



# Newsletter



Issue 67 September 2019

## Atlas Bay and E-Bay Activity

by Ingrid Wiesel

Kai-Alex, who was born in 2015 and collared for the first time in 2017 is a regular visitor to E-Bay ghost town, so that I was able to download his GPS data regularly. Lloyd, however, his uncle and possibly half sibling (same father) – yes, family relations can be quite difficult, when it comes to brown hyenas – has been quite elusive and I hadn't picked up his signal since April this year. I already assumed that he emigrated, but to my surprise, I found him at Bain's Bay along the territory boundary to the Atlas Bay clan in July. I managed to download his data, which showed that he had been around all the time, but maybe just didn't want to be found. The E-Bay clan has five members at present, KC Sowande, Kai-Alex, Lloyd, Pelle and Pelle's sibling. Our camera trap images don't show any immigrants, so that the clan misses an immigrant male to mate with KC Sowande. However, it is quite interesting to note, that the main centre of activity for the E-Bay clan members is the territory boundary area at Bain's Bay. Also Alaika, the matriarch of the Atlas Bay clan spends a lot of time there, but we unfortunately have no other animals of the Atlas Bay clan collared at the moment to monitor movement. So it is possible that the E-Bay clan males are interested in the Atlas Bay clan females... ☺ There is some activity at the Atlas Bay clan's Jungle and SP3 Dens, but we could not confirm breeding yet, as the camera trap images are inconclusive. However, Alaika definitely does not breed any more, but otherwise still seems strong for her age. Her satellite collar is still sending data, so that I can track her movement on a daily basis.



Lloyd at Green Valley Den



Pelle's sibling at E-Bay (K. Newnham)



Activity at Jungle Den

## The Mystery around Obelixa

by Ingrid Wiesel

I received a report of a hyena carcass at the old E-Bay plant. When I investigated the carcass it did not have a collar, but I was definitely dealing with a very old animal. It only made sense that I had found Obelixa, but the lack of collar was odd. Max and I searched the area, but no luck. It is possible though, that the subadults pulled the collar off and carried it deep inside the plant – we will most probably never know.



My only way of identifying the animal was through its teeth and tooth wear and when I compared the images taken in 2016, when we captured Obelixa last, with the teeth of the carcass, it confirmed with a high probability that it was Obelixa that we found there. We are very sad, but also grateful to have had the privilege to follow her life for so many years and to see that she died of old age in midst her relatives and at 'home'. I will write a special article about her life in the December issue this year.

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## Garub

by Ingrid Wiesel



Just a quick update about the Garub spotted hyena clan, which only comprises of Caspar, the oldest breeding female, her offspring and possibly another subadult animal at present. We don't know where Caspar's current den is, as she stays far away from the dens that had been used by the clan in the past, possibly because of the disturbance that had been caused there in connection with the Ministry's management strategies. It seems as if Caspar gave birth in December, so that her offspring should be 10 months old now. We haven't seen any cubs at the troughs or other camera traps yet, but hope to catch a glimpse of it/them soon.

The good news is, that the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has formulated a draft management plan for the Garub horses of the Namib. We've submitted our comments and hope that an updated version becomes available soon. It is positive to note, that the plan

concentrates on non-lethal predator management strategies, such as patrols to scare the hyenas off or building a sanctuary within the horse area for times of drought and extreme predation. Diversionary feeding and lethal removal of predators is fortunately not considered any more. I will however keep you updated about the developments at Garub in future newsletters.

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### *Baker's Bay*

In July, we met with Offspring Films at Baker's Bay again. Despite the foggy and cold weather, we had some nice hyena sightings, including the 'old Lady' that spends so much time at the seal colony (see our previous newsletter). Sabrina is busy with establishing an ID catalogue of the resident hyenas covering a time frame from 2013 to now.



We are also going to review our activity data from 2002/2003 and our telemetry data from 2004 and 2007/2008 and it is planned to fit two to four satellite collars at Baker's Bay next year in April. The seal colony is visited by members of at least two brown hyena clans, so that we aim to fit collars to two members of each clan. If funding allows, we may also try to capture 'inland visitors' to the colony, who use a corridor to access the marine food source on a regular basis.

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## Camera Trap Images

Here are some good shots from our camera traps at Baker's Bay that we can use to establish an ID catalogue:



HCO ScoutGuard  
Scholzberg Centre

4.18.2019 18:25:40



HCO ScoutGuard  
Scholzberg Centre

6.07.2019 14:47:35



HCO ScoutGuard  
Mountain latrine

08.17.2019 18:31:24



HCO ScoutGuard  
Mountain latrine

06.24.2019 18:32:24



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