

Supporting Online Material Table T1 and Figures F1-F4

SOM T1. Sex, age, measurements and weights of the captured sand cats.

| | F1 | M1 | M2 | F2 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sex | Female | Male | Male | Female |
| Estimated age | 1-1.5 yo* | 1.5-2 yo* | 3-4 yo* | 7-10 mo* |
| Capture date and time | 03/12/15 23:35 | 06/12/15 21:00 | 07/12/15 00:15 | 07/12/15 23:05 |
| Coordinates of capture locations | 23°14'39.1" 15°09'38.7"W | 23°05'53.1"N15°12'31.9"W + 23°09'40.7"N 15°10'53.5"W | 23°12'30.4"N15°10'03.5"W | 23°14'12.6"N 15°10'60.0"W |
| Weight (kg) | 1.85 | 2.14 | 2.36 | 1.32 |
| Head and body length (cm) | 44 | 48.6 | 53 | 43 |
| Tail length (cm) | 26 | 24.4 | 26 | 21 |
| Hind foot length (cm) | - | 10.4 | 10.7 | 9.3 |
| Neck circumference (cm) | 12.5 | 15 | 15.5 | 11.5 |
| Shoulder length (cm) | 29 | 28 | 29 | 23 |
| Elbow-toe tip length (cm) | - | 15.1 | 17.5 | 14.5 |
| Front paw length (cm) | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.5 |
| Front paw width (cm) | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.2 |
| Ear length (cm) | - | 5.5 | 5.4 | 4.5 |
| Teeth (cm) | | | | |
| - Upper left | 0.96 | 1.00 | 1.10 | 0.94 |
| - Lower left | 0.81 | 0.98 | 0.98 | 0.89 |
| - Upper right | 0.97 | 1.05 | 1.03 | 0.93 |
| - Lower right | 0.82 | 0.95 | 1.00 | 0.90 |
| Testes length (cm) | - | 2.0 | 2.1 | - |
| Testes width (cm) | - | 1.5 | 1.5 | - |

* The ages of the cats were estimated based on their set of teeth, general body size, fur condition and markings.



SOM F1. Female African wildcat (*Felis silvestris lybica*) taking refuge on a small tree at 3 m height. Her ground colour is very pale and the dark apical tufts on the tips of the ears prominent (Photo A. Sliwa).



SOM F2. Adult male sand cat M2 recovering from the anaesthesia. Note the characteristic dark bands on the elbows which contrast strikingly to the pale ground colour (Photo A. Sliwa).



SOM F3. Adult male sand cat M2 hiding in a perennial shrub *Nucularia perrinii*, waiting for a prey animal to re-appear. The external antenna of the radio-collar is visible along his back (Photo A. Sliwa).



SOM F4. Adult male sand cat M2 waiting for prey at midnight amongst tufts of the perennial grass *Panicum turgidum*. He habituated to the research vehicle within 6 days after capture and the picture was taken from only 8 m away (Photo A. Sliwa).