

Enrichment evaluation for rescued lions taking into account behavioural and welfare priorities



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Introduction

Captivity impacts the behaviour of wild animals, especially long-ranging predators like lions. While **enrichment** is used to stimulate physical and mental activity in captivity, it often fails to address key behavioural and cognitive needs.

Aim

Evaluate and **improve** the **enrichment practices** at the FELIDA Big Cat Sanctuary by using the Animal Welfare Priority Identification System (AWPIS®).

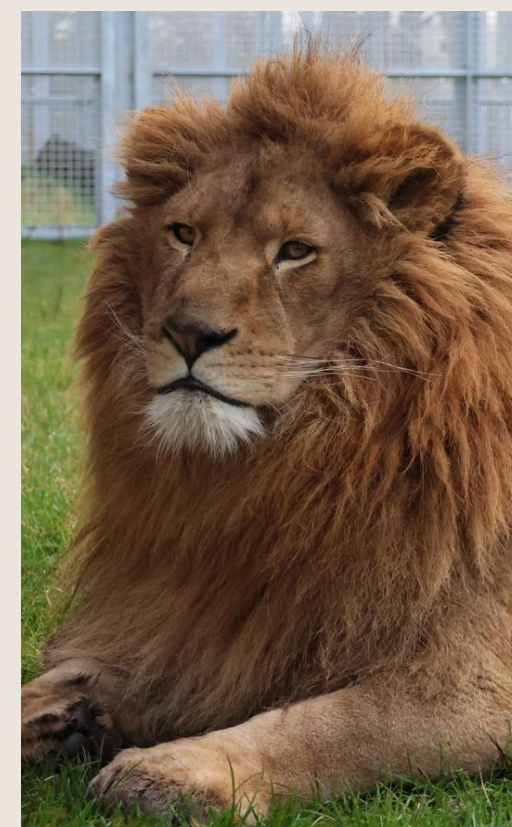
Materials and Methods

Behavioural observations of **three rescued lions** were conducted using the ZooMonitor software and a standardised ethogram, both before and after **moving** to bigger and more complex **enclosures** (N=2), and before and after introducing a **new enrichment plan** (N=3).

