

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



## A Note From Our Director

### Cheetahs are running out of time

It has been a tumultuous year for cheetahs. This year, a paper coauthored by the world leaders in cheetah conservation, including some of our own staff, stated that worldwide cheetah populations had halved in only a few short decades. With only 7,100 cheetahs left on the planet, it is clearer than ever that cheetahs are running out of time. Although cheetah populations are crashing, the one glimmer of hope is that our population in Botswana is one of the few that has remained stable. We are proud to say that the Botswana's cheetah population is maintaining itself, despite ongoing threats from persecution, poaching and the ravages of drought. With cheetah numbers in other countries dwindling, it is more important than ever to secure this population as one of the last strongholds for the species. The time to act is now.

Thanks to the support we receive, Cheetah Conservation Botswana has grown significantly in 2016, with four new staff members and two new long-term volunteers joining our team and a new office opening up in Maun. Our expansions allow us to increase the reach with our projects and enables us to provide more intensive support to communities suffering from conflict with carnivores.

Our dedicated team continues to work tirelessly to promote coexistence throughout this beautiful land. We know that if communities are able to live alongside wildlife harmoniously, we can prevent the collapse of the ecosystem on which we are all so reliant. It is not just cheetahs that we are fighting for - it is the preservation of nature as a whole. With the cheetah as our flagship species, we hope to show people that it is not only possible to live alongside wildlife, but that it can be beneficial and even rewarding. The threat of extinction facing cheetahs right now is a reminder to us that the ecosystem is delicately balanced, and it is our responsibility to preserve it.



Botswana

2016 cheetah range

Thank you to everyone for your support!

1900 cheetah range

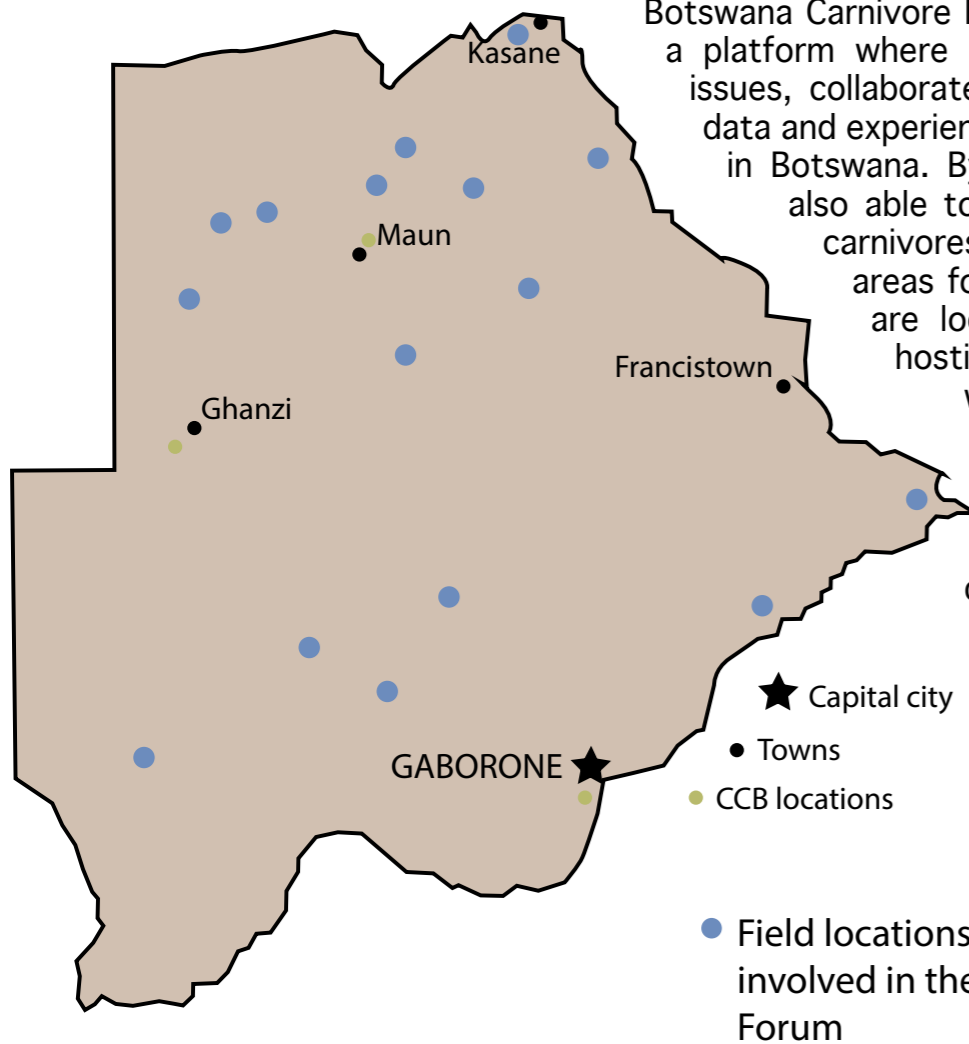
**Rebecca Klein**  
Executive Director

# New Developments in 2016

## CCB heads up national carnivore forum

In March 2016, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks tasked CCB to organise a workshop for everyone involved in large carnivore work in the country with the help of SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund. On completion of the workshop, all 55 participants had agreed to share their data in an unprecedented show of collaboration to create a country-wide occupancy, distribution and population study for each of the six large carnivore species in the country (lions, leopards, cheetahs, wild dogs, spotted hyaenas and brown hyaenas).

The workshop also marked the formation of the Botswana Carnivore Forum (BCF), which provides a platform where conservationists can discuss issues, collaborate on ongoing projects, share data and experiences to help make a difference in Botswana. By combining forces we were also able to identify key areas for large carnivores, and have earmarked priority areas for ongoing research work. We are looking forward to the forum hosting many more collaborative workshops like this in the future, and we are excited to be working with this dedicated team of passionate conservationists.



**55**

**the number of researchers and conservationists**

who attended the Large Carnivore Workshop in March 2016.

