15 YEARS
PROMOTING COEXISTENCE
CCB is registered as a Botswana-based non-profit with the backing of the Government of Botswana.

CCB’s new off-grid field camp is established in the Ghanzi Ranches in the Western Kalahari — the area of Botswana with the most acute farmer-cheetah conflicts.

After years of promoting Tswana livestock guarding dogs (LGDs), CCB begins training and placing LGD puppies with farmers experiencing conflict.

CCB grows to include a new department — Communities for Conservation — focusing on livelihood diversification.

CCB’s new off-grid field camp is established in the Ghanzi Ranches in the Western Kalahari — the area of Botswana with the most acute farmer-cheetah conflicts.

Since inception, CCB has reached over 15,000 farmers with its coexistence programmes, inspired more than 20,000 children through its education activities, collared over 30 cheetahs with research collars and have placed over 130 livestock guarding dogs with farmers suffering from cheetah conflict. CCB currently has 18 full time staff and three active bases across Botswana.
A NOTE FROM REBECCA

It’s hard to believe that CCB is 15 years in existence already! Such milestones encourage us to consider our origins, beginnings and the journey to where we are now. I remember my first conversations at Mokolodi Nature Reserve with Dr. Kyle Good and Ann Marie House about the need to start a cheetah conservation program here in Botswana. Together, with very little money, an old donated vehicle and a lot of determination, we collared our first cheetah, carried out our first surveys, held our first farmers workshops, never really knowing how far we would go or how long we could continue. I’m so excited that 15 years on CCB has expanded into the organisation it is today, with a wonderful, dedicated team of primarily local staff, a strong relationship with the Botswana government and meaningful programs which support communities to coexist with cheetahs and threatened carnivores. At CCB, we are all proud to be among the stewards of one of the largest remaining cheetah populations on earth and are committed to ensuring a brighter future for the world’s fastest cat and their Kalahari home. Beyond Botswana, our success has also been made possible through our amazing partnership with Wildlife Conservation Network and our many cheetah friends around the world. Thank you for joining us on this journey and with you by our side we look forward to the next 15 years with inspiration and hope!

Rebecca Klein
Co-Founder and Executive Director
Cheetah Conservation Botswana
CHALLENGES WERE RIFE IN 2019. BUT IT IS FROM OUR STRUGGLES THAT WE LEARN THE MOST.

Conflict spikes in drought
Conflict with cheetahs spiked as farmers struggled in the drought, as reflected in the government record books of problem animals.

So much coexistence, so little time!
With our demonstration farm limited to training less than 25 livestock guarding dogs a year, we’ve had to outsource to scale up the project by capacitating model farmers to help us train puppies.

Resources were stretched
One of the two council buses that we rely on for bush camps was destroyed by fire, leaving us short of transport for the children.

35 farmers still remain on our waiting list for livestock guarding dogs while we arrange alternative training facilities for our LGDs.

105 children had their bush camps postponed when council transportation fell through at the last minute.

Working in the Kalahari is hard, but we are very lucky to have supportive networks all over Botswana and the world helping us to follow our mandate to protect this unique habitat and the threatened species that call it home.

Every year we face obstacles, but 2019 seemed to be particularly more so for many around the world, including us. Living and working in remote places carries challenges that are hard to imagine for some — days without internet, weeks without water and months without power at our education facility. When things break (which in these conditions is quite often) we sometimes have to drive 1000km just to have them fixed.
Alida the cheetah was collared and she has been the first cheetah translocated from a farmer’s private land into the Central Kalahari Game Reserve to survive more than a year. We are continuing to monitor her progress.

Four model farmers were selected to act as coexistence ambassadors and to help us train and place livestock guarding dog puppies.

Our research team tested new Skaapwagter (carnivore scent deterrent) devices by using them alongside motion activated camera traps.

Sixteen livestock guarding dog puppies were placed with needy farmers in the Kalahari.

Forty-five local conservation professionals and students took part in a social sciences workshop CCB organised in conjunction with The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens. This will equip local conservationists with the skills and knowledge to tackle human-wildlife conflict issues.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

Despite the challenges, this year has seen achievements and celebrations too - several of which are highlighted above, spanning all aspects of our work from conflict mitigation and applied research to community-based conservation and capacity building.
There is something unequivocally mysterious about the Kalahari.

Its stillness, its vastness, its quiet beauty. Our research team is perfectly placed to pursue the seemingly endless secrets held by this beautiful land, knowing that only through an understanding of the complex dynamics of the environment, wildlife and people, can we work towards our goal of sharing the land with minimal disturbances to its delicate balance.

