



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



CONTENTS

THIS REPORT IS DEDICATED TO

everyone who lost a loved one in 2020, to the heroes on the frontline and to anyone who found themselves fighting a battle of some sort this year — whether large or small — we dedicate this to you.



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IN A WORLD THAT IS **Ŋb2IDE DOMM**

how do you know which way to go?



R Klein

Rebecca Klein
Co-founder and
Executive Director

At the start of 2020, we were happily carrying out business as usual. In February, a farmer training workshop with the Government's Youth Development Fund equipped new young farmers with tools of coexistence; our first student bush camp of the year was a great success and the research team had just finished a biodiversity monitoring study on farms near the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. Although talk of the COVID outbreak in Asia had begun, we were so far away that we didn't give it too much thought. But by March we began questioning, how can we continue supporting our communities if the situation continued to worsen? Like the cheetah, we would need to be resilient and adaptable.

Our initial 6-week lockdown in Botswana was strict – we were not allowed to leave the confines of our own properties without permits from the government. All of our field work including monitoring studies, farmers workshops, community engagement and student activities had to be cancelled and our staff arranged to work from their respective homes or at our remote field camp in the Western Kalahari. We kept busy with computer-based work such as data analysis, updating resources, reporting, fundraising, training, camp maintenance and all the work which often gets overlooked in the busy schedule of field activities.

Restrictions began to lessen towards the end of May and it wasn't long before the farmers began calling us for help. By June our LGD programme had restarted and our Research team was also back in the field continuing with spoor surveys and camera trap surveys for wildlife monitoring in the farmlands. However, schools were still closed so we needed to work out how to inspire young people about the environment in new and innovative ways such as our new book, Xabe: the Cheetah Hero!

Our research into the Kalahari's cheetahs has, over the years, uncovered that cheetahs in the farmlands of Botswana are incredibly resilient. They survive very well outside of protected areas, showing us that they are more adaptable than they are often given credit for. So, if one of the world's most specialized animals has the ability to adapt to changing circumstance and are able to survive in the face of so many challenges, then we as humans can certainly do the same in the face of this pandemic. From all of the CCB team to all of our friends around the world who have reached out during this time, those that have supported us and those that have helped us pivot and adapt our activities this year – we send out our warmest thanks on behalf of our staff, our communities and the cheetahs of the Kalahari.

2020 IN A SNAPSHOT

COVID-19 support for our target communities

Masks produced by village suppliers, soaps, hand washing stations, food hampers and COVID-19 awareness posters were provided to target communities in response to communicated needs



Livestock Guarding Dog Placements

11 LGDs placed in three days after receiving word of the impending lockdown



Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Strategy Developed

Based on research, locally relevant & holistic mitigation strategies are proposed under the UNDP Kgalagadi Ghanzi Drylands Ecosystem Project



Community playgroup restarts

Long after primary and secondary schools restarted, our community playgroup was permitted to reopen in Kacgae



Mobile workshops

62 farmers were engaged via site visits and mobile workshops in remote areas for small groups of farmers



Bush Camp

One bushcamp & several school talks conducted to engage over 300 school students with our activities



Lockdown

On the 30th March Botswana sees its first recorded cases of COVID-19 and lockdown ensues from 31st March for seven weeks



Xabe online art competition

Students in Botswana invited to submit artworks depicting scenes from our Xabe story book



Research studies in the Kalahari

Our biodiversity studies resumed including a month-long spoor survey in the WMAs and a camera trap density study in the ranches



Model farmers engaged

These farmers were capacitated to help us train LGD puppies so that we were able to place 27 LGDs in 2020



Virtual APM

With physical gatherings still considered high risk, our teams met virtually to review the year passed & plan ahead



JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

Hard lockdown nationwide

Gabs lockdown



Meaningful, sustainable conservation is about so much more than just animals. We cover all bases so that the Kalahari landscape can support both humans and wildlife now and long into the future through concerted coexistence strategies.



Farming for Conservation

The greatest threat to cheetahs in the Kalahari is the conflict that they face with livestock farmers. As such, our Farming for Conservation team work with farmers across the western Kalahari, helping them with tools and techniques that reduce their livestock losses to carnivores and therefore promote human-wildlife coexistence. When there is less conflict, fewer cheetahs are shot in retribution or in retaliation.



