

# Monthly Report

October 2021



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# Introduction

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

### Cubs

With our weekly camera checks, both the urban and Bunda cubs continue to appear and entertains us with their weekly antics. As they are reaching the 4-6 month age, their dark fur is revealing their unique spot pattern, and soon will be given IDs.

Within the urban clan, URBHY16 has been very busy feeding her cubs, with many photo captures of her carrying an array of prey carcasses to the dens.



Figure 1. Here you can see the two urban cub with Urban 23, who we suspect to be a male, and a target for capturing.

We know that cubs within the city suffer high mortality rates, due to the high anthropogenic pressures they face. However it is the first time that cubs have been observed by us in a more peri urban environment (Bunda). Hopefully both sets of cubs will get lucky and survive till adulthood.



Figure 2. Bunda 3 after her capture. We estimate her age to be around 10 years, so getting on for a hyaena.

### Hyaena Capture

In early October we attempted to capture again at Bunda so that we can attempt to deploy another GPS collar. This attempt was successful as we were able to capture the other adult female from the clan (Fig 2). This will give us important information on her movements, and will be interesting to see if she has similar patterns as Bunda 1 (the other collared female).

### Trip to Kasungu National Park

In October we had a trip to Kasungu National Park. Historically this park had suffered from high levels of poaching and as a result had low prey and predator numbers. With newly ramped up protection and increasing prey numbers, new sightings of lion have been reported within the park. The purpose of our trip was to place camera traps in some of the locations where the lion had been sighted and get some

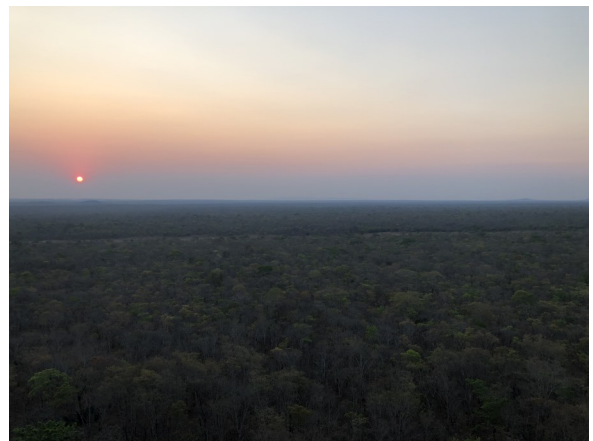


Figure 3. Sunset over Kasungu National Park

hard evidence of their presence. The lions would likely have come through Lukusuzi (Zambia) from the greater Luangwa ecosystem, which is part of a larger transboundary park system, and an area that needs more research and protection.

### Scat Processing

Scat processing has also been a focus of this month. Though less appealing work, it is contributing to the study of diet of hyaenas in Malawi, and will help in understanding the diet of hyaena in conflict areas.