During the workshop, the attendees collated their data and knowledge of large carnivore distribution and densities in the country for the first time in Botswana's history.



Photo credit: Doug Gimesy Photography

**259**  
the number of farmers who attended our farmer training workshops in 2016

## New farmers networks helping to unite communities

In a country as vast as Botswana, it can be hard for farmers from different areas to connect on any valuable level. Thanks to a grant from the European Union Empowerment of Non State Actors Programme, CCB was able to establish two farmers networks in areas that host Botswana's valuable cheetah populations. Workshops conducted by CCB helped link the farmers to each other and allowed them a useful forum to discuss issues regarding carnivores and techniques that have worked for them to minimize depredation. CCB will continue to provide valuable support services, including the placement of LGDs with interested and committed farmers from within the networks and elsewhere.

## Shelter puppies get a new lease on life as livestock guarding dogs

Our livestock guarding dog (LGD) programme is well under way, and a new partnership in 2016 has seen CCB receiving dogs from the Botswana Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BSPCA) to give them a second chance at life as cheetah ambassadors. All the LGDs that are placed through our programme receive free sterilizations, inoculations, parasite control and emergency veterinary care. These dogs are protecting livestock around the Kalahari and are contributing to our vision of coexistence between farmers and cheetahs. Thank you Dr. Mark Bing and the Vetswana team for all your continued support with the veterinary care of these brave dogs and thank you to the BSPCA for this new and exciting collaboration.

## A Second Chance at Life

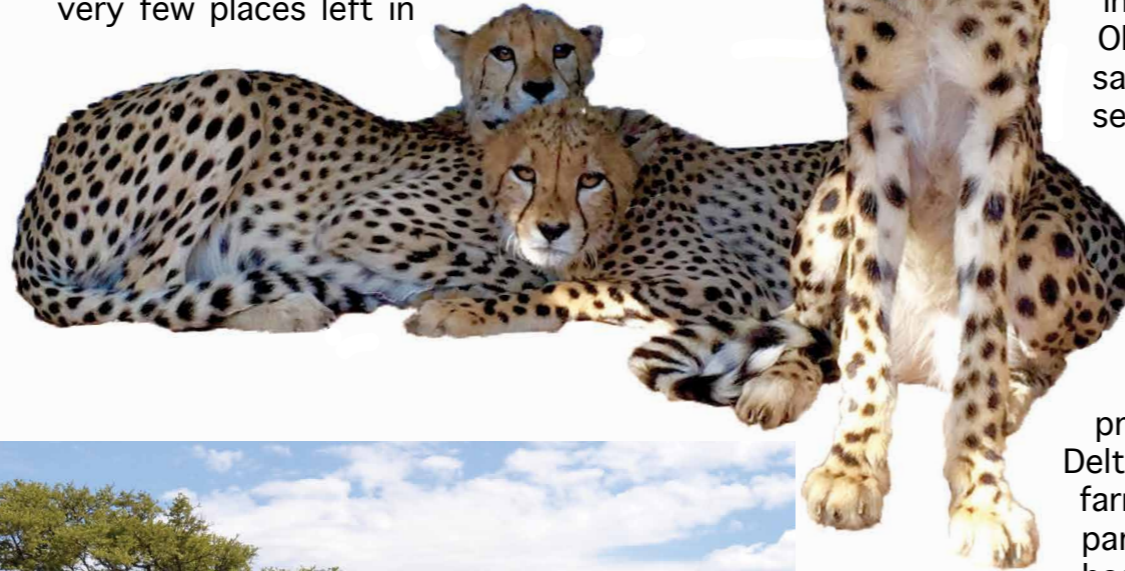
**W**ever before had so many cheetahs been moved across Botswana at one time.

Two separate groups of cheetahs thrust into conflict with farmers following a particularly devastating drought that had lasted several years. Both farmers were threatening lethal action – the old adage that we were so accustomed to now: “Take your cheetahs off my farm or I will shoot them!” With the drought in full force and the livestock in the area already dying *en masse*, both cheetahs and farmers were under pressure. We had run out of options and our farmers had run out of patience. We knew that translocations were not the ideal solution for cheetahs – as it is not easy for a cheetah to establish itself in a new area. Leaving them however, meant that death was an absolute certainty.

With the help of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, we managed to catch a group of three newly independent adults and, on a separate farm, a farm owner

had captured a mother and her five cubs. With the help of our friends from the Vetswana veterinarian clinic we managed to anaesthetize and collar one of each of the two groups so we could monitor their movements after they were released. We knew from our research that they had less than a one-in-five chance of surviving out the year, so the collars were imperative for us to be able to check up on how they were doing.

In order to find a safe place where these cats could be released we needed an area with enough food and water for them to survive, but also with few competitors like lions or farmers. Lions and humans were the two biggest threats to cheetahs and unfortunately there are very few places left in



Both farmers were threatening lethal action. The old adage **“Take your cheetahs off my farm or I will shoot them!”**

Botswana that had neither. Thanks to some help from fellow researchers from Botswana’s Swamp Lions Project we found a secluded part of the Okavango Delta where antelope were prolific, lions were relatively uncommon and livestock was safely far away.

