

WHEN IT RAINS IN THE DESERT...

one should not camp outside. At least that was the general opinion of the Raleigh International ventures, which spent the last days of their last phase with the Brown Hyena Research Project at Baker's Bay. On the day of our arrival, we found a very nice camp-site close to the Baker's Bay seal colony from where we planned to map areas south of it the following day. It started drizzling late in the afternoon, but hopes were up, that it would pass soon, but it happened otherwise: after we all went to bed early, the rain started to its fullest including strong north winds, so that all of us were forced to tie our tents down to avoid being blown away. At least now, sleep could follow, but: the wind decided to change direction and all our previous efforts to secure the camp were useless. So again, out of the tents, into the rain, securing the tents and equipment and hope for the best...only the best did not show itself, so the wind changed again and by then we were all soaking wet, the tents had already swimming pools inside them and nothing could be done about it, only to wait for the next morning and hopefully the sun. And yes, the sun was showing itself from time to time the next morning and things started to look better. Unfortunately our camp-site was surrounded by salt pans and we couldn't possibly reach the areas, which had to be mapped. We tried to make the best out of the situation and mapped areas close to the camp, but we had finished by midday and the weather situation seemed to get worse again. We decided to drive to Van Reenen Bay instead to map some areas there and to monitor the seal colony for brown hyena activity, as that hadn't been done since February. Just the thought of having some good night sleep in a dry environment kept the mood up

and our third day in the field at Van Reenen Bay was brilliant. Everybody saw brown hyenas at the colony and went hiking in the mountains and at least I'm sure that the ventures won't forget their experience with the Brown Hyena Project soon.



Wonderful "lake" north of Van Reenen Bay.

Thanks to...

Raleigh International for mapping the study area and for taking wonderful brown hyena ID photographs and to Trygve Cooper for saving me and my tent from the floods.

SLOT TINS

N\$ 482,17 was collected in the slot tin at Luderitz Safaris & Tours, N\$ 86,26 at Caron Curios and N\$ 312,11 at the Kolmanskop Coffee shop. Thank you very much!

ADOPTIONS

Luderitz Bay Shipping & Forwarding is supporting their brown hyena "Andrea Wonder" for another year. She is one of the brown hyenas around Baker's Bay. Thank you very much for your support.

NORBI IS BACK!!!



Norbi after his four months absence

We have been looking for Norbi for a very long time now and were already worried, that he either disappeared out of our study areas for good or that something happened to him or his radio collar. But: he surprised us again. Gino and Kathy tried to locate him with the plane at the last week-end in August and just a week later, I stumble across him at Wolf Bay. Where has he been all this time? We really don't know, but his radio collar is working fine and he has two more ear notches on this left ear as well as lots of new scar tissue and fresh wounds on his neck. It seems as if he meets lots of "unfriendly" brown hyenas on his travels, but is nevertheless in a good condition. Lets hope that he stays a bit longer this time!

A big thank you to Gino Noli and Kathie Peard for not giving up and to Bettina Wachter and Oliver Höner, who spotted Norbi first on our trip to Wolf Bay.

SAD BROWN HYENA STORIES

We've usually got more good news than bad, but we had at least two brown hyena fatalities around Luderitz during the last three months. A young male and medium aged female brown hyena were unfortunately killed by vehicles on the road between Luderitz and



Rotkop. One of the incidents was reported to the police and the roadkill was collected by the Brown Hyena Research Project for post mortem. Unfortunately the other brown hyena disappeared from the side of the road before we arrived at the accident site, but was found a few days later near Nautilus. The brown hyena had been collected by a local Luderitzbuchter, skinned and the remains were left in the mountains. We recovered the skin a few days later with the help of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET). Brown hyenas are endangered and are listed as a protected species in the Namibian Nature Conservation Ordinance. Every dead animal has to be reported to the MET and to the Brown Hyena Research Project – no matter whether it died of natural causes or was hit and run over by a vehicle. No parts of the animal may be used or removed without a proper permit issued by the MET and the possession of brown hyena skins or body parts without a permit is illegal.

Thank you very much to the staff of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Luderitz, the Luderitz police and the individuals that reported the accident, roadkill and dead brown hyena.

