

# Monthly Report

September 2016



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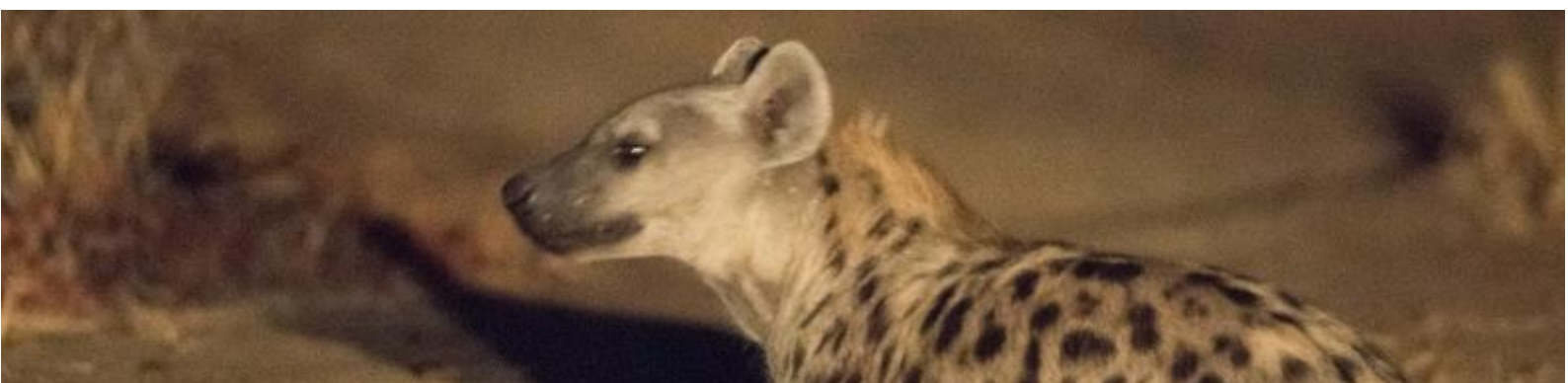


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# Updates on Community Engagement

## Community Engagement Update

This month Godwin Zimba, our community engagement officer in LNP, has been working on linking our project to various communities (Figure 1). His work this month included networking with eco-clubs, and conducting education and awareness sessions with both eco-clubs and communities (Appendix I). He has also been working on setting up facilitators in various communities with a total of five signing up this month.



Figure 1. Godwin engaging with other community projects

## Goats taken from Kwenje village

On September 23rd 2016, the CRM Liwonde team received a call regarding goats killed by hyaenas just outside the Western boundary of the park in Kwenje village. Godwin Zimba, our community engagement officer and Olivia Sievert, our research assistant, responded immediately to ensure spoor and other evidence of the attack would still be fresh. Upon arrival they found both tracks (Figure 2) and the remains of a young male goat (Figure 3). After taking statements from members of

the community they were called by African Parks (AP) personnel who were able to corroborate these accounts.



Figure 2. The track of an adult spotted hyaena which was found in Kwenje village.

AP were driving through the village to Makanga camp the night of the attack and saw a lone hyaena chasing a group of goats near the curio shop. This hyaena attack is a first for the village and left everyone noticeably shaken. With our team receiving even more reports of hyaenas in the area, we continue to investigate this incident and engage with the community regarding improved livestock husbandry, and coexisting with wildlife.



Figure 3. The remains of a young male goat after a spotted hyaena attack in Kwenje village.

# CRM findings - Liwonde NP Field station

## Beating the Heat

September is one of the hottest months in Liwonde NP and the heat is being felt by everyone. Because of this, our team began placing camera traps (Appendix II) at the few remaining waterholes around the park in hopes to catch carnivores in search of water. This method proved effective when they caught both known Chinguni hill clan members at a waterhole on the main road. Both individuals were enjoying a late night wallow in an attempt to cool down (Figure 4).



