

PATHWAYS

for People & Predators

The Annual Report of
Cheetah Conservation Botswana
April 2014 - March 2015



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Vision

A healthy cheetah population nationwide for prosperity.

Mission

To maintain populations of free ranging cheetah and other predators, in coexistence with communities, as an integral part of the ecosystems of Botswana.

Goal

Cheetah Conservation Botswana aims to preserve the nation's cheetah population through scientific research, community outreach and conservation education, working with rural communities to promote coexistence with Botswana's rich diversity of predator species.



Staff Organogram



Rebecca Klein



Nidhi Ramsden



Douglas Thamage



Rick McKenna



M. Kokole



Boitumelo Mokgosi



Phale M. Seele



Ditiro Mmolotsi



Jane Horgan



Phale Phale



Keneilwe Mathaba



Connie Sebati

Board of Directors



Rebecca Klein
Executive Director
Cheetah Conservation Botswana



Nancy Kgengwenyane
Board Chairperson
Environmental Consultant



Douglas Thamage
Board Secretary
Cheetah Conservation Botswana



Kamwenje Nyalugwe
Board Member
CCB Legal Advisor



Michaela Powell-Reese
Board Member
CCB Treasurer



Harold Hester
Board Member
Birdlife Botswana



Felix Monggae
Board Member
Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources, Conservation & Tourism



Ian Johnson
Board Member
Mokolodi Nature Reserve



Dr. Cyril Taolo
Board Member
Department of Wildlife and National Parks



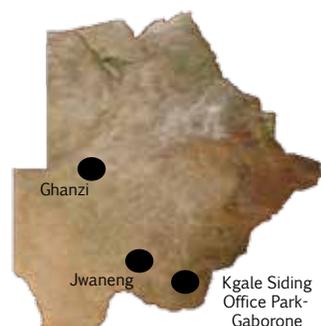
Portia Segomelo
Board Member
Waves Project



Dr. Moses Selebatso
Board Member
Researcher



Dr. Gabotsewe Sekgororoane
Board Member
University of Botswana



Operating Bases



Reinette van Der Merwe
Board Member
Barclays Bank Botswana

Programme Review

Scientific Research Review

Through scientific research, Cheetah Conservation Botswana (CCB) collects valuable data on various aspects of cheetah behaviour including their home range, distribution and factors relating to the conflict they face with humans. A better understanding of the species allows for more effective conservation strategies to be tailored and implemented and contributes valuable scientific data to national government departments and international cheetah conservation efforts.

Spoor Tracking Survey Complete

CCB's research team, together with Kalahari San Bushman trackers, counted predator spoor on one cattle and one game farm in the Ghanzi farmlands every quarter for 15 months.

Results from this study indicate that we may be seeing localized increases in cheetah densities in the Ghanzi farmlands, which is an encouraging sign that our intensive work in the region may be having a positive effect on cheetah populations.



San trackers assisting CCB for scouting cheetah and spoor from other predators in Ghanzi

Kacgae Conflict Mitigation Project

This project was designed to test the long-term effectiveness and cost efficiency of farmer-predator conflict mitigation strategies like kraaling and the use of livestock guarding dogs (LSGDs). This project is one of the only ones in the region to test the long-term effectiveness of mitigation measures. After three years of data collection, this project will wrap up in April 2015, and we expect that the data analysis will give us a good understanding of the long-term effects of real world implementation of mitigation measures. These results will help mould our approach towards future farmer training courses and conflict mitigation interventions in order to improve the services we provide to the community.



LSGDs relaxing with some goats inside one of the beneficiary kraals at Kacgae

Motion Camera Study at Marking Trees

CCB's research team continues to monitor cheetah marking trees in the Ghanzi District in order to study cheetah populations and behaviour and to build on our national database of individual cheetahs. In May 2014, our research team were excited to discover a rarely seen coalition of four males, which were named "The Ring Brothers".



The Ring Brothers Coalition, seen on a marking tree at Dqae Qare Game Farm in Ghanzi

Scientific Research Review

Academic Strides



Lorraine Boast, in partnership with CCB, submitted her PhD dissertation in March 2014, which focused on conflicts between game farmers and carnivores in Botswana. Among other things, Lorraine used scat analysis to show that livestock comprise only a very small percentage of overall cheetah diets (<6%) and that cheetahs actively select wild prey species over domestic livestock species. Lorraine was awarded her PhD in early 2015 and she is now busy working on getting her work published in popular scientific journals.



