



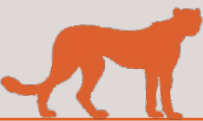
# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2018





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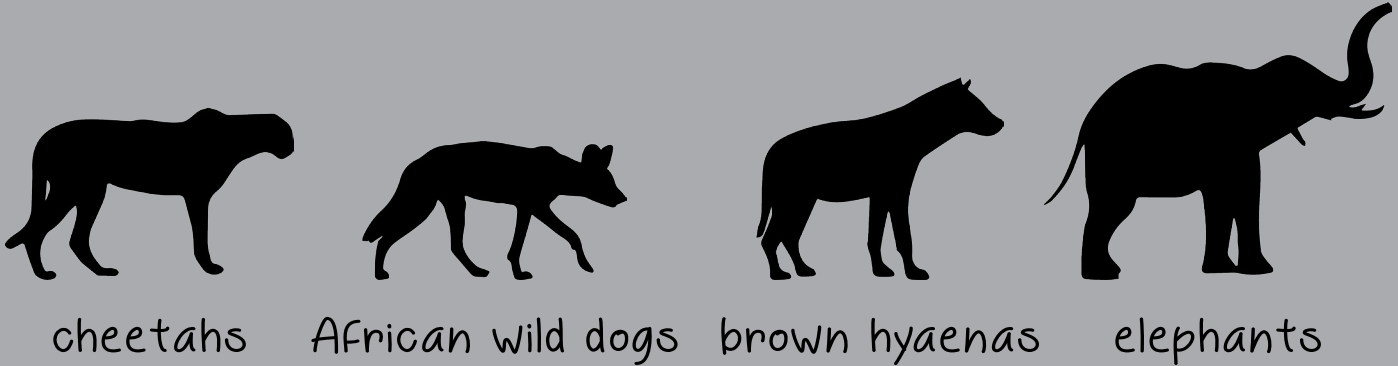




# A NOTE FROM REBECCA



BOTSWANA HAS THE WORLD'S LARGEST POPULATION OF



Greetings to our wonderful family of supporters and friends around the world! It is with many thanks that we report back on our 2018 activities. With the global cheetah population continuing to decline (only around 7100 in 2016), the importance of Botswana's cheetahs becomes ever more apparent. With approximately 2000 individuals, the latest cheetah population census confirmed that Botswana is one of the few countries where cheetah populations remain stable and through our work we are excited to be able to contribute to this. Of course, we could not do this without our network of international support, through Wildlife Conservation Network, our grant partners, our individual donors and everyone who sends us encouragement to continue our important work when times get tough. Thank you so much for being part of our team! Together we are making the future as bright as can be for Botswana's cheetahs and their Kalahari home.

