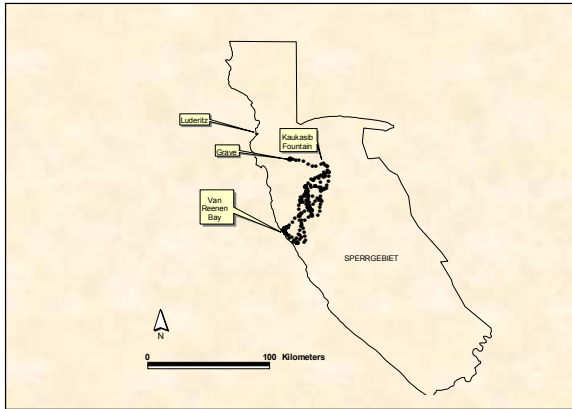


FLOGGY AND HIS LAST JOURNEY

Floggy, our Bogenfels hyena possibly died of old age and heat exhaustion just four weeks after we fitted him with a GPS collar. Gino and I wanted to locate him to do the first remote data download. We first flew towards Van Reenen Bay, where we had darted him, down to Baker's Bay and then inland towards the Klinghardt Mountains. That's where we received the collar's mortality signal. We finally found Floggy west of the Kaukasib fountain, where he was lying in the middle of nowhere. Gemma and I drove immediately to that position. From the footprints that we could still see it was evident, that he was limping with one of his hindlegs, but there was no other indication about the cause of his death. We found two other fresh hyena spoors around his carcass. They obviously investigated what happened there, moved him slightly, but did not feed on him. We removed his collar and buried him to be able to retrieve his skull later. We will then remove one of his canines to do a proper age determination. He might have been older than we thought, but it is also possible that the combination of his injury with a period of hot east wind days contributed to his death.



Floggy's last movements



Floggy in the middle of nowhere

We downloaded 340 GPS positions from his collar. He spent some time at the Van Reenen Bay seal colony, but used an area approximately 30 km north-east to rest. He also visited the Kaukasib fountain regularly. On his last day, he walked a distance of 35 km from his resting site to the Kaukasib fountain and then towards the coast. From his movement data, we think that he was actually a nomadic living male, similar to Norbi, who died beginning of last year near the Koichab Pan. We are really sad, that we couldn't follow his life for longer, but nevertheless learned a lot from his last three weeks of life. At least he died of natural causes and was not hit by a vehicle as so many other brown hyenas.

ROADKILLS

Another brown hyena was killed at Haalenberg on the road between Lüderitz and Aus, despite having a warning sign right next to the fish drying plant. This time it was a sub-adult, possibly just two years old. Jessica, Kathie and Gino went to inspect the carcass, as I was in Oranjemund at that time. By the time I got back, other hyenas had moved the carcass, so that I could not retrieve it for proper age determination.

SLOT TINS

The curio shop Sandrose collected N\$ 100-05 and the Yacht Club collected N\$ 88-78 in their slot tins.

Thank you so much for your contribution.

BOGENFELS ATTEMPT NUMBER 6



Ray, Gemma and Gino

The Bogenfels Saga continues: With Floggy's death, we were back to square one again. The construction of the diamond mine is going ahead and we have no hyena to monitor movement, activity and impact. Therefore we needed to plan another trapping trip to this area as soon as possible, although we also needed to fit four inland and another coastal hyena up at Hottentotsbay with collars. Nevertheless, the pre- to post mining impact study is of major importance and we decided to go to Bogenfels again. Luckily there was the long Easter week-end and we left for Van Reenen Bay on Thursday afternoon. As usual, the first night was uneventful. No hyenas in sight, but Bob and Morag Burrell visited us, so that we went on a nice hike early the next morning. Hiking to "Hyena City", a beautiful rocky bay, known for its many hyena signs, made our spirits go up and we placed our bait south of the Van Reenen Bay seal colony the next night. I think none of us expected to even see a hyena. We had our usual visitors, the jackals, but who would have thought: a hyena approached the bait after midnight. In the spotlight, we could see that it was possibly blind on one of its eyes, but we could not be choosy, we had to take all our chances considering our poor darting success in that area. Unfortunately the dart did not hit properly and our "one-eyed" hyena, pre-maturely already named Gino, disappeared into the darkness. We spent the rest of the night searching for it, without any luck. Anyhow, by now we learned no to get disappointed any more. Too many unsuccessful nights in the past, so it could only get better. At least that's what we thought until it started raining. Not desert drizzling, raining! But I come to that later. Since we wanted to maximise our chances, we had Gemma monitoring the seal colony during the day to alert the rest of the team as soon as a hyena approached the colony.