Much to our surprise, one year on, seven of the eight cheetahs are still alive and thriving. The mother – Sedidi, and her cubs, set up their territory not far from their release site and have made a new home for themselves there in the western parts of the Okavango Delta. However, safari operators in the area see Sedidi and her cubs on a regular basis and say that they look to be in excellent health. Remarkably the coalition of three adults also survived, despite fleeing the protection of the Okavango Delta and transversing the farmlands west of the panhandle on an epic voyage back and forth across the

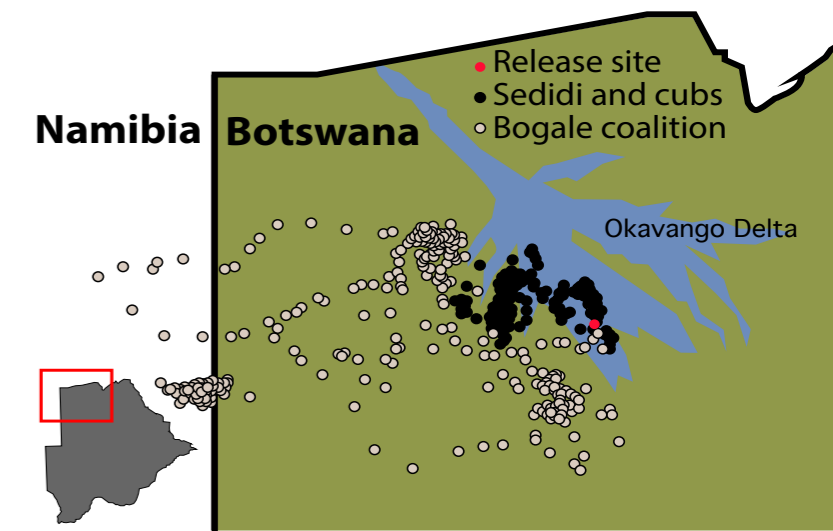
Namibian border. They seemed to have settled in a very remote part of northeast Namibia near the Nyae Nyae Conservancy.

With the combined efforts of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Vetswana, & Beyond Safaris and Thakadu Bush Camp we were able to relocate and release these cats and give them the best possible second chance



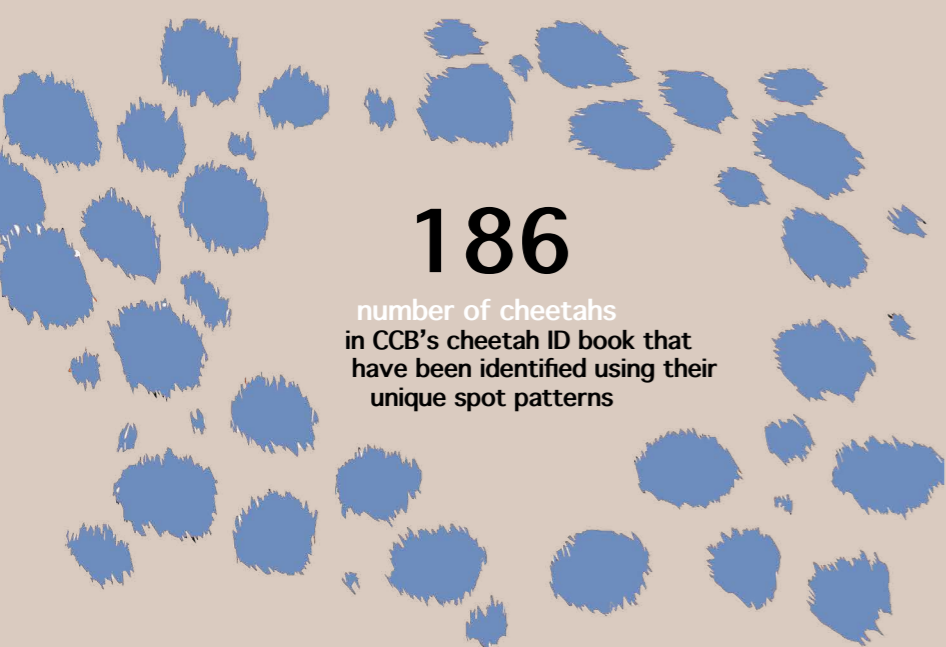
at survival. Most importantly, we will never forget those farmers who chose to call us for help rather than reaching for their guns and ending the lives of these cats. The survival of this species truly does lie in the hands of the farming communities with which they share their habitat. It is thanks to the commitment towards coexistence shown by these farmers that these cheetahs are still alive today. We can only hope that they can survive the many threats that will no doubt come their way.