Of course, Botswana has been in the news a lot

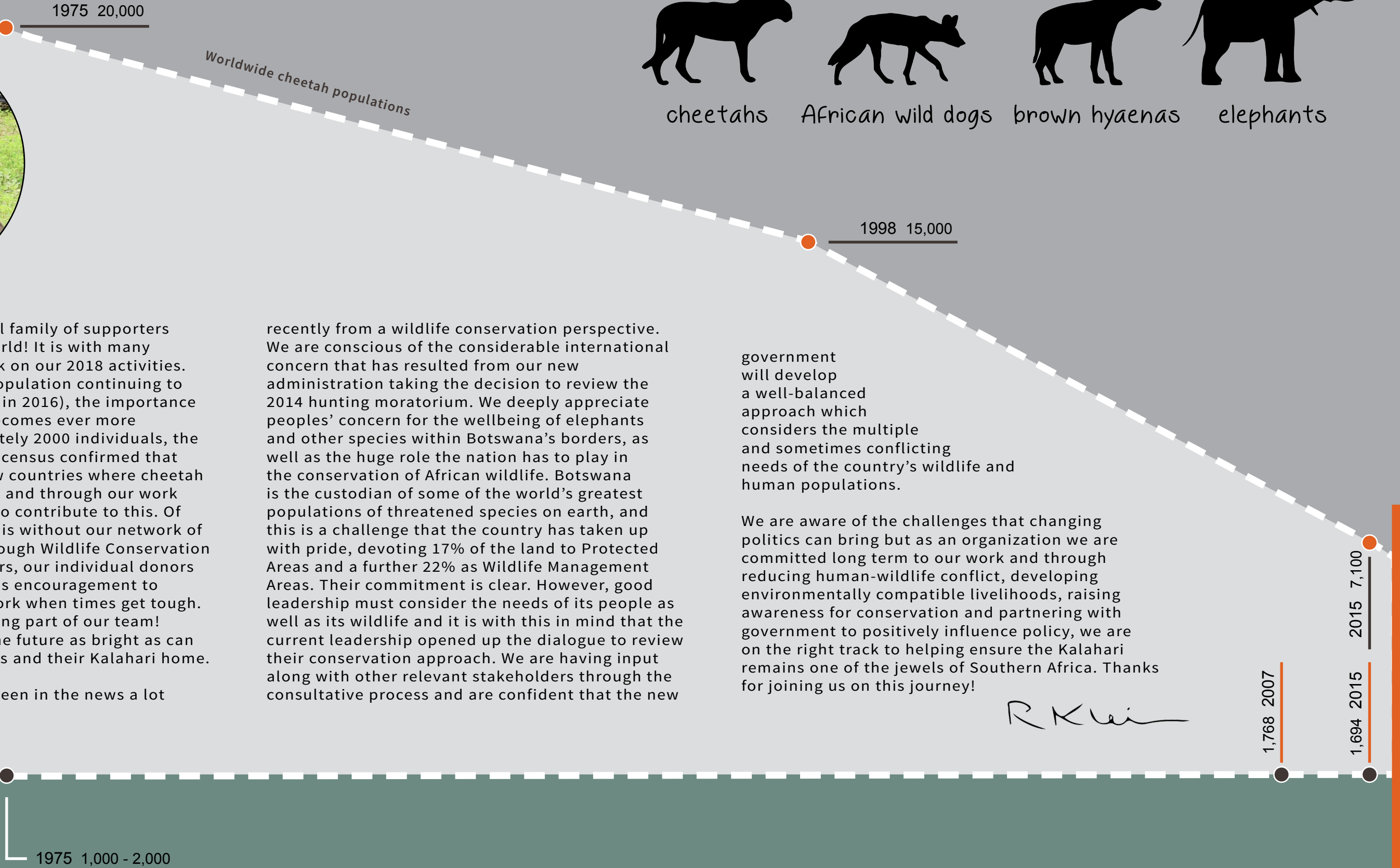
recently from a wildlife conservation perspective. We are conscious of the considerable international concern that has resulted from our new administration taking the decision to review the 2014 hunting moratorium. We deeply appreciate peoples' concern for the wellbeing of elephants and other species within Botswana's borders, as well as the huge role the nation has to play in the conservation of African wildlife. Botswana is the custodian of some of the world's greatest populations of threatened species on earth, and this is a challenge that the country has taken up with pride, devoting 17% of the land to Protected Areas and a further 22% as Wildlife Management Areas. Their commitment is clear. However, good leadership must consider the needs of its people as well as its wildlife and it is with this in mind that the current leadership opened up the dialogue to review their conservation approach. We are having input along with other relevant stakeholders through the consultative process and are confident that the new

government will develop a well-balanced approach which considers the multiple and sometimes conflicting needs of the country's wildlife and human populations.

We are aware of the challenges that changing politics can bring but as an organization we are committed long term to our work and through reducing human-wildlife conflict, developing environmentally compatible livelihoods, raising awareness for conservation and partnering with government to positively influence policy, we are on the right track to helping ensure the Kalahari remains one of the jewels of Southern Africa. Thanks for joining us on this journey!

