

# Monthly Report

August 2021



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## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Hyaena Movements</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Monthly Camera Trap Results</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Opportunistic Sightings</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>This month in Pictures</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>CRM Funders and Supporters</b>	<b>8</b>



# Introduction

## What we've been up to...

### Community surveys and third capture begin.

#### Community surveys

August marked the beginning of our community surveys, where we go to villages throughout known hyaena ranges, and attempt to understand what living with hyaena entails. For each village that we visit, we first meet with the chief or village leader to introduce ourselves, describe the project and the reasons for conducting the survey. So far, all chiefs have been happy to receive us and given their permission to conduct our surveys.

The data received from these surveys will help us understand what kind of conflict arises, and how mitigation measures may be put in place. Though still in the early stages, it is clear that fear for livestock losses and attacks on humans are the main contributors to negative attitudes towards hyaena. Once completed, we hope that with some specifically targeted education and intervention methods, conflict can be reduced and attitudes towards hyaena change for the better.

#### Third capture phase begins

This month we also started the third capture phase, where we will attempt to add more collared hyaena to the three that we have collared earlier in the year already.



Figure 1. The two adults on the right are the targets for this capture phase, the juvenile on the left is still too small for collaring.

In total we are hoping to collar three individuals from three areas across the urban to peri urban gradient. With the addition of an infrared camera, we have been able to get a different insight to the behaviors of the hyaena while baiting. It has been interesting seeing the different dominance behaviors between individuals, with the young male juvenile offspring of an alpha female, stealing food from a fully grown adult (who is suspected to be a male) (Fig 2), or watching an individual chase off a side striped jackal from the bait. We now have clearer ID shots, allowing



Figure 2. This male, the juvenile previously captured, is clearly more dominant than Bunda 4, constantly stealing its food.

us to better understand the clan composition, as well as pick specific hyaena for captures (Fig 3).

#### Den Movements

Both females of the Bunda clan have recently moved dens, as there was no longer any activity at their birthing den. Both cubs are now exploring the area, turning up at the two other camera trap stations at dens in the area.



Figure 3. Bunda 4 at the baiting site, and the target for collaring.