We have a clear strategy in place that drives all of our work, and yet at the same time, we are at the mercy of the Kalahari — always knowing that in such an unpredictable environment, nothing really goes exactly to plan. We have adapted a certain level of flexibility in the otherwise rigid world of scientific research. This flexibility allows us to investigate new discoveries and track breakthroughs in reducing predation and improving tolerance.

This year, our ability to adapt led us to several new discoveries. An old friendship with one particular farmer led to the discovery of a new cheetah marking tree on the border with Namibia. Thanks to this tree, we were able to collar our first transboundary cheetah to track movement across borders. Despite the permeability of the fence, we were surprised to see that this cheetah remained loyal to Botswana, wandering along our side of the border and only rarely crossing over into Namibia.

We also collared our first leopard in the Ghanzi District, whose movement data revealed new insights into the interactions between leopards and cheetahs.

We conducted our first trials with the Skaapwagter devices (devices that use scent, light and sound to deter carnivores), which showed mixed results, but generally appeased the farmers who tested them.

We continue our quest for discovery, while monitoring trends in cheetah and other wildlife in Botswana. Although many of the mysteries of the Kalahari will always remain hidden, we appreciate her willingness to share at least some of her secrets with us.
Scientific Research underpins all our conflict mitigation, engagement and awareness-raising and community development work.
Cheetah Conservation Botswana

**HIGHLIGHTS IN OUR FarmING WORK IN 2019**

- 16 livestock guarding dogs placed
- 4 farmers actively involved through our farms networks with workshops, exchange visits and trips to local agricultural field days and shows
- 8 farmers workshops conducted, covering topics such as reducing livestock depredation, sustainable grazing and climate-smart farming methods
- 24k in additional funds raised for LGDs through our crowdfunding campaign, allowing us to scale up our livestock guarding dog programme
- 95% of farmers who received LGDs in 2013 said that their dogs reduced their losses to carnivores, after a long-term assessment conducted in 2019
- livestock fodder planted using kraal manure, to supplement feed for our livestock in times of drought
- model farmers supported with livestock boma renovations and assistance to strengthen their practices

**FARMING FOR CONSERVATION**

That is the responsibility that lies in the hands of Botswana’s farmers. If this species is going to hold on to this last stronghold in the world, the farmers of Botswana need to be equipped with the skills needed to farm in a way that conserves the ecosystem balance and minimises conflict with carnivores.

This year our Farming For Conservation team continued working with farmers across the Kalahari landscape. 2019 was all about scaling up our already successful programmes. New partnerships have opened up avenues to work with other communities in the Kalahari landscape, allowing lessons learnt elsewhere to help these communities coexist better with carnivores.

In collaboration with Kalahari Research and Conservation (KRC) and Karunya Consulting, we were able to develop a comprehensive conflict mitigation strategy under the UNDP Kgalagadi-Ghanzi Drylands Ecosystem Project.

The Lion Recovery Fund backed our collaborative work with KRC to support farmers and communities in areas critical to carnivore connectivity which join the two great protected areas of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.

Through the farmers networks, we identified four farmers whose current livestock management practices make them ideal candidates for peer-to-peer learning within their communities. We are working closely with these farmers to identify existing gaps within their practices, and in 2019, we supported them to bridge those gaps. These farmers have agreed to train puppies and place them with farmers on the waiting list, thus increasing the programme’s ability to place Livestock Guarding Dogs by five-fold.

Although the rains have arrived and eased the pressure on farmers for now, we are working hard with farming communities to improve the efficiency of their farming practices, using the latest innovations and technologies in farming. We do believe that through utilizing best practices you can farm in the Kalahari sustainably and coexist with wildlife, and through our networks we are proud to have farmers demonstrating that this is an achievable reality.

Did you know that 20% of the world’s cheetahs live on Botswana’s farmlands?

Cultivating a culture of sustainable farming that helps reduce carnivore persecution
Farming for Conservation engages with farming communities about how to coexist with carnivores and improve productivity.

**Demonstration Farm**
- Showcases carnivore-friendly farming practices and trains livestock guarding dogs.

**Livestock Guarding Dog placements**
- Trains livestock guarding dogs to reduce farmer-cheetah conflict.

**Open Dialogue**
- Encourages farmers to share their experiences with carnivores and discuss possible solutions to conflict.

**Farmers' Workshops**
- Shares knowledge on what helps to reduce conflict with carnivores.

**Farmers' Networks**
- Encourages peer-to-peer learning and innovation in improved husbandry practices.

**Model Farmers**
- Identified to facilitate in-community knowledge transfer.

**Poison Management Training**
- Reduces the use of poisons as a carnivore control measure and improves emergency responses to poisoning events.

**Annual Report**
- Open dialogue encourages farmers to share their experiences with carnivores and discuss possible solutions to conflict.

