

April 2014



SAWMA MATTERS

Electronic newsletter of the Southern African Wildlife Management Association

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Welcome to our first newsletter for 2014! This is really a belated newsletter. Be assured you will not wait so long for the next issue. Thanks for all your support to SAWMA, and we're looking forward to another great year with even more members joining the SAWMA community. By sending your news to this regular e-publication, submitting articles for publication in South African Journal of Wildlife Research, and supporting our annual conference your important work and research will be shared with others in the same field. I hope you will find the snippets interesting.

- Editor

SAWMA Conference 2014 First Announcement soon available!

The organising committee has been working hard behind the scenes and we are almost ready to send you the first announcement for our conference later this year. For now, please keep the dates open in your diary.

DATES: Arrival and welcome: 31 Aug 2014, Presentations starting Monday 1 September and finishing late Wednesday 3rd September 2014. Main dinner will be on the last evening with an optional field trip on the Thursday.

VENUE: Pine Lodge Resort and Conference Centre, Port Elizabeth

ORGANISING COMMITTEE: The organising committee will consist of staff members of Centre for African Conservation Ecology and Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency.

MAIN THEME: Reconciling the contradictions of Wildlife Management in southern Africa.

The first announcement will provide more detail about the main theme and suggested sub themes, registration fees, format of presentations and accommodation options.

WATCH YOUR EMAILS, SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS FOR THE FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS.

Welcome new SAWMA members!

Since our previous newsletter a total of 14 new members registered as SAWMA members:

Peter Coulon: Environmental Manager, Simbithi Eco Estate, Durban.

Richard Fynn: Researcher at Okavango Research Institute, University of Botswana.

Lex Pienaar: Student in Nature Management at Centurion Academy, Pretoria.

Nolubabalo Tantsi: South African National Parks, Pretoria office.

Francis Martens: Saasveld student member busy with her practical year.

Susan Miller: DTech student at Veterinary Genetics Laboratory University of Pretoria.

Arinao Ratshikuni: local member from Witkoppen.

Jan Arkert: Currently completing MPhil Wildlife Management at Pretoria University.

Jodine van Eeden: Student member, currently based at Namaqua National Park.

Bwalya Veronica Kampamba: Student in wildlife management at Copperbelt University, Zambia.

Meiring Prinsloo: Reserve manager at a private nature reserve.

Member updates:

We learned with sadness that one of our longtime members, Dr Fritz Huchzermeyer has recently passed away. Our deepest sympathy to his close ones.

Dr Dave Balfour will be leaving Eastern Cape Parks and Tourism Agency by the end of April. We wish him all the best with his new endeavors.

Dr Peter Turner, who has been a member of SAWMA since its inception has ended his membership this year. Thanks for being a loyal member to SAWMA for so many years.



Congratulations to two SAWMA couples who are now proud parents: **Kelly and Dan Marnewick** with a baby boy, Liam, and **Maartin Strauss and Robyn Hetem** with their baby girl, Paige.

SAWMA Membership fees 2014:

Thanks to all who responded to the reminder and paid their dues before the end of December. However about 18% of members were still behind with payments at the end of December. Remember that your membership automatically continues until you officially cancel it by sending us a cancellation note.

Although the SAWMA membership fees were kept the same over the past three years, it was necessary to increase the fees in 2014 as follows:

Local individual members:	R390-00/year
Fulltime Student members (Local):	R200-00/year (see announcement below)
Fulltime Student members (Foreign):	R390-00/year (see announcement below)
Pensioners:	R200-00/year
Foreign individual members:	USD 108-00/year
Local Institutional Subscribers:	R680-00/year
Foreign Institutional Subscribers:	USD 205-00/year

Our bank details: Standard Bank, Tyger Manor Branch 050410, Cheque account number: 270805575. **Please use your surname as reference and email proof of payment to elma@mweb.co.za.** Feel free to contact Elma Marais (elma@mweb.co.za) for any membership enquiries.

