**Basic Information: Spotted hyaena (*Crocuta crocuta*)**

**Names: Spotted hyaena**

**Identification pointers:** A large, dog-like carnivore; huge head; round ears; back slopes downwards from shoulders to hips; coat a shaggy brown with irregular black spots.

**Can be confused with:** Brown hyaena

**Activity period:** Mainly nocturnal but often active in daylight

**Length:** 120-180cm **Height:** 70-90m **Weight:** 60-85kg

**Gestation period:** ±4 months

**Lifespan:** ±12-20

**Diet:** They hunt mainly medium to large antelope but will take just about anything they can catch. Are also specialist scavengers capable of crushing large bones in their powerful jaws.

**Predators:** Lions

**Preferred habitat:** Wide habitat tolerance, only require good food and water sources. Absent from driest deserts and rainforests.

**Red List status:** Least Concern

**Population:** decreasing

**Threats:** Often shot, poisoned or trapped by livestock farmers, particularly outside of protected areas. Habitat destruction and fragmentation is having a negative effect on them. Their prey base is being depleted across their range, and their body parts are used in traditional medicine.