

Project Update: June 2017

Collecting reliable information on carnivores is extremely challenging, especially through direct observations as carnivores are often wide ranging, occur at low densities and have cryptic natures. Collaring carnivores has become one of the most important conservational tools used to efficiently obtain information such as space use, movement patterns, behaviour as well as intra-specific and inter-specific relationships of secretive carnivores. There are no other methods that can be used to reliably obtain such information on carnivores.

Various methods can be used to trap large carnivores, including free darting, cage trapping and foot loop trapping (Frank et al. 2003). These methods have been shown to cause minimal injury to captured animals (Frank et al. 2003). Additionally, Boitani and Powell (2012) conducted an assessment on various methods to capture carnivores and determined that foot loop traps (foot- nares) are the most humane method for capturing hyaenids (e.g. spotted hyena) and that both footloop and cage traps are humane methods for capturing felids (e.g. leopards).

To date we have successfully collared two adult male lions and two adult female lions (Fig 1 and 2), three adult female leopards and one adult male leopard (Fig 3 and 4), and two adult spotted hyaenas (Fig 5). We still have one leopard and one spotted hyaena to collar.



Fig.1. A sedated adult male lion fitted with an AWT GPS/UHF/GSM collar.



Fig.2. A sedated adult female lion being fitted with an AWT GPS/UHF/GSM collar.



Fig.3. Two sedated female leopards being fitted with an AWT GPS/UHF/GSM collar.



Fig.4. A sedated male leopard being fitted with an AWT GPS/UHF/GSM collar.



Fig.5. A sedated spotted hyaena (sex unknown) being fitted with an AWT GPS /UHF /GSM collar.