Engagement and Awareness

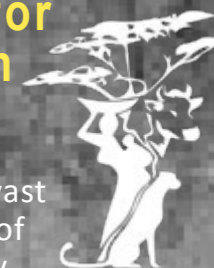
Our engagement and awareness-raising activities underpin all of our work and are carried out at all levels, whether it is our Education team working with school students, or our Farming team engaging with farmers. We also work with government policy-makers so that they can make informed, evidence-driven decisions. Our findings are shared with the wider general public for increased understanding of conservation issues.



HOLISTIC CONSERVATION IN ACTION

Communities for Conservation

This program is guided by two key principles - firstly that cheetahs need vast areas to live and without large swaths of viable habitat with plentiful natural prey, conflict with humans (particularly farmers) will only intensify. Secondly, that communities living closest to the natural resource base bear the costs associated with conservation of those resources and more often than not, are locked in a cycle of poverty. This program seeks to support host communities to fulfil their role of guardians of this resource base.



Scientific Research

All of our work is based upon sound scientific knowledge and our team of researchers are dedicated to investigating factors associated with human-wildlife conflict in non-protected areas. Their long-term monitoring of wildlife populations and of levels of conflict in our target areas also helps us to evaluate the success of our various interventions.





14
emergency
conflict calls
responded to
in 2020



conflict mitigation

The team continued to visit, assess, advise, experiment with & deliver various conflict mitigation tools and techniques. This included experimenting with lion scents to actively deter cheetahs and African wild dogs, with promising results.



school demo farms

CCB donated three goats to Kalkfontein Primary School for their school demo farm. The farm teaches students how to care for livestock and we are engaging with the school to share our carnivore-friendly farming techniques. The goat ewes had 4 kids this year, bringing their total herd to 7.



3
goats donated
for a pilot
school demo
farm



62
farmers
engaged
through site
visits



promoting coexistence

Our residential farmers workshops at our Education Centre had to be cancelled due to COVID, but our team adapted to conduct mobile workshops for smaller groups in rural villages in key cheetah areas.

FARMING FOR CONSERVATION



Our Farming team kept busy in 2020, promoting our mandate of supporting farming communities, encouraging information exchange, developing sustainable agriculture and facilitating coexistence with wildlife. Although bound by COVID-19 movement restrictions, the team had some significant highlights this year.



livestock guarding dog (LGD) program

Our team placed 27 LGD puppies with farmers in 2020. They are currently monitoring 84 LGDs that are working to protect livestock herds and reduce conflict between farmers and carnivores. A decade of CCB's LGD work was published in two scientific papers this year.



LGDs
reduced
livestock losses
by at least
85%



27
LGDs were
placed in
2020



model farmers

This year our model farmers were capacitated as additional LGD trainers. Mr Jeffrey Moyo (pictured) took 5 CCB LGD puppies and trained them at his farm before our teams took them for farm placements in November. Through our three model farmers, we are now able to considerably increase the number of LGDs placed every year.

COMMUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION



Landscape level conservation looks at the bigger picture, and seeks to work across jurisdictions, sectors and stakeholder groups in the interest of securing core ecosystem functions and biodiversity, whilst delivering social and economic benefits.

Nestled between two of southern Africa's most sizeable protected areas, the Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor hosts incredible natural beauty, some of the world's most threatened wildlife, and a handful of small, isolated settlements. Land use change and resultant habitat fragmentation are affecting the ability of wide-ranging wildlife species to remain resilient to the impacts of climate change, and increasing development pressures are enhancing conflict.

Our newest program, Communities of Conservation, considers these larger scale undercurrents, whilst focusing action at the grassroots level. Core to our work is facilitating nature-based local economies by working to empower local Community Based Organisations to better understand and manage their natural and cultural resource base. We also seek out reliable, experienced development partners to support the development aspirations of these communities in a manner compatible with long term conservation goals.

To this end, along with other partners, our teams offered technical and logistical support to the Community Trusts of Xwiskurusa and Au She Xha Ulu Trusts that work in these areas. A special session was designed during their AGMs to encourage communities to take stock of previous successes and failures with the aim of applying these lessons moving forward. Our teams are looking forward to working closely with the new Boards of the Community Trusts, which excitingly, are comprised 47% of women.

