



**ZAMBEZE DELTA ECOLOGY**  
**HOLISTIC ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH PROJECT**

**LEOPARD REPORT**  
**SEPTEMBER 2019**

# DOGS HELPING CATS

## LEOPARD COLLARING IN THE ZAMBEZE DELTA

SEPTEMBER has been an extraordinary month with the collaring of two female leopards in Coutada 11. This is the first time in history that leopards have been collared in this part of Mozambique and signifies an important step towards the conservation of leopards in the Zambeze Delta!

Two female leopards were *tree'd* using scent hounds and darted by a veterinarian while still in the tree. The first female remained in the tree and held onto a branch until the last moment (when the drug took full effect) and then we caught her using a capture net. The second female was also tree'd by the dogs and subsequently darted in the tree. However, this female jumped out of the tree and ran approximately 200m before the drug took full effect. The hounds were used to locate her scent and we quickly got to her location.

Overall, this capture technique worked well on both occasions and it certainly appears to be a viable method for capturing leopards for collaring in our study area. So here in Coutada 11, we are using dogs to help conserve cats!

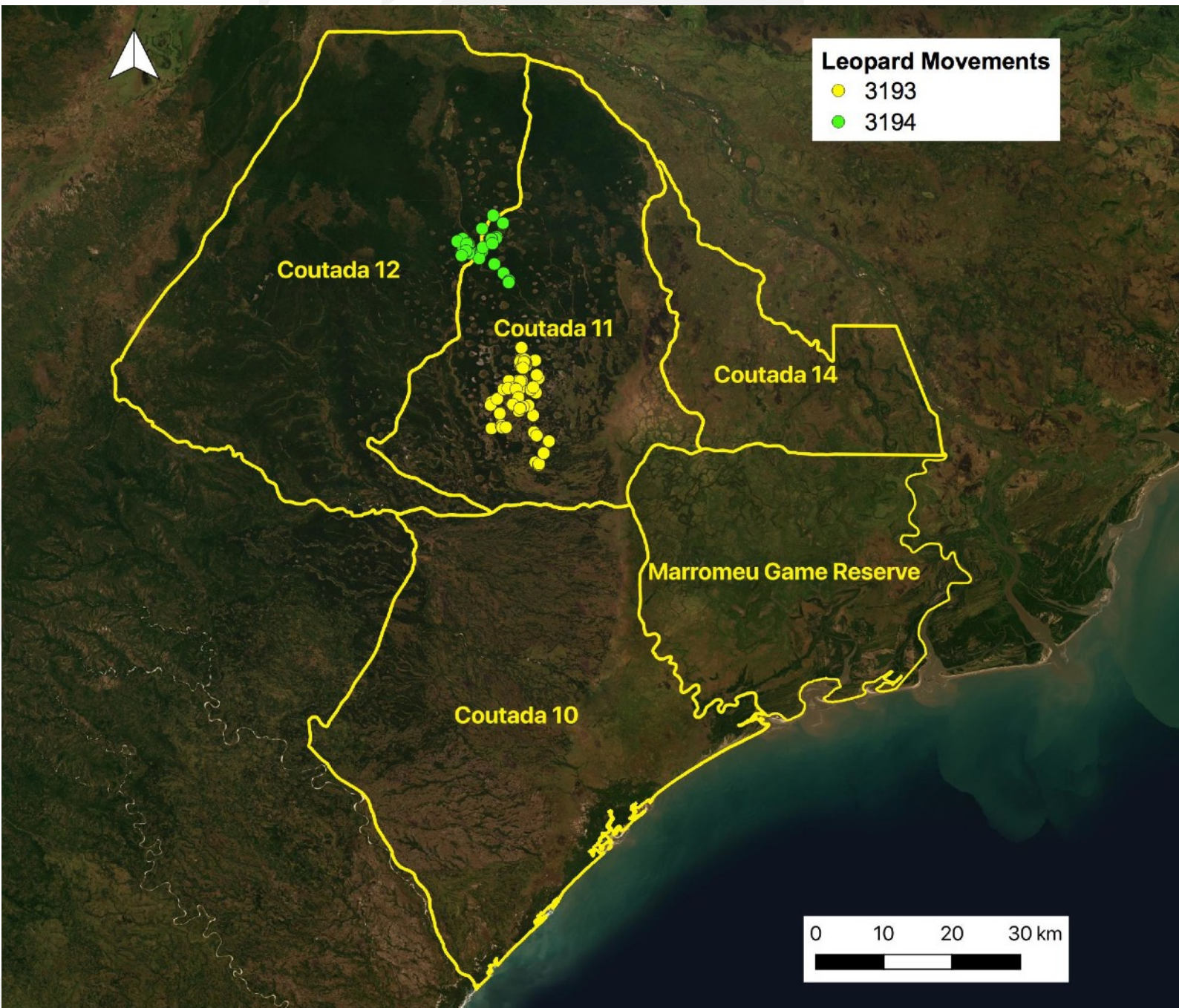


**Figure 1.** First female leopard caught using a capture net (left). **Figure 2.** Dogs used in the capture process (right). All dogs were fitted with their own GPS collar to follow their movements while searching for the leopard.

# COLLAR DATA

## SPATIO-TEMPORAL MOVEMENTS

Here we look at the first 2-3 weeks of GPS collar data obtained from the two collared females. Figure 3 shows all GPS locations within the Coutada-Marromeu Complex.

