

Project Update: June 2013

AWARENESS

Substantial effort to raise awareness for and to inform the Namibian farming community and general public of the black-footed cat has resulted in good responses and an interest in this rarely seen wild cat species. Posters, articles and information in newspapers and magazines (four in English, one in Afrikaans and one in German) and radio talks have enabled us to locate possible farms with a resident and potentially a viable study population.

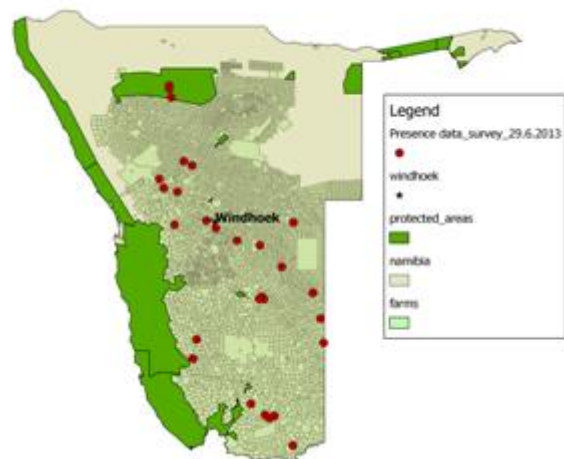
SURVEY EMAIL TO FARMERS

As there are a large number of private farms covering a huge area of Namibia, the Namibian Agricultural Union has distributed a survey email to all its contacts. Responses have been good, with 11 completed surveys received.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Records received

We were able to locate 21 farms on which black-footed cats have been seen. Fine-scale distribution will then begin when the cats are confirmed to be present on a farm and presence surveys will radiate to neighbouring farms. See map for records received. We plan to visit the farms and study areas in July to October 2013.



Conservation status

Preliminary results of survey questionnaires indicate that except for one farmer who tolerates the black-footed cat although these are seen a threat to their poultry, all the other 18 respondents tolerate it and do not perceive it as a threat.