Tel: +27-21-5541297; Fax: 0866729882 <http://www.sawma.co.za/>

FREE MEMBERSHIP OFFER TO FULL-TIME STUDENTS IN 2014:

This year SAWMA is offering free membership to full-time students who prefer only electronic access to the South African Journal of Wildlife Research. Students who prefer to receive a printed copy of the journal will pay the full student fee. Please contact the SAWMA secretariat at elma@mweb.co.za if you are interested in this offer. Note that proof of registration at a university is required.



SAJWR Vol 44/1:

The first issue of the SAJWR is already in press and will reach members and subscribers later in April.

Electronic access codes

All official members of SAWMA can access the journal content electronically by means of login codes. The login codes are available from the SAWMA secretariat. (contact Elma Marais at elma@mweb.co.za.)

Note that new codes are implemented on 1 May every year.

Did you know?

All articles of SAJWR published more than 24 months ago are open access articles and no login codes are required.

Archival issues published before 1991 (Vol 21) dating back to 1971 are available in digital format through SABINET African Journal Archive (<http://content.ajarchive.org/>).



South African Journal of Wildlife Research

Special carnivore issue:

Call for papers

The Southern African Wildlife Management Association (SAWMA) is currently inviting research and review papers on African carnivores and their ecology, behaviour or conservation for publication in the March 2015 issue of South African Journal of Wildlife Research.

Increasingly the key role of carnivores in ecosystem functioning is being realised. Along with this there is the realisation that many of Africa's carnivores, even the iconic African lion, are under intense pressure and are declining at an unexpected rate. In this issue we aim to highlight African carnivores, both large and small with papers on aspects of their ecology, behaviour and conservation.

The South African Journal of Wildlife Research is an ISI ranked, leading peer reviewed scientific publication on wildlife management and research in Africa, Arabia and Madagascar. With a broad base covering scientific, applied, managerial, methodological and sociological issues related to wildlife research, the journal publishes original full-length scientific papers, short communications, book reviews as well as reviews on science-based research invited by the editor-in-chief.

We invite you to submit papers for this issue. Submissions of manuscripts can be submitted to any of the editors. Please copy the SAWMA secretariat Elma Marais (elma@mweb.co.za).

The deadline for submissions is 1 September 2014. All submissions will be reviewed by at least 2 reviewers. Please follow our standard instructions to authors available on www.sawma.co.za

Editor in Chief: Dan Parker (D.Parker@ru.ac.za)

Guest Editors for carnivore issue:

Matt Hayward: Bangor University (m.hayward@bangor.ac.uk) Michael Somers: University of Pretoria (mjs@up.ac.za)



NAME CHANGE FOR THE JOURNAL TO BE IMPLEMENTED

Our journal is publishing wildlife research done in the whole of Africa, Arabia and Madagascar. Therefore our editor is busy getting the process in place to have the current name of South African Journal of Wildlife Research changed to African Journal of Wildlife Research. We are hoping to implement the new name and subsequent new look of our journal by the beginning of 2015.

Upcoming Events:

RP-PCP / AHEAD-GLTFCA Conference

Dates: 12-15 May 2014

Venue: Zimbabwe

The RP-PCP (Research Platform - Production & Conservation in Partnership) and the AHEAD-GLTFCA initiative are co-organizing a conference in Zimbabwe from May 12-15, 2014, with a special focus on the Great Limpopo and Kavango Zambezi transfrontier conservation areas (TFCAs). The theme of the conference, "Management of Protected Areas and their Peripheries in Southern Africa: Has Anything Changed with the Creation of TFCAs?" sets the stage for five thematic sessions.

For questions and / or more information on the call for papers, please see the conference flyer downloadable at <http://www.rp-pcp.org/events/rp-pcp-ahead-conference> or contact aheadpcpconfproposal@gmail.com. For booking arrangements and other logistics details, please contact pcpahead@gmail.com and merle@mpu.co.za. The deadline for submission of abstracts is Friday March 28, 2014.

