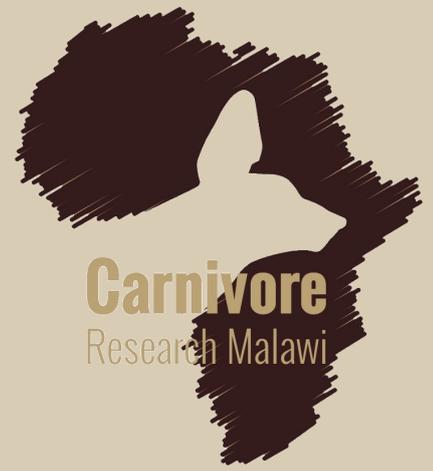


# Monthly Report

June 2021



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# Introduction

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

### Successful hyaena captures at Bunda

Continuing on from the baiting in May, the main focus at the beginning of June was the continuation of capture attempts. The process remained the same, playing hyaena calls to attract them into the area, and then using bait, some of which was laced with diazepam, to make them less weary to allow for a better shot.

Our first attempt at captures at the beginning of June was successful. The hyaenas came in with the recorded calls, and were less weary than the night before, where they had set off the leg hold trap. Although the darts we use have transmitters that allows them to be tracked with a VHF antennae, the first hyaena darted was able to pull the dart out before she became sedated, making the process of locating her slightly trickier. After a few minutes she was eventually found, and few hundred meters from where she was shot, in some thick bush.

Once down, our vet Hezy made sure the hyaena was stable and ready for fitting the collar (Fig 1). Baseline measurements were taken, including canine size and blood samples, which all contribute to the wider study of spotted hyaenas. Finally the collar was fitted (Fig 2), the reversal drugs given, and within 20 minutes she was moving around again.



Figure 1. The female identified as Bunda 1, seen first on the camera traps and first to be captured. The red circles show the matching spot patterns on her coat.

Later that week, we were able to capture another individual, although unfortunately it was a subadult cub belonging to Bunda 1, and he was too small to collar (Fig 3).

Nevertheless it was still a good opportunity to assess the individual and confirm its sex, which turned out to be a male. Again, reversal drugs were given and he was walking around in no time.



Figure 2. We cover their eyes and plug their ears to minimise the amount of stimulation they receive. Too much visual and audio stimulation can reduce their depth of sedation as adrenaline levels increase.

For the remaining nights, the Bunda hyaenas were much more weary, never coming close enough to get darted, and so it was decided to give them a break and attempted to capture individuals from the urban clan in Area 44 but again this was unsuccessful. For now, captures are on hold until our vet is available again.

### Hyaena collar movements

It has been very interesting seeing the movement of BundaHY1 this month after her collaring on 1st June. She has one central denning area (Fig 6), from which she has made several long trips out during the night (Fig 4), mainly between the north and south-west.

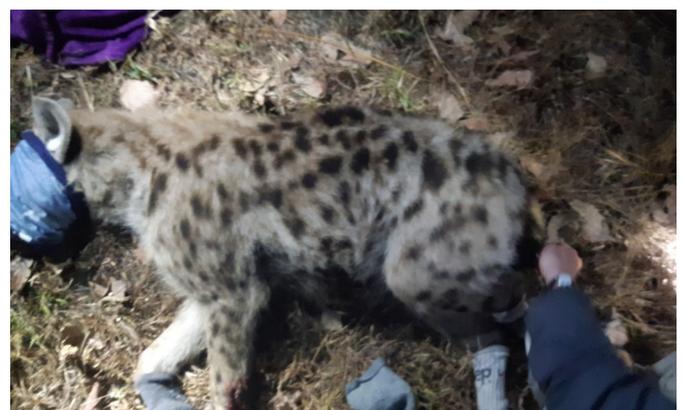


Figure 3. The juvenile male named Bunda 2, was the second individual to be caught, though he was too small to be collared.

