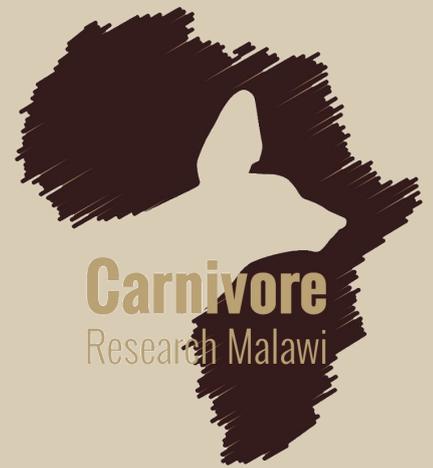


Monthly Report

March 2021



CRM Staff



Dr Emma Stone

Founder /
Coordinator



Brennan PetersonWood

Programmes
Manager



Alice Edwards

Research
Assistant



Chirag Patel

Research
Assistant

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Introduction

What we've been up to...

Hyaena Capture.

Its been an exciting month so far for the team with two members of the urban spotted hyaena clan captured and fitted with satellite collars. After weeks of baiting our capture site and habituating the hyaenas to the presence of our vehicle and people. The decision was made to target URBHY01 first. She is the alpha female of the urban clan and also had an old VHF collar that needed to be removed. As one of the oldest hyaenas in our study and having been previously captured, she is very wary of humans and any attempts to capture her (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Brennan fitting a satellite collar on URBHY01

Initial capture attempts were unsuccessful as URBHY01 would not come within range for darting. Instead, she would wait out of range until other clan members would bring her bait. To overcome this we staked the bait to the ground so they could not easily drag it away. We also scattered drugged meat at a distance from the vehicle that she would feel comfortable eating (Figure 2). After ingesting the diazepam laced meat which reduces fear, she came within range and out vet, Hezy Anholt, was able to dart her.

Capturing urban hyaenas is a challenging procedure and each individual animal often needs a specific capture plan to catch them. As such the team is learning from our mistakes as we go and each night we improve on our tactics and get better opportunities to dart.



Figure 2. Bait staked to the ground 20m from the darting vehicle.

After capturing URBHY01 we next chose to target URBHY16, a female with a 10 month old cub. The fact that she has mated and is raising a cub indicates she also has high ranking status in the urban clan. As such her movements will be of particular interest to our study. After a few nights of trialing new capture tactics, we managed to dart her and deploy a satellite collar on her as well (Figure 3).



Figure 3. URBHY16 collar being fitted

February Results

Camera Traps

During our weekly camera trap checks, we found evidence of activity at each hyaena den located around Lilongwe. These included hyena scats, prey carcasses, and an array of diverse species that frequent the den sites.

Date Set	Location	Species Seen	Active Y/N
01/02/2021 - 28/02/2021	Sanctuary (Den 1)	Spotted Hyaena, South African Porcupine, Helmeted Guineafowl, Common Duiker	N
01/03/2021 - 31/03/2021	Sanctuary (Den 2)	Spotted Hyaena, South African Porcupine	N
01/03/2021 - 31/03/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3B)	Spotted Hyaena, South African Porcupine, Side Striped Jackal, Bushy-tailed Mongoose, Common Duiker	N
01/03/2021 - 31/03/2021	Sanctuary (Den 3C)	Spotted Hyaena, South African Porcupine, Bushy-tailed Mongoose, Common Duiker	N
01/03/2021 - 31/03/2021	Kumbali	Spotted Hyaena, Domestic dog	N

March In Pictures



Figure 4. Our vet Hezy with URBHY01



Figure 7. URBHY16 waking up from the reversal drug accompanied by her cub

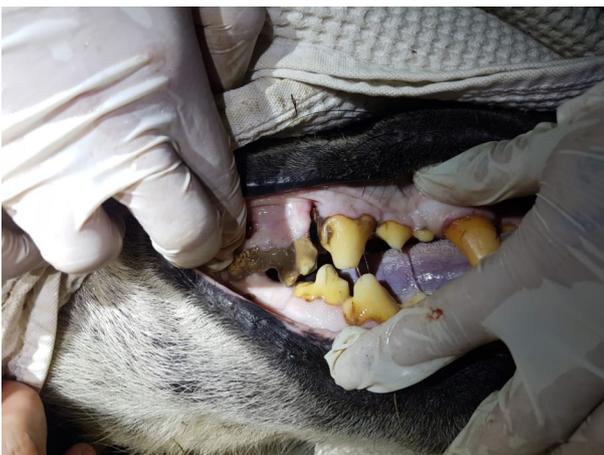


Figure 5. URB01



Figure 8. URBHY01 waking up from the reversal drug

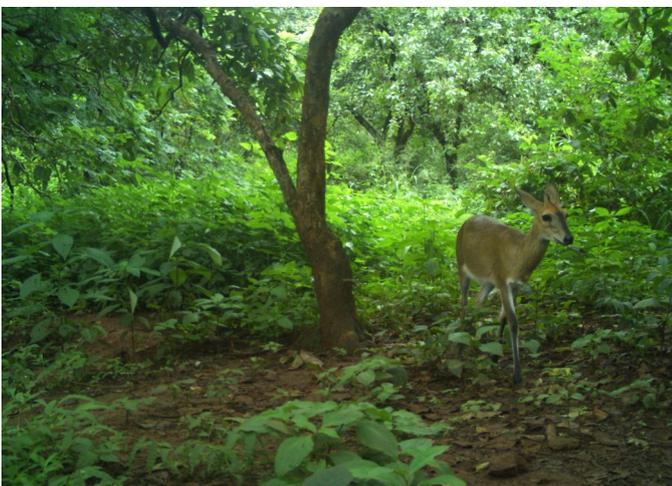


Figure 6. Common Duiker at Sanctuary



Figure 9. DNPW ranger Foster with URBHY01

CRM Funders and Supporters

CRM would like to thank all our funders and collaborators.



Bringing the wild back to life