49TH ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE GRASSLAND SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

All the information is available on the website or at the following link: <http://www.grassland.org.za/events/annual-congress/gssa-congress-2014/congress48>

Dates: 20 – 25 July 2014

Venue: Phillip Sanders Resort and Conference Centre

The fourth metabarcoding spring school in South Africa

The fourth metabarcoding spring school is dedicated to DNA-based diet analysis. The DNA metabarcoding spring school is now in its fourth edition. DNA metabarcoding is a rapidly evolving technique for assessing biodiversity from environmental DNA. Its range of applications is wide and covers, as examples, biodiversity monitoring, animal diet assessment and paleo-ecology. DNA metabarcoding relies on up-to-date molecular techniques such as PCR and next generation sequencing, and requires bioinformatic and biostatistic competencies to be able to analyse the results. This is intrinsically a technique at the interface of several disciplines that requires a broad range of skills in addition to the classical ecology knowledge related to the specific research topic. Each participant will have to present a 12 minute talk on their work and the relevance of DNA metabarcoding to their work to other participants in order to stimulate discussions with other participants and with the presenters.

Organizer: Jointly organized by Laboratoire d'Ecologie Alpine, Grenoble, France and the Centre for African Conservation Ecology, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa (within a PROTEA project: collaboration between South Africa and France) See also: <http://metabarcoding.org/>

Dates: 3-7 November 2014 (arrival on 2 November, departure on 8 November)

Venue: Samara Private Game Reserve (<http://www.samara.co.za>)

Course fee: There is no course fee, but participants are required to pay their own transport and accommodation.

Maximum number of participants: For practical reasons, the number of participants is limited to 20. If more than 20 students, post-docs, or scientists apply to the school, we will prioritize the candidates according to their research project and their country of origin (we will promote candidates from Africa).

Course application: To apply to this school, please send an e-mail to diet2014@metabarcoding.org including a one-page CV and a one-page application letter describing how DNA metabarcoding fits in your research plans and the stage you are currently at when you inquire about the course registration. The application deadline is 4 May 2014.

ICWERC 2014: International Conference on Wildlife Ecology, Rehabilitation and Conservation

Dates: 16-17 June 2014

Venue: Toronto, Canada

Website: <http://www.waset.org/conference/2014/06/toronto/ICWERC>

CITES has just published its long-awaited report on the illegal cheetah trade:

<http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/ac/27/E-AC27-18.pdf>

The International Science Conference is a major annual international conference, devoted to original research and innovation in science, engineering and technology, hosted on six continents (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America and Oceania) by thirty five different countries (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, UK and USA).



IUCN
WORLD PARKS CONGRESS
SYDNEY 2014

Main theme: Parks, People, Planet: inspiring solutions

Dates: 12 – 19 November 2014

Information: <http://www.worldparkscongress.org>

Join the following Conservation, Wildlife and Research networks now!



Some consider social networks as a waste of time, but there are networks worth belonging to, which might help you to make critical connections, get useful information and contribute to:

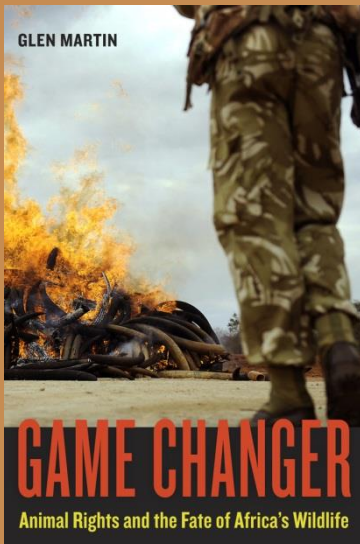
A Facebook site called '**African Wildlife Conservation News**' was recently created by researchers which is designed to bring insights from the scientific literature into the mainstream: <https://www.facebook.com/africanwildlifeconservationnews>

Please visit this page and if you are interested to join, send them any papers you would like to have featured on there, or simply just click on 'like' to promote it to your friends.

