



## HWANGE LEOPARD PROJECT OCTOBER REPORT 2015

### **BREAKING NEWS - RECAPTURE OF VHF COLLARED FEMALE LEOPARD (CLAUHE)**

Having initially been captured and fitted with a VHF Tracking collar on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013 this collared female leopard, known as Clauhe, was finally re-captured and fitted with a Satellite Tracking collar two years later on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The theoretical decision to re-capture Clauhe and fit her with a Satellite collar turned out to be much easier than the practical reality of actually re-capturing her. For many months she teased and tormented us by approaching and feeding on baits specifically set for her but not once would she re-enter the capture cage. Yet in the early hours of Wed 28<sup>th</sup> October she finally obliged and was captured. Her old VHF collar was removed and a new Satellite collar was fitted.



CLAUHE ENTERING CAPTURE CAGE



CLAUHE DARTED AND SLEEPING PEACEFULLY



FORMIDABLE CANINE TEETH

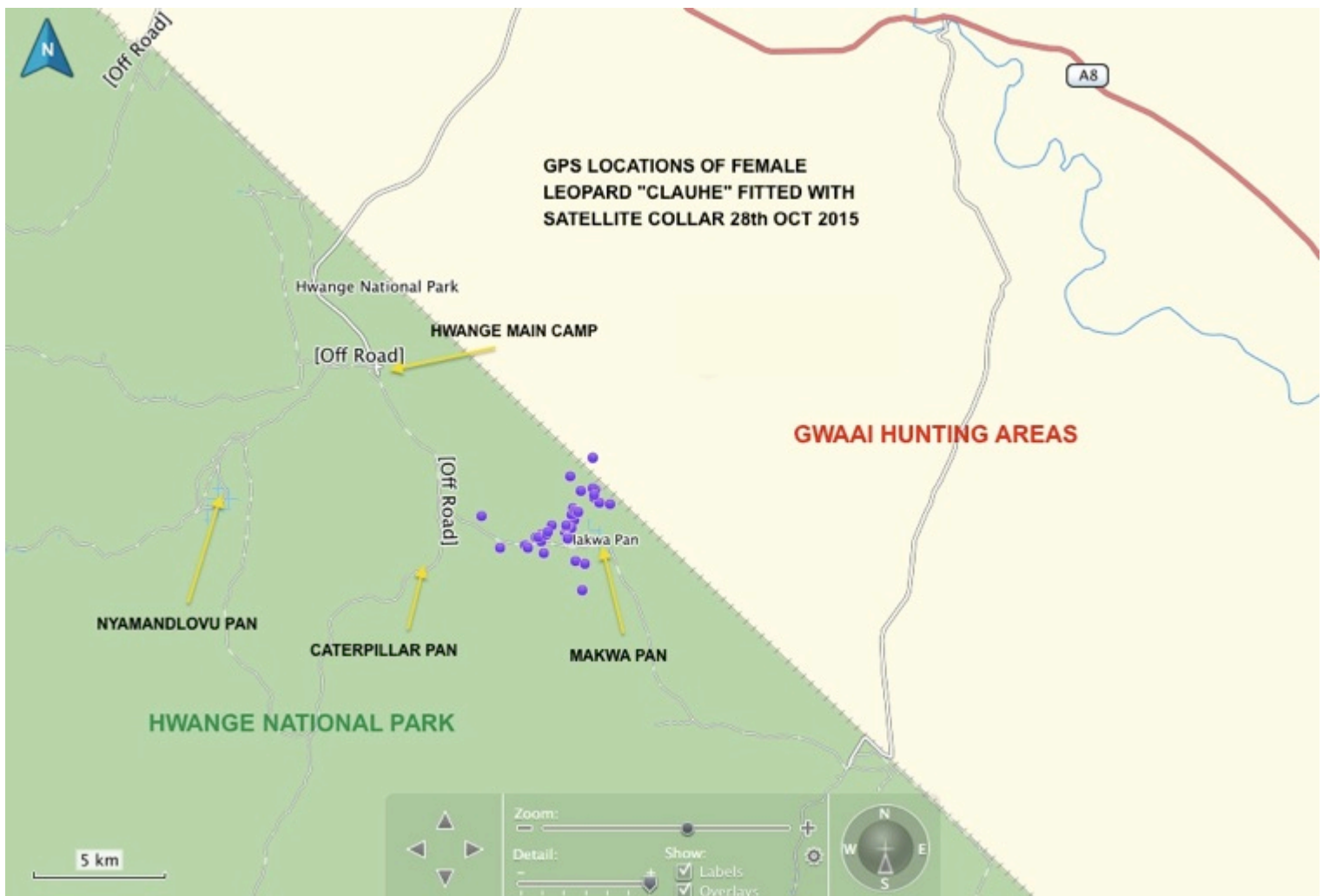


CLAUHE CAPTURE TEAM





FROM THE RECOVERY WARD SHE MOVED LIKE LIQUID AND MELTED INTO THE BUSH



CLAUHE GPS LOCATIONS SINCE CAPTURE ON 28<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2015.  
ALREADY 3 SIGNIFICANT KILL SITES IDENTIFIED

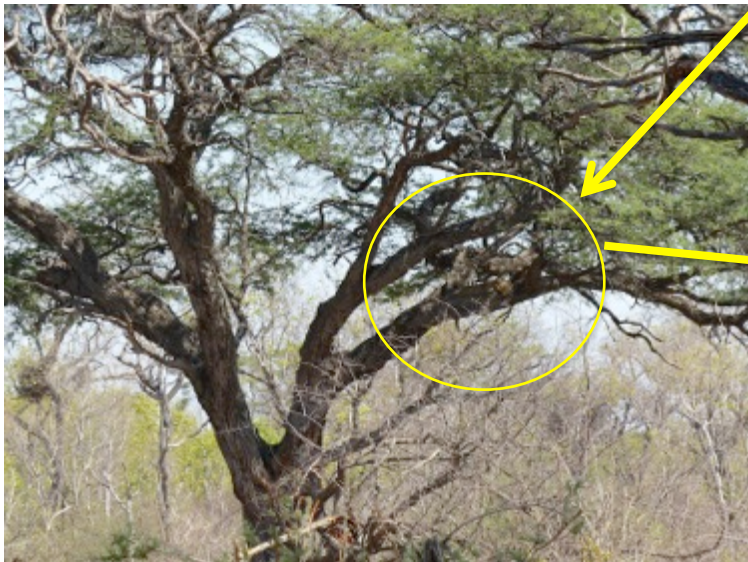
VHF Collar signals can provide a lot of useful information about a leopard's territorial movements however there are many days when no signal can be detected.

During these periods a leopard is out of signal range and the full extent of its territory would otherwise remain unknown. Also unknown through lack of accurate satellite GPS detection would be the locations of kill sites and other important details such as the birthplace and potential location of cubs. Hopefully the Satellite collar will help to answer many of these questions.