CCB research officer Jane Horgan has been working on her Master's thesis to assess the effectiveness of LSGDs throughout Botswana. Results from her research have shown that LSGDs are very effective at both deterring carnivores and increasing farmers' tolerance of carnivores. The study has broken new ground by showing that local Tswana dogs can be more effective than expensive purebred dogs. Jane submitted her thesis in February 2015 and will work to produce published articles to disseminate her findings.



CCB's Community Coordinator, Mr. Morulaganyi Kokole has begun pursuing a Masters Degree in Community Conservation through the University of South Africa supported by the Sydney Byers Scholarship through the Wildlife Conservation Network. Kokole's research is investigating the socio-ecological factors influencing human-carnivore conflict around Jwana Park in Jwaneng, Botswana.



CCB's research officer, Mr. Phale Kgotla Phale was sponsored by the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) to attend a training course at Stanford University in San Francisco. The course was developed to integrate the fields of law, economics and natural sciences in order to address management mechanisms in conservation. Mr. Phale will be integrating the skills learnt into his and CCB's research projects. Mr. Phale also won a Sidney Beyers Scholarship for Wildlife Conservation through the Wildlife Conservation Network. The grant will support his Masters programme which he is undertaking through the Okavango Research Institute.



National Geographic Visits CCB

In June 2014, National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative (BCI) representatives Stuart Pimm and Rudi van Aarde visited CCB's research base in Ghanzi. National Geographic's BCI has supported various CCB projects for a number of years. Rudi and Stuart were impressed by the work being carried out by CCB and showed interest in continuing to work with CCB in the future, which we greatly look forward to.

Rick McKenna and Jane Horgan with BCI personnel at Ghanzi CCB Camp

Trapping and Collaring of Wild Cheetahs

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) of London teamed up with CCB and Vetswana in a bid to catch and collar cheetahs in the Ghanzi farmlands. Over two trapping sessions in July and August 2014, our team managed to collar six male cheetahs. State of the art collars were placed on these cats to investigate movement through the farms, hunting behaviour and their adaptations to life in a bush-encroached habitat. Collaring the three males from the Ring Coalition was particularly exciting as it will hopefully unlock new exciting information about how cheetah coalitions use collaborative hunting techniques. All the information gathered from this exercise will help us in our work to prevent human-wildlife conflict between farmers and cheetahs. The collars collected data for six months before automatically dropping off in February 2015. Data is currently being analysed and we look forward to some exciting results from this study.



The team of vets and researchers work on Clyde – the first of six cheetahs caught and collared as part of the RVC collaring study

Thaki's Translocation Back Into the Wild

After being rescued from a snare in the Ghanzi District, an adult female cheetah named Thaki was rehabilitated at CCB's Ghanzi facility and released into a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in south west Botswana in October 2014. After her release, Thaki came into conflict with a farmer near Kang, who suspected her of killing his goats. The farmer shot Thaki and burnt her remains, including the tracking collar. After finding the remnants of the collar, CCB staff, together with wildlife officials alerted the Police who charged the farmer with killing a collared, protected species. The farmer now faces a fine or five years jail time. This outcome further reinforces our need to continue to strengthen our work with communities to develop coexistence strategies and supports our belief that translocations are not a practical long term solution to human-wildlife conflict.



GPS coordinates from Thaki's collar show her movements from the WMAs towards Kang, where she came into conflict

CCB Attends Botswana's Research Symposium

CCB representatives attended the 2nd Annual Botswana Wildlife Research Symposium in Maun in March 2015. Researchers and NGOs presented, shared and discussed research findings and conservation challenges. Dr. Alan Wilson made a presentation on animal locomotion, which highlighted some exciting findings that have come about from the collaboration between his RVC team and CCB's research department which was well received by the audience.



CCB representatives at the symposium

Community Outreach Review

Ninety percent of Botswana's cheetahs live outside of protected areas, where they roam alongside livestock and the farming communities of Botswana. The survival of this species lies in the hands of those farmers who come into contact with cheetahs on a regular basis. Through our community outreach programme, CCB works closely with communities affected by carnivore conflict to improve methods for livestock management with the aim of reducing conflict levels and minimising retaliatory killings of cheetahs.

Engaging with Farmers at CCB Workshops

CCB's farmers workshops help to engage farmers about how to farm alongside carnivores while minimising livestock loss and conflict. By addressing topics such as correct identification of carnivore species, effective livestock husbandry practices, the use and care of LSGDs and other techniques to mitigate conflict with carnivore species, CCB can equip farmers with the knowledge to help them avoid carnivore conflict and improve the productivity of their farms.