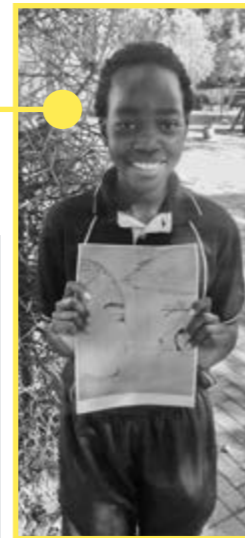
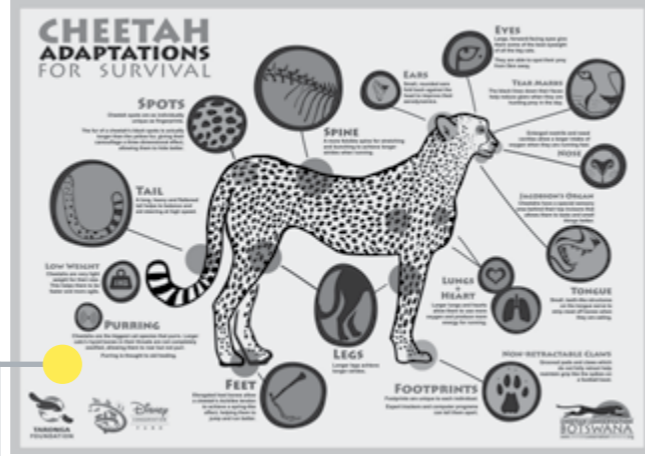
Implemented with the technical leadership of our partners – Learn to Play (LTP) – the community playgroup in Kacgae was designed to deliver early childhood development to children under the age of five who are not captured in the existing pre-school setup – thus ensuring each child in the village has access to critical developmental activities that lay the foundation for their growth. Delivered through trained, volunteer “Mamas” from the community, the playgroup started officially in February 2020, but before long was suspended due to the nationwide lockdown. In response, LTP designed a home visit program, which allowed the Mamas to continue to monitor and support the children despite the lockdown. The playgroup restarted in August and despite the tumultuous start, the year ended on a high with 36 children enrolled, five of whom graduated to government pre-school in December. The Mamas took further initiative by making food for the children as mid-day snacks, paid for by CCB. This has helped in enabling consistency of student attendance by supplementing their diet.

Prompted by the interest of the playgroup Mamas to enhance their computer skills, our in-house, certified ICT trainer conducted a skills-sharing session in Bere and Kacgae for nine local teachers and seven Mamas respectively. This is but one of many such sessions that we hope to deliver either directly or in partnerships with expert entities, based on the needs and interests of the communities.



CONSERVATION COMING FROM THE COMMUNITIES THEMSELVES IS THE MOST SUSTAINABLE





EAA Activities in 2020

Community playgroup with LTP
for kids that fall through the education system

Resources produced
for farmers, students, teachers and policy makers

Xabe art challenge
to illustrate our new children's book

Bush camps
were held briefly before the pandemic hit

School talks
continued through the year with strict protocols

ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

The EAA team's year, like so many others, started out in its usual way. We held bush camps and school talks and had wonderful plans in place for the year. But of course, our plans were postponed for a time when we would all be safe again. The restrictions on movements and gatherings affected the EAA team more than any other departments in CCB. With schools closed for a large portion of the year and restrictions limiting our access, particularly to government schools, we were unable to engage with kids as we would normally do. Thankfully, this only inspired us to become more creative in how we approach our work.

During lockdown we began engaging our supporters online, sharing our

student and teacher's resources on our website and increasing our output on virtual mediums. Although our rural communities usually don't utilise virtual learning, this became more common during lockdowns. In May we initiated an online art challenge for students in Botswana, asking them to illustrate scenes from our new children's story "Xabe the cheetah hero!" The storybook has been published and will be distributed to every school country-wide. We are very excited to share Xabe's story, which sees a local San boy save a cheetah cub from a poacher. We look forward to having a generation of Botswana students inspired by Xabe to protect wildlife.



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Researchers tend to flock around beautiful protected areas where wildlife is abundant and easy to see in the vast, open grasslands. However, this is not where cheetahs are threatened with extinction.

Our research team continued to stay on top of their game, leading the way in conflict mitigation research in non-protected areas. Despite setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year our team managed to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment for a mine opening up near the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, spoor tracked over 1000km of sand roads in the deep Kalahari, continued their biodiversity monitoring study in the Ghanzi District, (which is now one of the largest camera trap arrays ever conducted outside of protected areas) and are also busy doing a deep dive analysis of over 200 verifiable problem cheetah reports to identify common contributing factors.

This year also saw the publication of a decade's worth of data on our pioneering work on livestock guarding dogs. Published in two peer reviewed scientific papers in the Journal of Vertebrate Biology, the data shows that local landrace "Tswana" dogs are effective livestock guardians, reducing livestock losses by at least 85%, and that they are

better behaved and much cheaper than imported purebred dogs.

