



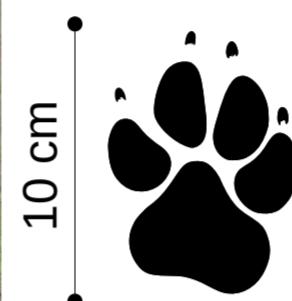
# SPOTTED HYAENA

*Crocuta crocuta*



## AT A GLANCE

Body Length:	1.3-1.6 m
Height:	85 cm
Weight:	60-80 kg
Life span:	20 years
Gestation:	120 days
Litter-size:	1-2 cubs



## TAXONOMY

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Family: Hyaenidae

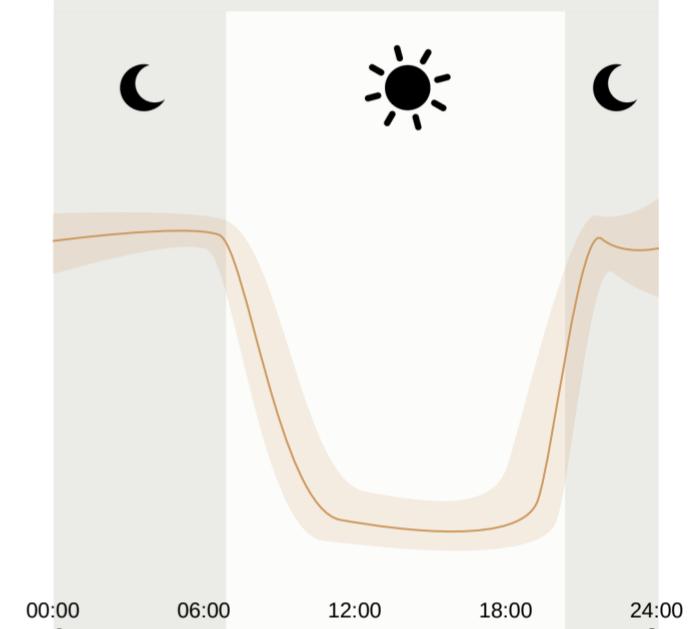
Genus: Crocuta

Species: crocuta



## DISTRIBUTION

## ACTIVITY PATTERN



Hyaenas are nocturnal and therefore rarely active during the day. At night, however, they will travel large distances in search of prey or scavenge.

## PREY



Females are slightly larger and heavier than males, yet both sexes exhibit similarly looking genitalia, making distinction of sexes difficult. In fact, females conceive and give birth through a so-called pseudo-penis. Their offspring are usually twins, which immediately start fighting for dominance, sometimes so fiercely that one ends up being killed.

## COMPETITORS



Despite the common misbelief that hyenas are exclusive scavengers, they are formidable endurance hunters and capable of taking down medium to large prey, including zebra and kudu. Hyenas are very vocal and utilize about 14 different calls. Their "whoops" are used for territorial advertisement and gathering clan members and form an iconic part of the African soundscape.