# Hyaena Movements: 01/08/21-31/08/21

## Urban Clan

Individuals: URBHY01/URBHY16/BundaHY1

### Overall Movements

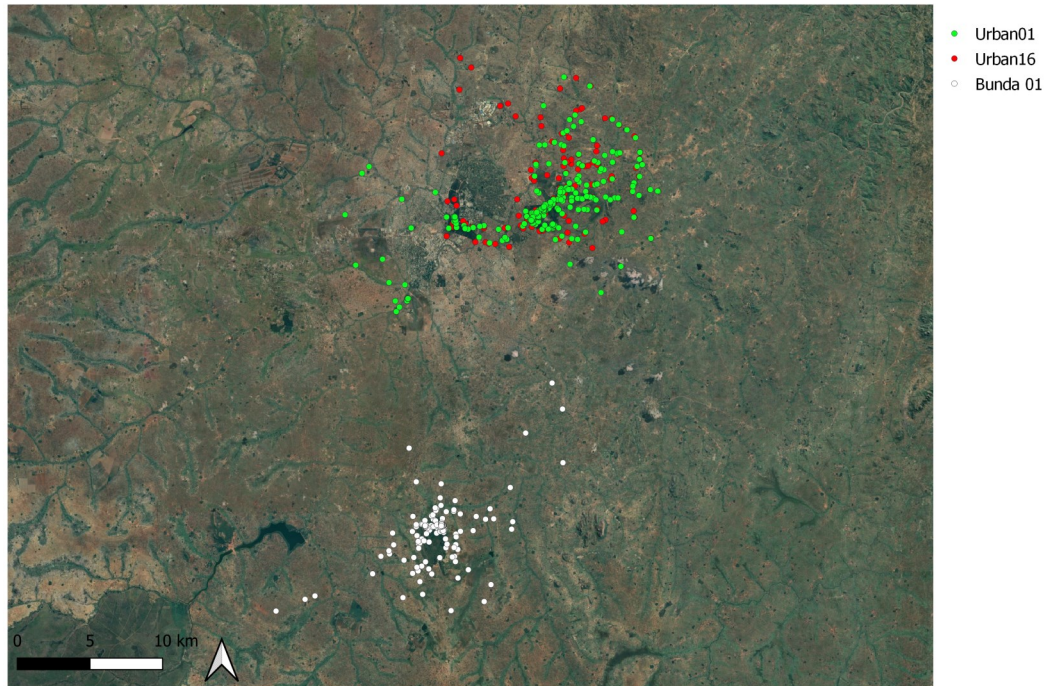


Figure 4, Hyaena movements for August for both the Urban Clan collared hyaenas and the collared female of the Bunda Clan.

### Movements:

Both the urban hyaenas travelled large distances this month, making lots of journeys out of the city, compared to the female at Bunda, who's points were less spread out. URBHY01 travelled approximately 946.6 km while URBHY16 travelled 987.4 km. The female at Bunda travelled roughly 282.56 km.

**Note:** These measurements are based on straight line distances between each point, so actual total distances travelled are likely to be much greater.

### Activity Hotspots

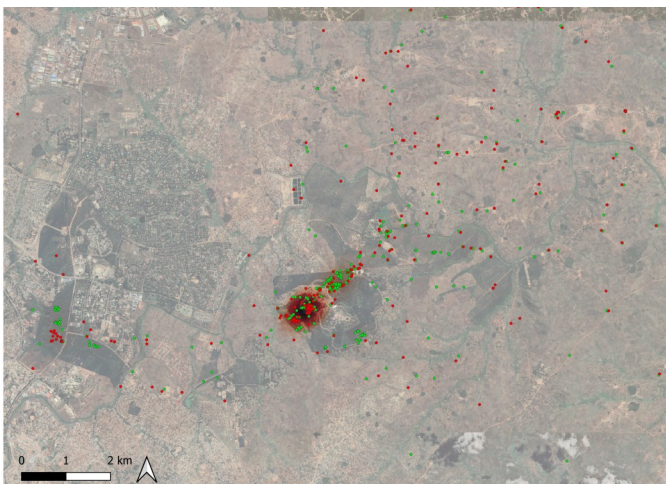


Figure 5, The urban clan continue to have their one hotspot area, indicating a potential den site.



Figure 6, The hyaenas have switched dens again, now around Bunda den 2 and newly placed Bunda den 3, with the cubs seen at both locations.

# August Results

## Camera Traps

Results from our weekly camera trap checks:

Date Set	Location	Species Seen	Active Y/N
01/08/2021 - 31/08/2021	Sanctuary (Den 1)	South African porcupine.	N
01/08/2021 - 31/08/2021	Sanctuary (Den 2)	South African porcupine, common genet, common duiker, vervet monkey, bushy tailed mongoose.	N
01/08/2021 - 31/08/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3B)	South African porcupine, common duiker, water mongoose, unidentified rat species.	N
01/08/2021 - 31/08/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3C)	South African porcupine, common duiker, side striped jackal, bushy tailed mongoose.	N
01/08/2021 - 31/08/2021	Kumbali	Spotted hyaena.	Y
01/08/2021 - 31/08/2021	Bunda College (Den 1)	No activity.	N
01/08/2021 - 31/08/2021	Bunda College (Den 2)	Serval, South African porcupine, unidentified rodent, spotted hyaena.	Y
01/08/2021 - 31/08/2021	Bunda College (Den 3)	Serval, slender mongoose, giant pouched rat, common gennet, South African porcupine, common mouse, spotted hyaena.	Y