R Kwei

Botswana's cheetah population





# THE CHALLENGES



## POPULATION CRASH

Worldwide cheetah populations have halved since the year 2000 - a faster population crash than rhinos, elephants or even lions. With only 7,100 cheetahs left on the planet in 2015, the population is becoming more and more fragmented, further threatening the population with limited genetic connectivity.



## RETALIATION

As human populations and livestock numbers continue to increase, conflict between cheetahs and livestock farmers further escalates. With farmers retaliating by shooting, poisoning and trapping cheetahs, urgent action is needed to find ways for farmers to use non-lethal means by which to deter carnivores whilst growing their livestock enterprises, and promoting coexistence.



## LOSS OF HABITAT

Farming areas continue to encroach into wilderness areas in Botswana and several key wildlife corridors have recently been converted into new farming areas. Although cheetahs are able to thrive in farmlands if conflict can be minimised, the destruction that poor farming practices cause to the rangeland threatens not only wildlife species but ultimately the livestock too, by negatively altering the vegetation characteristics that comprise a healthy range. This situation is likely to be exacerbated as a result of climate change and as a result of human adaptation to that change.



## ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE

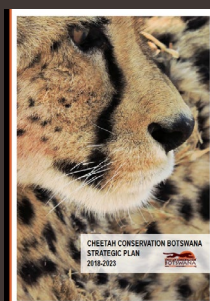
Cheetahs are poached for their skins and are also caught and sold on the black market as pets. Furthermore, the rise of bushmeat hunting in Botswana (poaching for meat) is also threatening antelope populations, which adversely affects cheetahs by taking away their food source. Carnivores are then more likely to look at livestock as food, further exacerbating conflict. Until this worrying trend is curbed, the entire ecosystem is under threat.



# MOVING FORWARD



After an assessment of our activities, successes and challenges, we as an organisation have taken stock, assessed our direction and solidified our goals for the next five years. One strategic development that we've made is to intensify our efforts in the west of the country, primarily in the Ghanzi District, so as to best demonstrate the impact of our existing interventions. A new strategy developed to help maintain important wildlife corridors has been to engage with local communities in two key Wildlife Management Areas and support them in their management of their natural and cultural resources.



Download a copy of our  
**2018 - 2023 Strategic Plan**  
at [www.cheetahconservationbotswana.org](http://www.cheetahconservationbotswana.org)

## OUR CONSERVATION APPROACH

1

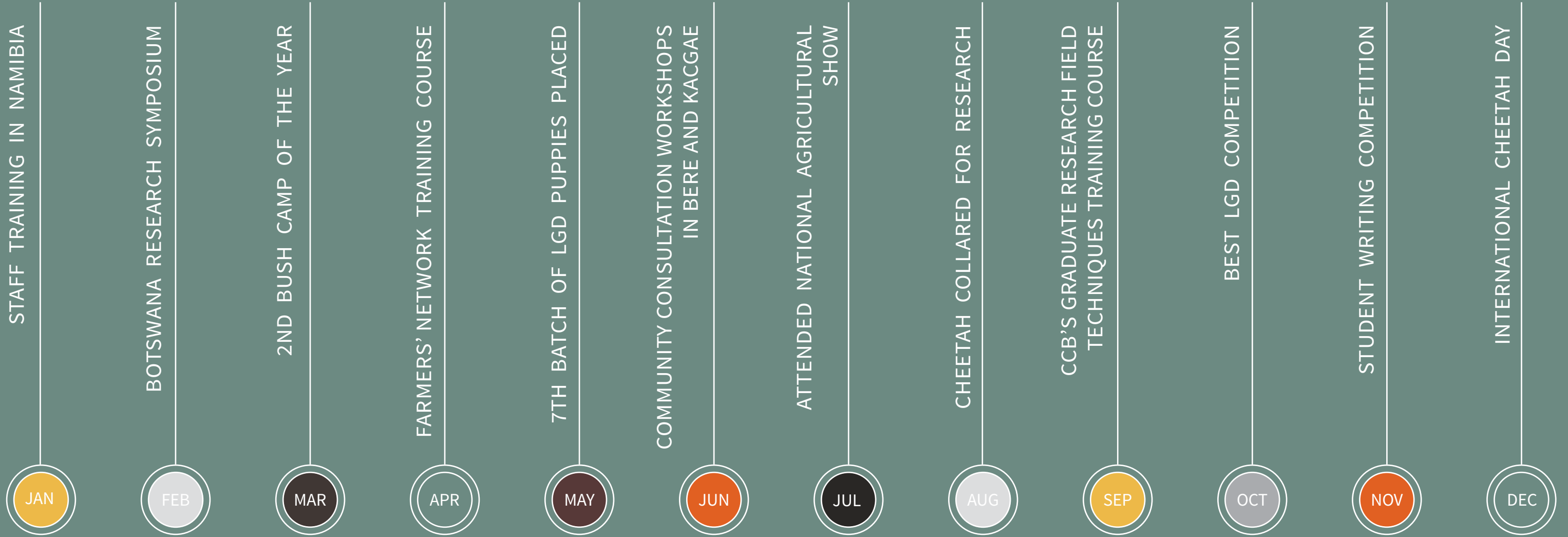
**GOAL 1 :** Demonstrate successful coexistence of human and cheetah populations outside of formal protected areas

