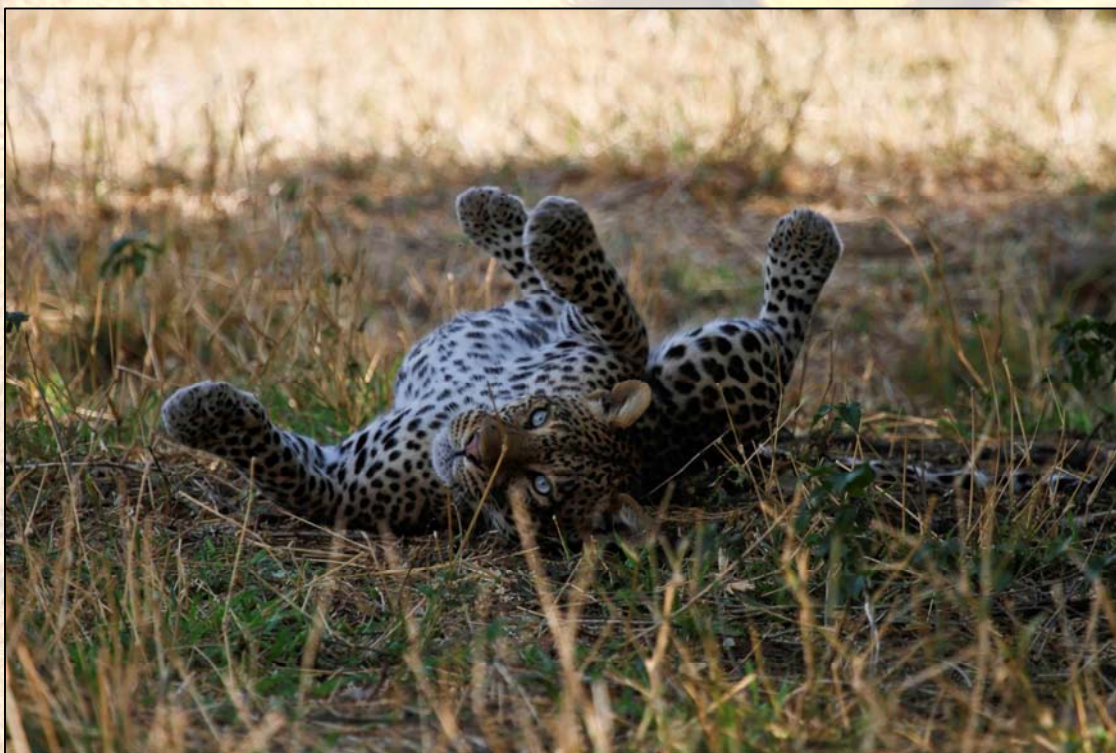


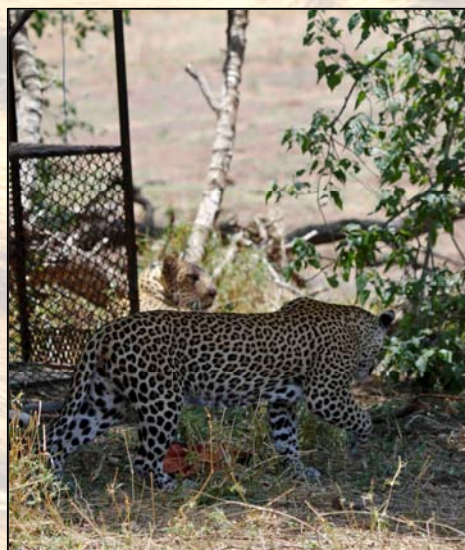
The Northern Tuli Predator Project

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Picture of an adult female at the capture site. These were a mating pair of leopards and while we were busy collaring the male, this stunning female came closer to investigate – just watching us while we were busy working on the male. After the male woke up, the two moved off together again and resumed their mating activities.