# Hyaena Movements: 01/10/21-31/10/21

## Collared Hyaena

Individuals: URBHY01/URBHY16/URBHY21/BundaHY1/BundaHY3

### Overall Movements

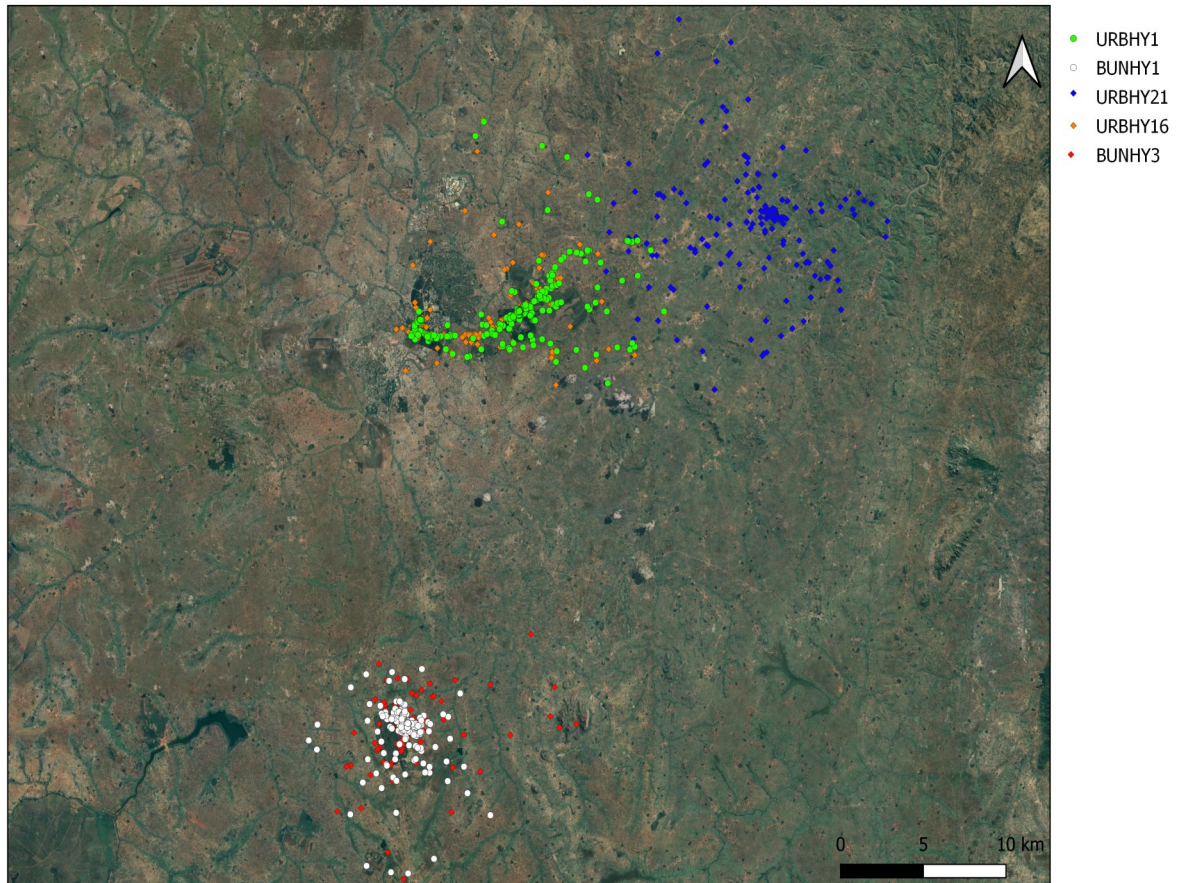


Figure 5, Hyaena movements for October for all five collared females.

### Movements:

The urban females continue to have overlapping points with the female based in Chiwomba, and so are likely to be very aware of each others presence. Meanwhile in Bunda, both females have similar point distributions, though Bunda 3 has made some long journeys in NE direction.

# September Results

## Camera Traps

Results from our weekly camera trap checks:

Date Set	Location	Species Seen	Active Y/N
01/10/2021 - 31/10/2021	Sanctuary (Den 1)	South African porcupine, Spotted hyaena, Vervet Monkey	Y
01/10/2021 - 31/10/2021	Sanctuary (Den 2)	No activity	N
01/10/2021 - 31/10/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3B)	No activity	N
01/10/2021 - 31/10/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3C)	South African porcupine, Spotted hyaena	Y
01/10/2021 - 31/10/2021	Kumbali	Spotted hyaena.	Y
01/10/2021 - 31/10/2021	Bunda College (Den 1)	No activity	N
01/09/2021 - 31/09/2021	Bunda College (Den 2)	No activity	N
01/10/2021 - 31/10/2021	Bunda College (Den 3)	No activity	N
01/09/2021 - 30/09/2021	Bunda College (Den 4)	Spotted Hyaena	Y



# October In Pictures



Figure 6, Juvenile at sanctuary Den site.



Figure 9. Den 3 it's the hotspot for our urban clan with looking after cubs.



Figure 7. Here you can see the juvenile socializing with one of our collared female.



Figure 10. Urban 16 with possible dog carcass.



Figure 8. Interaction between cubs and collared female.



Figure 11. Glimpse of elephants at the basecamp upon our arrival Kasungu National Park.



# CRM Funders and Supporters

CRM would like to thank all our funders and collaborators.



Bringing the wild back to life