CCB conducted a regional workshop for 35 Tlokweng farmers on the 12th June 2014. Other facilitators at the event included Birdlife Botswana, the organization of Wildlife Victims and Welfare, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Animal Production and Veterinary Services and finally the Botswana Police's Stock Theft Unit who all gave talks on a variety of topics. In February 2015, CCB hosted a two-day workshop at CCB's education centre in Ghanzi for a group of young farmers, which was arranged through a new and exciting partnership with Ghanzi's Department of Youth. In total, 57 young farmers have received training by CCB in the last two years. We have received positive feedback from these budding farmers and we hope to continue offering this training on an annual basis. All attendees at workshops in Ghanzi get to visit our demonstration farm, which showcases predator-friendly farming techniques and is thriving with 116 goats and less than 2% predation annually. The demo farm also hosts our LSGD training facility where puppies are trained before being placed with farmers suffering conflict.



Mr. Kevin Grant discussing effective livestock management with youth workshop participants



Farmers listening attentively at the Tlokweng regional workshop



Young farmers learning about productive farm management methods at our demonstration farm.

Community Outreach Review

Northern Human Wildlife Coexistence Project

In 2013, CCB oversaw the construction of 26 predator-proof kraals in the north of the country and distributed 36 LSGD puppies to farmers in Boteti, Okavango and Chobe, as part of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks' Human Wildlife Coexistence Project. CCB's community outreach team recently visited LSGD recipients in order to monitor the progress of the dogs and conflict levels experienced.

CCB also arranged a mobile veterinary clinic in collaboration with Maun Animal Welfare Society (MAWS) to attend to the veterinary needs of the LSGDs as well as sterilizing 47 other village dogs in the project areas.

Although a few of the kraals have not been utilized by some farmers and some of the dogs are no longer working effectively, our staff found that those farmers who invested the time and effort to maintain their kraals and care for their dogs were seeing positive results from these interventions.



CCB assisted the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in its NHWC Project, which included constructing predator-proof kraals for farmers and placing LSGDs

CCB Responds to Emergency Cheetah Conflict Calls

CCB staff continues to offer this valuable service to farmers experiencing depredation on their farms. Between April 2014 and March 2015, CCB responded to 15 calls from farmers reporting livestock losses to predation in the areas of Jwaneng and Ghanzi. These included farms that had lost goats, sheep, foals, calves and, on one game farm, a number of impala fawns. Most of these reports involved verified or suspected cheetah attacks, and one involved predation by a leopard. While there are several methods that are known to reduce predation levels, there is no "one size fits all" solution to human-carnivore conflict. Site visits allow CCB staff to respond to farmers' concerns, assess each situation individually and offer advice and suggest mitigation tools accordingly.

Community Empowerment in Zutshwa

The remote village of Zutshwa in Botswana's south-west, is a hotspot of human-wildlife conflict due to its proximity to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Carnivores moving in and out of the partially fenced protected area pass through the farming area and may prey on livestock. In conjunction with United Nations Office for Project Services, CCB responded to reports of high levels of carnivore conflict in this area, and four kraals were constructed to assist community members to protect their livestock and to promote coexistence.



Zutshwa community members attending a the workshop in large numbers

Conservation Education Review

Although human-wildlife conflict is the primary threat to cheetah populations, not all conflicts are the result of actual livestock losses to cheetahs. Research conducted by CCB has discovered that up to a quarter of conflict cases are unrelated to livestock depredation and are more deep-rooted in social or cultural conflicts. Education is the only way in which to address this long-held social bias and our education programmes aim to target Batswana with the message of coexistence through our school visits, bush camps and other education activities. It is only through these education programmes that we can build a generation of Batswana that have a new appreciation for wildlife and make a priority of conserving these animals in the future.

Spreading Conservation Messages in Schools

School presentations continue to strengthen students' understanding of carnivore behaviour while stressing the importance of carnivores in a healthy ecosystem. CCB has been on the road staging talks and distributing user-friendly resources at various schools of all levels across the country. In total, 25 schools were visited between April 2014 and March 2015.

Our resources have been aligned with those of the national school curriculum, infusing information about carnivore conservation into broader environmental issues.