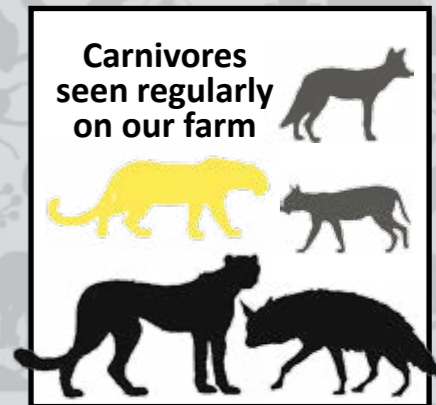
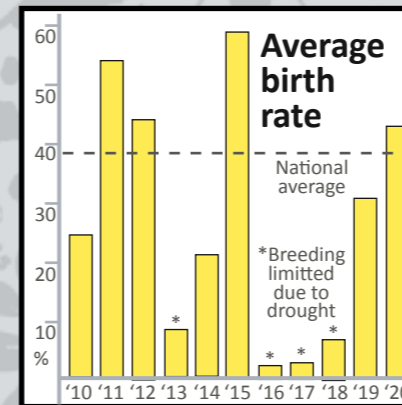
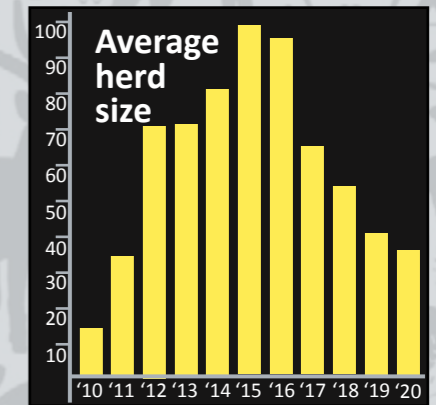
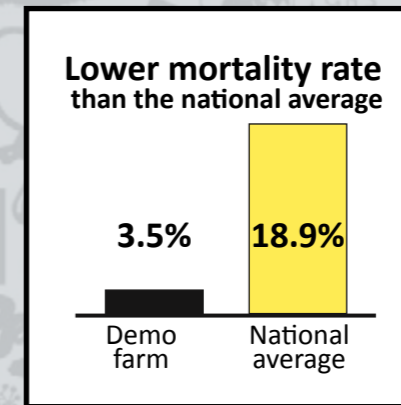
This year, CCB was privileged to form part of a coalition that drafted a Human-Wildlife Conflict Strategy, based on research, under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program's Kgalagadi and Ghanzi Dryland Ecosystem Project. The strategy offers locally relevant conflict mitigation mechanisms and roll out will be driven by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.



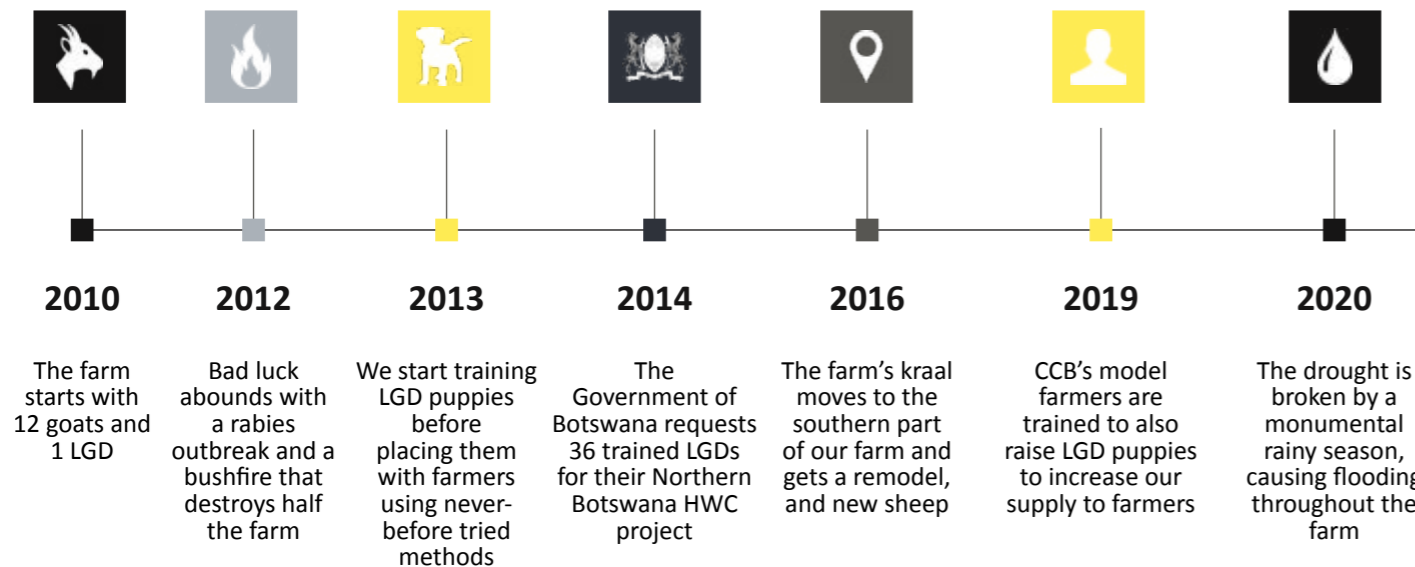
THIS YEAR WE STARTED ONE OF THE LARGEST CAMERA TRAP STUDIES EVER CONDUCTED OUTSIDE OF PROTECTED AREAS