Contact Peter Lindsay for more information: plindsey@panthera.org

Also Note: The Southern African Wildlife Management Association Facebook Group page has recently been reactivated. Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/88830115458/>. Contact Kelly Marnewick for more information: kellym@ewt.org.za

Remember, we also have a LinkedIn group which you can join and share your news and opinions with other professionals in the field. Visit: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Southern-African-Wildlife-Management-Association>



GAME CHANGER

Animal Rights and the Fate of Africa's Wildlife – Glen Martin

<http://www.ucpress.edu/ebook.php?isbn=9780520952058>

“Are conservation and protecting animals the same thing? In Game Changer, award-winning environmental reporter Glen Martin takes a fresh look at this question as it applies to Africa’s megafauna. Martin assesses the rising influence of the animal rights movement and finds that the policies championed by animal welfare groups could lead paradoxically to the elimination of the very species—including elephants and lions—that are the most cherished. In his anecdotal and highly engaging style, Martin takes readers to the heart of the conflict. He revisits the debate between conservationists, who believe that people whose lives are directly impacted by the creation of national parks and preserves should be compensated, versus those who believe that restrictive protection that forbids hunting is the most effective way to conserve wildlife and habitats. Focusing on the different approaches taken by Kenya, Tanzania, and Namibia, Martin vividly shows how the world’s last great populations of wildlife have become the hostages in a fight between those who love animals and those who would save them. “

University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles. ISBN 9780520266261, Hardcover, 272 pages at \$31.95, £21.95, Adobe PDF E-Book ISBN: 9780520952058 at \$31.95.

Read Dave Cumming’s review at: <http://www.africanindaba.com/2014/03/d-h-m-cumming-reviews-glen-martins-book-game-changer-animal-rights-and-the-fate-of-africas-wildlife-d-h-m-cumming-reviews-glen-martins-book/>



THE CARCASS CHALLENGE!

**CARCASS
“C A Carcass And Send Sighting”**

The EWT’s Wildlife & Transport Programme (WTP) needs your help recording roadkill data and has launched the Road watch South Africa smartphone app to make your participation in their Roadkill Research and Mitigation Project easier.

To take part simply type this link into the Safari browser on your Android platform phone:
<http://www.prismsw.com/roadwatch/android/RoadWatchSouthAfrica.apk>

We are hoping that the app will be available on the Apple platform shortly. If, during your travels, you spot any roadkill on our roads please record your sighting via the app and the WTP will use the data you share in their work to reduce the impacts of transport on our wildlife. You can also send your sightings to us at roads@ewt.org.za .

We need the location (preferably GPS co-ordinates), species seen and date. We challenge you to record as much roadkill data as possible and send it to us and we further challenge you to become a GivenGain activist and pledge your support with a donation for this project.

<https://www.facebook.com/EndangeredWildlifeTrust?ref=hl> – Facebook Link
<http://www.givengain.com/cause/2347/projects/14490/> - GivenGain Link

The CARCASS Challenge has started on 1st March and will end with the draw for the most submissions taking place in November. The EWT has a fantastic Hamper full of exciting EWT goodies for the person who collects the most data, with great prizes for second and third place.

Regular updates of the challenge will be posted on the EWT Facebook page and you can follow us on Twitter (@wendycollinson1).

Interesting Projects:



The Kgalagadi Lion Project is aimed at investigating and monitoring the lion population of the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park. The aim of this research is to fill critical knowledge gaps for this lion population to help managing the population through better understanding their dietary, demographic and behavioural dynamics.

This project has been in action for about 10 months and 144 individual lions have so far been identified using photographic evidence and whisker spot pattern verification. A combination of methods are being used in determining the diet and feeding patterns, including stable isotope analysis of lion whiskers, scat analysis, GPS cluster analysis and direct observations.