**Cheetah Conservation Botswana**
- Demonstrates carnivore-friendly farming practices and trains livestock guarding dogs.

Poison management training helps reduce the use of poisons as a carnivore control measure and improve emergency responses to poisoning events.
Engagement and Awareness

Passion is fueled by an insatiable desire for knowledge. It’s our job to cultivate that passion. Our education programme revolves around a literal open-air classroom and it is our pride and joy. It is a place where not only students are welcome to experience the subtle beauty of the bush, but adult groups from corporate, civil society or government sectors, also come to make use of the quietude of the Kalahari for meetings and workshops. Experiencing and appreciating the Kalahari is not an obvious, seemingly effortless occurrence - you need to stop and immerse yourself in the stillness to truly see the beauty and intricacy that lies within. And our open air classroom, with rudimentary yet functional accommodation and cooking facilities offer a venue for that experience.

At bush camps, our lessons include nature walks where students learn about insects by holding them in their hands, learn about trees by examining their leaves, bark and blossoms, learn about air quality and pollution by breathing in the fresh air and recycling of waste. They may not see a lot of wildlife directly, but appreciate the diversity by examining their tracks in the sand, learning to distinguish between species, both great and small. Watching their faces as they scrutinise the images from the camera traps they help set up around camp is always a humbling and fulfilling experience. Gasps of awe and wonder abound as they realise that the critters came to visit while they were sleeping. They learn about conflict through playing conservation games on the sports ground, build confidence through presentations and debates and practice team work through group activities.

Whether it’s our bush camps, our workshops, mobile bush camps in rural villages or our new Learn to Play “preschool in a box” partnership, we open hearts and minds by sharing Botswana’s natural and cultural heritage using the Kalahari bush as our classroom. It is here that we see understanding and pride in Botswana’s natural wonders growing.

Whether the participants follow careers in environmental management, in farming, government or in business — when nature sits in the forefront of our minds, it is then that we take decisions that respect our planet rather than those that exploit it in a manner that is untenable and unsustainable.
Engagement and Awareness spans all areas of our work, from environmental resources developed for everyone from students, farmers, the media and the government to farmers resources to school activity books to international relations and social media.

**Donations for Underprivileged Children**
- Donations were made to schools in key cheetah habitats.

**Litter Pick Ups With Schools**
- To encourage environmental responsibility.

**School Visits**
- Educating 1000 children about the value of cheetahs.

**Mural in Schools**
- Mural painted to remind children to take pride in their natural heritage.

**Wildlife Art Classes**
- To get children excited about wildlife and to help encourage creativity.

**Targeted Education**
- In cheetah conflict prone areas.

**Bush Camps**
- Held with rural schools.

**Early Childhood Development**
- Programme delivered in partnership with LTP in one target community.

**Environmental Resources**
- Developed for everyone from students, farmers, the media and the government.

**Educating >1000 Children about the Value of Cheetahs**
- School visits with more than 1000 children learning about cheetahs.

**Litter Pick Ups**
- Encourage environmental responsibility.

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**Targeted Education**
- In cheetah conflict prone areas.
As we delve into the landscape-level conservation efforts needed to protect the Kalahari, we are naturally drawn to the San communities that live in the last fragments of wilderness in the Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor (WKCC). Preserving these areas aligns serendipitously with their cultural roots — allowing them to achieve their joint goals of conserving their rich cultural heritage whilst helping to heal the land on which they can flourish.

In 2019, we were able to recruit a coordinator for this new programme. Together with the Kgosi (chief) from Bere village, he attended the conservancy bi-annual meeting in Namibia facilitated by Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC) to learn more about the acclaimed programme directly from community members. On giving feedback to both his village, Bere, as well as Kacgae, the Kgosi's excitement and energy were palpable, as he spurred his people to revive their community trust.

We are fortunate to be part of the Ghanzi Technical Advisory Committee for CBNRM (Community-Based Natural Resource Management) which is a government-led entity that is mandated to guide and support Community-Based Organisations (CBOs). Through this platform, we are able to offer input to our government partners and the target communities to ensure constructive and productive dialogue and interventions. In November, introductory meetings were held in East and West Hanahai, which form part of the same community Trust as Kacgae.

Since there are a number of entities, both governmental and non-governmental (including us), that engage with our target communities on issues of natural resource management, we find it prudent to invest considerable time and energy into stakeholder relationships. We do this in a bid to ensure our respective activities and approaches complement, rather than conflict each other, to optimise human and financial resources, and importantly, to prevent fatigue on the part of the communities. We have also been working hard towards identifying partners that can add value to the communities in line with their future aspirations.

We are so much more than cheetahs.