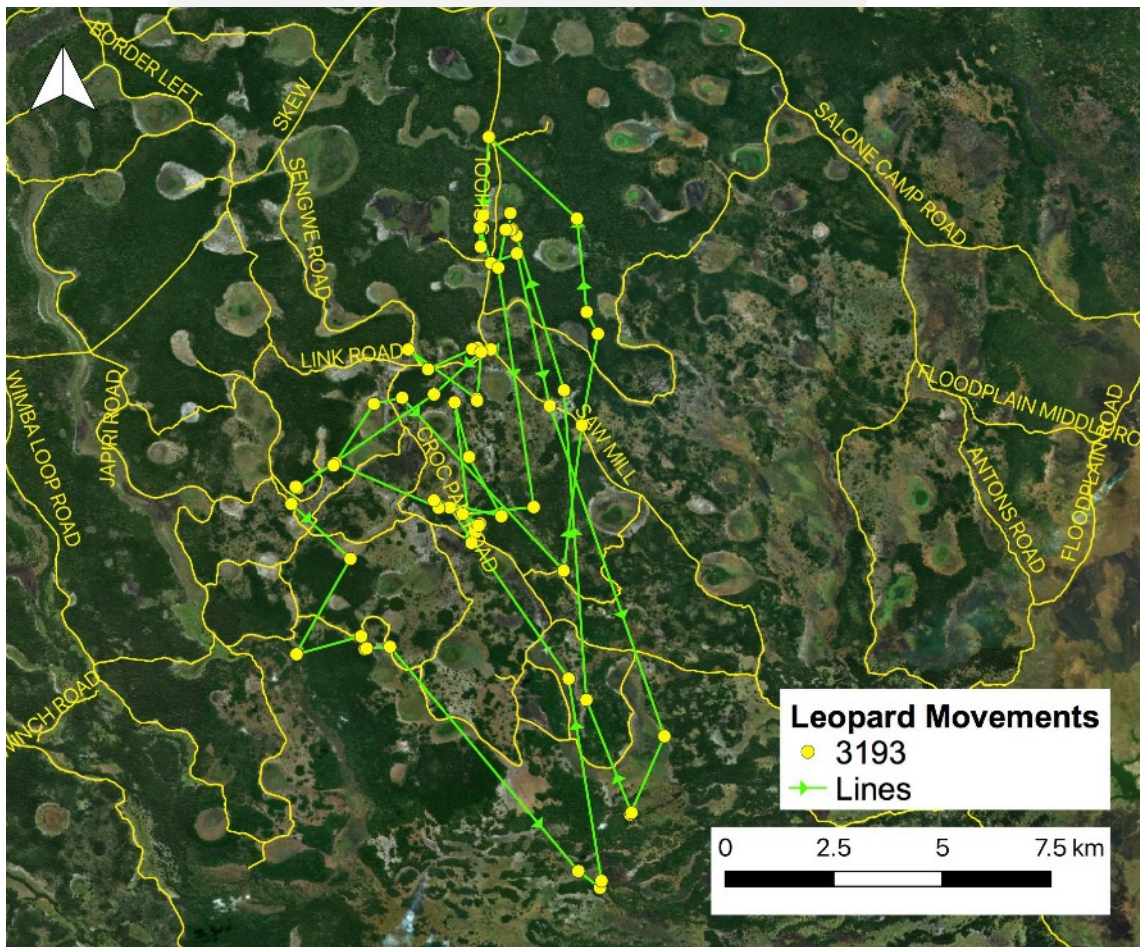


**Figure 3.** GPS collar data of both female leopards (3193 & 3194) in the Coutada/Marromeu Complex.

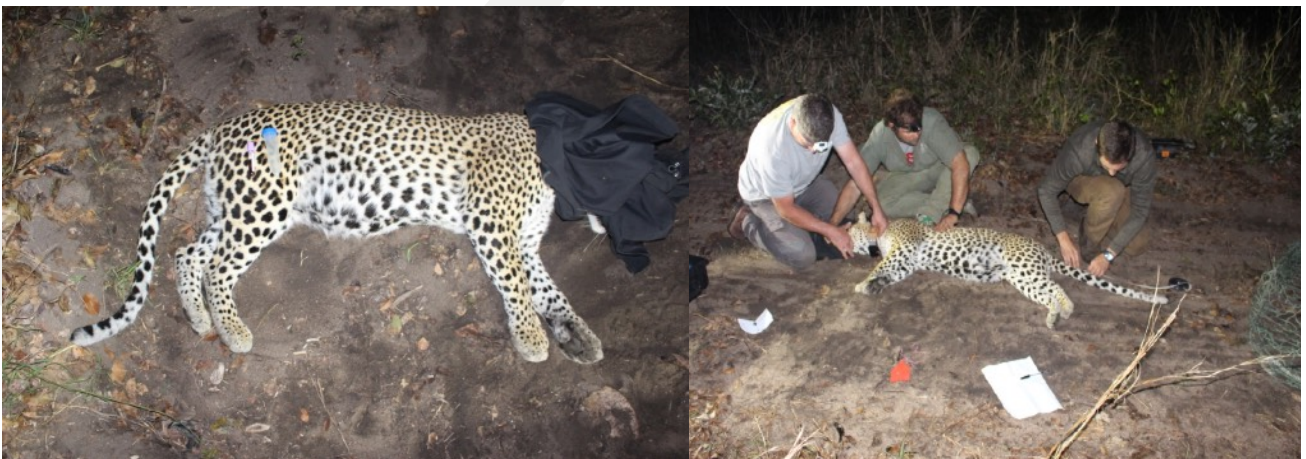
# LEF001

COLLAR NR. 3193

The first collared leopard, 3193, weighed 45kg and was estimated to be around 3-4 years old. After checking her condition, Dr Ryan van Deventer found that she was pregnant, which is exciting news for the leopard population in the Zambeze Delta. Since the 10<sup>th</sup>, 3193 has travelled a total of 111.6 km, which results in a mean daily distance of 5.3 km. Her area coverage since the collaring is 81.6 km<sup>2</sup>.