2

**GOAL 2 :** Promote an enabling environment for cheetah conservation in Botswana



# THE YEAR AT A GLANCE









# CONTAGIOUS HOPE



In a landscape where livestock agriculture is the predominant land use, it is the farmers that shape the future of the Kalahari. Our **Farming for Conservation** programmatic approach is to play the role of catalyst, facilitator and honest broker. Farmers would prefer not to hear about farming from a conservationist - so we listen to the farmers, hear their concerns, provide a platform for engagement with the appropriate partners and support the uptake of practical tools that enable more secure livelihoods.

Our farmers' networks allow farmers to share ideas between themselves, and through facilitating network activities we can foster the spread of **effective and sustainable practices**. Without sustainable farming the entire Kalahari ecosystem is at risk — and we are determined to safeguard this environment for all its inhabitants, especially the cheetah.

This year almost 100 farmers benefited from farmers' network activities.

## Farmers' Networks:



### Model farmers

are in the process of being identified this year to act as demonstrators of good practice within their communities. Two male and two female farmers have been selected as our first ever model farmers.



### Exchange visits

Two exchange visits were facilitated this year for network members to directly engage with farmers from other parts of the country to see how they have adapted to their challenges and inspire them with new ideas.



### Skills development

Training workshops are organised to fill the capacity gaps identified by the farmers themselves. This year six workshops were held in topics such as record keeping and grazing management.



### Competitions

A healthy sense of competitiveness can help to spur action! This year 45 farmers entered our best livestock guarding dog competition, including 10 women! The winner walked away with 3 goats from CCB's own demonstration farm.

## Farming for Conservation - other activities in 2018

### 1 FARMERS' WORKSHOPS

Six workshops helped farmers to learn more about the carnivores that live on their farms — how best to identify their tracks and signs and how to mitigate conflict.

### 2 RAPID RESPONSE UNITS

When conflict strikes our team is on hand to react. This year our team saw a reduction in the number of calls they received — suggesting that our work is having positive effects in reducing cheetah-farmer conflict.

### 3 LIVESTOCK GUARDING DOGS

Livestock guarding dogs are a great frontline defense against carnivores and this year CCB trained and placed 20 dogs for farmers suffering serious conflict with cheetahs.

### 4 PRACTICAL RESOURCES

Our farmers' resources were distributed far and wide this year, including at the two biggest agricultural shows.

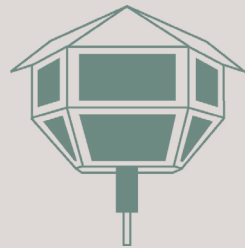




# THE SEARCH FOR DISCOVERY



This year, our research team has remained ahead of the curve — pioneering techniques to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.