The project was initiated after a recent survey showed an excessively skewed sex ratio in favour of male lions in the park. This could lead to a decline in the lion population and may ultimately lead to localized extinction.

One of the major parts of the project is to develop an identification catalogue of all lions to track individuals, interactions and pride dynamics. The public forms part of this survey by taking photographs and making notes of identifying characteristics.

The project is conducted by two Cape Peninsula University students, Maya and Otto Beukes, under supervision of Dr Frans Radloff (CPUT) and Dr Sam Ferreira (SANParks)

Visit: <http://www.kalaharilions.co.za/> and contact info@kalaharilions.co.za to receive their regular newsletters.

The Majete Wildlife Research Programme

The Majete Wildlife Research Programme, the brainchild of Dr Leslie, was established in April 2013. The 70 000 ha Majete Wildlife Reserve was proclaimed in 1955, and is one of the larger protected areas in Malawi. It lies in the Lower Shire Valley at the southernmost tip of Africa's Great Rift Valley. Most of its animals were eliminated or reduced to very low numbers by the year 2000 because of severe poaching in the 1980s and 1990s.

In 2003, African Parks (Pty) Ltd took over complete responsibility for managing the reserve through a Public Private Partnership initiative. African Parks has since worked towards rehabilitating, developing and managing the reserve, to fence the area and to contribute to tourism initiatives from which the local community are benefitting. 2550 animals of 14 different species have already been translocated into the conservation area, including lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, black rhino, sable antelope and eland. This included 217 elephants.

More than a decade later, the project is now moving from its inception and rehabilitation phase into the conservation, monitoring and habitat management phase. And this is where the Conservation Ecology graduate students from Stellenbosch University and their supervisor, Dr Alison Leslie, become part of the picture. Jessica Wienand, who recently received her MSc degree at the University of Stellenbosch, under guidance of Dr Alison Leslie, studied the impact of the elephant reintroduced to the reserve over the past ten years on especially the area's woody vegetation, and how to best manage the perennial and artificial water sources on the reserve in accordance.

The students of the Conservation Ecology Unit are involved in an on-going research programme to help assess, monitor and model the population dynamics of many of the re-introduced species, including spotted hyena and black rhinoceros. Their work will ultimately help to set in place suitable management strategies to handle fire, to establish appropriate artificial water provision, and to handle conflicts which might arise between humans and wildlife. A predator monitoring programme will also be implemented to assess the impact and adaption of the re-introduced lions and leopards.

For more information visit: Stellenbosch University Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology www.sun.ac.za/consent; African Parks (Pty) Ltd www.african-parks.org; Earthwatch Institute www.earthwatch.org

News Snippets and other interesting reading:

Fences cause 'ecological meltdown'

Wildlife fences are constructed for a variety of reasons including to prevent the spread of diseases, protect wildlife from poachers, and to help manage small populations of threatened species. Human–wildlife conflict is another common reason for building fences: Wildlife can damage valuable livestock, crops, or infrastructure, some species carry diseases of agricultural concern, and a few threaten human lives. At the same time, people kill wild animals for food, trade, or to defend lives or property, and human activities degrade wildlife habitat. Separating people and wildlife by fencing can appear to be a mutually beneficial way to avoid such detrimental effects. But in a paper in the journal *Science*, published today, April 4th, 2014, WCS and ZSL scientists review the 'pros and cons' of large scale fencing and argue that fencing should often be a last resort.

Read the story: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/04/140403154506.htm>

Journal Reference:

R. Woodroffe, S. Hedges, S. M. Durant. To Fence or Not to Fence. *Science*, 2014; 344 (6179): 46 DOI: 10.1126/science.1246251

Scientists solve the riddle of zebras' stripes

Why zebras have black and white stripes is a question that has intrigued scientists and spectators for centuries. Scientists now examined this riddle systematically.

