

The Northern Tuli Predator Project

October 2008 News

This month I was very fortunate to have darted and collared a new sub-adult male leopard. The males' tracks were seen regularly around Kudugat area and since I was still looking for one more male leopard for my study, I finally had baits set out and after three days caught the beautiful male. The male, Toro – meaning 'A dream' in Setswana, was fitted with a radio collar. This will enable me to monitor the movements and behavior of this leopard in order to better understand their behavioral ecology. Leopards are extremely shy and elusive cats and researching them requires total commitment and lots and lots of patience. I'm looking forward to where this male takes me and what I will learn from him. A new chapter has just begun.



Taking measurements of those sharp teeth

PREDATOR DRIVES

For the month of October, 7 guests joined me on three predator drives. On all drives did we manage to track down and follow the leopard we were after. On one drive we located my sub-adult leopard, Kakanyo, near a rocky cliff next to a waterhole. We sat for the rest of the afternoon watching this stunning animal while I explained my research and study species to the guests. Just after sunset the male started moving along the cliff, only to come running down it again. As we drove closer, we found that the male had spotted a female leopard in the riverbed and quickly came closer to investigate. Both the leopards sat on opposite banks of the Majale River scoping each other out. Then they quietly

went their separate ways leaving us standing alone in the middle of the riverbed...



Kakanyo walking along a cliff

Predator regards

Andrei Snyman