Highlights in our Community Work

- 260 community members took part in our introductory meetings in the villages of East and West Hanahai, helping us build working relationships within critical cheetah habitats.
- 8 mothers trained in early childhood development so they can run the new Learn to Play pre-school programme in Kacgae.
- 40 baseline surveys conducted to gauge levels of conflict, tolerance to wildlife and attitudes towards conservation.
- 2 community liaisons selected to help us roll out programmes in these rural communities.
- 25 government and community-based organisations engaged to improve communications and facilitate efficient conservation efforts in the region.
- Conflicts in the Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor are on the rise based on an in-depth analysis of problem animal reports.
- 20 craft sellers and producers engaged to reinvigorate the local craft industry in terms of production and market access.

Conserving an Ecosystem through A People and Their Culture

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KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK

Staff Awards 2019

Outstanding Employee Award
Britz Malepe
Education Officer

Award for Exemplary Leadership
Leanne Van der Weyde
Research Coordinator

Director’s Award for Exemplary Diligence
Boitumelo Mokgosi
Administration Officer
In Pictures.

These photos show our staff and communities working throughout the year to protect cheetahs by improving livestock care, engaging children, and helping communities coexist with wildlife.

PHOTOGRAPHY IS THE STORY I FAIL TO PUT INTO WORDS - DESTIN SPARKS

Photo Credits: Peter Lindsey, Mark and Kelly Hewes, Mark Bing, Monique Vek, Karrie Hovey.
CCB conducts a full independent, certified audit each year to maintain our full transparency. Full financial statements are available for download from our website www.cheetahconservationbotswana.org. Amounts listed are in thousands of US$ (conversion rate 1BWP = 0.09USD).
WE APPRECIATE YOU.

We can only have the impact we have on the ground thanks to the virtual village full of passionate people and organisations around the world that support our work. To all those involved in helping us to make a difference, we say - thank you!

Organisations

Individuals

CCB’s Board of Directors
Nancy Kgengwennyane (Chairperson), Douglas Thamage (Secretary), Brigid Taylor (Treasurer), Kamwenje Nyalugwe (Legal Advisor), Rebecca Klein (Executive Director), Portia Segomelo, Reinette Van Der Merwe, Michaela Powell-Rees, Harold Hester, Gaborsegue B Sekgororoane, Felix Monggae, Moses Selebatso, Cyril Taolo.

CCB’s family of staff
Rebecca Klein, Douglas Thamage, Nidhi Ramsden, Boitumelo Mokgosi, Mingie Masuga, Connie Sebati, Morulaganyi Kokole, Phale (Max) Seele, Connie (King) Modise, Leanne Van der Weyde, Michelle Kral, Christopher Mbisana, Lucas Mothabane, Rethabile Setlalekgomo, Jane Horgan, Goabaone (Britz) Malepe, Marie-Charlotte Gielen, Moses Masake, Ole Theisinger, Otshabile Bahetoleng.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to the Government of Botswana and to the communities with which we work.
Our Wish List

Every donation is important to us...
But these are some of our funding priorities for 2020 and beyond

What
Learn To Play Preschool Education for rural villages. Mothers from within the community are trained to provide early childhood education through fun, interactive, locally relevant, culturally appropriate games and activities in playgroups.

Why
UNICEF identified inadequate early childhood education as a major gap in Botswana in general. Kalahari San Bushmen children often drop out of primary school because they don’t understand English or Setswana (the two national languages of Botswana). Access to preschool education has been proven to reduce drop out rates. Improved education in these area is therefore vital to promote environmental conservation and to empower community development.

How much?
$15,000 would cover food stipends for the eight “mamas” for an entire year. That money would also cover the cost of playgroup materials and building a low maintenance, dedicated structure for the playgroups.

What
Research funding for tracking collars that will help us alleviate conflict with farmers.

Why
Farmers suffering depredation pose the number one threat to cheetahs. Collaring conflict animals and providing farmers with the data helps farmers to manage their livestock and protect them when carnivores come near. This has proven to improve tolerance and reduce retaliatory killings of cheetahs.

How much?
$25,000 would cover the costs of ten satellite tracking collars, including the veterinary costs of putting the collar on the animals as well as costs for downloading the satellite data.

What
Communities for Conservation programme to promote wildlife-based economies and encourage nature-based, diversified livelihoods in the Western Kalahari Conservation Corridor.

Why
Rural communities that live alongside wildlife tend to bear the cost associated with the conservation of the natural resource base that they often rely on for their survival. Empowering them to become an integral part of the planning and execution of conservation and sustainable development initiatives, increases the probability of success.

How much?
$100,000 would cover the running costs of this entire programme for one year.
BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD

www.cheetahconservationbotswana.org