Figure 4. CHC02 caught on camera trap September 13, 2016 wallowing in Southern waterhole

## Lower Sanctuary Clan Moves

This month the lower sanctuary clan abandoned their dens in the Southern section of the rhino sanctuary. This is the first dry season in which we have recorded this behavior and, it is not just the hyaenas that have left this section of the sanctuary. Our team has not seen any game, or tracks in this area other than elephants. We are currently predicting that due to the record low water levels this year, most animals have retreated to either the floodplain or the northern section of the sanctuary where permanent water sources are available. Upon further investigation, it appears that the lower sanctuary clan has done the same and moved from the Namadange river in the South to the Namantunu river in the North for denning, allowing them to be closer to permanent water sources. Hyaena

tracks have been found around WH3 and daytime radio fixes have been picked up for LSC01 along the Namantunu river. Our team continues follow up on this exciting change using day time radio tracking LSC01 and camera trapping.

## Follow up on Reports of Hyaenas in Makanga Camp

For the past two months the CRM Liwonde team has been receiving both visual reports and reports of hyaenas calling on the Western side of the Shire River. Most of these reports came from the Makanga camp area. This month our team had the opportunity to investigate these reports. They have since spent two days walking over 30km of the area in search of scats, tracks and potential den sites. During this time they have found two scats, one set of tracks and, two old den sites, one of which had evidence of kills from two different animals (Figure 5), the fur of which is currently being analyzed.



Figure 5. Fur found at old hyaena den site on the western side of LNP. Fur is currently being analyzed for species ID.

These findings are interesting as it is the first year the Western fence line has been erect and maintained, meaning that these hyaenas are now cut off to the neighbouring villages. With hyaenas reported just meters away on the other side of the fence, our team is curious as to the composition of the population on this side of the park, and if a territory has been fragmented by the newly built fence.



Our team continues to investigate this through both visits inside the park and visits to the neighbouring communities, as well as following up with any human wildlife conflict reports.

## Bait Site Findings

This month we have received three different deceased animals, impala (*Aepyceros melampus*) sable (*Hippotragus niger*) and, waterbuck (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*) from AP to use for bait sites. These animals were set up in different locations in the park in order to try and gather data on clan composition (Appendix III) and opportunistic sightings of carnivores in the park (Appendix IV). The results of these bait sites are as follows.

### IMPALA BAIT

This was set up near the lower sanctuary clans known den sites. Although other hyenas were heard and caught on camera trap in the area, only one individual ever visited the bait and, he was seen in person on numerous occasions (Figure 6).

### SABLE BAIT

The sable bait site was set up just below the southern tip of the sanctuary. This site was set not long after the lower sanctuary clan had moved out of the sanctuary. It was set



Figure 6. LSC09, captured on camera at impala bait site during a visual sighting

as an attempt to help our team understand whether the clan had moved to the flood plain or the northern sanctuary. Just like the impala bait site, only one hyaena was sighted, LSC09. Interestingly, camera traps

did catch a sable attempting to chase LSC09 from the bait site for over 20 minutes, before giving up (Figure 7A/6B).

### WATERBUCK BAIT

This bait site was set up in the Southern



Figure 7. Sable seen confronting (A) and chasing (B) spotted hyaena LSC09.

region of the park, just off of Riverside Drive. It was used in an attempt to try and identify any other Chinguni hill clan members other than CHC01 and CHC02. Unfortunately, the waterbuck was mostly devoured by bushpigs (*Potamochoerus larvatus*), some of the biggest ones we have seen on camera in the park. Nevertheless, it was also visited by both CHC01 and a stray domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Domestic dog investigating waterbuck bait site

## Scat collection

September has been a successful month for scat collection, with scats being collected from both our known clans, LSC and CHC as well as from the Western side of the Shire, ( Appendix V). Our team has also found two potential latrine sites for the lower sanctuary clan (Figure 9).

It is hoped that we will be able to return to these locations and easily collect more scats in the future. Four scats have been washed and sorted including two leopard scats from Kasungu National Park. Interesting finds during sorting include; remains from a small bird and primate finger nails.