## STATUS & CONSERVATION

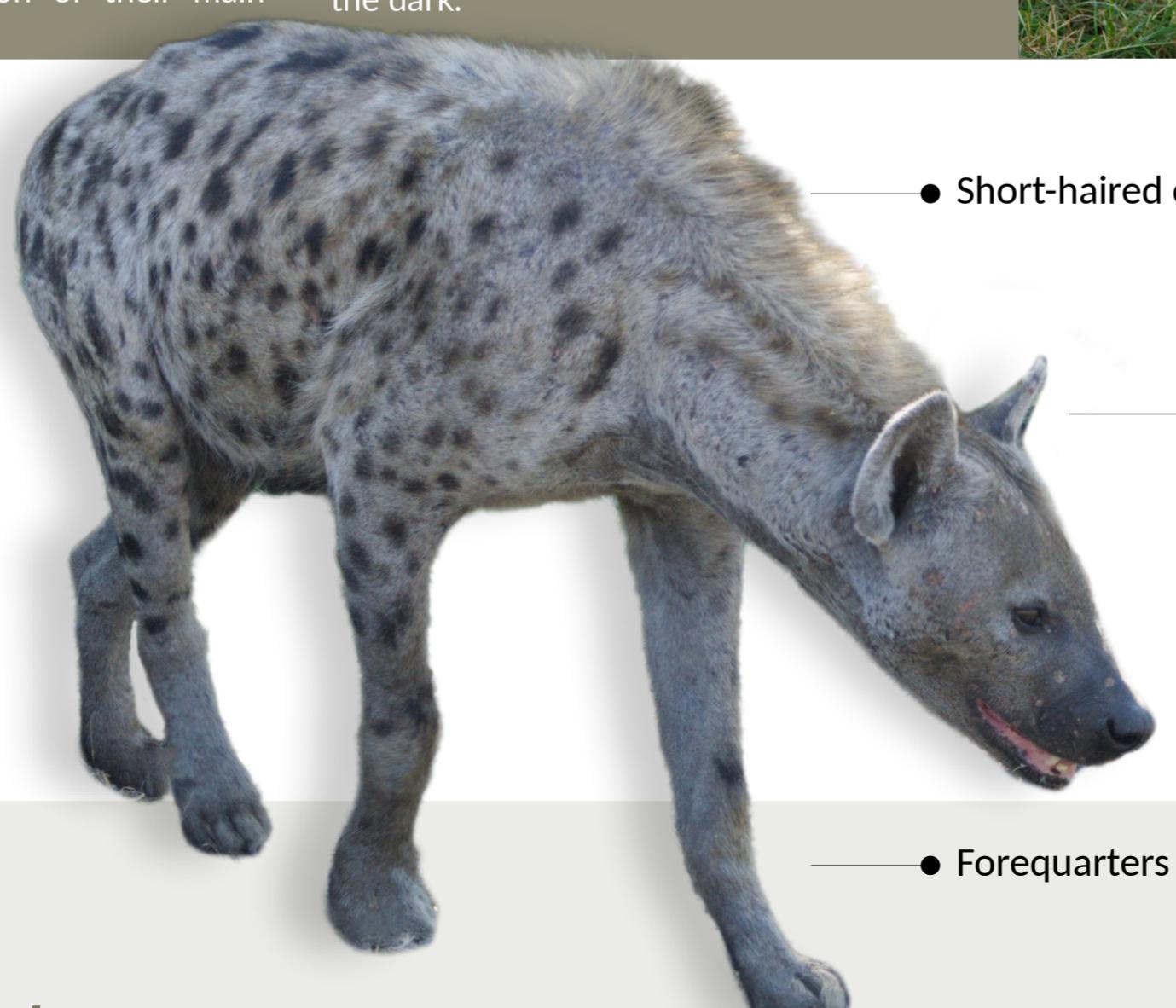
Even though the IUCN red list categorizes spotted hyenas as a species of **least-concern**, their populations are in decline, especially outside protected areas. These declines are mainly traced back to habitat-destruction and human persecution. Sometimes, humans poison and thereby wipe out an entire clan. Similar to other large carnivores, hyenas suffer from a reduction of their main

prey-base through habitat-loss and human activities. As of today, between **27'000 and 47'000 free-ranging individuals** remain, with the largest populations found in the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania and Kenya. Since hyenas are active at night, they also frequently become victim to unwanted accidents with vehicles that drive through the dark.

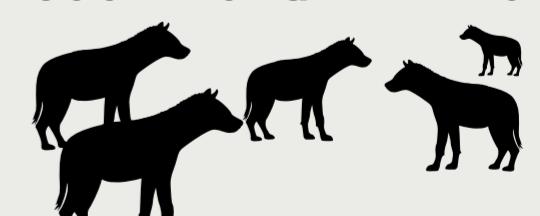


## OUR RESEARCH PROGRAM

Using camera traps deployed near carcasses, latrines, and water sources, BPC collects valuable information on the presence and behavior of spotted hyenas. In addition, we opportunistically conduct follows during which we systematically record behavior and clan composition. This helps to better understand the biology and ecology of this poorly understood carnivore.



## SOCIAL ORGANIZATION



Hyaenas live in matriarchal clans that are led by a dominant female. Clans may comprise between 5 and 40 individuals and consist of related females, their offspring, and several unrelated males.



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PREDATOR  
CONSERVATION  
RESEARCH | PLAY | COEXIST

