

Project Update: September 2013

We successfully completed our pilot season during the summer of 2013. Upon arriving in Botswana, we worked with researchers from the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust, our local collaborator, to identify three focal study sites. The study sites represent different levels of human impact and fall along a gradient of distance to a permanent water source. We completed two, 5-week sampling periods during which we sampled 150 km² of Wildlife Management Areas NG33/34. During each sampling period, we deployed 25 camera stations, conducted eight spoor and distance sampling surveys, and recorded the microhabitat features of each camera station. We also tested two sampling designs for our camera trap surveys. Our camera traps photographed all meso- and large carnivores known to occupy the area and we detected all large carnivores via the spoor surveys. Lastly, we piloted a conservation outreach programme, its goal being to provide positive wildlife encounters for children from local communities.

I have created a new, improved website. If you would please change my website link to <https://sites.google.com/site/lindseyrichresearch/> I would appreciate it. Also, I am in the process of starting a CrowdRise website for the conservation outreach programme I would like to help get off the ground. If you would add that link <http://www.crowdrise.com/wildjoys> as well that would be wonderful.



Camera trap photo of a leopard (*Panthera pardus*)



Seven children from the local community of Sankuyo that participated in the conservation outreach programme we piloted