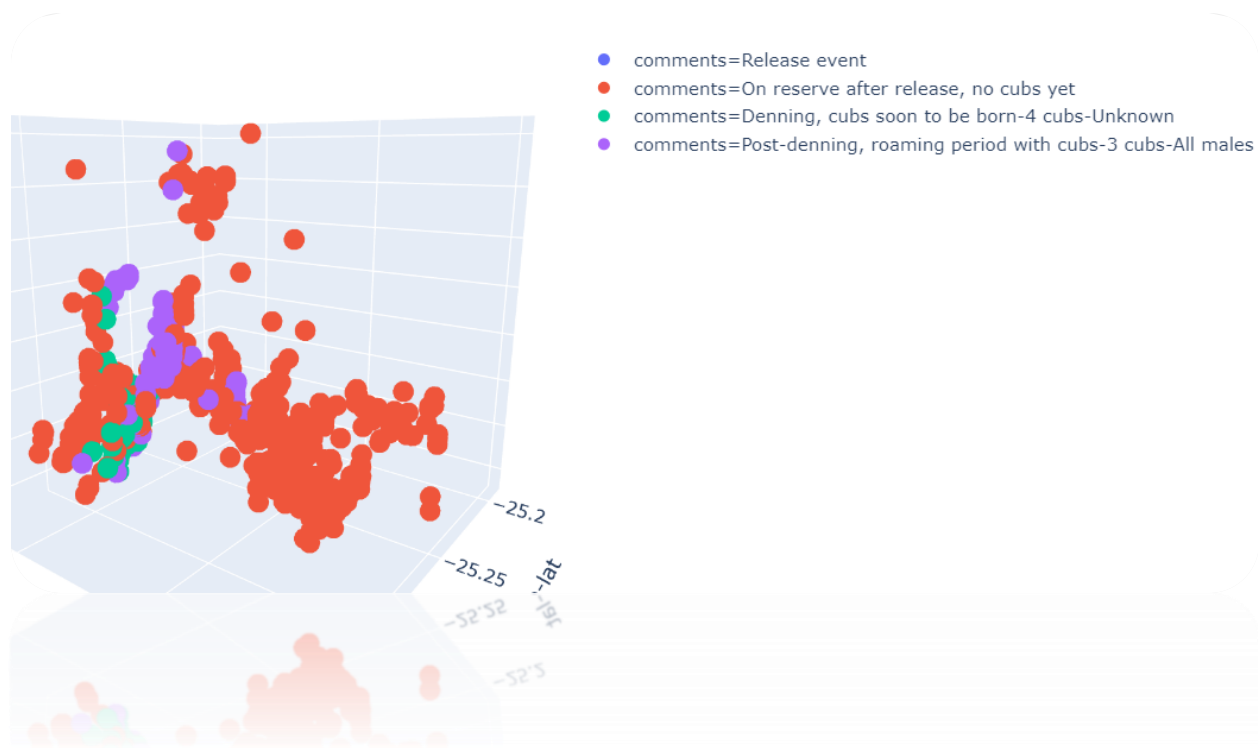


Cheetah movements

Analyzing and tracking the movements of different species, not only in Africa but around the world, can give researchers and anti-poaching officials a glimpse into the life of that animal and come up with better strategies that target specific vulnerabilities that can lead to extinction.

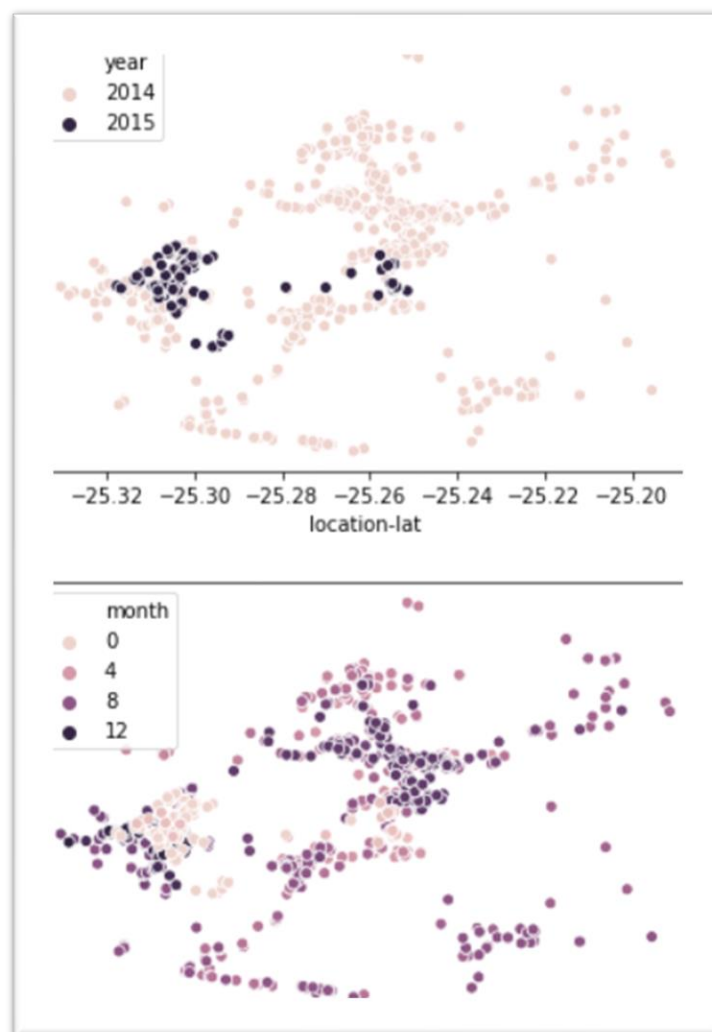
Wildlife is faced with many threats, not only from poaching and illegal trafficking but from climate change, human-wildlife conflict, and habitat fragmentation, among others. Although I am not a biologist or a conservation expert, I do understand the severity of this problem and the different implications it can have on regional and global security. Poaching and illegal trafficking provides a revenue stream to criminal and terror organization, provides a vehicle for different diseases to spread, like covid-19, and the loss of countless species worldwide. It will take collaboration across many different disciplines to solve this issue and preserve wildlife.