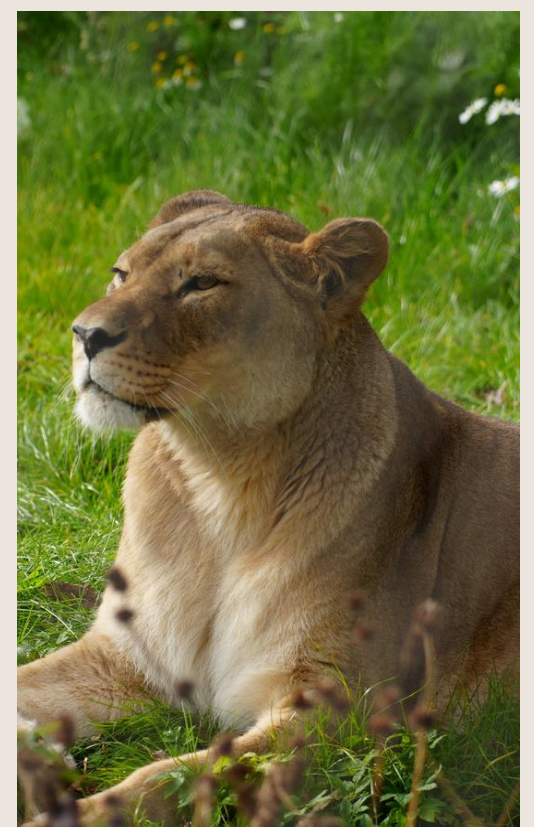
Elza



Simba

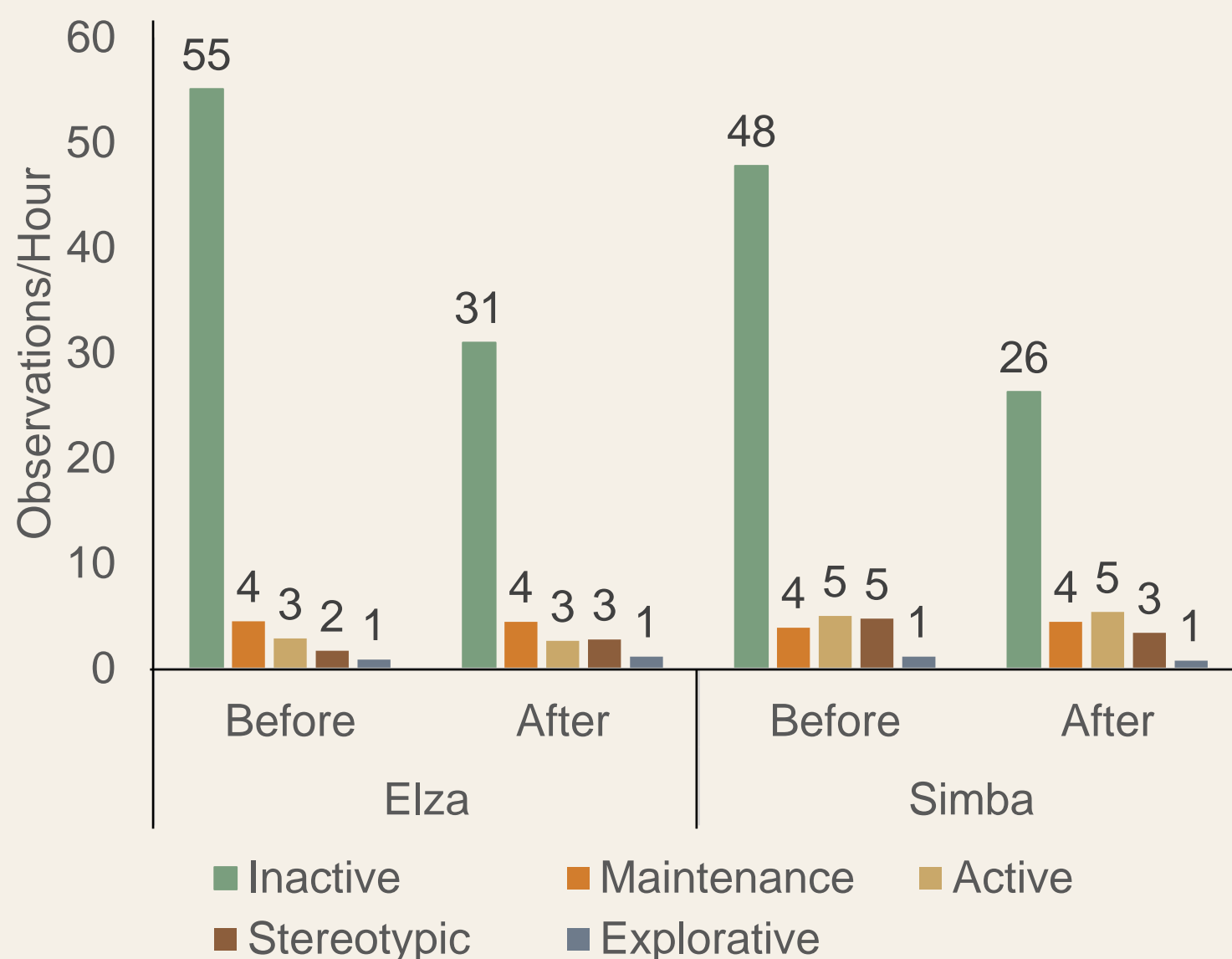


Manuschka

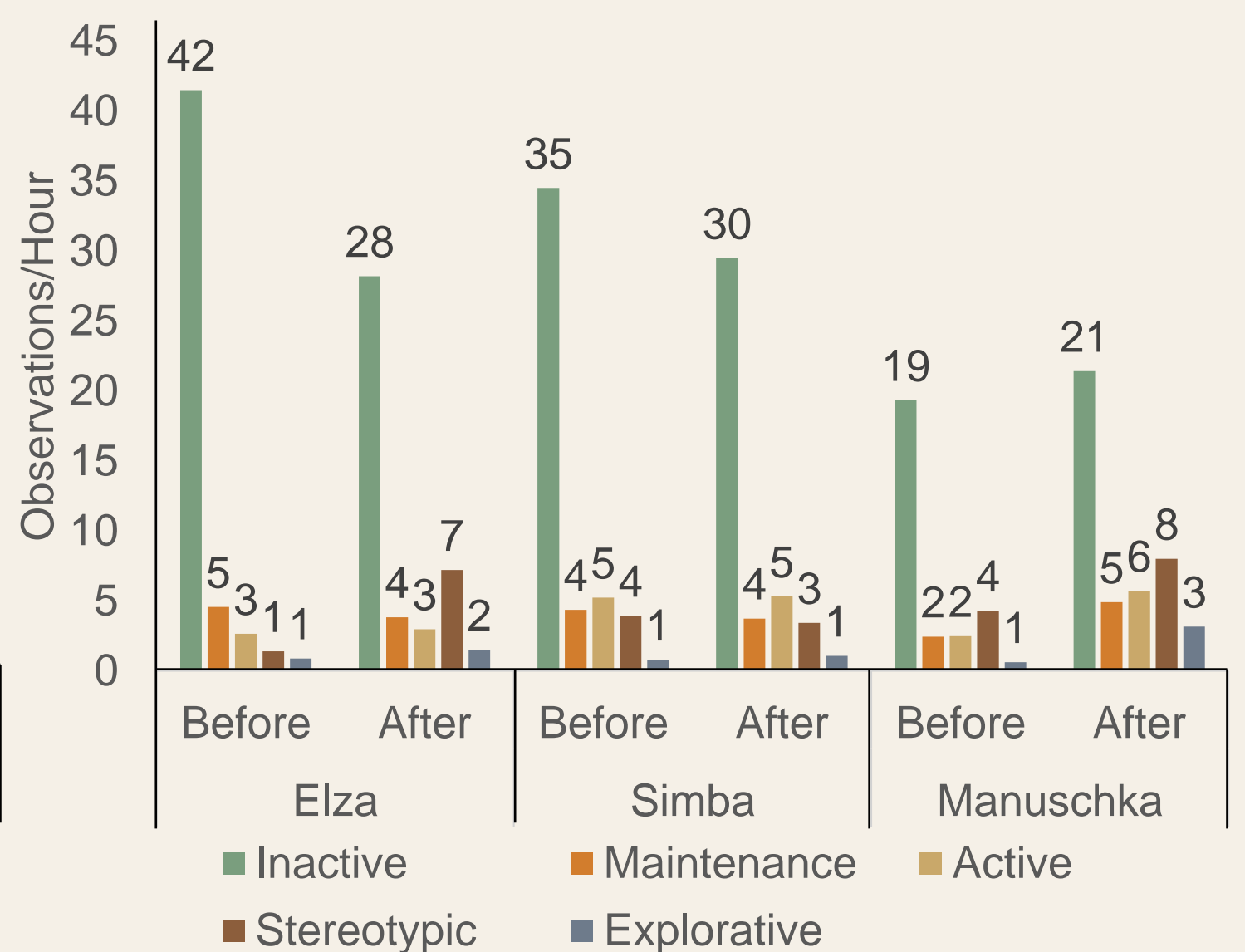


Results

Move to the new enclosures



Implementation of the new enrichment plan



- The **move** to the new enclosures resulted in a significant **reduction of stereotypic behaviours** in Simba, along with a significant **decrease in inactive behaviours** in both Elza and Simba.
- The **new enrichment plan** led to a significant **decrease in stereotypic behaviours** in Simba and a significant **increase in explorative and active behaviours** in Manuschka.

Conclusion

The findings highlight the **complexity of behavioural responses** to environmental and enrichment changes, emphasising the **need for specific strategies** that consider both **welfare priorities and individual needs**.