A school presentation by CCB's education officer, Ms. Keneilwe Mathaba

Practical Learning Through Bush Camps

CCB's Tiisano Education Centre hosted Kumakwane Junior Secondary School for an educational bush camp from 14 – 18th April 2014. 30 standard 6 students stayed for four days in Ghanzi learning about the environment and the important roles that carnivores play in the ecosystem. They also learnt some of the threats to the environment and how to farm alongside carnivores without livestock losses, with a tour of our demonstration farm to highlight these techniques. Children who attend our bush camps get an exciting experiential learning experience and leave with newfound knowledge about the environment and a passion to conserve Botswana's natural resources.



Kumakwane CJSS and CCB staff during their bush camp in Ghanzi



Kumakwane students enjoying a bush lesson together with CCB team members



Kumakwane students left messages of thanks to CCB during their four days at our bush camp

Capacity Building with Lekgolobotlo Primary School

As part of an ongoing partnership project, CCB facilitated a tree-planting day at Lekgolobotlo's Eco-Park on 25th April 2014 where 27 indigenous trees were planted to improve the aesthetics of the park and to contribute to the environment. Guests included the village Headman, CCB's Executive Director and the Village Development Committee Chairperson who, together with students, planted trees donated by Mokolodi Nature Reserve and Gaborone's Department of Forestry and Range Resources. CCB also sponsored the primary school for the cleanliness classroom competition on 12th November 2014. The aim of the competition was to create awareness about the importance of keeping clean surroundings and to encourage teachers and students in taking up this responsibility. The three cleanest classrooms were awarded prizes as part of the competition and the students and teachers expressed appreciation for all of CCB's support.

CCB Executive Director, Ms. Rebecca Klein at the school during the tree planting day



Crossborder Collaborations at EEASA Conference

As part of the council of the Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA), CCB attended the EEASA's preparatory workshop in Gaborone and the conference in Windhoek, Namibia in September 2014. The main goal of the EEASA conferences is to provide environmental education practitioners from all sectors with technical skills and a platform for sharing environmental sustainability information, opportunities, ideas and experiences in pursuit of protecting the environment and promoting sustainable living in Southern Africa. CCB has enjoyed being a member of this association and looks forward to helping promote environmental education within the region in the future.



CCB's Education Officer Ms. Mathaba in her role as part of the EEASA Council

Linking Conservation Education with Activities and Sports

As part of CCB's new expansion into Maun, CCB has joined forces with the Botswana Predator Conservation Trust (BPCT) to run their Coaching for Conservation programme with the children of Ngamiland. This programme uses sports, games and fun activities to reinforce key conservation messages within Botswana youth. Thanks to this collaboration CCB has adopted the BPCT Education Centre in Maun at which we can run the C4C programme as well as other CCB activities such as bush camps and teacher training workshops.



C4C children having a fun day in Maun

Public Engagements Events

CCB participates in numerous awareness raising events through the calendar year, including World Environment Day and The Ghanzi Agricultural Show. These events are a valuable way for us to engage directly with the communities that are living side-by-side with Botswana's cheetah populations. The agricultural shows that we attend are particularly productive as they allow a direct line of communication between CCB staff and farmers who are having conflict with cheetahs. Farmers can ask questions and share ideas with CCB staff directly, and this can be an incredibly useful tool in mitigating human-wildlife conflict and to reach farmers who may not have interacted with CCB before.

CCB Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

2014 saw CCB celebrate its 10th year as a registered charity. A number of events marked this momentous celebration including our first ever Golf Day, which was held on 14th September 2014 at the Gaborone Golf Club. The golf day was a big success, raising funds and awareness for the plight of the cheetah.

An art competition was organised for primary and secondary schools in Jwaneng and Ghanzi during the same month allowing school-goers to exhibit their artistic talents and help them to express their ideas and messages on different artistic media towards the theme "Harmonious coexistence with Botswana's predators". The competition culminated in prize-giving ceremonies held in October 2014 with musical and theatrical performances from local groups and participating schools.

We wrapped up our 10th anniversary celebrations with a reception dinner at Thapong Visual Arts Center in Gaborone on 6th December 2014. This was a time to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our donors, supporters, partners and the communities with whom the organisation has worked over the past decade. Without their support, participation, conviction and commitment, CCB would not have made what strides it has in facilitating coexistence and conserving Botswana's cheetah populations.



CCB staff connecting with the public at the Ghanzi Agricultural Show



CCB's Director Ms. Klein awarding winner at CCB's Annual Golf Day



Boitumelo Mo Nageng theatre group performing at CCB's 10th Anniversary reception celebrations



One of the art pieces submitted by students for the art competition

CCB's Team Developments

CCB's success comes down to the determination and passion of our small team of dedicated staff members. This year we bid farewell to our research officer Phale Kgotla Phale (photo – bottom left) and research intern Uyapo Molefi (photo – bottom right) who both left CCB to continue their conservation work with Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). We wish them all the best in the future and look forward to continuing our work with them through our great relationship with DWNP.