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF OUR DEMO FARM

In November 2010, our demonstration farm started off with 12 goats and 1 LGD. Ten years later the farm has been visited by thousands of farmers and students, inspiring them to coexist with wildlife. In 2013 the site played home to our first trial run in training LGDs for placement with farmers. The unique experiment, which saw local Tswana LGDs trained for much longer before placement than other projects, was so successful that it paved the way for our LGD placement program that has since trained 156 LGDs. The farm has weathered bushfires and droughts, rabies outbreaks and floods. Throughout it all we have adapted, reflected, made a conscious effort to improve our operations and after ten years, we have a thriving farm that has only lost three goats to predation, in an area where some farmers report losing ten times that annually. Looking forward, we strive to continue to grow and develop a productive, sustainable, wildlife friendly livestock enterprise that continues to inspire farmers nationwide.



How did we achieve coexistence?



123 goats sold in the last 10 years resulting in over P120,000 in revenue

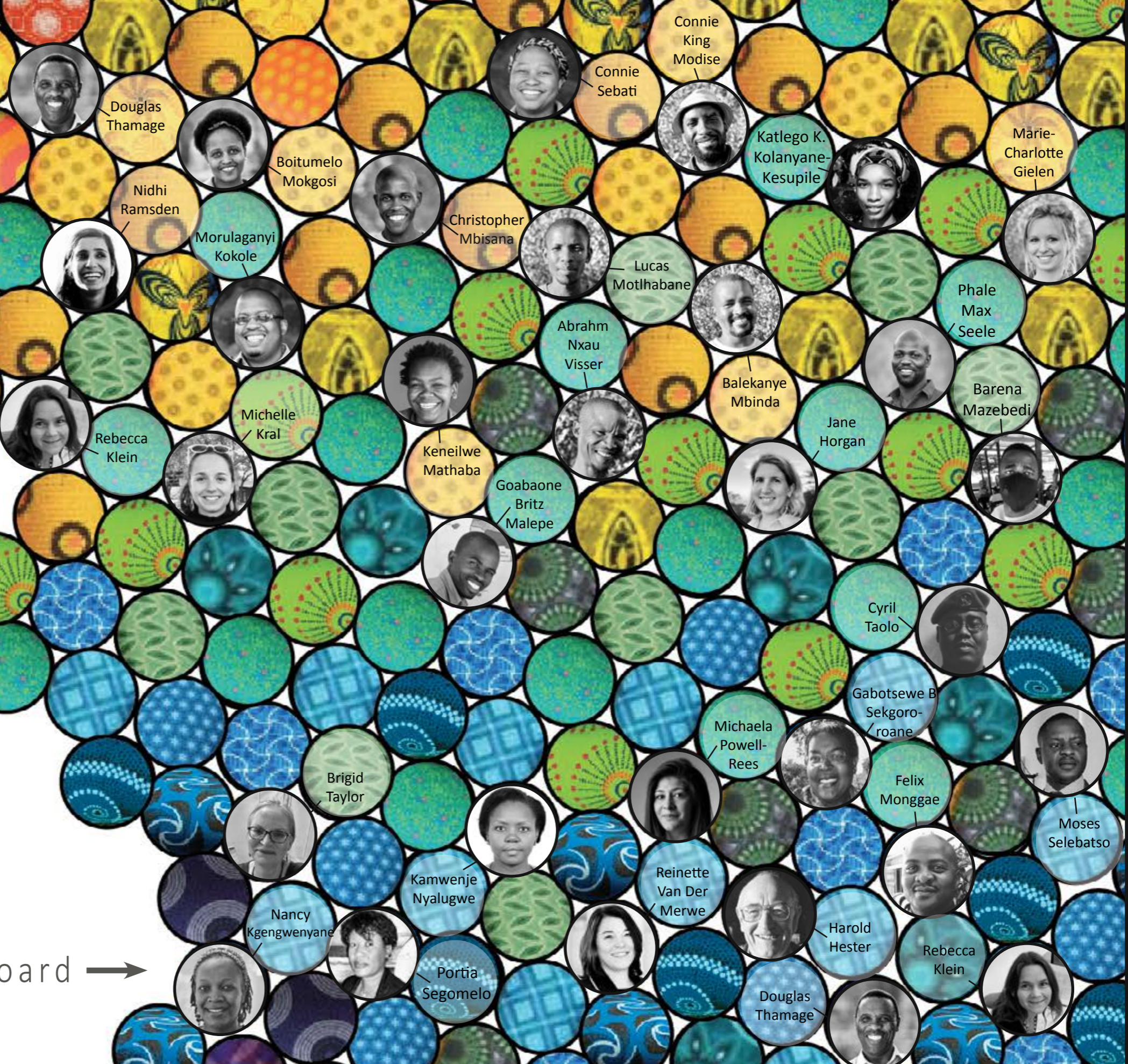


OUR TEAM

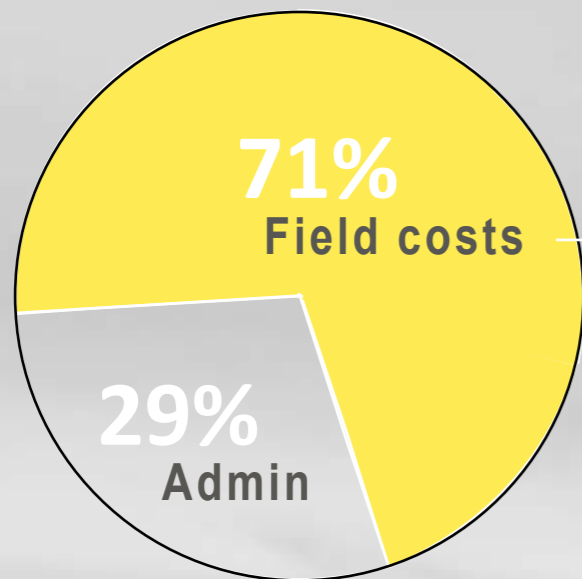
Our team went through their own fair share of hardships this year. Not only did they adapt incredibly well to our very strict lockdown which meant they couldn't leave their properties for six weeks straight, but they balanced their home lives, including homeschooling, while keeping up with work. Throughout the rest of the year, our staff kept abreast of changing laws and regulations while adapting our work in order to deliver our mandate of protecting wildlife and supporting communities. To our incredible team of dedicated staff and passionate board members — we thank you for your incredible resilience.

