

ZAMBEZE DELTA ECOLOGY HOLISTIC ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH PROJECT

A GROWING POPULATION

THE Zambeze Delta lion population is growing rapidly after their reintroduction in August 2018. In total, the tally of cubs has reached 16 with 3 more females pregnant. This means that within one year, the population has almost doubled! The team believes that most of the cubs were fathered by the local Mozambican male, which presents an exciting prospect in terms of the lion genetic diversity, by maintaining a local bloodline within an already genetically diverse population. What an incredible start it has been to the biggest international lion reintroduction project in the world!



COLLARS, SNARES AND DARTS

THE past two months in the delta have been truly eventful! Six lions received brand new Savannah Tracking GPS collar thanks to the Metzger Family Foundation (Lewis & Peggy Metzger, far left and far right [left picture]). The vet team rescued a lioness (*TSF005*, collar nr. 3201) from drowning after being darted and running into a river, while another lioness (*KAF001* collar nr. 2777) was released from a cable snare that was caught around her waist in Coutada 14. Both female lions have recovered well. We will continue to monitor their movements and get regular visuals on them.

THE NEW RESEARCH TEAM

ON 14 June 2019, the new research team arrived in Coutada 11. The team includes Willem Briers-Louw (left), Dr Dave Gaynor (centre) and Professor Alan Gardiner (right) [pictured right]. The Zambeze Delta offers a unique opportunity to study reintroduced lions in a large, open landscape. This area has received little research attention, but holds incredible conservation significance for both fauna and flora of this part of Mozambique.