**Tsamaya sentle banaka. Go well little ones.**



Research results

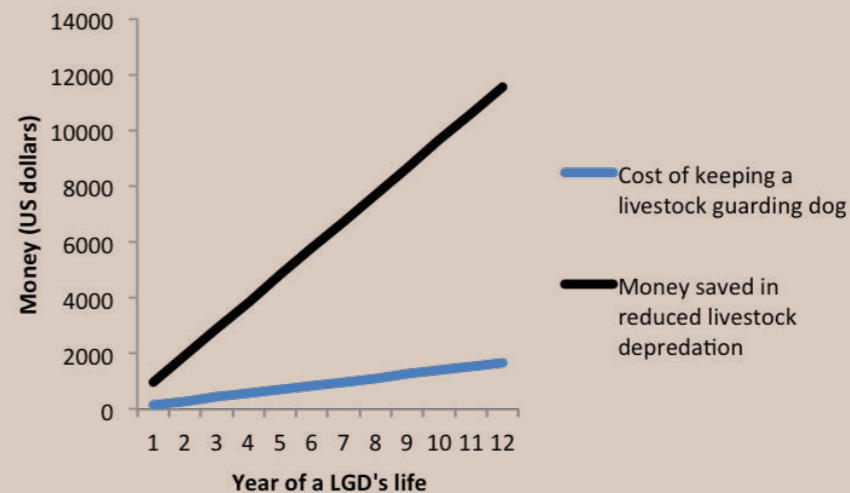
It's All in the Numbers



**US\$9,634**  
the profit each farmer brings in if their Tswana livestock guarding dog lives to be 12 years old

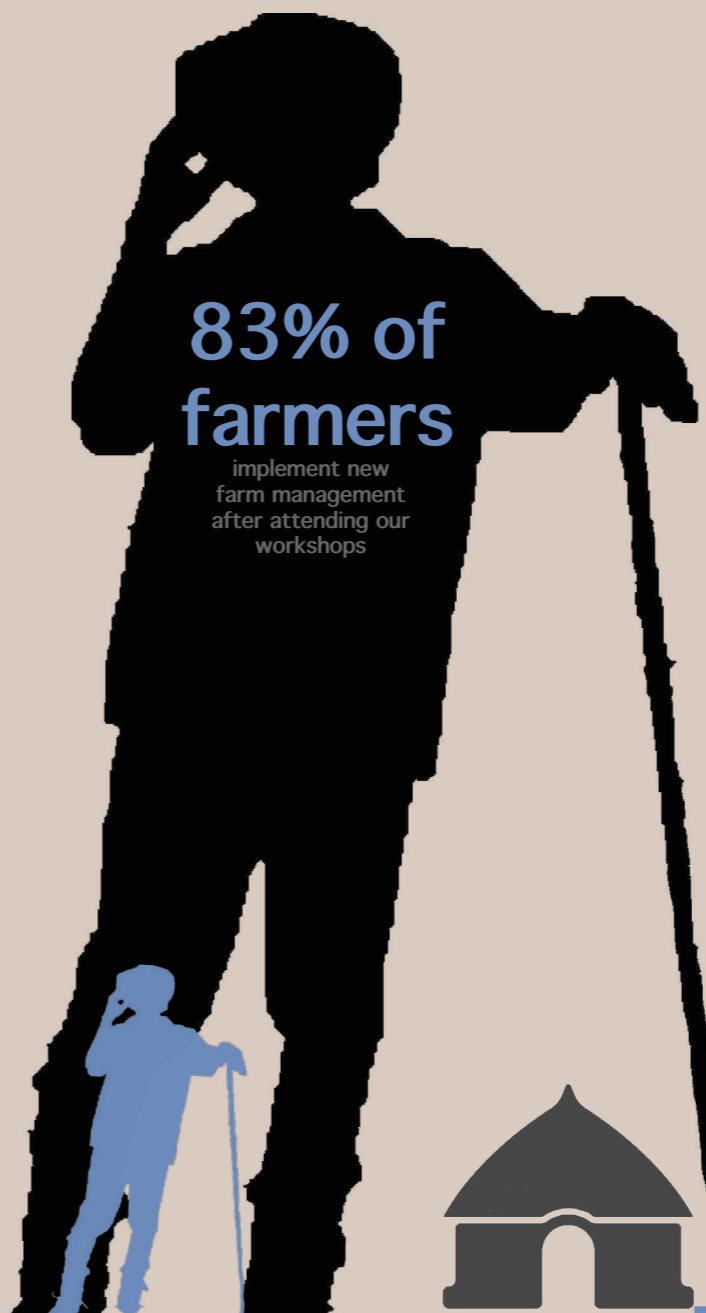
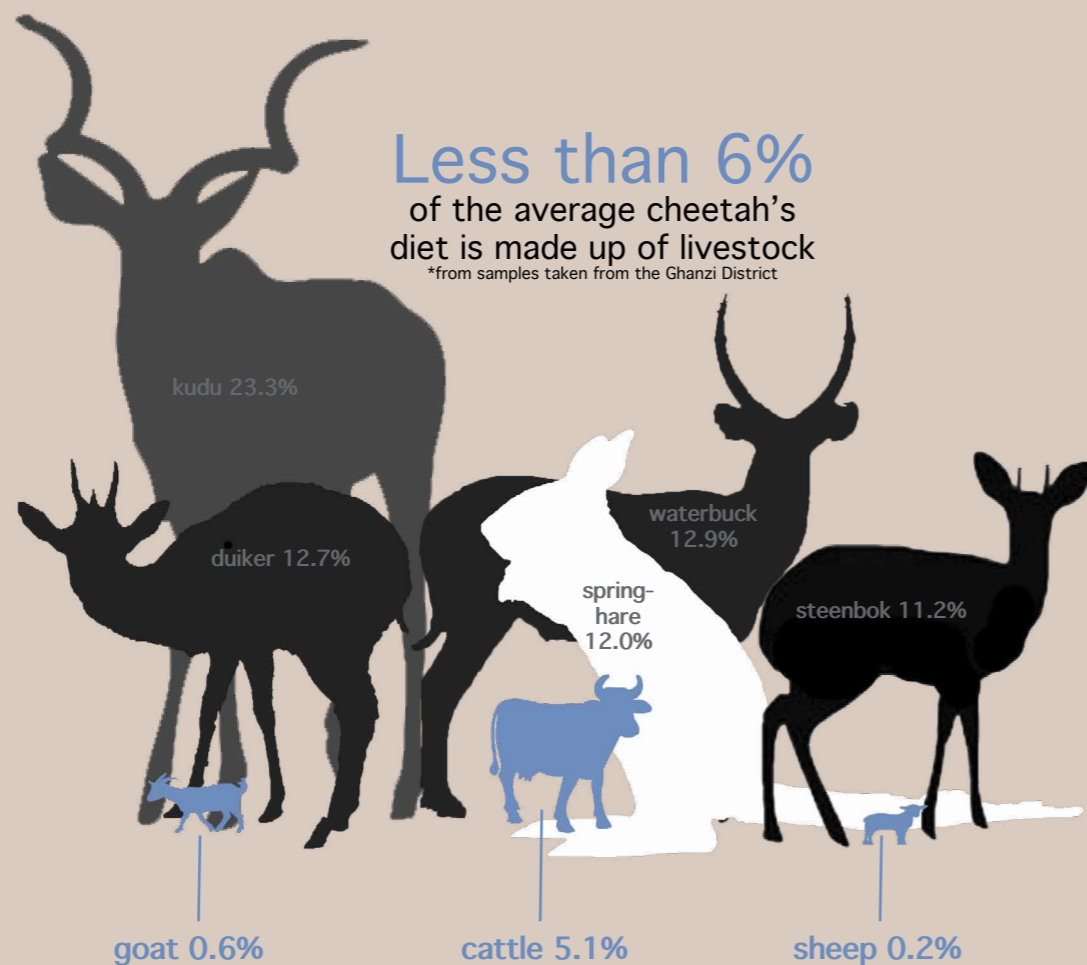