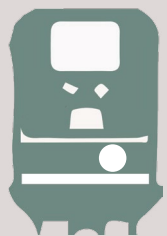
## First carnivore deterrents trialed in Botswana

After successful pilots in South Africa, the carnivore deterrents “Skaapwagters” have been tested for the first time in Botswana by our research team. The deterrents use a combination of lights and scents to keep carnivores away from areas of high conflict. Initial results indicate that the devices are working very well.



## 30 tracking collars placed on cattle

In order to understand the dynamics of the conflict between cheetah and cattle, 30 collars have been placed on cattle to track their movements, show roaming distances and critically, how long mothers leave their calves unattended and vulnerable in the bush. This information will help us determine appropriate methods to mitigate this conflict.



## 1,610km<sup>2</sup> monitored with camera traps

Through extensive monitoring of cheetah habitats, we have been able to prove that farmlands host an incredible diversity of wildlife, if managed correctly. This information is routinely shared with host farmers and government partners to aid informed decision making at the policy and implementation level.



## 2,092kms of cheetah movements logged

GPS tracking collars placed on cheetahs in Botswana's highest conflict zones keep us updated on movement trends, the use of wildlife corridors and hotspot areas within the farmlands. All this information feeds back to the community for conflict alleviation.

## Carnivore Occupancy Modeling

In conjunction with the Botswana Carnivore Forum (BCF), CCB has collected carnivore data from the entire country for analysis of preferred habitats.



## Cheetah Scat Detection

Loeto's training as the first local Tswana dog to detect cheetah scat has continued in earnest this year. Proving that local dogs are capable of this task could help save other NGOs thousands of dollars usually paid out to hire detection dogs.



## Problem Animal Report Analysis

CCB collected the last 5 years of conflict records from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks from the Ghanzi District to analyse trends in conflict.



## Livestock Guarding Dogs

Our LGD placement programme is unique because we train and sterilise locally-bred puppies before they are placed with farmers. Our teams are closely monitoring the performance and health of these dogs to assess their impact in alleviating farmer-carnivore conflict.



We wish to sincerely thank  
San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation  
Research for supporting our research  
between 2014 - 2019

SAN DIEGO ZOO  
INSTITUTE FOR  
CONSERVATION  
RESEARCH



# INFECTIOUS INSPIRATION

Why should we conserve cheetahs if we don't understand the role they play in the ecosystem and why indeed a balanced and healthy ecosystem is important and valuable for us humans, as part of that ecosystem?

Through our various activities, it is this understanding that we strive to attain with different stakeholder groups.

Engaging with youth of different ages, from primary to tertiary level remains at the core of our work as we recognise that so much of our behaviour as adults is informed by those very formative years. We strive to make our activities as participatory and experiential as possible. Moving forward, we are looking to infuse conservation related Indigenous Knowledge into our bush camp curricula, to ensure the continued transfer between generations of this invaluable wisdom.

This year we continued with our school visits and bush camps and for International Cheetah Day we celebrated with a writing and art competition. Necessity really was the mother of invention when we turned an unfortunate loss of transportation for our bush camps into a good reason to trial mobile bush camps within the rural villages themselves. Our team is building upon this experience to make sure we can engage with the students from isolated villages even when we don't have the means for them to visit our Education Centre. Just because they are isolated, doesn't mean they should be forgotten.



210  
students  
@ our  
bushcamps

4  
“Champions for  
Cheetahs” selected  
for our mentorship  
programme

1000+  
children  
reached with  
our education  
activities in 2018

“JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE ISOLATED, DOES NOT MEAN THEY SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN.”







# A CAMP MAKEOVER

Thanks to the support of a range of stakeholders, we were able to make considerable infrastructural upgrades to our field camp in Ghanzi this year, including an entire overhaul of our solar system.

