Over 90% of Namibia’s cheetahs reside on farmlands, which also support 80% of their natural prey species. This leads to conflicts with farmers and their livestock and game farming ventures. To maintain ecosystem balance, conservation strategies must promote sustainable land use while facilitating coexistence with native predator species. Educating people about the cheetah’s vital role as an apex predator and training the next generation of African scientists is crucial for CCF’s sustainable programs. Fostering pride in wildlife within local communities is essential for the cheetah’s survival.

**FUTURE FARMERS OF AFRICA**

CCF developed Future Farmers of Africa (FFA) to teach integrated livestock and wildlife management techniques to land users and managers. FFA builds practical skills, enabling rural Namibians to engage in sustainable livestock farming that provides direct and indirect economic benefits. Training courses are conducted at CCF’s Field Research and Education Centre using CCF’s Model Farm and related agricultural enterprises as training facilities. In addition FFA workshops are also held in communal conservancies to reach the most remote rural farming communities. Topics include livestock health and veterinary care, livestock husbandry, fire prevention and suppression, livestock valuation, predator spoor identification, differentiating predator kill techniques and best practices to reduce livestock losses. Tools for non-lethal predator control, such as the use of CCF Livestock Guarding Dogs, are also part of the training.

**FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS OF AFRICA**

CCF’s educational programs reach around 20,000 students annually in Namibian schools, highlighting the value of wildlife and the significance of healthy ecosystems. Since 1994, over 750,000 students have participated in the outreach program. The Field Research and Education Centre also hosts thousands of young learners for environmental courses, accommodating them at the Camp Lightfoot overnight facility. Collectively, these efforts form CCF’s Future Conservationists of Africa program, which has been adapted for use in Somaliland as well.

**TRAINING FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

Cheetah survival relies on an integrated conservation approach involving people, wildlife, and habitat. CCF hosts training sessions for conservation managers, scientists, and community representatives from cheetah range countries in Africa, India, and Iran. Experts teach various subjects, including cheetah conservation biology, ecology, natural resource management, and predator management. The goal is to build capacity and empower participants to lead cheetah conservation programs in their respective countries, ultimately contributing to the establishment and growth of wild cheetah populations.
INTERNSHIPS
CCF is an official fourth-year placement for students from Namibia's major universities, the University of Namibia and Namibia University of Science and Technology. The organization also welcomes interns from various global undergraduate and graduate university programs. Aspiring biologists, ecologists, animal scientists, and geneticists pursuing degrees at all levels, from undergraduate to Ph.D., conduct research and thesis projects at CCF throughout the year.

CCF PUBLICATIONS
CCF has publications and resources for people who want to learn more about the species. Visit: https://cheetah.org/learn/resource-library/

BOOKS
Chewbaaka: My Life at Cheetah Conservation Fund - Dr. Laurie Marker & Jessie Jordan
A Future for Cheetahs - Dr. Laurie Marker & Suzi Eszterhas

SCIENTIFIC PAPERS
CCF's scientific papers are available online: www.cheetah.org/research/by-type/scientific-papers/

EDUCATION RESOURCES AND GUIDEBOOKS
International Cheetah Day Conservation Passport

CHEETAH STUDBOOKS
International: 1988 - present