



Human-wildlife conflict



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DESCRIPTION

- Mega-carnivore** Largest of the hyena family having unsheathed claws. Males weighing 45 kg, females 55 kg. They are aggressive, forceful and confident from birth.
- Longevity** Live for 16 years on average, up to 25 years.
- Matriarchal clans** Live under strongly bonded matriarchal clans as Alpha reproductive females dominate their clans since they are larger and more aggressive to suit the role.
- Diet** Adapting to local conditions and available food, they consume small rodents to large ungulates and even elephants. Capable of stealing prey killed by other carnivores. Able to consume carcasses using their jaw strength and teeth adapted to grinding the largest of bones as well as dry skin waste.
- Reproduction** Males reach puberty at 2 years, females at 3 years. Pregnancy lasts for 16 weeks. Females exhibit male-like genitals, and have up to 6 times the testosterone levels of males.
- Communication** Able to call upon other clan members over long distances through efficient communication within clan territory when needed. Larger clans lean more to hunting, correctly judging available opportunities.
- Cunning** Successful in all circumstances, as they correctly judge opportunities and adapt to changing circumstances.
- Dung and footprint** White-coloured dung due to high amount of calcium consumed from digesting bones which they excrete at established latrines. Large dog-like footprints second only to the lion's in size.

BEHAVIOUR TO EXPLOIT

- Strong senses** Strong senses of smell and hearing with equally good eyesight, enabling them to hunt or scavenge independently of each other.
- Strong memories** Learning directly through experience, they remember events both spatially and temporally.
- Food waste** Attracted by improperly discarded food waste, appearing at dusk and during the night to scavenge stealthily for food.

IMPACTS

- Livestock predation** Main impact is livestock predation in poorly constructed night kraals. They hunt animals not kept in kraals at night and while grazing during the day.
- Other impacts** Occasionally attack humans when they are exposed sleeping outside.

Key types of conflict:



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PLACES OF CONFLICT

Livestock kraals Mostly attack livestock kept in kraals, especially those placed close to protected areas and corridors.

Grazing areas Sometimes openly attack and kill livestock, even when properly herded.

TOOLS THAT CAN BE USED

Mobile Boma



is an enclosure made of opaque material to block off the view for the hyena as it cannot attack livestock if it cannot physically see the animals.



LED light

is a powerful torch that emits an intense strobe light capable of confusing animals, and can also be used to summon people to help.



Sprinkling chilli pepper

on the ground 30 to 50 metres away from the mobile boma to keep the hyena from coming close to livestock.



Electric fences

are barriers that produce electric charges of several thousand volts of very short duration. When touched they produce an unpleasant electrical charge.



Reinforce livestock kraals

Existing livestock kraals can be made stronger by putting a chain-link fence around the kraal. The fences can be dug into the ground as hyenas tend to dig their way into livestock kraals.



Chilli String

is a string impregnated with hot chilli pepper or any other strong foreign scent stretched across animal paths approaching night kraal.

APPROACH AND STRATEGY

Human casualties



The strategy relies on the prevention of close contact with the hyena, especially while sleeping outside close to established hyena corridors, or where there is presence of unguarded food remnants that attract the hyena.



Livestock predation

Herds to be managed properly with active guarding to watch out for predators.

Livestock to be kept in **mobile bomas/ reinforced livestock kraals** which make it impossible for the hyena to physically see the animal.

Chilli strings and/or **electric fences** are installed across hyena paths outside the area to be protected.

Complementary tools to be used for preventing access to the hyena are **sprinkling chilli pepper** on the ground close to **mobile bomas** and using **LED lights** to confuse the animal.

The SWM Programme is a major international initiative that aims to improve the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife in forest, savannah and wetland ecosystems. It is being funded by the European Union with co-funding from the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD). Projects are being piloted and tested with governments and communities in 19 participating countries. The initiative is coordinated by a dynamic consortium of four partners, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). For more information please visit:

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