It's hard to run statistical modeling when you don't have power. It's also hard to back up your computer, download cheetah collar GPS points, or charge batteries for camera traps when you don't have power. To give you an idea of our power woes, our Research Coordinator Dr. Leanne Van der Weyde was unable to run a statistical model on her computer after an entire year of trying, simply because it required 12 hours of continuous power. This year an array of stakeholders, spearheaded by CCB's long-term supporter and friend Steve Gold, donated all the necessary equipment needed to completely upgrade our entire solar system, safeguarding our power needs for the next 20 years. To say it has been a game changer would be a huge understatement. We would like to give a huge thanks to Steve, his dedicated team, and our solar partners Simpliphi, Outback Power Systems and Unirac for providing all of the equipment and making our power woes a thing of the past!

In addition to our new solar system, Ghanzi Camp Coordinator Phale Max Seele has worked hard to make a number of improvements around the camp, including adding verandas for the each cabin to shade against the harsh Kalahari sun, planting more indigenous trees and shrubs, establishing a compost heap and vegetable patch. We are hoping to reduce our carbon footprint by producing vegetables for our staff and possibly even for our bush camps in future. We are also looking into planting fodder to supplement our livestock during the drought and harvesting our grey water in the months to come.

"TO SAY IT HAS BEEN A GAME CHANGER WOULD BE A HUGE UNDERSTATEMENT."

22



23





# DISNEY CONSERVATION HEROES

In 2018, Disney Conservation Fund awarded 13 people around the world as Disney Conservation Heroes. We are very proud to report that three of them were from CCB.

Thanks to their hard work in reducing conflict between farmers and carnivores, including our livestock guarding dog programme, the Disney Conservation Fund awarded our own Farming For Conservation team with their Conservation Hero awards. We are incredibly proud of our staff and their hard work on the front line of conservation. Congratulations!

"THIS AWARD IS A GREAT HONOUR AND AN INSPIRATION TO ME AND MY TEAM. WE ARE A TEAM THAT IS PROPELLED BY THE LOVE AND PASSION FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION; PARTNERED WITH TEAM SPIRIT.

THANK YOU DISNEY CONSERVATION FUND FOR RECOGNISING OUR HARD WORK."



**MORULAGANYI KOKOLE**

Farming for Conservation Coordinator



**CONNIE (KING) MODISE**

Farming for Conservation Officer



**PHALE MAX SEELE**

Ghanzi Camp Coordinator



# OUR WISH LIST

## PROJECTS AWAITING FUNDING FOR 2019-2020



### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR 2020 ONWARDS

CCB has been incredibly fortunate over the last five years to have the generous support of the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research. SDZ-ICR have funded our entire research division since 2015, including the placement of a post-doctoral research fellow. However, this funding will be coming to an end late in 2019. From then on, funds for everything in our research department from salaries, fuel, tracking collars and other equipment and resources will need to be sourced from elsewhere. If you're interested in helping us to cover some of these costs, please get in contact with us.



### PRESCHOOL IN A BOX

San Bushmen children have a disproportionately high drop-out rate in primary school and very few San youth complete graduation of high school. There are many reasons for this, one of which is the lack of access to early childhood development programmes which has been acknowledged by UNICEF as a critical gap in Botswana. CCB has partnered with REWA (Raising Education Within Africa) to implement their "Learn to Play" programme, which sees preschool activities delivered by members of the communities themselves through a "preschool in a box". Research in the area has found that children who participate in pre school education are significantly better at Setswana and English, suffer less from bullying and abuse from other students and teachers and are significantly less likely to drop out of primary school.



### COMMUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Based on thorough consultations with Bere and Kacgae residents, our new programme aims to support 1) the capacity development of the community trusts charged with enabling the communities to participate more meaningfully in the management of their natural and cultural resources; 2) the identification and uptake of appropriate, feasible and sustainable nature-based diversified income streams that tap into the unique strengths of the communities; 3) the brokering of partnerships with reliable, experienced civil society partners to address the social ills plaguing the communities. We are raising funds for a programme coordinator and local community liaisons as well as programme activities.