**1 in 5 farmers** will shoot cheetahs indiscriminately (even when there is no threat to livestock)



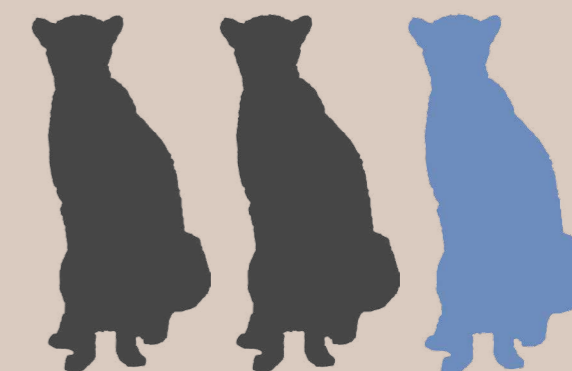
Countries where cheetahs have already gone extinct

- Afghanistan
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- India
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kuwait
- Malawi
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Rwanda
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Sierra Leone
- Tajikistan
- Tunisia
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan
- Western Sahara



**83% of farmers** implement new farm management after attending our workshops

**Only 1 in 3 cheetahs** will still be alive one year after translocation/relocation



**2x**  
Cheetahs were twice as likely to visit cheetah marking trees than homesteads



## How One Dog Saved Hundreds of Cheetahs

**S**he arrived at our demonstration farm as a puppy, on a cold winters' day in 2010. A greyhound crossbreed, she was to be our newest livestock guarding dog (LGD) - guarding our goat herd against the wide variety of carnivores that wandered on our farm in the Ghanzi District. "Phiri" (which means hyaena) joined the CCB team to protect our 16 goats, working alongside "Tau" (meaning lion), who had been guarding the goats since he himself was a pup.

Over the years, Phiri developed into a wonderfully efficient LGD, and as she grew,



our somewhat humble herd of 16 goats expanded into a bustling mob of 150. Phiri and Tau formed a formidable team - protecting our goats from leopards, cheetahs, hyaenas and jackals that were seen regularly near the herd. As well as having the dogs, we also incorporated a slew of farm management methods that are known to reduce livestock losses. Annual breeding seasons, regular medical checks and corralling vulnerable livestock like goat kids and injured animals were all conducted to help protect our goats from predation. Nearby farmers were losing up to 20 head of livestock a year to carnivores, but thanks to our LGDs and those "predator-friendly" management techniques, we only lost two goats to carnivores in six years.

Not only was it Phiri's job to protect her goats, but she also became a teacher. CCB initiated a LGD training programme, where puppies would be trained at our farm before being placed with farmers experiencing conflict with cheetahs. Our research had shown that the best way to teach LGDs how to protect livestock was through the example of an experienced LGD, and Phiri was just the dog for the job. As the years rolled on she mentored 65 puppies that were eventually placed out on the frontline of conservation, helping contribute to improving the lives of many farmers and cheetahs in Botswana.

The demonstration farm was established in 2010 to help show farmers how its possible to farm alongside carnivores without losing livestock. Farmers who attended our workshops at our education centre in Ghanzi were now able to see firsthand how these management techniques worked. Everyone who visited the farm were impressed by the loyalty Phiri and the other guard dogs showed towards the goatherd.

"I seldom gush, but I am feeling happy and content at the way the dogs I have recently neutered have been treated, and how happy they all were. CCB is doing a magnificent job and need commending."

- Dr. Mark Bing

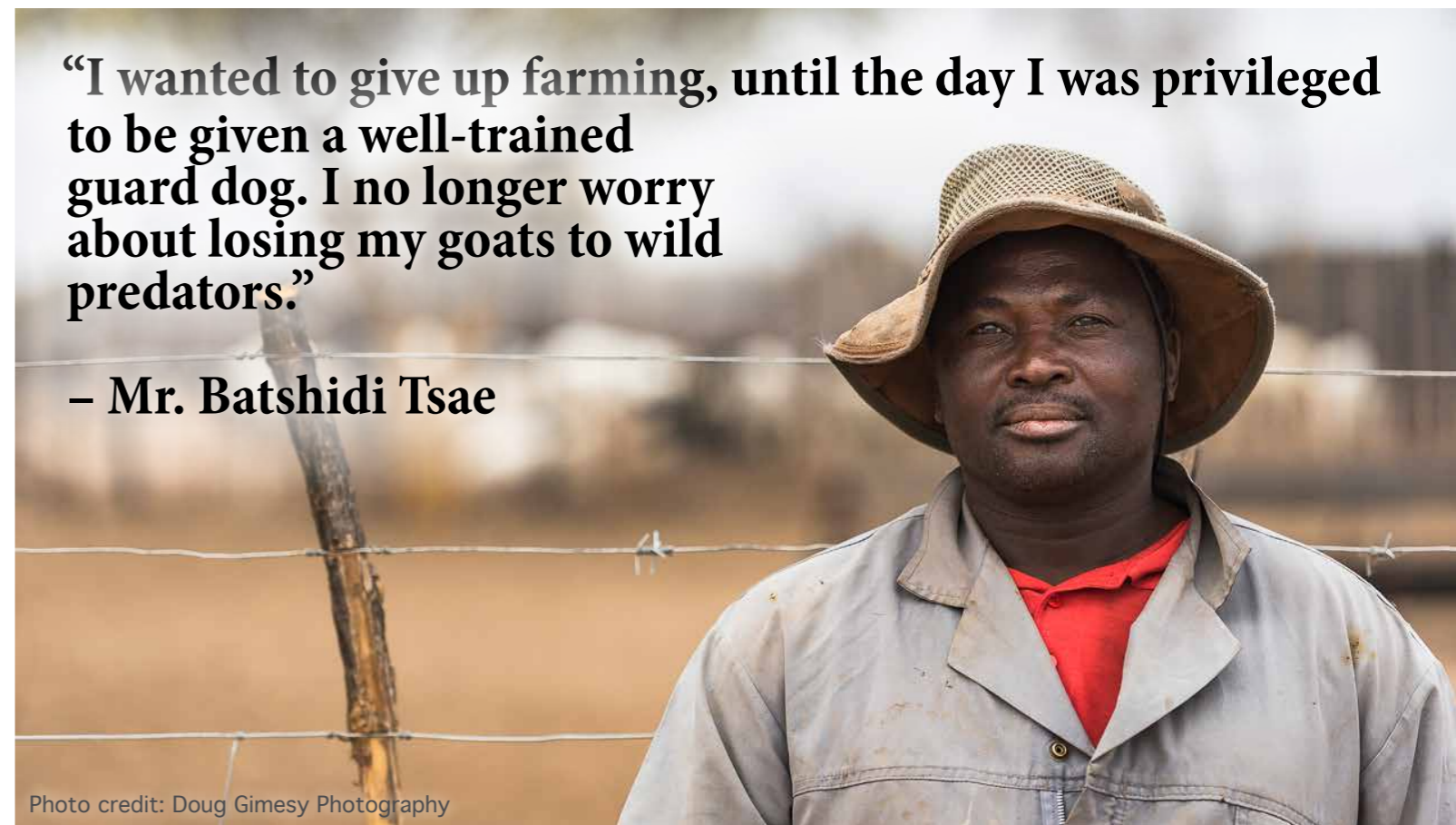
During a particularly windy week in 2012 our herd broke the confines of our farm and completely disappeared. For five days our entire team searched for them to no avail. The winds had erased their tracks and the vastness of the Kalahari farmlands meant that no one had seen them in their wanderings. Knowing that Phiri and Tau would have no access to food or water, we expected them to return back to our camp after a few days - but they never showed. We started to fear the worst, knowing that few animals would be able to survive the harsh Kalahari for more than a few days with no food or water. Late on the fifth day, we received a phone call from a farmer near the Namibian border. He had seen our goat herd wandering near his farm and had recognised Phiri and Tau from when he had visited CCB during a farmers' training workshop. We were amazed to discover that despite having no food and water for five days, both