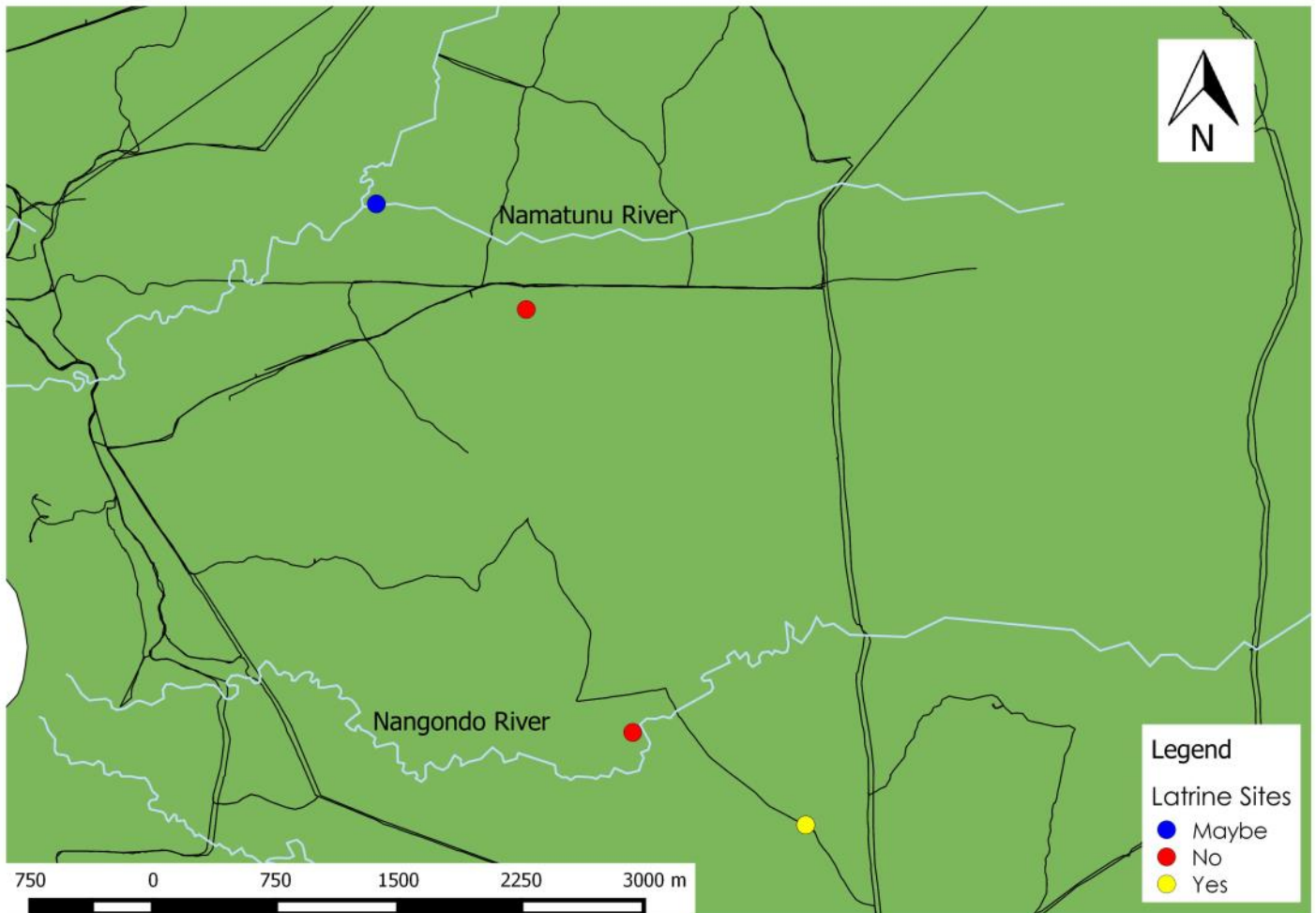


Figure 9. Location of scats collected and latrine sites within the Rhino Sanctuary, September 2016.

# CRM Funders and Supporters

CRM would like to thank all our funders and collaborators.



Bringing the wild back to life



Appendix I. Summary of outreach work near LNP completed this month, September 2016.

