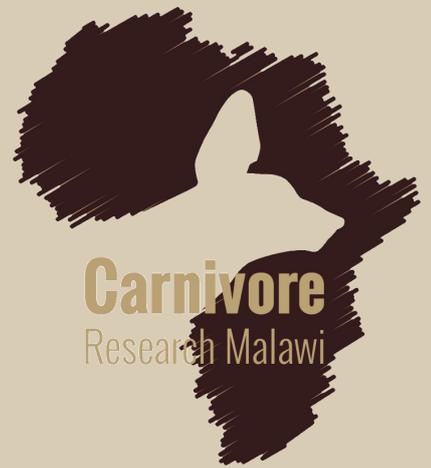


Monthly Report

July 2021



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Introduction

What we've been up to...

New arrivals in the hyaena clan

With the new collar on the female at Bunda, we now have now been able to observe a few months of undisturbed natural behavior. Almost immediately we were seeing a cluster around the hyaena den site that had been identified by locals. Like the other urban hyaenas, the Bunda female has been making long night return journeys, travelling up to 13km from her den!

During the first few days of July, we noticed that the female was spending a lot of time in a new cluster away from the original one. Initially we thought there might have been a kill that she was feeding on, so we went out with the students from Bunda college to explore the area. Rather than a kill, we found a new site that looked like another hyaena den. A couple of days later we were back with cameras, cement and poles to install permanent camera traps.

On our next camera check, we were delighted to see that not only the den in use, but two young hyaena cubs (Fig 1). We believe them to belong to two different females, as they differ in size. The larger, we believe to belong to an individual we identified through the previous camera trap locations. The smaller one we think belongs to the collared female (Fig 2). This we inferred from the date she switched to the site where the pup was found, which matches



Figure 1. Our collared female with the smaller cub (presumed to be hers) in the foreground and the larger just behind.

roughly the estimated age of the pup based on its size.



Figure 2. Bunda 1 emerging from the new den site, with the small cub we believe to be hers following close behind.

We will continue to monitor both dens, and hopefully observe some interesting behaviors from these breeding females.

Urban 16 gives us a scare

From 3rd July, urban 16's collars stopped transmitting any location data, and for four days, no data was received. Obviously we were concerned as hyaenas face a lot of persecution from humans. We initially thought that she may have been killed and the collar destroyed, as no mortality signal was received (which normally occurs if there has been no movement for a while). We went to her last location and found no sign of her, or anything to indicate she had been killed. To continue the search for her, we went to a known hang out spot of hers, and placed bait and played hyaena feeding calls. To our delight she turned up. Slowly her collar has been sending out more data so hopefully it will sort itself out.



Figure 2. One of small cubs taking a stretch during the night.