### FARMERS' NETWORKS

The farmers' networks continue to remain effective tools to enable peer to peer learning and encourage innovation amongst the farming community. Support for this project will allow us to facilitate exchange visits, capacity building workshops for farmers on identified topics, production of required resources and support for identified model farmers to improve on their good husbandry practices as their farming enterprises become centres for learning within their communities.







# FINANCES

## EXPENSES BY DEPARTMENT

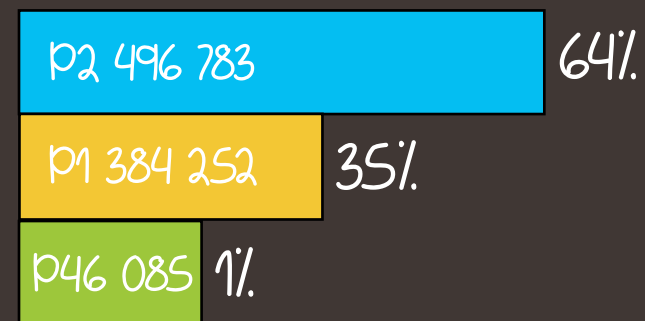


21 STAFF EMPLOYED



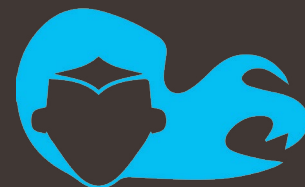
> 120 LGD'S PLACED SINCE 2013

## SOURCES OF OUR FUNDS:

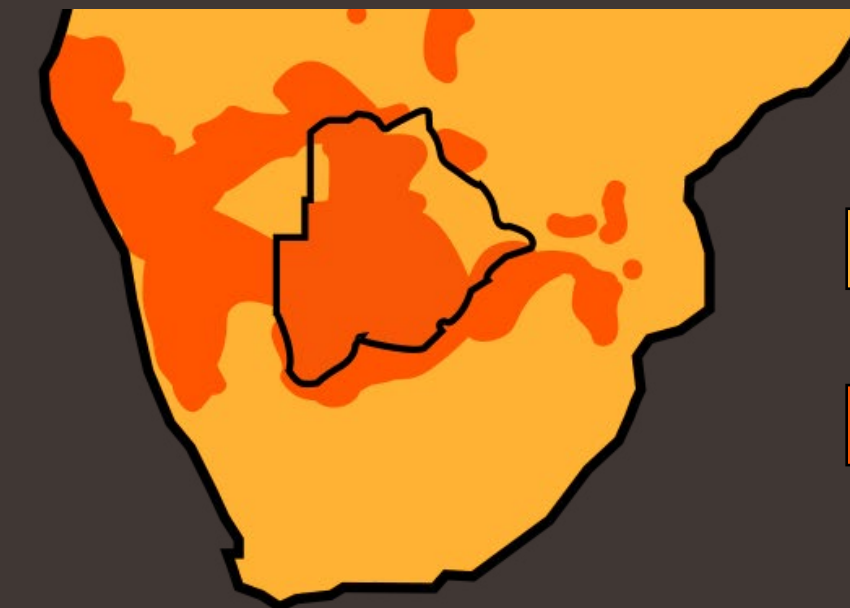


- UNRESTRICTED GRANTS
- RESTRICTED GRANTS
- INCOME

GENDER EQUALITY IS IMPORTANT TO US



# OF WOMEN AT CCB



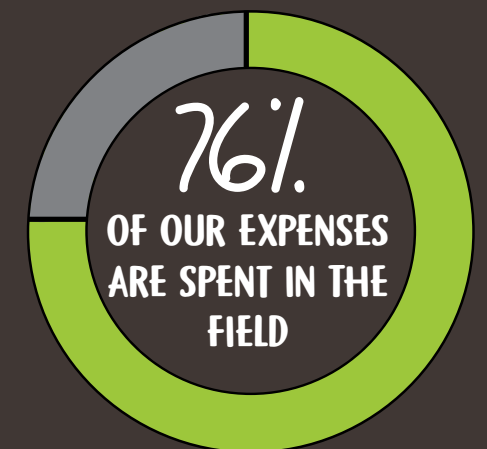
1900 CHEETAH RANGE  
2016 CHEETAH RANGE



THE COSTS INCURRED THIS YEAR FOR FUEL AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

