

# Northern Tuli Predator Project

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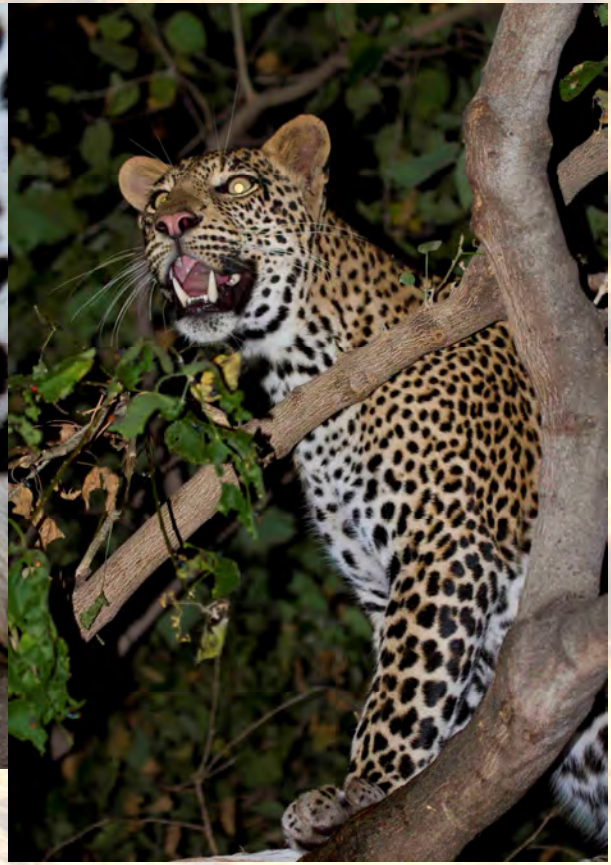
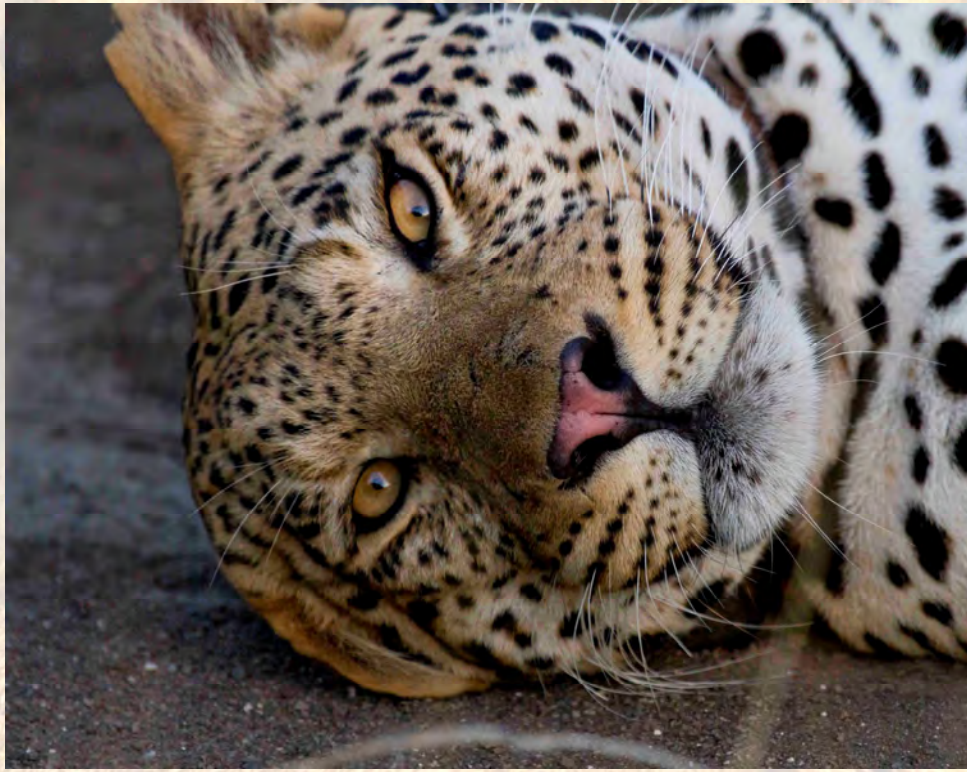
## Lion

Good news on the lion- front. Three new adult male lions have moved into the reserve and are frequently seen. These males are around 4-5 years old and believed to have come from further down the Tuli Block. This is wonderful news as these males bring a whole new dimension to the Mashatu lion population, especially in the sense of genetics. On various occasions did we see one of the three new males mating with two single lionesses respectively. These males are spending most of their time in the western parts of the reserve. The Central Pride was yet again seen almost every day during the month of March. In less than ten days guests had the opportunity to see this pride on two different kills – both being zebra. The adult male also made his own kill in the form of a zebra. The cubs from this pride are doing well and seem to be growing up quickly. Other sightings of lions around the reserve were also reported.



## Leopard

The month of March offered some amazing leopard sightings, ranging from females with cubs to lone adult males hunting impala. One of the recent ‘stars’ of Mashatu is a young male leopard that is frequently seen around the central area, close to the confluence of the Majale & Matebole Rivers. As this male is still young and doesn’t move too far and wide (yet), he was seen on numerous occasions. He has this really photogenic and guests are always amazed by the wonderful photos they get from this male posing this way and that. At the infamous White Cliffs along the Majale River a large adult male was seen mating with a never before seen young female. As this female was fairly skittish, I couldn’t get any good ID’s on her. All-in-all a good month for leopard sightings.



### **Cheetah**

Some phenomenal sightings of cheetah were yet again seen in and around Mashatu. A female was seen stalking, chasing and successfully killing a juvenile impala. Guests were of course thrilled by this awesome and magnificent sighting. The last couple of month's cheetah sightings in Mashatu have truly been spectacular.

### **Wild Dog**

At the end of March guests were treated to a real special sighting – African Wild Dogs. As these animals are known for their massive home ranges and highly mobile characteristics, it was a pure treat to be able to follow and observe some of these top carnivores move and hunt. After each hunting bout the dogs were calling each other with their distinct call to regroup and try again.



### **Hyaena**

Good sightings of spotted hyenas were seen during March. Two clans were found merging on what was believed to be the boundary of different territories. A tug-of-war was played out between the different clans for claim of the land. No real fighting occurred, but the whooping and calling of these animals were unforgettable!

***Predator regards,  
Andrei Snyman***