Phiri and Tau had remained with the herd - protecting their goats despite exhaustion, dehydration and hunger. Despite having travelled almost a hundred kilometers on their five-day adventure, every single goat was accounted for and unharmed. It was only after that experience did we fully comprehend the formidable strength of the bond that existed between the goats and their guarding dogs. After that we knew - these animals were family and they would stick together for life.

Sadly, Phiri passed away in December 2016 - working until the day she died to protect her adopted family of goats. She was an ambassador for livestock guarding dogs around Botswana and was an inspiration to all of us at CCB. We will miss you Phiri. Thank you for protecting our goats and showing farmers how amazing LSGDs can be.

**"I wanted to give up farming, until the day I was privileged to be given a well-trained guard dog. I no longer worry about losing my goats to wild predators."**

- Mr. Batshidi Tsae



## Creating a Passion for Wildlife

This is the face of a little girl seeing an elephant for the first time. One minute the schoolkids would be chatting away like a group of pied babblers and the next minute they would be stock-still and breathless, staring at an elephant that was so close you could smell him.

On top of our usual education activities like school talks and bush camps, this year CCB were lucky enough to take local primary school students into one of the world's most famous wildlife areas – Moremi Game Reserve. The students involved were taking part in our Coaching For Conservation (C4C) after school programme – a new collaboration forged between CCB and the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust.

This new partnership helped up to reach 205 students this year with the 8-lesson education programme, and allowed them a special day trip into the game reserve.

Most of the kids involved in the C4C programme lived in communities surrounding one of the world's most awe-inspiring natural wonders – the Okavango Delta. And yet, despite being so close to this World Heritage Site, very few of these students had ever visited the delta.

Our education programmes teach children about the important roles that each species fills in the ecosystem. We teach them about human-wildlife conflict and how communities can use methods to mitigate conflict with wildlife. We go into schools and show them photos and videos of Botswana's most impressive animals, and although their interest is spiked, there is nothing quite as amazing as being able to show them a living, breathing, wild animal right in front of their eyes. With these bush trips, we were able to give these kids memories that would last them a lifetime.

Not only do the bush days give the children a chance to fall in love with wildlife, but it was important that for the first time, many of these children were experiencing a positive association with wildlife. The kids also got a great insight into how the tourism industry is run. Thanks to a generous donation from Letaka Safaris and Hillary's Cafe, these kids enjoyed their bush day in exactly the same fashion as high-paying tourists; complete with custom-built safari vehicles, packed lunches and their very own guides. By getting more of an understanding about the tourism industry the kids were better able to understand how Botswana benefits from its natural resources.

We also encouraged the guides to share

“Today was the best day of my life, because I got to see a lion!”

William (10 years old)  
Leopotswe Primary School

their own stories with the kids, and this too provided great inspiration as to how wildlife can benefit people living in Botswana.

“My education was paid for by elephants.” one of the guides told the children. Understandably, they were a little confused at first, until he explained. “My mother couldn't afford to send me to school or to guide-training, because it is very expensive. So she made baskets from palm leaves to sell to tourists to raise enough money for my schooling. The palm trees from which she got the leaves, only exist because the elephants eat the palm nuts and distribute them far away so they can grow. If it weren't for the elephants, there would be no palm trees. If there were no palm trees, my mother wouldn't have been able to make her baskets and wouldn't have been able to send me to school. That's how elephants paid for my schooling.”

We continue our work in increasing awareness of wildlife's role in Botswana's ecosystem and economy. This year we were able to reach 487 kids with our school talks and we hosted 142 students at our Kalahari Bush Camp. We are, however, very excited that now, with our new relationship with Letaka Safaris, we can show the children exactly why wildlife is such an important natural resource and why they need conserving. It is our hope, that by providing children with life-changing experiences, they will grow up nurturing and caring for Botswana's environment and wildlife long into the future.