# Hyaena Movements: 01/06/21-28/06/21

## Urban Clan

Individuals: URBHY01/URBHY16/BundaHY1

Overall Movements

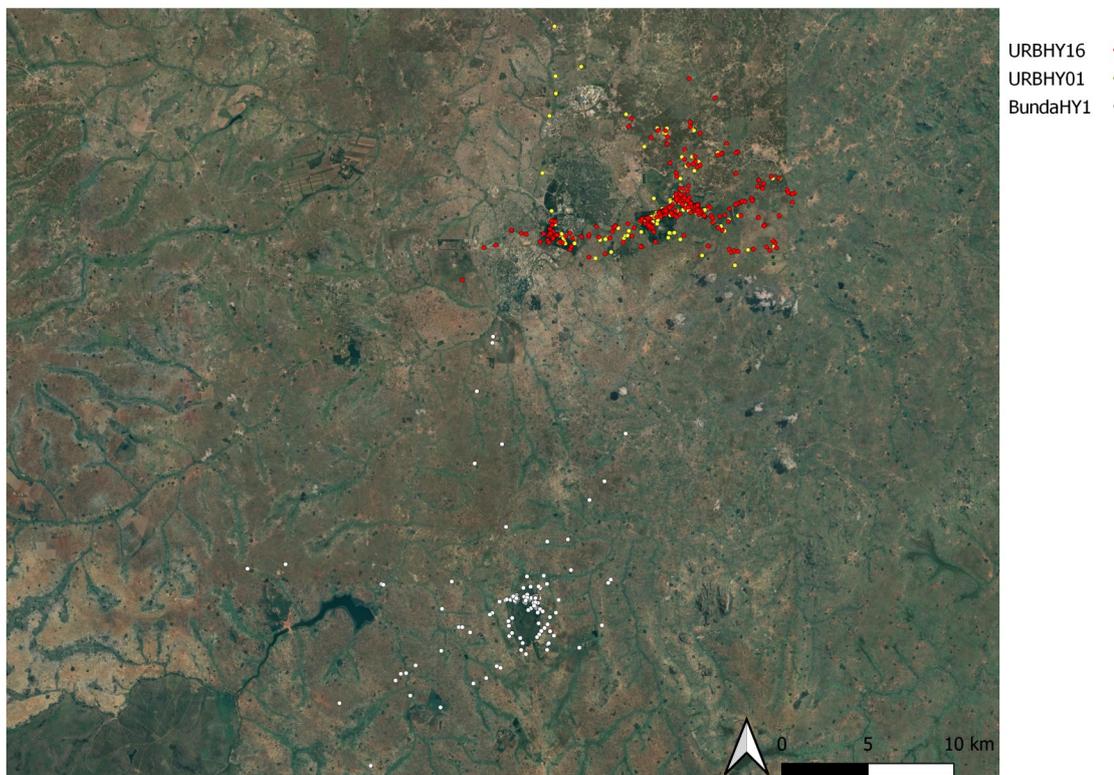


Figure 4, Hyaena movements for June for both the urban hyaenas and the female at Bunda.

### Movements:

URBHY01 travelled approximately 331.8 km during June, while URBHY16 travelled approximately 353.5 km. Our newly collared hyaena at Bunda travelled c. 311.2 km. Some of BundaHY1 and UrbanHY16 locations were quite close to each other, just under 4km (though at different times). It is likely that the 2 different groups are aware of each other, but we are yet unsure if these interactions would be antagonistic or not.

**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

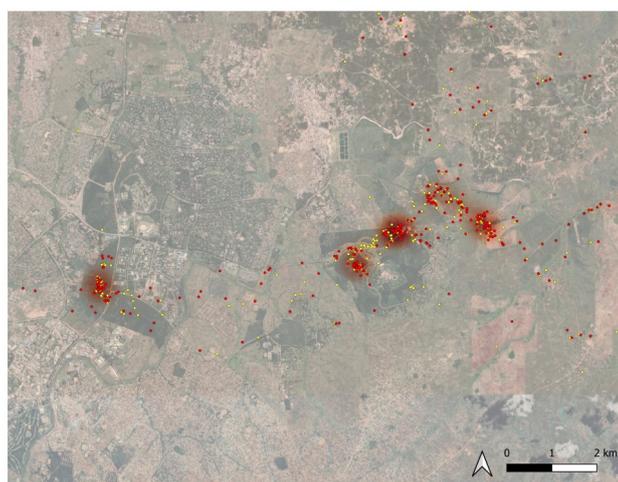


Figure 5, hotspot areas for the urban clan.



Figure 6, there was only one hotspot at Bunda, at a known den.

# June Results

## Camera Traps

Results from our weekly camera trap checks:

Date Set	Location	Species Seen	Active Y/N
01/06/2021 - 31/06/2021	Sanctuary (Den 1)	Spotted hyaena, South African porcupine, side striped jackal.	Y
01/06/2021 - 31/06/2021	Sanctuary (Den 2)	Spotted hyaena, South African porcupine, side striped jackal, common duiker.	Y
01/06/2021 - 31/06/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3B)	South African porcupine, side striped jackal.	N
01/06/2021 - 31/06/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3C)	Spotted hyaena, South African porcupine, side striped jackal, helmeted guineafowl.	Y
01/06/2021 - 31/06/2021	Kumbali	Spotted hyaena, side striped jackal, African civet, common duiker.	Y
01/06/2021 - 31/06/2021	Bunda College	N/A	N/A

# June In Pictures



Figure 7. The first hyaena, having initially removed the tracking dart, was found roughly 500m from where she was shot.



Figure 10. Due to the cold, and the smaller body size, the juvenile was wrapped up to ensure its core temperature didn't drop.



Figure 8. Both hyaenas had blood samples taken that will be used for future studies.



Figure 11. Constant monitoring is required when an animal is sedated, here Jen is taking the young males breathing rate.



Figure 9 As well as blood, teeth and body measurements are all recorded.

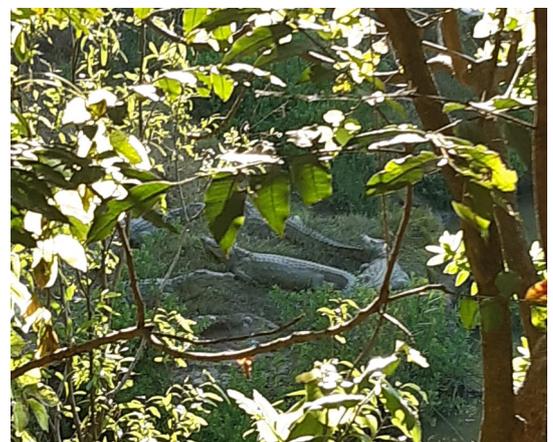


Figure 12. Even within the city, the few green areas are still able to support multiple apex predators, including these Nile crocodiles.

# CRM Funders and Supporters

CRM would like to thank all our funders and collaborators.



Bringing the wild back to life