COMMERCIAL BANK GO GREEN FUND

We were invited to give a presentation at the Commercial Bank function in June, as the brown hyena study at the Pocket Beaches is supported by the Commercial Bank Go Green Fund and we have already fitted one GPS collar on a male brown hyena in this area.

The function was held in the Nest Hotel in the evening, but we spent the day with representatives of the Commercial Bank and the press in the field, trying to locate Emma, one of our radio collared brown hyenas. Gino and Kathie flew early in the morning to get a position, but Emma was not resting, as expected, she was moving from the Second Lagoon to Grosse Bucht and was still on the move by the time Gino and Kathie had to return to the airport. Therefore we were left with an approximate direction, in which she was heading. Lucky enough - or that was what we thought at the beginning – we picked up her signal near Grosse Bucht, but it was bouncing from the mountains into every direction. We assumed that she was still moving and decided, after one hour of search, to drive to the Atlas Bay seal colony for an outdoors lunch before continuing with our search for Emma.

After lunch, we drove to the southern side of Grosse Bucht, close to the active den site, where Gypsy II was raising her cubs. We received Emma's signal and followed it up and down the mountains until we finally caught a glimpse of her. So after a long day of hiking in the mountains we were all happy and

definitely looking forward to a relaxing function – though all of us were a bit tired. It is really hard to keep up with these hyenas...



Emma on the move

Thanks to... the Commercial Bank Go Green Fund to make this day possible and to all participants for their enthusiasm to find Emma.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

At the end of June, I visited the NAMDEB Mining Site at Ford Reef to give a presentation for Mr. Nicky Oppenheimer and the Brown Hyena Research Project received a “**Gift of Giving**” of **N\$ 2500** for our work in the Sperrgebiet. It was an interesting visit and we distributed our Carnivore Monitoring posters and sighting forms for the staff at Ford Reef.

We presented a poster about “Namib Brown Hyenas and their Marine Prey” at the Royal Society/BIOTA colloquium in Victoria West at the end of August. The poster was very well received and many thanks to **NAMDEB** for printing the poster, but especially to **Alex MacKay** for editing it and helping to make it such a success.

OTHER NEWS

As reported in previous newsletters, we started with a farmer questionnaire in the southern part of the Karas region. Several farmers have already replied and the first progress report has been circulated. At the same time, we distributed carnivore sighting forms and started with presentations at schools. We established a long-term partnership with the Aus Open Air school, where we give outdoor presentations to the children, while they are on their visit to Luderitz. Thanks very much to all participants and to the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund** for supporting this project.

We will try to fit five brown hyenas with radio collars between Luderitz and Elizabeth Bay at the end of September. Three

of these radio collars were sponsored by the **Predator Conservation Trust** in the UK and we will report more in the next newsletter. We will also try to fit one of the spotted hyenas in the Aus area with a radio collar. This project is a collaboration with Telanie, who is studying the Wild Horses in Aus and Nature Investments.

We will visit the Hottentotsbay area in October and start the mapping of the study area with the help of Raleigh International venturers. The camera trapping project, which is supported by **Hottentot Bay Investments Cc** and **Benguela Enterprises Cc**, will commence in February next year.

FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

A big thank you to **Namdeb** for their continuous support, Mr. Oppenheimer’s “**Gift of Giving**” and the printing of our poster.

Thank you to the **First National Bank of Namibia** and **Luderitz Bay Shipping & Forwarding** for their donations.

We received a grant from the **Namibian Environment Fund (Namibia Nature Foundation & The Royal Danish Embassy in Pretoria)** for a new research project “Brown Hyena Demography in Inland Areas of the Sperrgebiet”, which will start in February next year. We will report more about this project in future newsletters.

We also applied for a grant for a similar project with the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund**, who is currently supporting another one of our projects.

A big thank you again for accepting our slot tins goes to **Luderitz Yacht Club, Coastway Tours, Sandrose, Diaz Coffee Shop, Luderitz Safaris and Tours, Kolmanskop Coffee Shop, Caron Curio** and **Namibia Wildlife Resorts**.

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

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				Steve Appleton	



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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, Branch Code 161071
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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!