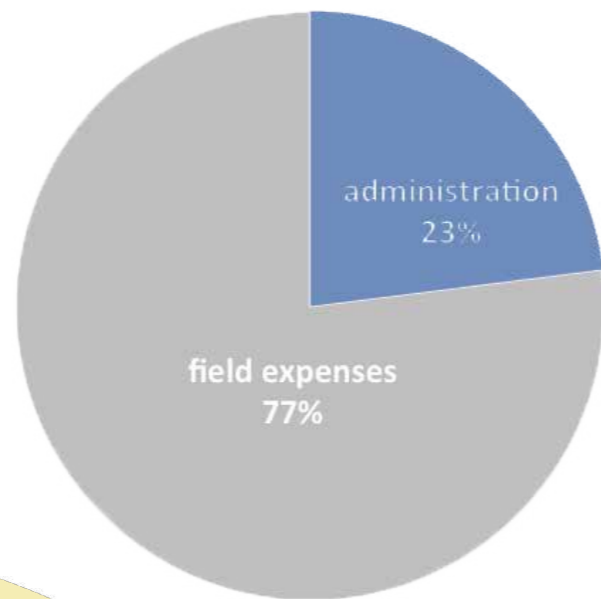


Photo credit: Doug Gimesy Photography

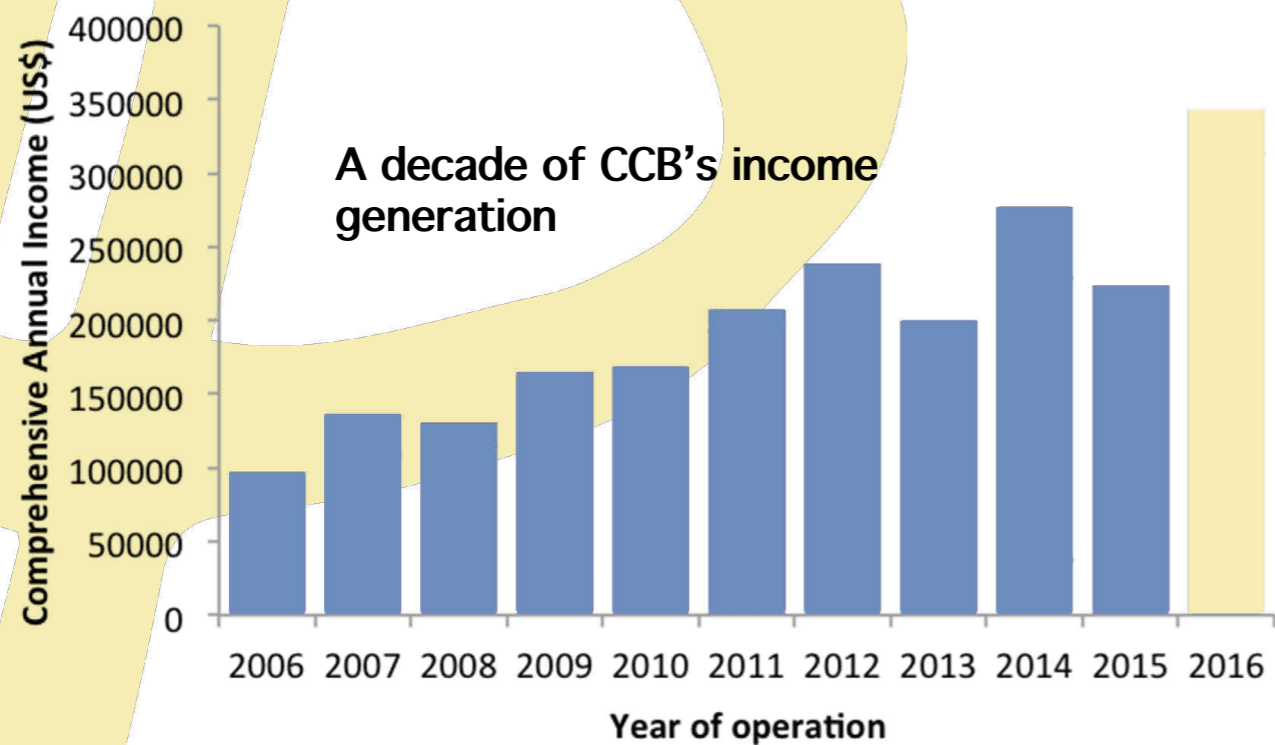
This year we were able to reach **487** kids with our school talks and we hosted **142** students at our Bush Camp

# Finances and Administration

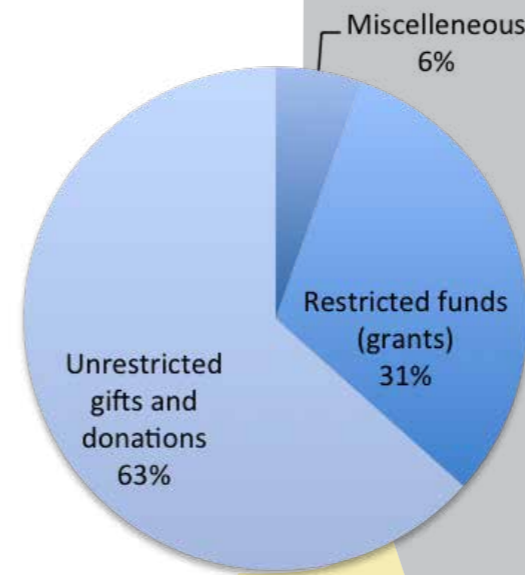
Cheetah Conservation Botswana prides itself on its financial transparency. Here we summarise our finances from our audit period April 2015 - March 2016. All amounts represented are in US dollars (conversion rate at time of publication is US\$1:BWP10.22 - Botswana Pula). Full audited financial statements are available on request from [info@cheetahconservationbotswana.org](mailto:info@cheetahconservationbotswana.org).



