

Thank you!

We are extremely grateful to the **Department of Wildlife and National Parks** for supporting this research, and **our partners, Chobe Game Lodge**, who have provided valuable ground support.

We would further like to express our gratitude to **our sponsors** from the **SAVE Wildlife Conservation Fund, WWF and Rufford Foundation** for supporting WildCRU in our research.

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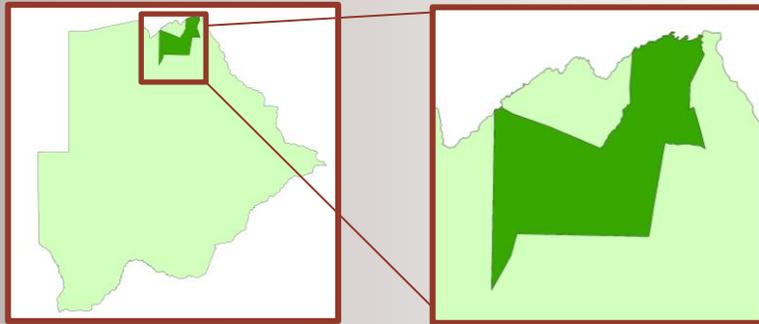
If you would like to **support the conservation of Africa's last remaining carnivore populations**, please go to www.wildcru.org/support-us/

Thank you very much for your support! Through you we can conserve Africa's carnivore populations into the future!

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK CARNIVORE SURVEY



Part of **Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit**, the **Trans-Kalahari Predator Programme** has been operating in Botswana since 2013. Our main focus is the **conservation of large carnivores**, with a special focus on **African lions**. Our objectives are two-fold: we aim to conserve carnivores at a local scale by providing practical solutions for human-carnivore co-existence, and at a landscape scale through the **identification and conservation of wildlife corridors** not only within Botswana, but across the entire Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area.



Chobe National Park, northern Botswana

Carnivores are extremely difficult to count so population sizes are often unknown. Starting in 2017, the **Trans-Kalahari Predator Programme** embarked on a four-year journey to survey large carnivores across the major National Parks and Reserves in Botswana, in close collaboration with the **Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks**. **Chobe National Park** is central to one of the largest contiguous lion populations, stretching from Hwange National Park in north-western Zimbabwe to the Okavango Delta in Botswana. It was therefore identified as a priority site for carnivore surveys to produce updated population estimates, particularly for leopard and lion. The data from the survey will also be used to set up a **lion database** for the **Chobe Riverfront**, to assist monitoring of lions and conflict incidents between Botswana and Namibia.



(Left to right) African lion, African wild dog and cheetah captured during the camera trap surveys.

Motion-controlled **camera trap surveys** are currently the most **reliable and accurate** method for surveying large carnivores, and are thus a valuable tool in producing an updated estimate of large carnivore population sizes in the Okavango Delta. Understanding the **abundance and distribution** of large carnivores throughout the Okavango ecosystem will play a crucial role in contributing to their conservation in this ecosystem and will help to guide land use management decision making.



Left and right side images of the same leopard captured at a camera station. Capturing both sides of the same animal enables us to identify individuals.

Individual surveys are conducted over a period of **eight to ten weeks**, with the camera traps set up in a **grid system**, approximately 4km apart. Each camera station consists of **two camera traps** placed opposite one another and mounted on poles, at shoulder height of the target species. The two cameras enable us to capture images of **both sides** of the target species, which is vital for individual identification. Cameras are **placed on roads or major game trails** to maximise the number of animals recorded. The camera traps are relatively discreet, and usually not noticed, particularly during the day. At night, cameras have a white flash which helps produce high quality imagery.



Cameras also allow us to determine the distribution of rarer nocturnal species such as aardwolf, civet and aardvark (left to right).

CHOBE NATIONAL PARK CARNIVORE SURVEY 2021



CARNIVORES AND NOCTURNAL SPECIES



Leopard
(*Panthera pardus*)



African Wild Dog
(*Lycaon pictus*)



African Lion
(*Panthera leo*)



Spotted Hyena
(*Crocuta crocuta*)



Cheetah
(*Acinonyx jubatus*)



Brown hyena
(*Hyaena brunnea*)



Side-striped Jackal
(*Canis adustus*)



Black-backed Jackal
(*Canis mesomelas*)



Aardvark
(*Orycteropus afer*)



Aardwolf
(*Proteles cristata*)



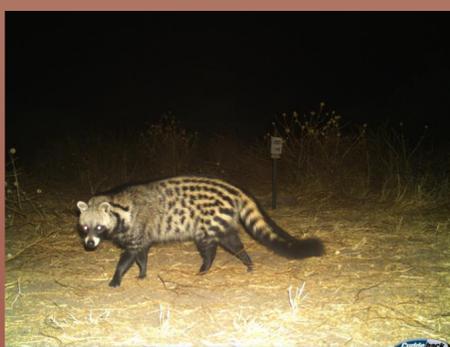
Cape Porcupine
(*Hystrix africaeaustralis*)



Honey Badger
(*Mellivora capensis*)



Bat-eared Fox
(*Otocyon megalotis*)



African Civet
(*Civettictis civetta*)



Serval
(*Leptailurus serval*)



Caracal
(*Caracal caracal*)



African Wild Cat
(*Felis silvestris*)



Rusty-spotted Genet
(*Genetta maculata*)



Springhare
(*Pedetes capensis*)



White-tailed mongoose
(*Ichneumia albicauda*)