# August Opportunistic Sightings

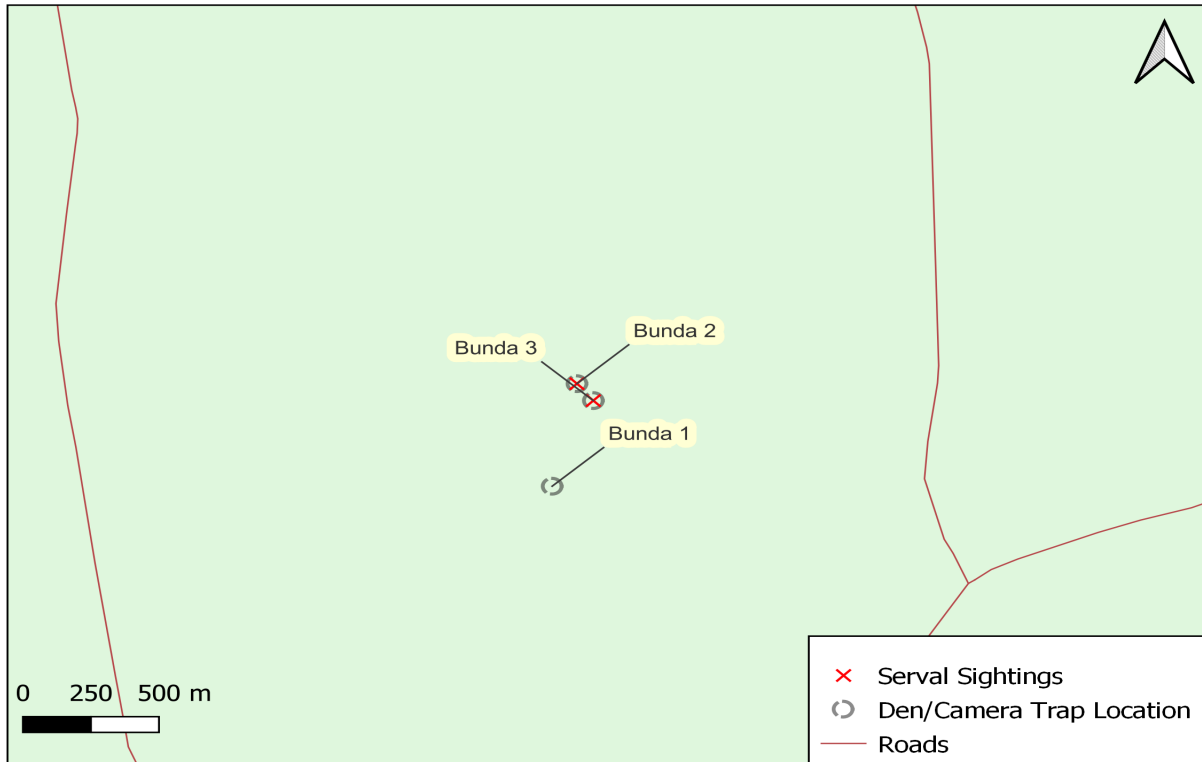


Figure 7, Opportunistic sightings of serval seen on our camera traps.

## Bunda 2 Den/Camera trap



## Bunda 3 Den/Camera trap





# August In Pictures



Figure 8. One of the presumed females taking a shift with the cubs during the night.



Figure 11. Both cubs, now roughly 3 months, seem to look healthy and active as they continue to switch between dens.



Figure 9. At least one of the cubs has made the 1km journey to the furthest known den, either carried by mom or assisted on the way.



Figure 12. Just one of the many visitors at Bunda den 3, a giant pouched rat.



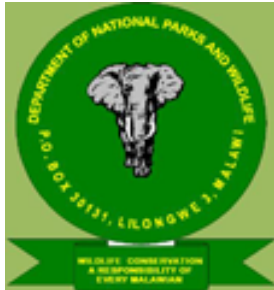
Figure 10. Hyenas can have multiple dens, here you can see the same individual at Den 2, having also been spotted at Den 3.



Figure 13. One of the cubs, too young to be formally identified, just resting at the den, perhaps waiting for its mother to return from hunting.

# CRM Funders and Supporters

CRM would like to thank all our funders and collaborators.



Bringing the wild back to life

