

Lion collaring operation Waza 16 May to 21 May 2008.

Participants:

Ralph Buij	Team Leader
Jacques Kaandorp	Veterinarian
Barbara Croes	Logistics coordinator
Pricelia Tumenta	PhD – data collection
Jacco van Rijssel	Data collection
Jet Kok	Data collection
Arthur Marres	Producer TV8
Toon den Engelsen	Camera work
Falama	Guide
Abba	Ecoguard

Friday 16 May

Depart to Waza. RB and BC had a meeting with conservateur who is very supportive of the work done by CEDC. We invited him to join us for one or more tagging attempts during the following days. Jacques Kaandorp from Beekse Bergen and Arthur Marres and Toon den Engelse from TV8 arrived in Waza at 14h pm after their delayed flight. Short briefing on the protocol by RB to the entire group, after which the team left at 16:30 pm for a late afternoon and evening spotlighting search for lions in Louloubaya area. No lions were found despite recent observations by guides and tourists.

Saturday 17 May

Depart at 4.30 am. Roars were heard that night by guides around the Louloubaya area where the team focussed to search. Fresh tracks were found near Louloubaya waterhole, but no lions. 11.00 am return to camp.

Depart at 15:30 to set up baited calling station near Louloubaya. Kobs (which we got from Bénoué area) were already disintegrated. Start calling station at 18:15 pm, continued to 22:00 pm. Only one spotted hyena showed up at the bait. A small group stayed behind to keep an eye on the bait and to warn the rest of the team in case a lion would show up. No lion showed up.

Sunday 18 May

Depart at 4.15 am to meet each other at CS of previous night. Bait was collected and the entire team proceeded to the region between Sawaware and Gamzamia, where a group of lions was observed by tourists on the previous two days. A male lion was found lying under a bush at Gamzambia at 7:30. The darting team was called in through radio and successfully succeeded to dart the lion at 8:00 am. All measurements were taken (weight 196 kg), blood collected and Vectronics collar (old refurbished collar of Jean Pierre) was fitted. Lion was named Falama. Lion recovered very quickly after antidote was given. Back in camp at 12:30 pm.

Depart at 16:00 pm, together with conservateur, to set up calling station with drag and bait at Goubouramaram. The team waited from 17:00-18:45 for lions to show up at the waterhole, and started calling at 19:15 at 500 meters from the waterhole where the remains of the bait were attached to a tree. After 20 minutes of calling, a group of 3 lionesses showed up at some distance from the bait. This group of 1 adult female with her two youngsters of approximately

1,5 years old was previously seen in the Goumbouramaram area. The lions were hesitant but curious and clearly moved in on the pig squeal while they backed off when hearing wildebeest/hyena calls. The group slowly approached the darting vehicle but didn't really settle on the bait which made darting extremely difficult. When the lions tended to move away again around 21 pm, the darting team decided to follow the group by car, with torches. One darting attempt at the waterhole from 40 m distance failed, but a second darting attempt at 40 m distance hit the adult female lioness. The rest of the team moved in to form a triangle to block the curious youngsters in their possible attempt to approach their mother. All measurements were taken (weight 97 kg), blood was collected, and GPS-GSM collar **AS101** was fitted within 20 minutes. Lioness was named Rosy (after the conservateur's wife). The lioness recovered quickly. The team returned to camp around midnight.

Monday 19 May

Depart at 14:30 pm to head straight to Sawaware where the group of 3 lionesses was seen again earlier that day by tourists. On the way their, the team made a huge effort to try to save a young elephant which got stuck in the mud at Kalia. Unfortunately, the elephant appeared to have its hind leg broken, but he still managed to get into the shade of surrounding bushes thanks to the good care of the team.

The team arrived at Sawaware just before sun-set, where the group of lions was detected almost immediately. The group was composed of one collared female, which could either have been Fanné or Elizabeth (the collar was not working, so identification was impossible), 2 younger female lions and one adult male lion. The group was extremely relaxed and curiously approached the darting vehicle. The collared lioness was darted at a distance of 10 meters at 18:35 pm. No measurements were taken, except for the weight (108 kg). The failing GPS-Plus collar was removed and GPS-GSM collar **AS100** was fitted. The lioness recovered relatively slowly, due to slightly higher dose of ketamine (according to Jacques). After 25 minutes, the lioness moved off slowly into higher grass. The team arrived back in camp at 22:00 pm.

