



CCF is a Namibian non-profit incorporated association dedicated to the long-term survival of the cheetah and its ecosystems.

RESEARCH

CONSERVATION

EDUCATION

cheetah.org



CONSERVATION



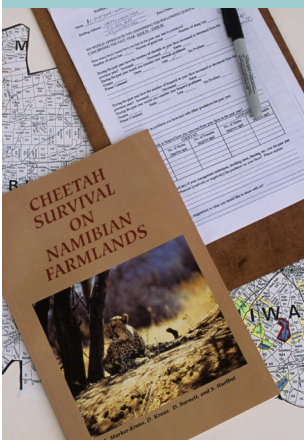
HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION

Ninety percent of Namibia's cheetahs live on livestock and game farms, outside protected areas, alongside rural farming communities. Sharing farmlands makes cheetahs more visible to farmers and puts them in contact with livestock and game farming enterprises. Cheetahs and other predators have been traditionally looked upon as a threat and not as a valuable component of a thriving ecosystem. To farmers, especially communal farmers who may be very poor, the loss of even a single animal can be devastating.

During the 1980's, livestock and game farmers cut the Namibian cheetah population by half, removing over 8,000 cheetahs from the landscape. Dr. Marker understood that to maintain ecosystem balance, conservation strategies must be put in place to encourage sustainable land use while accommodating coexistence with native predator species. To prevent further cheetah population decline, CCF began conducting research into conflict mitigation in 1991, and from this emerged CCF's integrated livestock and wildlife management training, **Future Farmers of Africa (FFA)**. CCF researchers develop and test predator-friendly livestock management techniques and tools on CCF's Model Farm. CCF promotes these solutions in farmer publications and media, and at agricultural shows, meetings, and colleges and universities and through FFA training courses.

The single most-effective, non-lethal predator control tool CCF has developed for farmers is the CCF **Livestock Guarding Dog (LGD)**. CCF breeds, trains and places Anatolian shepherd and Kangal dogs with farmers, at little cost, to help guard small stock like goats and sheep. The presence of the large dogs with exceptionally loud barks is enough to keep most predators at bay. Farmers who use CCF LGDs to guard their herds report a drop in predation rates ranging over 80%, thus reducing pressure on farmers to kill or capture cheetahs. Since 1994, the LGD program has placed more than 650 dogs throughout Namibia and has helped launch similar programs in South Africa with Cheetah Outreach, in Botswana with Cheetah Conservation Botswana, and in Tanzania in collaboration with the Ruaha Carnivore Project.

Conservancies in Namibia are a systematic approach to managing the nation's wildlife. CCF has been instrumental in advancing this system, which have effectively curbed domestic poaching of endangered wildlife species and are now considered the African model. Namibia's conservancy system is successful because it joins the fate of the people to the fate of the local wildlife, enabling humans and animals to thrive together. CCF has been involved in the Waterberg Conservancy since its inception and is a founding member of the Greater Waterberg Landscape (GWL), a large landscape initiative, and sits on its steering committee.



THE TOOLS FOR CONFLICT MITIGATION

CCF's farmer training book *Guide to Integrated Livestock and Predator Management* and teacher's resource book *A Predator's Role in the Ecosystem* are utilized in training to assist in Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation. The guide books give farmers and students the knowledge necessary to take non-lethal measures to prevent livestock losses. Activities like CCF's Kill ID chart (right) are used by CCF's education team. These resources are given to all CCF's coursework participants.

	Species	Tracks/Front/Back	Prey Location	Prey Size	Claw Marks	Stomach	Fang Location	Bite Marks	Parts Eaten	Bones	Other Evidence	cm	mm
A	Domestic Dog		Anywhere	0-40kg	None			35-50mm 3 fingers			Wool, fur, skin & remains scattered. No marks on meat	1	10
B	Caracal		Anywhere	10-25kg				20-30mm 1 to 1 1/2 fingers			Wool, fur pulled out & scattered. Does not eat skin or guts. Red hair or prey skin	2	20
C	Black Backed Jackal		Anywhere	0-50kg	None			19-23mm Not 3 fingers			Face & ears chewed or torn. From top of leg prey may be scattered from carcass. Head often missing with prey	4	40
D	Cheetah		Over 10kg	Over 10kg				30-35mm 2 fingers			Does not eat skin or guts	6	60
E	Leopard		Over 10kg	Over 10kg				40-45mm 3 fingers			Wool, fur pulled out & scattered. Does not eat skin or guts	7	70
F	Brown Hyena		Anywhere	0-50kg	None			47-58mm 3 fingers			Wool, fur, skin and remains scattered	8	80
G	Spotted Hyena		Anywhere	0-50kg	None			47-58mm 3 fingers			Heavy carcass remains. Will a large skin, no evidence remains	9	90
H	Wild Dog		Anywhere	All sizes	Clear marks on body	Fully eaten		70mm 4 fingers			Residue tissue damage	10	100
I	Alouatta		Anywhere	0-40kg	None	Fully eaten		27-30mm 2 fingers			Heavy carcass remains. Will a large skin, no evidence remains		

CCF BUSH AND BUSHBLOK

Cheetahs hunt using bursts of speed in open or semi-open savannah, however, because of unpredictable droughts, climate change, and certain livestock farming practices, native thorn bush species are encroaching on Namibian farmlands. Bush encroachment changes the habitat and the mix of prey species that can survive and it hurts the economy by reducing the amount of grazing lands.

In 2001, with the help of a USAID grant, **CCF Bush** was developed to encourage habitat restoration and to create a viable market for biomass products harvested in an environmentally and socially appropriate way. CCF Bush project has since selectively harvested thousands of hectares of bush to produce **Bushblok**, an award-winning low-emission, high-heat fuel log, from the harvested biomass. In 2008 CCF won the Tech Museum's Intel Prize for the Environment for the Bushblok innovation. CCF is developing ecological standards for ramping up bush harvesting with the goal of restoring landscape-scale tracts of cheetah habitat throughout Namibia. In 2006, CCF Bush obtained certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), confirming that it manages forest resources responsibly and sustainably. The Biomass Technology Demonstration Centre (BTDC) and Bushblok production operation provides 30 jobs for Namibians, with the potential to provide many more.



ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

Although trade in wildlife species products is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) both international and national laws, the Illegal Wildlife Trade is estimated to be worth between \$50-150 billion annually. Cheetahs, listed as an Appendix 1 species under CITES, are often removed from the wild for their body parts or, more so, the illegal pet trade.

CCF first became actively involved with issues involving the illegal trade in cheetahs in 2005. Since then, CCF has been monitoring cheetah trafficking and organizing confiscations through the proper authorities whenever possible. CCF collects genetic samples for analysis and trains staff at cheetah-holding facilities to ensure the proper care for confiscated animals.

CCF also works to educate the public about illegal trade. Even though the intrinsic nature of illegal wildlife trade makes it difficult to collect full or reliable information, CCF has recorded hundreds of cases involving nearly 2,000 cheetahs. Currently, CCF holds the most extensive database for cheetah trafficking worldwide. CCF takes every opportunity at national and international forums to ensure that the problem is not ignored. CCF participates in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) inter-sessional working group on the illegal trade in cheetah and was instrumental in making recommendations unanimously adopted by CITES at CoP17.

