

PREDATOR VIEWING PROTOCOL

LEOPARD AND LION:

- Once a cub/cubs have been seen and a clear idea of the den site has been determined, then that area should be treated with extreme sensitivity.
- If the cub/ cubs are very young, **less than a month, then that area should be zoned**, especially if it is near a road. The reason for this is to prevent the mother from unnecessarily moving the young – Moving young raises other predator's awareness to the presence of cubs and increases risks of injury to the cubs
- A single vehicle (preferably Ranger) should check on the den site every two or three days, to see if there is still activity there. A Trails Cam strategically placed with a booster aerial – would make our presence even less invasive.
- If someone is checking, they should radio in, so you can avoid multiple vehicles going into that area.
- **Young should not be viewed if the mother is not there!**
- Do not go too close! **20 metres is minimum distance.**
- If the young are slightly older, over 2 months, **one vehicle at the sighting**, however once that one has left another one may enter and view. **ONLY IF THE MOTHER IS THERE.**
- From **5 or 6 months old**, young can be viewed alone, if they seem relaxed with the vehicle. Limited to **two vehicles** in the sighting.
- **No young should be viewed at night!** And definitely no spotlight!
- From nine months to a year old, the young can be viewed at night. But be sensitive.
- Communication is key with this, just radio in, and make a conservative call regarding the young. If a vehicle feels the young are not relaxed, give them space and leave.
- Try not to follow cats on the move in convoys – rather hand over sighting to the next vehicle.

HYENA DEN:

- Once a den has been found, again treat with sensitivity.
- Hyena tend to be more relaxed with vehicles. However, **we should NOT get too close.**
- A perimeter should be set up for viewing. And no one is to go closer or drive right up to the den!
- The young will usually only come out if the adults are there anyway.
- If you do not see adults or young around, move out of the area, don't drive closer to the den to try look inside.

WILD DOGS:

- Similar to Hyena den.
- However, should be treated with even more sensitivity.
- One or maybe two vehicles at a time, depending on viewing space! And not too close to the den!
- If no adults are on site, then leave the area!
- Wild dogs **should not be viewed at night**. They are diurnal animals, and no spotlights should be used on them.

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