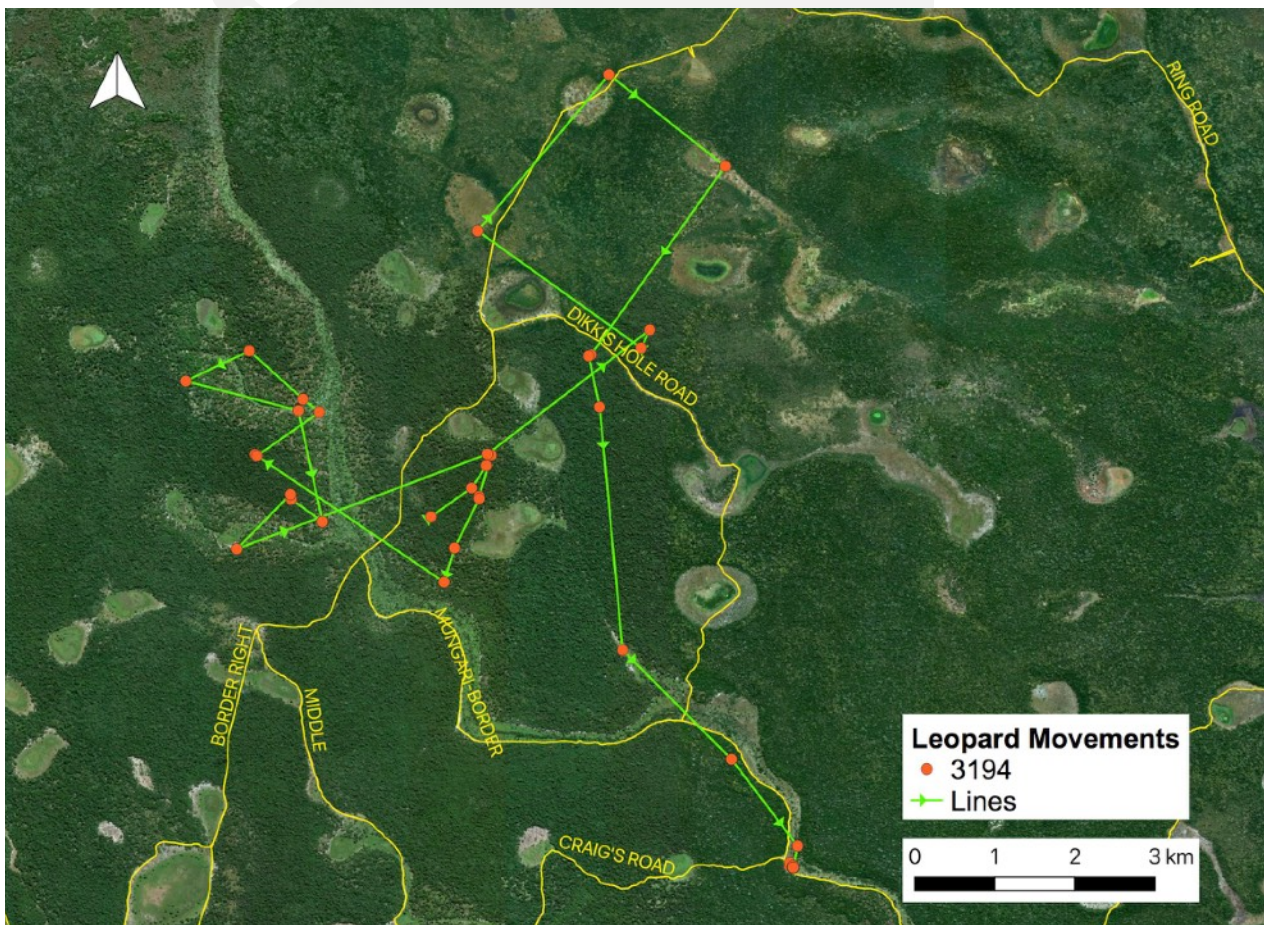
**Figure 4.** GPS locations (yellow dots) and straight-line paths (green lines with arrows) moved by female leopard 3193 in Coutada 11.



# LEF002

COLLAR NR. 3194

The second collared leopard, 3194, weighed 30kg and was estimated to be around 2 years old. Since the 19<sup>th</sup>, she has moved 37.4 km using straight line distances between locations, which results in a mean daily distance of 3.1 km. Her area coverage thus far is 30.4 km<sup>2</sup>. This female crossed over into Coutada 12, but seems to spend the majority of her time in Coutada 11.



**Figure 5.** GPS locations (red dots) and straight-line paths (green lines with arrows) moved by female leopard 3194 in Coutada 11 and 12.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY:



Ivan Carter Wildlife Conservation Alliance

Zambeze Delta Safaris

Veterinarian Team: Dr Sam Bila, Dr Ryan van  
Deventer & Dr Joao Almeida



TB Big Game Hounds

And, of course, the hounds!