Tuesday 20 May

The day was used to record additional film material.

Wednesday 21 May

Depart to Maroua

ANNEX 1. DATA SHEET LION COLLARING AND MORPHOMETRICS

Date of Collaring 18-05-2008_____

Time of 1st obs: 07.35 _____

Time darting: 07.45_

Time 1st sign immob: 07.49_____

Time collaring start: 07.55__

Time collaring finish: 08.25__

Time Team left: 08.44__

Location: Gamzemia_____ GPS _____

Habitat: Floodplain, bushes of waterhole

Total number of lions: 1__ Male: 1__ Female: 0__ Cubs: 0_____

Parameter	Measurements	Remarks
Name lion	Falama	
Code	03591	
Frequency receiver	150.2297	
Sex	Male	
Age	8-9 Years	
Health status*	5 (Very good, fat)	Had a fresh kill, kob
Nose- tail length	286 cm	
Shoulder height	111 cm	
Weight	196 kg	
Neck circ	80 cm	
Chest circ	130 cm	
Canine length	Upper left: 4.8 Upper right: 5.4 Lower left: 4.0 Lower right:4.4	
Paw front left	Pad width: 8.5 Pad length: 7.0 Total length: 12.0	
Paw front right	Pad width: 9.0 Pad length: 7.0 Total length: 10.3	
Paw hind left	Pad width: 8.2 Pad length: 7.0 Total length: 12.6	
Paw hind right	Pad width: 8.0 Pad length: 7.0 Total length: 12.7	

* Health status: 1= very poor; ribs visible, 2= poor, 3=average, 4=good; 5= very good; fat.

DATA SHEET LION COLLARING AND MORPHOMETRICS

Date of Collaring 18-05-2008 _____

Time of 1st obs: 19.30____ Time darting: 21.35_

Time 1st sign immob: 21.39____ Time collaring start: 21.45____

Time collaring finish: 22.05__ Time Team left: 22.16____

Location: Goumberemaram__ GPS _____

Habitat: Woodlandzone, open area surrounded with trees and bushes

Total number of lions: 3__ Male: 0__ Female: 1__ Cubs: 2 young males of 1.5-2 years old

Parameter	Measurements	Remarks
Name lion	Rosie	Conservator's wife
Code	?	
Frequency receiver	?	
Sex	Female	
Age	4 years?	
Health status*	5 (Very good, fat)	
Nose- tail length	228 cm	
Shoulder height	94 cm	
Weight	96 kg	
Neck circ	50 cm	
Chest circ	94 cm	
Canine length	Upper left: 4.1 Upper right: 4.2 Lower left: 3.4 Lower right: 3.3	
Paw front left	Pad width: 6.5 Pad length: 5.5 Total length: 11.0	
Paw front right	Pad width: 6.5 Pad length: 5.5 Total length: 11.0	
Paw hind left	Pad width: 6.3 Pad length: 5.3 Total length: 9.7	
Paw hind right	Pad width: 6.2 Pad length: 5.7 Total length: 11.0	

* Health status: 1= very poor; ribs visible, 2= poor, 3=average, 4=good; 5= very good; fat.

DATA SHEET LION COLLARING AND MORPHOMETRICS

Date of Collaring 19-05-2008 _____

Time of 1st obs: 18.30 _____ Time darting: 18.33 _____

Time 1st sign immob: 18.37 _____ Time collaring start: 18.43 _____

Time collaring finish: 18.55 _____ Time Team left: 19.35 _____

Location: Saourware __ GPS _____

Habitat: Floodplain, on the hill next to the waterhole

Total number of lions: 4 __ Male: 1 __ Female: 1 __ Cubs: 2 young females of 1.5-2 years old

Parameter	Measurements	Remarks
Name lion	Fanne	Changing collar
Code	?	
Frequency receiver	?	
Sex	Female	
Age	4 years?	
Health status*	5 (Very good, fat)	
Nose- tail length	See previous measurements	
Shoulder height	See previous measurements	
Weight	108 kg	
Neck circ	See previous measurements	
Chest circ	See previous measurements	
Canine length	See previous measurements	
Paw front left	See previous measurements	
Paw front right	See previous measurements	
Paw hind left	See previous measurements	
Paw hind right	See previous measurements	

* Health status: 1= very poor; ribs visible, 2= poor, 3=average, 4=good; 5= very good; fat.