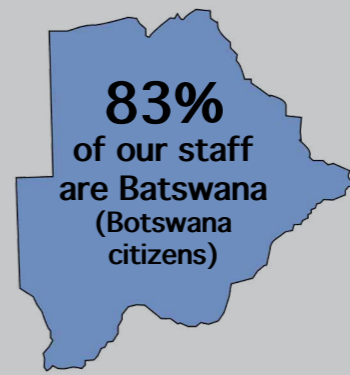
Proportion of field to administrative costs



A decade of CCB's income generation



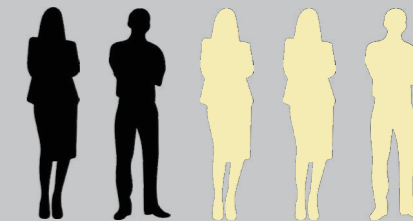
The source of CCB's funds



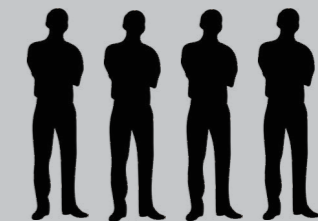
## Staff Breakdown



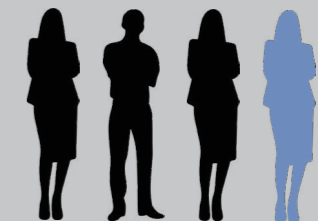
Management & Administration



Scientific Research



Farmer Outreach



Engagement and Awareness-Raising

- Permanent staff
- Interns
- Long term volunteers





# Thank You For Your Support!

It takes a village to support the work that we do at Cheetah Conservation Botswana. We would like to sincerely thank all of you who have helped CCB this year and in the years past. We are forever grateful for your support, which allows us to make a difference in the lives of the people and wildlife of Botswana.

## Organisations

Wildlife Conservation Network  
 San Diego Zoo Global  
 Disney Conservation Fund  
 Brevard Zoo Conservation Fund  
 Global Environment Facility  
 Wildlife Safari  
 Tapeats Fund  
 CKMG Foundation  
 Jacksonville Zoo  
 Wild Cat Education & Conservation Fund

Conservation Strategy Fund  
 ZSEA Africa Alive!  
 Zoological Association of America  
 Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium  
 Letaka Safaris  
 Tanganyika Wildlife Park  
 Live Impact  
 Discovery Montessori School  
 Predator Conservation Trust

SAVE Conservation Fund  
 Carsons Springs Wildlife Foundation  
 Feline Conservation Federation  
 Metro Richmond Zoo  
 Thornhill School Gaborone  
 Milwaukee County Zoo  
 Botswana Predator Conservation Trust

## Individuals

### DIAMOND (\$10,000+)

Bill Miller  
 Gabrielle and Kenneth Adelman  
 Rikard Ekstrand  
 Sudie Rasukin

### GOLD (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Diane Greene  
 Gay Goodman  
 Jo Cangelosi  
 Michael Piuze  
 Stuff and Pee Wee Marshall

### SILVER (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Alan and Victoria Peacock  
 Carol Guttery and Ken Voorheis  
 Charles Goldsmith  
 Chris Davis  
 Chuan Wang  
 David Luckham  
 Florence and Steven Goldby  
 Gary Morrison  
 Jennifer Thomasson  
 Jim Clarke  
 Judy and Chuck Wheatley  
 Junko Takeya  
 Linda Tabor-Beck  
 Lise Buyer  
 Lori and Brad Robbins  
 Lori and Bruce Laitman-Rosenblum  
 Madeleine and Jerry Cohen  
 Rick McKenna  
 Terilynn Langsev  
 Walli Finch

### BRONZE (\$500 - \$999)

Anne Schukat  
 Jodi and Charles Gendrich  
 John Lord  
 Karen Ubell  
 Kristine Kamos  
 Lauren Watkins  
 Linda Gibboney  
 Nancy Vandermeij  
 Paul Czarnecki  
 Susan Carey

Many thanks to our supporters who contributed up to \$500.

We also sincerely thank the Botswana Government for their support of our work and to the communities who welcome us into their lives.



## Our Team

It takes a dedicated team with determination, passion and just the right amount of crazy to make CCB what it is. If it wasn't for our misfit band of passionate conservationists we would not be able to accomplish all of our achievements each year. Thank you.



From left to right; front row: Jane Horgan, Rebecca Klein, Connie Sebati, Marie-Charlotte Gielen, Connie (King) Modise, Douglas Thamage, Nidhi Ramsden. Back row: Phale Max Seele, Morulaganyi Kokole, Emilien Terrade, Reginald Phillips, Boitumelo Mokgosi, Tshhegofatso Mmusi, Christopher Mbisana, Goabaone Britz Malepe. Absent in this photo: Leanne Van der Weyde, Mingie Masuga and Gaelle Michel.

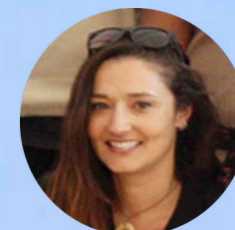
## CCB's Board

- Nancy Kgengwenyane (Chairperson)
- Bridget Taylor (Treasurer)
- Douglas Thamage (Secretary)
- Rebecca Klein (Executive Director)
- Kamwenje Nyalugwe (Legal advisor)
- Michaela Powell-Rees (Financial advisor)
- Cyril Taolo (Department of Wildlife and National Parks)
- Felix Monggae (Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Conservation and Tourism)
- Gabotsewe Sekgororoane (University of Botswana)
- Harold Hester (Birdlife Botswana)
- Moses Selebatso (Independent Researcher)
- Portia Segomelo (Waves Project)
- Reinette van Der Merwe (Barclays Botswana)

### Staff leaving us in 2016



### Volunteers leaving us in 2016



Thanks for all your hard work and good luck in the future



## Contact Us

### Head office

Office B5, Kgale Siding Park, Plot 1069-KO,  
Gaborone, Botswana  
Private Bag 284, Bontleng, Gaborone  
Ph: +267 350 0613

### Ghanzi field site

Farm 35-NK, Ghanzi  
P.O. Box 300, Ghanzi, Botswana.  
Ph: +267 651 1596

### Maun office

Unit 2, Boronyane Complex, Boronyane, Maun  
P.O. Box 718, Maun, Botswana.  
Ph: +267 7289 7875