\$ 70,000

COST OF OUR NEW CAMP'S SOLAR SYSTEM ORGANISED BY STEVE GOLD, DONATED THROUGH SIMPLIPHI, OUTBACK POWER SYSTEMS AND UNIRAC



STAFF



MANAGEMENT

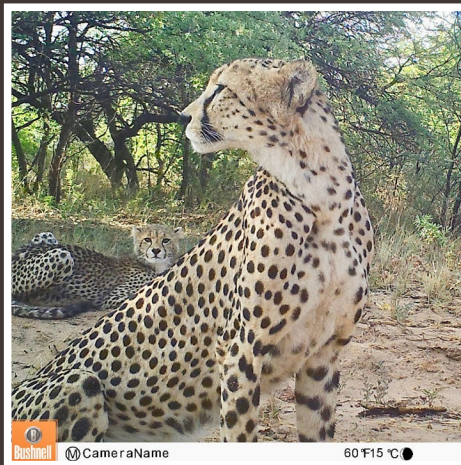
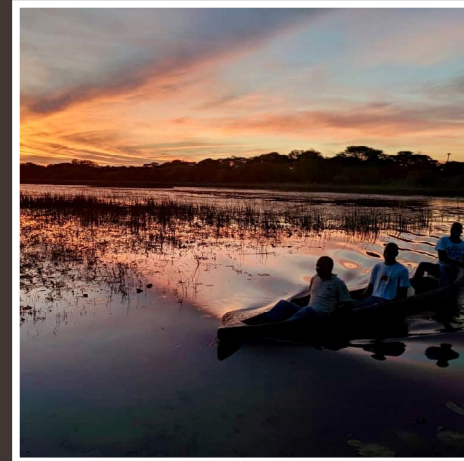




# PAINTING A THOUSAND WORDS

Some of our favourite photos from 2018

Join our team by following us





# THANK YOU

WE WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK EVERYONE WHO MADE A CONTRIBUTION TO CCB IN 2018

## OUR TEAM MEMBERS

Rebecca Klein  
Douglas Thamage  
Nidhi Ramsden  
Boitumelo Mokgosi  
Mingie Masuga  
Connie Sebati  
Morulaganyi Kokole  
Phale (Max) Seele  
Connie (King) Modise  
Kalvin Phillips  
Kealeboga Malepe  
Leanne Van der Weyde  
Christopher Mbisana  
Rethabile Setlalekgomo  
Jane Horgan  
Goabaone (Britz) Malepe  
Marie-Charlotte Gielen  
Ole Theisinger  
Otshabile Bahetoleng  
Reginald Phillips  
Debbie Gaseikae

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mr Douglas Thamage - Secretary  
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Frans & Chris Lanting

## ORGANISATIONS

San Diego Zoo Institute of Conservation Research  
Wildlife Conservation Network  
Nashville Zoo  
National Geographic  
Big Cat Initiative  
Horne Family Foundation  
Seaworld Busch Gardens  
People's Trust for Endangered Species  
Simpliphi  
Outback Power Systems  
Unirac  
The Living Desert  
Tapeats Fund  
Taronga Foundation  
Tanganyika Wildlife Park  
Stichting Wildlife  
Jacksonville Zoo  
St Louis Zoo  
CGMK Foundation  
Wildlife Safaris  
Wild Cat Education & Conservation Fund  
Fresno Chaffee Zoo  
Feline Conservation Federation  
Predator Conservation Trust  
Disney Conservation Hero Awards  
Animal Ark  
Safari West  
Milwaukee County Zoo  
Metro Richmond Zoo  
African Cat Project  
Ghanzi Highway Puma Filling Station  
Letaka Safaris  
Virginia Safari Park  
AmiFelins



OUR MOST HEARTFELT THANKS GO TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA AND THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA FOR THEIR SUPPORT





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