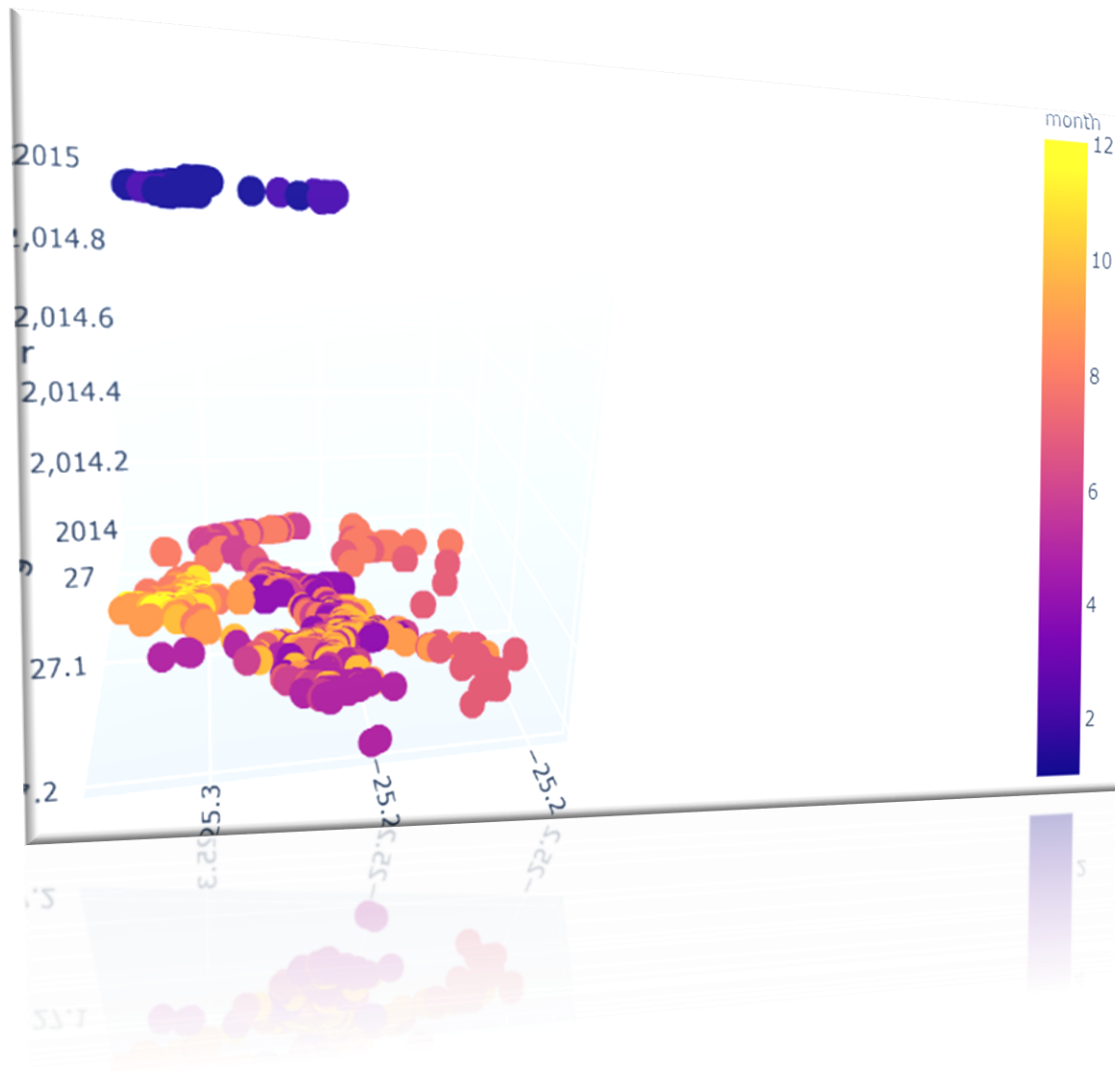
This is an analysis of a cheetah that was released in Pilanesberg National Park, South Africa and tracked throughout 2014 into 2015 before and after giving birth to cubs. The cheetah does not seem to travel far from the release point and travels even less after the cubs are born.



...

There was much more travel in 2014 than 2015. It is possible that in 2014 the cheetah was looking for a secure place to have her cubs with enough cover and resources. It is also possible she was looking for a mate, there is nothing in the data stating she was pregnant before being released. After 2015 there was much less movement and the cheetah stayed in one area except a little travel. There does not seem to be any relationship between location and month. I don't think analyzing the movement patterns by month for one animal would be a good metric to use to plan anti-poaching activities. It would be better suited for reserve management or habituation and re-introduction purposes. In 2015, all the sightings were recorded earlier in the year between January and February and the variation of months was restricted to those two months. In 2014, the earliest recorded sighting was in April and sightings were recorded until the end of the year.





There is a growing demand for exotic pets in Saudi Arabia that is driving an increase in cheetah smuggling. They are smuggled to Hargeisa, Somaliland where they are then shipped to Saudi Arabia: [Source link](#). Stopping the illegal wildlife trade and other illicit trade is critical to stopping the illegal economy and preventing further violence and the deterioration of regional and national stability.

[Jupyter notebook](#)