Just before lunch, Gemma called us. A beautiful brown hyena was at the northern end of the seal colony. We decided to give it a try and walked towards the beach. It took us about 20 minutes to get close to the hyena. In the meantime it started raining again and not only we, but also the hyena got soaking wet and it decided to grab some sort of carcass to move off with it. We followed the hyena for another 30 minutes in pouring rain, but it did not stop to feed on the carcass and possibly had a nice and protected feeding site in mind – unfortunately not close to the seal colony. We had to give up and tried to warm up in camp. Knowing from previous experiences that hyenas don't seem to like the rain, we decided to enjoy a candle-light evening in camp and to try again the following night (hoping that the rain would stop). Although it rained the next day, the evening was nice and we finally darted a hyena, which had approached the bait just after sunset. It was a large male, approximately 8 years old and we named him Ray. He was in an excellent condition and we could release him out of the recovery cage three hours after darting. As for the trapping team: we were exhausted. We were cold from the rain, tired from doing night-watches at the bait, but extremely happy to have collared such a beautiful hyena. We decided to have a good nights sleep before driving back to Luderitz the next morning. But: what a surprise: the roads were closed due to the rain and we had to get used to the thought that we might be stuck out at Van Reenen Bay for quite some time. Already calculating the amount of food that we had left (not worrying about water, since it was still raining) we still did not realise the extent of the situation. Later that morning we luckily received a radio call from Namdeb allowing us to drive back in 4x4. Once we arrived in Luderitz – after a very slippery journey – we realised that we were extremely lucky to have driven back. Luderitz got about 100 mm of rain (we usually have an annual rainfall of 17 mm) and the roads were in a chaotic state. It continued to rain for a few more days adding up to 150 mm and we realised that we would have been stuck at Van Reenen Bay for a long, long time. However, we returned safe and happy, so what more is there to say....

Thanks to Steve and Kathie, who made sure that Namdeb knew that we were stuck out in the desert. Thanks to Schalk who helped us to find our way out.



WINHOEK TOURISM EXPO

Together with the Kunene Lion Project and the Wild Dog Project, we presented our research and work at the Tourism Expo in Windhoek in the middle of May. The participation in the show was a great success and we had many visitors learning more about our projects. However, the most important was that Flip Stander, Robin Lines and I finally managed to meet to discuss our plans to launch the Namibian Wildlife Coalition. Our vision is to increase the value of large carnivores/wildlife in non-protected areas through, for example, tourism and to work closely together to share our data and to help each other in implementing our various projects. This will ultimately lead to the better conservation of various animal species and their environment through amongst others addressing human-wildlife conflict issues. We are still in the planning phase, but you can already visit our web page at www.wildlifecoalition.info for more information.

Thanks to Steve, Sonia and Gemma for their help at the show.

RAY AND THE FIRST DATA DOWNLOAD

We did it! Our Bogenfels hyena “Ray” is a resident male, is still alive and his collar is still working (for our other Bogenfels hyenas, please remember the disaster with Django and “old” Floggy). We flew to locate him four weeks after the rainy Easter week-end. First, we could not find him and we feared that he moved out of the study area. After covering the entire area from Luderitz, down to Baker's Bay and around the Klinghardt Mountains, we decided to fly back to Luderitz on the sea side and voilà: there he was – hiding in a nice gully just next to the sea. We circled a few times to get a good GPS fix, but making sure that we don't scare him off, risking that he decides to move away from his resting site. We landed in Luderitz a short while later and drove for about two hours to reach the recorded GPS location. We walked towards it and once the VHF signal was strong enough, triggered the GPS data transfer. Thirty minutes later, we had downloaded more than 600 data points and decided to have a quick look at Ray before driving back to town. To our surprise, he was just 50 metres away from us, in a very deep gully. He was not aware of our presence and got up about 10 minutes later, probably to start foraging. While he was stretching his legs, he spotted us, but was not concerned at all. After looking at us for a couple of minutes, he walked off along the coast. We continued to watch him until he disappeared behind a hill. We happily drove back to town and downloaded the data. He spent most of his time close to the Van Reenen Bay seal colony and only moved 15 km inland. However, this was the first data download and we can't wait to go out again, possibly at the beginning of July.

EMMA AT THE SECOND LAGOON

I must admit, we really neglected the study of the Luderitz Peninsula hyenas during the past 12 months. We located Emma from time to time and mapped other areas of the clans range for hyena signs, but that was about it. Therefore it was the more exciting to receive a telephone call from Fabienne and Günther, telling me, that Emma and another hyena were foraging together at the Second Lagoon.

I managed to get to the area quickly, but unfortunately missed the second animal. However, Emma was still there and showed her best side. She continued foraging at the Lagoon for another 20 minutes before heading off into the mountains. She has still got her old limp, but is otherwise in an excellent condition. Her radio collar will still work for another year and I might remove it then to possibly replace it with a GPS collar. However, she should be 12 to 14 years old now and I might let her enjoy her last years without a collar. Nevertheless, we will keep you informed.



