

THE MANAGEMENT OF FREE-RANGING LIONS ON ENCLOSED PROTECTED AREAS

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CONTENTS

COMPONENT A (LITERATURE REVIEW)

	Page
Contents	ii
List of figures and tables	v
Abstract	vi
Preface	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Rationale	2
1.3 Research purpose	4
1.3.1 Aims	4
1.3.2 Objectives	4
CHAPTER 2: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR LION MANAGEMENT	5
CHAPTER 3: THE BIOLOGY OF LIONS	9
3.1 Description	9
3.2 Reproductive Biology	10
3.3 Social Behaviour	13
3.4 Activity Patterns	15
3.5 Foraging Ecology	16
3.6 Geographic Range	19
3.7 Population Demography and Limiting Factors	21
3.8 Interaction with Other Predator Species	23
3.9 Threats	24

CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS	26
4.1 Background	26
4.2 Limitations	28
 CHAPTER 5: MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS AND APPROACHES	 29
5.1 Management Considerations	29
5.1.1 Considerations Prior to Re-reintroduction	29
5.1.2 Management Objectives	30
5.1.3 Carrying Capacity	31
5.1.4 Pride Origin	34
5.1.5 Pride Composition	35
5.1.6 Genetic Considerations	36
5.1.7 Costs Versus Benefits	36
5.1.8 Boma and Lion Habituation	37
5.1.9 Perimeter Fence Requirements	41
5.2 Management Approaches	42
5.2.1 Population Reduction	42
5.2.1.a) Hormonal Contraception	42
5.2.1.b) Hunting	44
5.2.1.c) Other Population Control Measures	45
5.2.2 Artificial Takeover	46
5.2.3 Capture Methods	47
5.3 Management Summary	49
 References	 50
 Personal communications	 59

COMPONENT B (RESEACH PAPER)

	Page
List of figures and tables	v
ABSTRACT	1
INTRODUCTION	2
METHODS	4
Study Site	4
Management context	7
Translocation	8
Contraception	10
Hunting	11
Artificial Takeover	11
RESULTS	12
Translocation	12
Contraception	14
Hunting	15
Artificial Takeover	16
DISCUSSION	17
References	22
Personal communications	26

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES: COMPONENT A

FIGURES

Figure 1.	A proposed conceptual framework for lion management	6
Figure 2.	Diagram illustrating Fence Electrification Requirements	39
Figure 3.	The Boma built on Makalali Private Game Reserve	41

TABLES

Table 3.1	Physiological characteristics of lions	9
Table 5.1	Lion density on some of South Africa's enclosed game reserves	34

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES: COMPONENT B

FIGURES

Figure 1.	History of GMPGR lion population from Apr – 05 to Dec – 06	6
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TABLES

Table 1.	Prey species numbers on GMPGR in 2004 and 2006	7
Table 2.	History of lions translocated from GMPGR to other game reserves	12
Table 3.	Summary of contracepted lionesses on the GMPGR	14
Table 4.	Summary of costs of lion contraception on the GMPGR	15
Table 5.	Comparisons of Effectiveness of various Management Interventions	21

Abstract

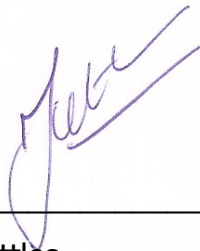
This Research investigates the potential impacts that free-ranging lions have within a small (<100 000 hectare), enclosed protected area, and it also investigates the subsequent challenges to the managers of areas such as these. A comprehensive literature review reveals that the smaller the protected area, the more intensively it needs to be managed via active adaptive management, because perimeter fences do not allow for immigration and emigration. The consequences of this are over-population; inbreeding depression; the decline of prey and other predator species; conflict with neighbouring communities as a result of break-outs; and, in some cases, the spreading of intra- and interspecies disease. Lions are very proficient breeders and, in all cases investigated, reserves exceeded their local carrying capacity within a relatively short period of time.

A range of management interventions can potentially achieve short- and/or long-term reserve objectives. These interventions include relocation, contraception, hunting and artificial takeovers. These interventions are described in terms of the preparation required, the biological consequences and the sociological influences.

PREFACE

The research described in this mini-dissertation was carried out at the Centre for Environment and Development, University of KwaZulu-Natal, under the supervision of Professor Rob Slotow from the School of Biological Conservation Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban.

This mini-dissertation represents the original work of the author and has not otherwise been submitted in any form for a degree or diploma at any university. Where use has been made of others, it is duly acknowledged in the text.



Ross Kettles

Professor Rob Slotow (Supervisor)

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I would like to dedicate this dissertation to my father who passed away before I could complete it. Malcolm, I know you were anxious for me to be the first member of our family to have a master's degree and that you wanted it finished before you ran out of time. It did not work out that way, but here it is anyway. I wish you were here to shake my hand.