our staff →

our board →

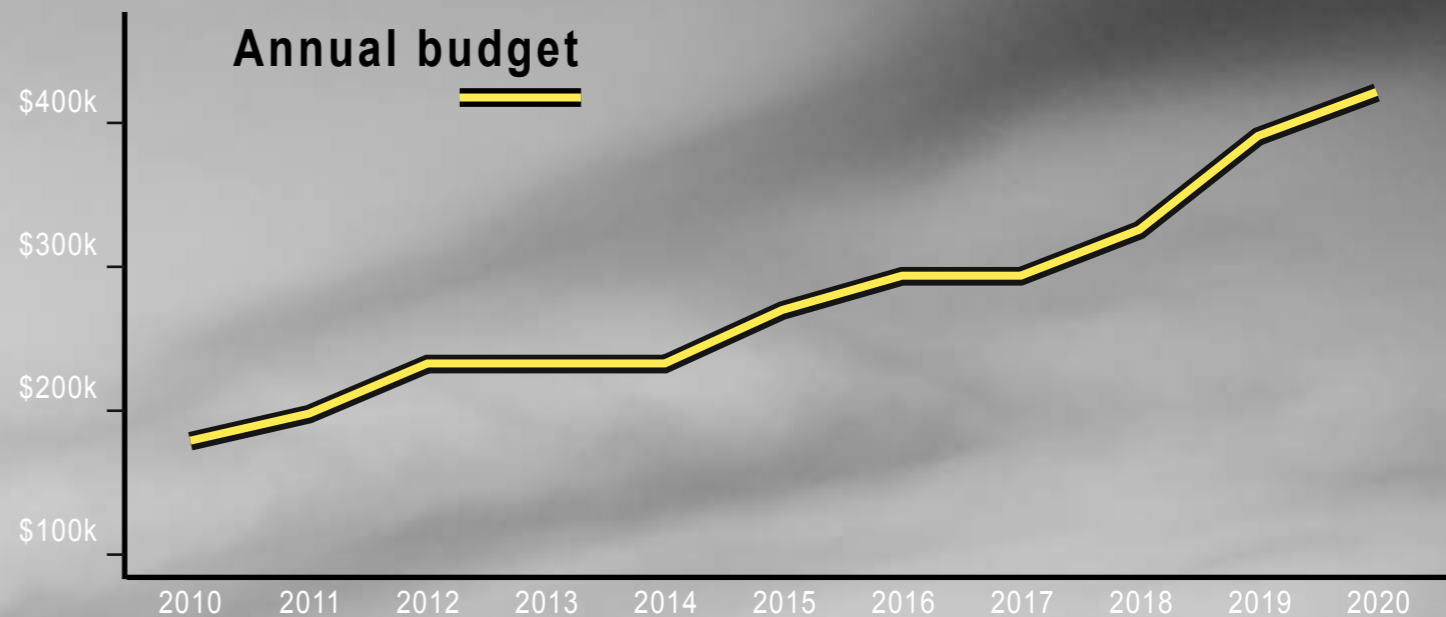


FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION



Expenditures by department

- 26% Farming For Conservation
- 17% Engagement & Awareness
- 16% Research
- 12% Communities For Conservation



Surplus reserves for organisational stability

- \$46k 2019
- \$225k 2020

100% of our staff stayed on full salaries in 2020

74% of our staff are local Botswana citizens

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS

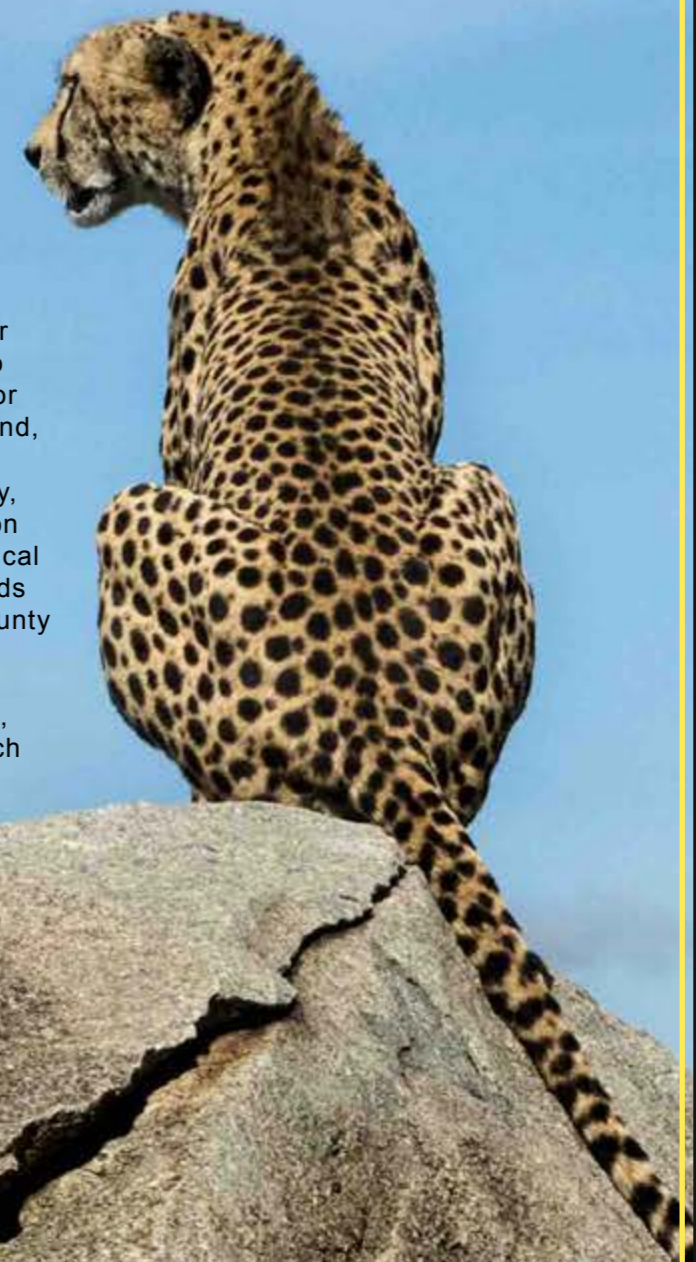
Behind the scenes there is a village that enables us to keep fighting the good fight in the Kalahari. We send our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has played a role in supporting us and the work that we do.