Volunteers Helping us Achieve our Goals

CCB continues to enjoy the support of volunteers who use their unique set skills and experience to assist in various projects and improve the capacity of local staff members. Lynn Russell-Lobb (photo bottom left) from the UK, joined us as an international volunteer for a month in April 2014 to assist the research team. In mid June 2014, veterinarian Dr Jennifer Zerbel (photo middle) joined us for 3 months, supporting the team with technical veterinary advice, and an extra set of hands whilst collaring cheetahs and rehabilitating orphaned African wild dog puppies.

Late in 2014, Harriet Reeves and Alex Davies (photo bottom right) joined our research team in Ghanzi as long-term research volunteers. With a great depth of experience in animal and conservation work (including Harriet's 12-month placement with CCB in 2010), they came with a wealth of knowledge, skills and enthusiasm to the CCB team.



The CCB team could not achieve what we do without the passion and dedication of our friends and supporters around the globe. Your commitment to conservation and constant encouragement of our work is what keeps us going in the face of adversity and we are deeply appreciative of your support.

Donors & Supporters 2014- 2015

CCB continues to benefit from the contributions and support of funding organizations, volunteers, individual donors and businesses here in Botswana and around the world. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has, in some way, supported the organisation during this review period of April 2014 to March 2015.

ORGANISATIONS

Wildlife Conservation Network
Zynga Inc
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
Handsel Foundation
Cheetah Species Survival Plan
Cincinnati Zoo
Tapeats Fund
Love Animals
United States Embassy
CGMK Foundation

Carson Springs Wildlife Conservation
Tanganyika Wildlife Park
Predator Conservation Trust
Wild Cat Education & Conservation Fund
Zoological Association of America
Banham Zoo
Safari Adventures
Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium
Wilderness Wildlife Trust
Heidelberg Zoo
Botswana Predator Conservation Trust

Wild Wonders
Lionshare Inc
Denver Zoo
Zoofari Inc
Project Survival
Animal Ark
Genetech
Safari Game Foundation
Southwick Zoo
Brevard Zoo

INDIVIDUALS

Diamond

Kristan and Peter Norvig
Kenneth and Gabrielle Adelman
William Miller
Jon and Laura Melberg
Cori Bargmann



Gold

Stuff and PeeWee Marshall
Madeleine and Jerry Cohen
Steven and Florence Goldby
Peggy Blessing
Douglas G. Myers
Junko Takeya
Michael and Nichole Piuze
Lise Buyer
Lori and Bradford Robbins
Walli Finch
Denise Stone

Silver

Chuan Wang
Barron Wall
Carol Guttery and Ken Voorheis
Kristine Karnos
Josephine Cangelosi
Jim Clark
Linda Tabor-Beck
Terilynn Langsev
Bruce and Lori Laitman-Rosenblum

Alan and Mary Peacock
Kimberly Griffin
David Sagara
Paul Czarnecki
Kimberly Colley
Michele Stone
Andrew Currie
Diane and Ted Johnson
Charles Goldsmith

Gesara Tyler
Betsey Brewer Bethel
Chris Davis
Ian Lord
Nancy Vandermeij
Christine Davis
John and Christopher Nelson
Margaret Whitton

Bronze

Kathy Gervais
Linda and David Rosen
Michael Kross and Vivien Lin
Inge Gfroerer
Joyce Kaneshiro and James Poley
Jonathan Long
Bruce and Trish Campbell
Richard McKenna
Casper Wang
Mark Moore
Teresa Marshall
Curran Dandurand
Jeff and Shay Morris
Nikolas Kroencke

Christine A. Klinkowski
Jolene Lu and Bob O'Grady
Michael and Frances Bolte
Dinah Sloan
Melinda Johnson
Thomas Frost
Marshall Trackman
Linda Harden
Melissa Holmes and Sean Stephens
Diane Rosenthal
Kathleen Edman
Michael Linvill
Steve Mandel and Carol Foote

Joelle Ehre
Benjamin Rosenberg
Vanessa and John Lukas
Nancy Morris
Pamela Covington
Ryan Wubben
Jack and Lynne Rosser
Jacqueline Bauer
Donald Sender
Brian Makare
Valerie Face
Anthony Lukianowicz
Dixie Luebcke