Emma at the Second Lagoon

Thanks to Fabienne and Günther to call so quickly and to Emma for making my day.

OTHER SIGHTINGS

Many carnivore sightings were reported again, but there is one that I would like to mention: an African wild cat was seen close to the Chamais gate, approximately 130 km south-east of Lüderitz. Thanks to Mike Soroczynski who saw and reported the animal.



RALEIGH INTERNATIONAL IN THE KOWIS MOUNTAINS

We were lucky to have the Raleigh International venturers helping us in mapping new study areas. We decided to hike in the Kowis mountains, as both of our Agate Beach Clan females spend a lot of time there and we suspected that there must be a den site in this area. We unfortunately did not manage to get as far as the position of the suspected den site, but had a fantastic trip otherwise. We did not find many hyena signs due to the rain that had washed away most of the latrines, but we found three other inactive den sites and enjoyed the fantastic views, flowing rivers and waterfalls.



NEWS

We were invited to Oranjemund to give presentations at Namdeb, to the public and at the Oranjemund school about brown hyena conservation. I stayed for three days and enjoyed the trip enormously. Thanks to everybody who welcomed me and for all the interest in the project.

One of our brown hyena roadsigns disappeared over Easter. It is not clear whether somebody tried to steal it, so I rather leave this question open for discussion, but we were able to recover it a week later. These signs are there for a reason and I can imagine that it would be a nice souvenir from Namibia, but please, leave them where they are – don't be responsible for a roadkill!

There is apparently a brown hyena making itself at home at Kolmanskop Ghost Town. I did not have time to look into this matter yet, but will do so soon. Just to remind visitors to this area: please don't feed the hyena, as cute as it may be, but feeding it would definitely lead to problems – at least for the hyena.

Willie Hanekom reported brown hyenas in Mining Area 1. They are apparently denning there and I will follow up on this as soon as possible. Hennie Anthonissen at Bogenfels also reports lots of hyena activity in this area. Thanks so much for keeping us informed.

FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

Caltex continues with their generous donation of NS 10 000 towards our fuel expenses. Thank you very much for your long-term support.

Namdeb (Pocket Beaches) and the **Predator Conservation Trust in the UK** responded immediately to our aerial telemetry expense dilemma. **Namdeb** is covering the flying costs in the Pocket Beach areas and the **PCT UK** contributes to the remaining outstanding costs. Thank you so much. Without your support, we would not have been able to locate Ray and download data this quickly.

A big thank you again for accepting our slot tins goes to **Bay View Hotel, Luderitz Safaris and Tours, Kolmanskop Curio Shop** and **Grillenberger's Bottle Store**.

Oliver Götzl and **Rudolf Lammers** donated a trailer to our project. This will help saving fuel expenses, as we won't have to use two project vehicles for many of our trips.

Mark and **Mandy Noffke** donated NS 2500 towards our tracking expenses. **Pisces Environmental Services** donated a deep-freezer – finally we can store some of our bait. Thank you so much.

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

Namdeb	Benguela Enterprises CC	Raleigh International	MET	Rene Rossler	Luderitz Backpackers
Caltex	Hottentot Bay Investment	Luderitz Bay Shipping	MFMR	Ronel v.d. Merwe	Mark Noffke
Siemens	Cc	&Forwarding	Luderitz Safaris &Tours	Steve Appleton	Mandy Noffke
Shell Solar	Wilderness Safaris	First National Bank	Riaan Laubscher	George Shimaneni	Pisces Environmental
Predator Conservation	Wildlife Trust	Luderitz Yacht Club	Andrew Cunningham	Gisela Wolters	Services
Trust	Namibia Nature	Luderitz SPAR	Alex MacKay	Kolette Grobler	
OK Grocer	Foundation	Windhoek Optics	Gino Noli	Norbert Klosta	
Truckscan	Sidewinder Films	Wild Horse Trust	Kathy Peard	Wilfried Erni	
Critical Ecosystem	Forbidden Land	Upstart Technologies	Jessica Kemper	Erich Looser	
Partnership Fund	Coastway Tours	Seaflower	Jean-Paul Roux	Lino Scanavino	
Nebank Green Fund	4x4 Adventures	Coastal Electric &	Trygve Cooper	Jürgen Syvertsen	
Namibia Environment	Namibian Breweries	Hardware	Volker & Daggie Jahnke	Morag Burrell	
Fund	BHP Billiton	Nest Hotel	Johann du Toit	Beppo Family	
GraphPad Software, Inc.	Divpac	ESRI	Frikkie Kraamwinkel	Willem Swiegers	

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Application for funding





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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

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\$, £

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Thank you very much for your support!