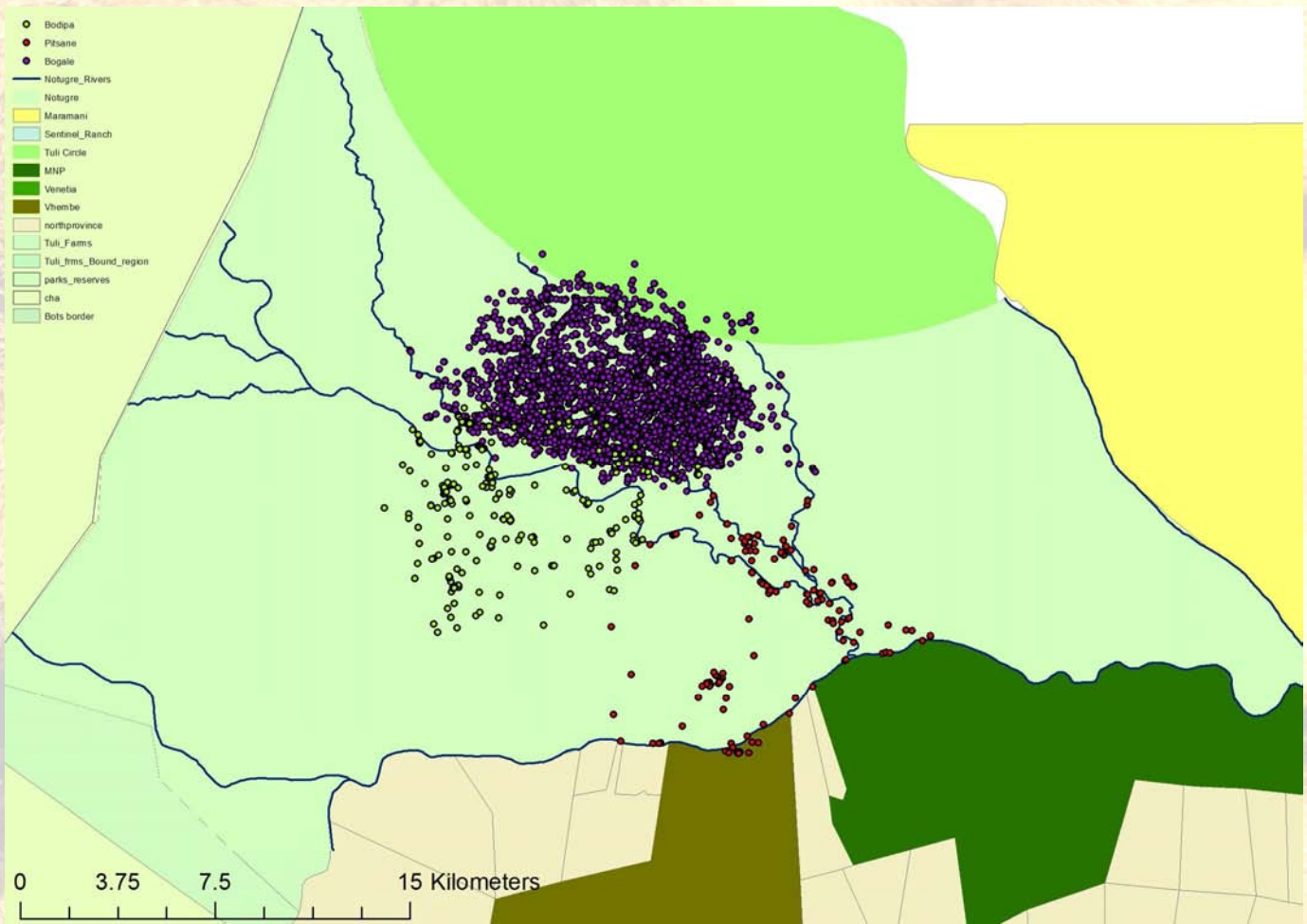
On the 12th of November a beautiful adult male leopard was successfully captured and collared. The Northern Tuli Predator Project (NTPP) now has three adult male leopards collared, but what makes this so interesting in terms of data capturing, is the fact that all three males are neighbors. This has some significance since I am now able to monitor and record their movements and territorial behaviour in relation to one another. Leopards are territorial animals with males defending their hard fought territories against other males, which goes the same for females. Male leopard territories in



the Northern Tuli Game Reserve average around 58.7 ± 16.9 km² compared to 18.5 ± 10.5 km² of adult females. Females tend to choose areas with a good prey abundance and suitable habitat

(rivers, rocky outcrops etc.) to raise their cubs. Males have been known to establish their territories where there are female, and hence these other ecological variables. Typically male territories span across 3-4 female ranges.

With the use of GPS radio collars researchers are able to accurately identify and monitor the movements of wild carnivores. I've included a map depicting the territories of three adult male leopards. Each dot represents one GPS location. Collars are set to record hourly GPS locations to display a high resolution movement dataset of these cats.



The 'purple' male has been collared for a longer period of time, hence the dense GPS locations, compared to the more recently collared two male leopards (Green & Red).

*Regards,
Andrei Snyman*