Horseflies are unpleasant insects that deliver powerful bites and now it seems that zebras evolved their stripes to avoid attracting the unpleasant pests. New research shows that zebras have the least attractive hides for horseflies. The scientists found that biting flies, including horseflies and tsetse flies, are the evolutionary driver for zebra's stripes. Experimental work had previously shown that such flies tend to avoid black-and-white striped surfaces, but many other hypotheses for zebra stripes have been proposed since Alfred Russel Wallace and Charles Darwin debated the problem 120 years ago.

These include:

- A form of camouflage
- Disrupting predatory attack by visually confusing carnivores
- A mechanism of heat management
- Having a social function
- Avoiding ectoparasite attack, such as from biting flies

After analyzing the five hypotheses, the scientists ruled out all but one: avoiding blood-sucking flies.

Read the story: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/04/140401112111.htm>

Journal Reference: Tim Caro, Amanda Izzo, Robert C. Reiner, Hannah Walker, Theodore Stankowich. The function of zebra stripes. *Nature Communications*, 2014; 5 DOI: 10.1038/ncomms4535

The Challenge of Regulating Private Wildlife Ranches for Conservation in South Africa

The authors address the new attempts at regulating wildlife ranches on private land in South Africa. Although positive conservation impacts can be attributed to private wildlife ranching, there are a number of ecological consequences that often arise as a result of economic priorities. They present and analyze new national regulations aimed at coordinating provincial legislation and guiding the wildlife industry in a more conservationist direction, and examine tensions that have arisen between different socio-political scales as a result. Data were obtained through a desk-based study of legal documents and interviews with key stakeholders. The new regulations begin to address international obligations and national policy on biodiversity conservation by potentially combating a number of specific ecological problems associated with wildlife ranching. However, in practice, the regulations are a significant source of tension among stakeholders and will be challenging to implement. A key issue is competing agendas between incentive-driven ranchers and conservationist aims. It may be that in addressing the ecological problems at the margin, the new regulations will encourage some ranchers to convert their land away from conservation friendly land use.

Authors: Cousins, J. A., J. P. Sadler, and J. Evans. 2010. The challenge of regulating private wildlife ranches for conservation in South Africa. *Ecology and Society* 15(2): 28 <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol15/iss2/art28/>

Court Slams Japan's Scientific Whaling

(Science 4 April 2014; Vol. 344 no. 6179 p. 22 DOI: 10.1126/science.344.6179.22)

A 31 March ruling from the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the Netherlands, found that Japan's justification for killing thousands of minke whales in the Southern Ocean since the mid-1990s didn't pass scientific muster. Japan, which signed a 1982 ban on commercial whaling, said it had a right to conduct the kills under the research provisions of a 1946 whaling agreement, and argued the lethal studies were needed to understand whale populations and marine ecosystems. But the government of Australia challenged that view in a 2010 lawsuit, arguing that the research was a cover for continued commercial whaling. By a 12 to four vote, the court agreed, finding that Japan had used flawed and nonscientific methods to justify the cull, and had produced little scientific knowledge. It isn't clear, however, whether the ruling will deter Japan from whaling; it applies only to the Antarctic hunt, and not to future hunts or to a similar Japanese program in the North Pacific.

Read more: <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/344/6179/22.short>

New data shows continued decline of African forest elephants

New data from the field in Central Africa shows that between 2002 and 2013, 65 percent of forest elephants were killed. They are being poached, for their ivory, at a shocking 9 percent per year. This new data marks an update to an earlier paper in the online journal PLOS ONE on the status of forest elephants across Central Africa, published by the same scientists. Many organisations collaborated in the study which covered 80 sites, in five countries, over the twelve years of data collection.

The earlier paper, published in 2013, already had shown a decline of 62 percent of the population between 2002 and 2011—to less than 10 percent of its potential historical size, and that elephants occupied only a quarter of the forests where they once roamed.

