



# Northern Tuli Predator Project

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The month of April brought some good rains – 72.2mm! Most of the rivers in the reserve were flowing, but it was the mighty Majali that came down in flood. Crossing these rivers becomes a bit tricky with a vehicle, especially if you're following the tracks of a large carnivore.



## Lions

As usual the central pride was seen almost every day and the cubs were yet again playful. Matswane, the dominant male lion, has been spending some time away from the central females. You see, his reign as king-of-Mashatu seems to be hanging in the balance. The cause of his concern – three young adult males. This coalition, which spends most of their time in the western parts of the reserve, is moving rapidly around the area and hearing them roar at night gives you some indication of where they are, but not necessarily where they're going next. Matswane has been spending more time patrolling his western territory border and although the three young males are respectful of his mere presence and keep their distance, their time of reigning as kings is soon to come – it's inevitable...

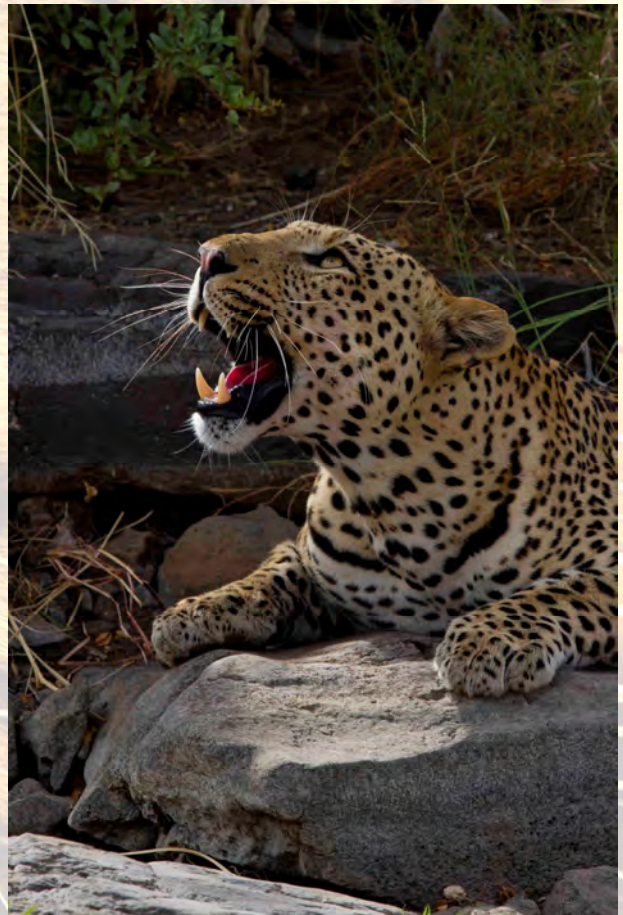


Also, fresh lion tracks were noted twice in a short period of time in the far southern region of the reserve. As most of the 'known' lions were accounted for during that period, it is believed that the tracks are of perhaps two new lions based on the age, size, location and direction of movement. The tracks are believed to be that of two young females, maybe even younger males. Time will tell who they are...



### **Leopard**

Sighting of the month! The large male living around Main Camp was seen with a freshly killed impala eve. At first the male didn't hoist the kill into a nearby tree for sake of losing it to the ever opportunists – spotted hyaenas. The kill was made in the early hours of the morning and guests just missed the actual kill. During that evening the male hoisted his kill, rather quickly, into a Leadwood tree due to the appearance of four spotted hyaenas. The male was seen feeding and resting over a three day period, providing guests with some amazing photographic opportunities.



Other leopard sightings were also seen around, mostly of females.



### **Cheetah**

Cheetahs were seen on some occasions. The coalition of three males was not seen during April, but their tracks were noted. Two different females with their respective cubs were seen. During one morning guests were fortunate to witness one female chase and nearly catch a juvenile kudu. Most sightings consisted of these beautiful cats just resting in the shade with their distinctive posture of lying on their side with only their heads tilted up to survey the area.

The remains of an impala ram, believed to have been killed by a cheetah, was quickly discovered and consumed by vultures. Within minutes of descending from the heavens and tucking into the remains, all that was left was a clean-picked skeleton.



### **Wild Dog**

During the beginning of the month a small group of wild dogs were seen close to the Limpopo Horse Safari camp. Another sighting was of two male wild dogs, close to Main Camp. They were hunting impala and just like the cheetah female, didn't succeed that particular attempt.

### **Hyaena**

Spotted hyaenas were yet again seen on numerous occasions, but heard almost every night. A more spectacular sighting was that of a Brown Hyena! This elusive and rather shy predator was seen close to the Motloutse River. Sightings of these hyaenas are not so common, but they are frequently seen along the far southern region of the reserve.

***Predator regards,  
Andrei Snyman***