

Giraffe Carcass Provides for Lion, Crocodile, Hyena and Leopard

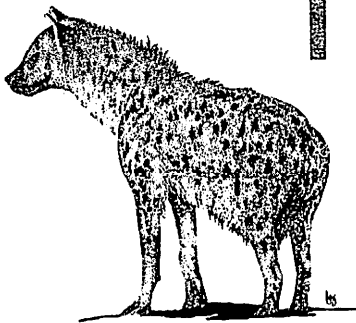
In January 2002 the two dominant male Lions on the northwestern portion of the property killed a male Giraffe only 100m from Pioneer camp. These two males spent five nights feeding on the Giraffe, being joined at one stage by the two females of the Tsalala pride. An amazing sight on consecutive nights was the lionesses feeding on one side of the carcass while up to three Nile Crocodiles fed on the other side (the carcass was over 100m from the nearest water body suitable for crocodiles, Taylor's Dam). Once these Lions had moved off they were replaced by two sub-adult Lions who again shared the carcass with crocodiles. The following morning these Lions were replaced by six Spotted Hyenas while a number of vultures and a large male Leopard watched from a distance. The Leopard waited for all but one of the hyenas to move off to a nearby wallow before darting in and chasing the single scavenger away. The hyena initially ran, perhaps fearing the return of the Lions, before reconsidering and driving the Leopard away from the carcass again. After a two day absence the two male Lions returned on the eighth day and again fed on the now rancid meat.

Londolozi Rangers

Leopard Kills Bushpig

We had an unusual sighting late on drive in September when we first found a male Leopard drinking, and then followed him back to the carcass of a Bushpig, an animal very seldom seen (alive or dead!) at Londolozi. The last Bushpig seen (being eaten by a pride of Lion) was about 10 years ago. This large nocturnal omnivore was too heavy for the Leopard to hoist and was fed upon mainly on the ground.

Greg Seymour & Richard Sivela



Pandemonium with Leopards and Baboons

Early on drive in December we were following the Vomba female Leopard on Marthly when she led us to the carcass of a female Impala. We drove around a small gully to get a better view, only to find that when we were in position the Leopard was gone and a Spotted Hyena was feeding on the carcass. A short while later we saw the Leopard again, this time up a Schotia tree with another carcass! We moved back around the gully, and she came down the tree rather clumsily dropping her new carcass. To our amazement, as she hit the ground, another Leopard came bursting out of the bush a short distance away being chased by a large male Chacma Baboon! As the Leopards scattered, a large male Leopard appeared and proceeded to watch to goings on.

Sean Lindsay & Simon Collier

Leopard and Lion try to Steal Dead Rhino calf

For two days in November a White Rhino cow watched over her dead calf. She nudged it with her horn and licked it. Over the 48 hours a pride of eight Lions and a young male Leopard gathered to scavenge off the calf. A male rhino had joined the cow and was helping to keep the Lions at bay. As the day was heating up the rhino reluctantly moved on. The Lions saw their chance and moved in. The male Rhino which had subsequently gone to sleep under a nearby tree, woke up and found himself alone with the pride, he then also moved off in the direction of the cow. The Leopard was still in the grass close by, but when the Lions started to feed, it moved off.

Tony Painter & Oliver Sinclair