Hyaena Movements: 01/07/21-28/07/21

Urban Clan

Individuals: URBHY01/URBHY16/BundaHY1

Overall Movements

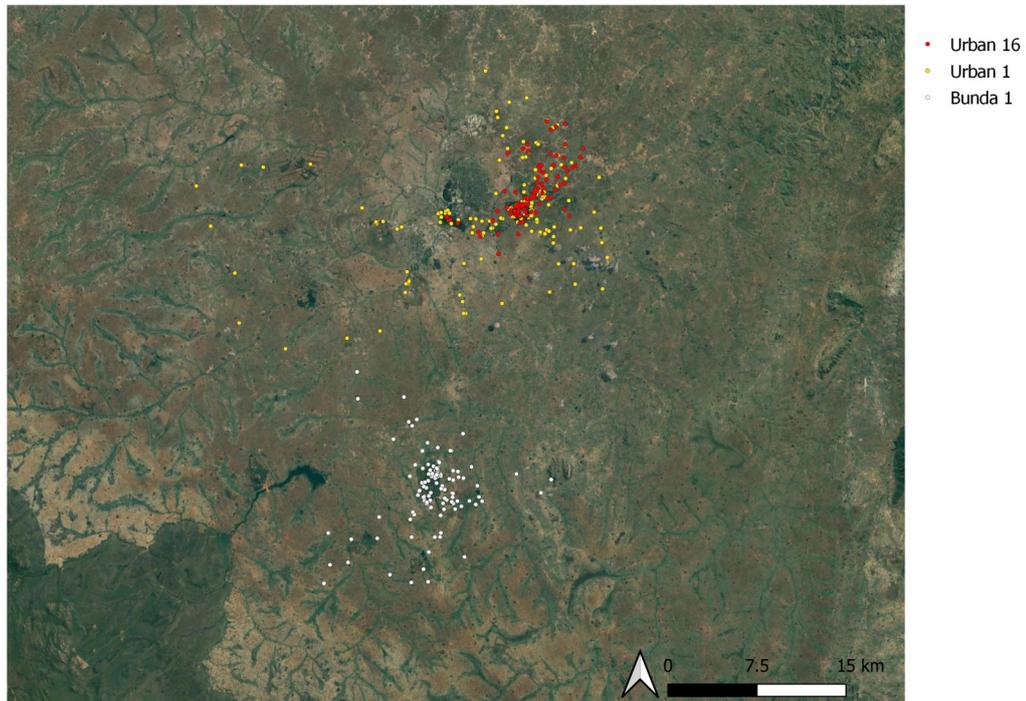


Figure 4, Hyaena movements for July for both the urban hyaenas and the female at Bunda.

Movements:

URBHY01 travelled approximately 465 km during July, over 100 km more than June (331.8 km). Because of the collar malfunction URBHY16 monthly distance will be inaccurate. The female at Bunda travelled roughly 322.69 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

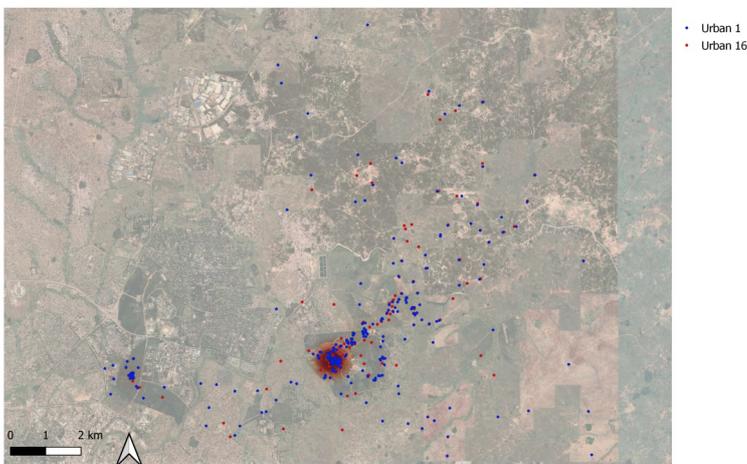


Figure 5, Compared to June, the urban clan had only one major hotspot in July.

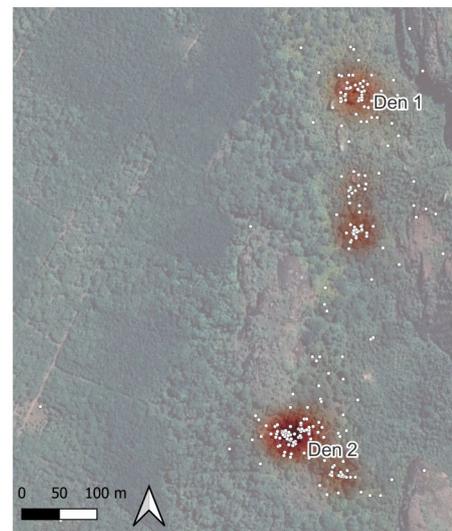


Figure 6, At the beginning of July, the collared female switched to Den 2 and gave birth, at the same site where her clan mate had a cub.

July Results

Camera Traps

Results from our weekly camera trap checks:

Date Set	Location	Species Seen	Active Y/N
01/07/2021 - 28/07/2021	Sanctuary (Den 1)	Vervet monkey, South African porcupine, side striped jackal.	N
01/07/2021 - 28/07/2021	Sanctuary (Den 2)	South African porcupine, side striped jackal, common duiker.	N
01/07/2021 - 28/07/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3B)	South African porcupine, common duiker, water mongoose.	N
01/07/2021 - 28/07/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3C)	South African porcupine, common duiker.	N
01/07/2021 - 28/07/2021	Kumbali	Spotted hyaena	Y
01/07/2021 - 28/07/2021	Bunda College (Den 1)	Spotted hyaena, large spotted genet, yellow baboon	Y
01/07/2021 - 28/07/2021	Bunda College (Den 2)	Spotted hyaena	Y

July In Pictures



Figure 7. A family photo consisting of one of the new cubs, two adults (the collared female and presumed 2nd female) and the juvenile male.



Figure 10. Lovely pair of water mongoose at den 3B.



Figure 8. The dark flash lights the eyes of the hyaena, here you are able to see two other individuals in the background.



Figure 11. The new den site where both females went to give birth



Figure 9. Bunda 1 with a new cub at the birthing den.



Figure 12. A large spotted genet risking it all going through an active hyaena den.

CRM Funders and Supporters

CRM would like to thank all our funders and collaborators.



Bringing the wild back to life