Read Article at: <http://phys.org/news/2014-02-decline-african-forest-elephants.html>

Large carnivores with large geographic ranges better-studied

Scientists tend to study larger carnivores with larger geographic ranges than those with greater adaptability and broader diets, according to results published April 2, 2014, in the open access journal PLOS ONE by Zoe Brooke and colleagues from Zoological Society of London.

The researchers identified a wide variation in intensity of research effort for carnivores, with some of the least-studied species being those that are predicted to become increasingly threatened. Better-studied species tended to be large-bodied and have a large geographic range, but omnivores were less-studied overall. The IUCN threat status did not show a strong relationship with research effort, which suggests that the actual conservation needs of individual species are not major drivers of research interest. Instead, the researchers suggest that there may be a complex role of human perspective in the planning of research agendas. The authors hope that these results could be combined with other conservation resources to prioritize and co-ordinate future research effort.

More information: Brooke ZM, Bielby J, Nambiar K, Carbone C (2014) Correlates of Research Effort in Carnivores: Body Size, Range Size and Diet Matter. PLoS ONE 9(4): e93195. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0093195

"Large carnivores with large geographic ranges better-studied." Phys.org. 2 Apr 2014.
<http://phys.org/news/2014-04-large-carnivores-geographic-ranges-better-studied.html>

Invite: Please send us news about any interesting research or management projects for this newsletter!

Space Use as an Indicator of Enclosure Appropriateness in African Wild Dogs

Hunter SC1, Gusset M, Miller LJ, Somers MJ.

ABSTRACT

'A clear understanding of space use is required to more fully understand biological requirements of nonhuman animals in zoos, aid the design of exhibits, and maximize the animals' welfare. This study used electivity indexes to assess space use of two packs of African wild dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) and the appropriateness of two naturalistic, outdoor enclosures at the San Diego Zoo and Bronx Zoo. The results identified enclosure features that were both underutilized and overutilized. They suggest that replacing underutilized areas with features similar to areas that were overutilized may provide more preferred opportunities for the animals. Assessing space use of animals in human care may serve as an indicator of enclosure appropriateness and could have welfare implications. By looking at the possible reasons for area preferences, animal managers can get an idea of where improvements could be made. Designing future exhibits accordingly thus can provide possible welfare benefits for the animals concerned.'

Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science Vol. 17, Iss. 2, 2014

Community involvement and joint operations aid effective anti-poaching

Wayne Lotter and Krissie Clark

ABSTRACT

'The Ruvuma Elephant Project (REP) area is located in the United Republic of Tanzania and lies between Selous Game Reserve in southern Tanzania and Niassa National Reserve in Mozambique. The area is dominated by miombo woodland with a mosaic of different land uses. Unfortunately, this mosaic of wildlife, forests, people with a variety of often competing land uses, as well as the presence of an international border close by, helps make it one of the worst impacted areas in Africa in terms of elephant poaching for the ivory trade. Despite the recent resurgence of elephant poaching in Tanzania and in particular within the Selous ecosystem which includes the REP area, the results show the project has managed to curb elephant poaching. It is believed that the local elephant population within the REP area should remain stable if current anti-poaching input levels can be maintained. The success of the REP may be attributed to various approaches and activities that are beyond the scope of conventional anti-poaching units or programmes. These include a strong focus on: working with communities to achieve their reciprocal support and participation; joint patrols and operations; and intelligence-led operations within and outside the protected areas.'

PARKS; 2014 Vol 20.1

Full paper at following link: https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/parks_20_1_lotter_clark.pdf

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Please note that any view or opinion expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily be that of SAWMA or the SAWMA management.

If you would like to share your news with other SAWMA members, please forward it to the following email address: elma@mweb.co.za

Warm regards until next time,

Elma Marais
(Newsletter Editor - SAWMA)

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