**COLLARED FEMALE LEOPARD KNOWN AS IVY**

Though the satellite transmitter on this collar is no longer working we are still able to track her VHF signal. It would be almost impossible to find or see Ivy without the help of her VHF collar. The photos below show just how difficult it can be to locate a leopard in the bush, even with the help of a tracking collar.





**COLLARED FEMALE LEOPARD KNOWN AS PUMI**

Though the satellite battery is no longer working on this collar either, the VHF battery is still functioning. By tracking Pumi's collar it was possible recently for a team of lucky observers to photograph and video Pumi in action hunting, stalking, catching and killing a guinea fowl near Dom Pan.



PUMI STALKING GUINEA FOWL  
(Photo Courtesy Julie Laboulais)



GUINEA FOWL CAPTURED AND EATEN  
(Photo Courtesy Julie Laboulais)

**KNOWN LEOPARD SIGHTINGS**

Camera traps set on paths and tracks surrounding Main Camp in Hwange National Park recently photographed two of our known leopards. It was pleasing to see “Cowboy” for the first time since his satellite collar had been removed. Ivy was photographed a day earlier in the same area.

Main Camp Tourist Lodges and rubbish pits continue to supplement the diet of hungry leopards searching for discarded food scraps to make up for an unsuccessful hunt in the field.



First photo of “Cowboy” without Satellite Collar and Photo of “Ivy” - Both walking through Main Camp



**OTHER LEOPARD SIGHTINGS**

NYAMANDLOVU AREA – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Unknown Female Leopard photographed within Pumi's Territorial area. –  
Coat Pattern does not match any leopard on record



**OTHER PHOTOS OF INTEREST**

4 SUB-ADULT CHEETAHS PHOTOGRAPHED NEAR MPOFU PARK ENTRY POINT