Date	Type	District	Village/Location	Materials Distributed	Outcomes
30/08/2016	Initial Contact	Machinga	Balakasi, M'gundiwa, Wadi	6 leaflets	Initial contact made with Group Village Headmen and project introduced.
02/09/2016	Initial contact	Machinga	Mang'amba, Mjahito, Njenjema, Makoti	7 Leaflets	Initial contact made with Group Village Headmen and project introduced.
08/09/2016	Education meeting	Machinga	Makoti	16 Leaflets	Education and awareness session. Delivered education to the Village Natural Resources Committee.
14/09/2016	Initial Contact and Education Meeting	Balaka	Mlambe and Nanthomba Primary School	4 Leaflets	Initial contact with Mlambe. Attended Ecoclub to introduce the project at Nonthomba.
15/09/2016	Education Meeting	Machinga	Limbundungwa	19 Leaflets	Education and awareness session. Delivered education to the Village Natural Resources Committee.
21/09/2016	Education Meeting	Machinga	Njenjema,	18 Leaflets	Education and awareness session. Delivered education to the Village Natural Resources Committee.
22/09/2016	Initial Contact and Education Meeting	Balaka	Mlambe Primary School, Namaloumbo Secondary School	32 Leaflets	Initial contact for Namaloumbo. Education and awareness session for Mlambe Ecoclub.
27/09/2016	Initial contact	Balaka	Namaya, Chikolongo,	4 Leaflets	Initial contact made with Group Village Headmen and project introduced.
27/09/2016	Initial contact	Balaka	Chikoleka Primary School, Ngasale Private Primary School.	6 Leaflets	Initial contact made with schools



## Appendix VII: Mammals of Liwonde National Park

All mammals seen on transects, camera traps, acoustic surveys or opportunistic surveys.

Animals reported by a AP Parks staff member and reported to CRM are marked with an asterisk (\*).

<b>Artiodactyla</b>		
	<b>Bovidae</b>	
	<i>Sylviacapra grimmia</i>	Common duiker
	<i>Raphicerus sharpei</i>	Sharpe's Grysbok
	<i>Redunca arundinum</i>	Common reedbuck
	<i>Ourebia ourebi</i>	Oribi
	<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>	Common Waterbuck
	<i>Alcelaphus buselaphus</i>	Hertebeest
	<i>Hippotragus equinus</i>	Roan
	<i>H. niger</i>	Sable
	<i>Aepyceros melampus</i>	Impala
	<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>	Bushbuck
	<i>T. srepisceros</i>	Greater Kudu
	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	Common Eland
	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	African Cape Buffalo
	<b>Suidae</b>	
	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	Bushpig
	<i>Phacochoerus aethopicus</i>	Warthog
	<b>Hippopotamidae</b>	
	<i>Hippopotamus amphibius</i>	Hippopotamus
<b>Perissodactyla</b>		
	<b>Equidae</b>	
	<i>Equus quagga</i>	Common zebra
	<b>Rhinocerotidae</b>	
	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	Black rhinoceros
<b>Proboscidae</b>		
	<b>Elephantidae</b>	
	<i>Loxodonta africana</i>	African Elephant
<b>Carnivora</b>		
	<b>Viverridae</b>	
	<i>Gennetta tigrina</i>	Large spotted genet
	<i>Genetta genetta</i>	Small spotted genet
	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	African civet
	<i>Mungos mungos</i>	Banded mongoose
	<i>Ichneumia albicauda</i>	White-tailed mongoose
	<i>Bdeogale crassicauda</i>	Bushy-tailed mongoose
	<i>Herpestes sanguinea</i>	Slender mongoose
	<b>Hyaenidae</b>	
	<i>Crocuta crocuta</i>	Spotted hyaena
	<b>Felidae</b>	
	<i>Leptailurus serval</i>	Serval
	<b>Canidae</b>	
	<i>Canis adustus</i>	Side-Striped Jackal
<b>Primates</b>		
	<b>Cercopithecidae</b>	
	<i>Papio cynocephalus</i>	Yellow baboon
	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	Vervet monkey
<b>Rodentia</b>		
	<b>Hystricidae</b>	
	<i>Hystrix africaeaustralis</i>	Porcupine
	<b>Leporidae</b>	
	<i>Lepus saxatilis</i>	Scrub hare