Individuals

Kathryn and Robert Vizas, Kenneth and Gabrielle Adelman, Shani Corbière, Elaine J. Olson, Mark Clark and Maria Colgan, Alan and Victoria Peacock, Cori Bargmann, Lise Buyer, Madeleine Delman Cohen and Jerry Cohen, Sudie Rakusin, Gloria and Kent Marshall, David Rickey, Donna Howe and Juan Loiza, M. Piuze Foundation, Rick McKenna, Meryt and Peter Harding, Caroline Ten Have, Bob Worth and Margaret McCarthy, David Farrell, Michael Hackett, Steven and Florence Goldby, Lance Williams and Grant Kretchik in memoriam of Mary S. Boardman, Linda Tabor-Beck, Mark Sinreich, Stephen and Lisa Robertson, Walli Finch, Carine Boekee and Joris Hutchison, Howe Ng and Aaron Hyland, Susan Carey, Alice Cizmar, Bev Spector and Ken Lipson, Brett Blumenthal and David Wax, Lori Laitman and Bruce Rosenblum Family Fund, Carol Guttery and Ken Voorheis, Cathryn Gabor and Rob Fuller, Caufield Family Foundation, Chris and Tim Davis, Chuck and Judy Wheatley, Dave Cortright, David Conrad, David Luckham, Doug Levin, Patti Perry, Geoffrey Rankin, John Loewy, Kellan Wolverton Kilbourne Memorial Fund, Kristine Karnos, Robert Fulton, Terilynn Langsev, Jocelyn Yonemoto, Valerie Horgan, Andrea Ewald and Stephan Meyer-Ewald, Kerry Sarnoski, David Sagara, Elizabeth Antell, Frans Lanting and Chris Eckstrom, Jeffrey and Sharon Morris, Kathy Gervais, Nancy Vandermey, Raminder and Anupa Bajwa, Robert Foster, Todd Ludeke, Justin Andelin, Dane Gillette, Graham Crawshaw, Jodi and Charles Gendrich, Anne Schukat, Candace Quinn, Carol Zoltowski and Alfred Gilbert, Dinah Sloan, Ian Lord, Jean-Gaël Collomb and Maria DiGiano, Joe Hollstein, Julie Wornan, Kellee Mitchell, Marie Scarpa and Jonathan Long, Patricia Malama, Shelly Ross, Susan Begelman, Teresa Marshall, Timothy DeRosett.

Organisations

Wildlife Conservation Network, WCN Conservation Acceleration Fund, Lion Recovery Fund, IUCN Save Our Species Fund, Remembering Wildlife, Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, Saint Louis Zoo, US Embassy Ambassador Self-Help Fund, Mohammed bin Zayed Conservation Fund, The Tapeats Fund, PISCCA French Embassy, Nashville Zoo, Stichting Wildlife, UNDP HWC strategy consultancy, CGMK Foundation, Wild Cat Education and Conservation Fund, Loci Environmental Mapping consultancy, Zoological Association of America, Wildlife Safari, Wildlife Tree, Kids for Cheetahs, Apple Match Gift Program, Milwaukee County Zoo, Feline Conservation Foundation, Qualcomm Inc, LinkedIn Match Gift Program, Thornhill School, Panther Ridge Conservation Center, Google Match Gift Program, Pfizer Match Gift Program, Raytheon Technologies Match Gift Program.



OUR WISH LIST

THIS YEAR OUR ONLY
WISH IS FOR HEALTH
AND PEACE FOR
EVERYONE

This year has been hard on everyone, for so many different reasons.

And we have felt the trials and heartbreaks that so many have experienced, alongside our friends and supporters that are spread across the globe.

Planning and coordinating activities for the future is incredibly challenging with the uncertainties that we are faced with at the moment. Our team is constantly re-evaluating and working to expand and grow our reach and improve the efficiencies of our work, all while trying to keep ourselves and our stakeholders safe.

But as 2020 has come to a close, we have found that although we continue to adapt to the new world order, our hopes and wishes for the days and months ahead are much simpler than usual. We want people to be safe. We want our loved ones close by. We want the vulnerable in our communities to be healthy and protected. We want support when things go wrong.

And we could really use a big hug from our friends and family that are so far away. But we know that it is only a matter of time before we can do that again.

For now, we send our love from the peace and serenity of the Kalahari bush. Stay safe.

Best Wishes

The CCB Team







be thankful



help others



keep safe

