

Annex 1



- THE AFRICAT FOUNDATION - established 1993, on farm Okonjima, commercial farmland - central Namibia
- THE AFRI-LEO FOUNDATION – established 1997, on farm Kaross, adjacent to Etosha National Park, north-western Namibia
- **AFRILEO merged under AFRICAT banner in 2010**



AfriCat's MISSION:

TO CONSERVE & HELP PROTECT LARGE CARNIVORES, ENSURING THEIR LONG-TERM SURVIVAL IN COMMUNAL, FREE-HOLD & PROTECTED AREAS; THROUGH INFORMATION-GATHERING, RESEARCH, EDUCATION & AWARENESS.

The Birth of AFRICAT & Carnivore Conservation on Okonjima:

- Hanssen Family suffered high livestock losses to leopard and cheetah. Trophy hunting, traps and shooting were introduced - but no reduction in leopard numbers!
- 1975 - Basic research using battery-operated clock & camera, indicated newcomers take-over once residents/territorial carnivores were shot.
- Improved livestock protection methods were introduced:
 - stronger kraals (bomas) at water-points and electrification was introduced.
 - no calving away from homestead allowed
 - donkeys and mules introduced to cattle herds
- Above methods reduced losses – this advice shared with neighbours lead to the birth of **AFRICAT, for we realised its not about killing the predator, but about the profit a farmer makes!**



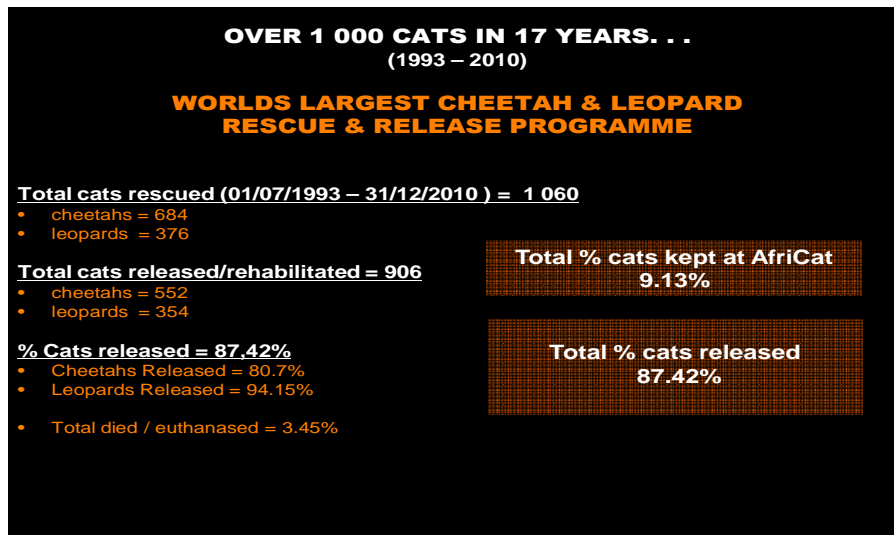
AFRICAT'S GOALS:

- Environmental Education & Awareness,
- Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation,
- Research &
- Welfare

AFRICAT: Central Namibia free-hold farmland; chiefly cheetah & leopard conflict.

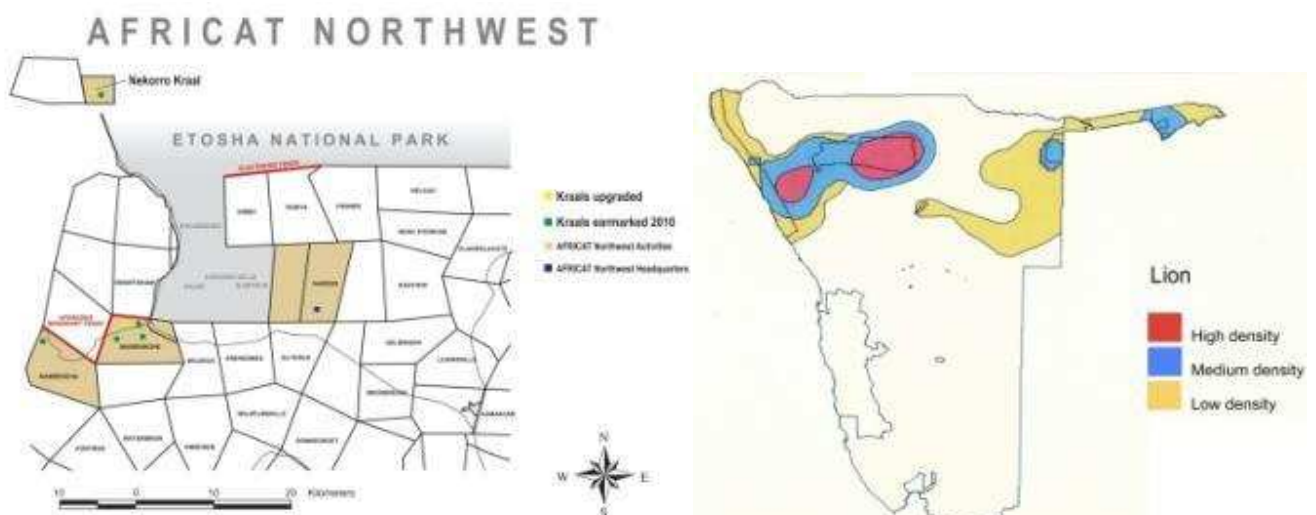
- **Welfare:** Rescue – Release – Rehabilitation

- **Human-Wildlife Conflict: Rescue - Release – Rehabilitation**
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation: Education & Support**



AFRICAT North: Communal & Commercial farmland adjacent to Etosha National Park.

- **Chiefly Lion & Spotted Hyaena (by end 2011 including Wild Dog)**
- **Environmental Education & Awareness: youth & farmers**
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation – communal conservancies & free-hold farms**
- **Research & Lion Welfare**



HOW DOES AFRICAT CONTRIBUTE to the long term conservation and protection of large carnivores?

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION – 23 125 children have passed through our program since 1998

- **Youth:** Attitude change through involvement & activities
 - **Farmers:** Attitude change through solutions
 - **Understanding the eco-system and the wildlife within**
 - **Ensuring, through education, a tolerant generation. This is the only hope for carnivores, for man has to LEARN TO LIVE WITH PREDATORS & UNDERSTAND THE BALANCE**
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- **Mainstream Education** - The Perivoli Okonjima Country School, opened its doors to the first learners on February 1, 2011. The school aims to provide a sound start-up education for pre-school as well as lower primary children (grades 1 – 4). Our school aims not only to be an academic platform, but also a learning centre for environmental education. We hope to play a meaningful role in creating inspired leaders who will contribute to long-term, wildlife conservation.

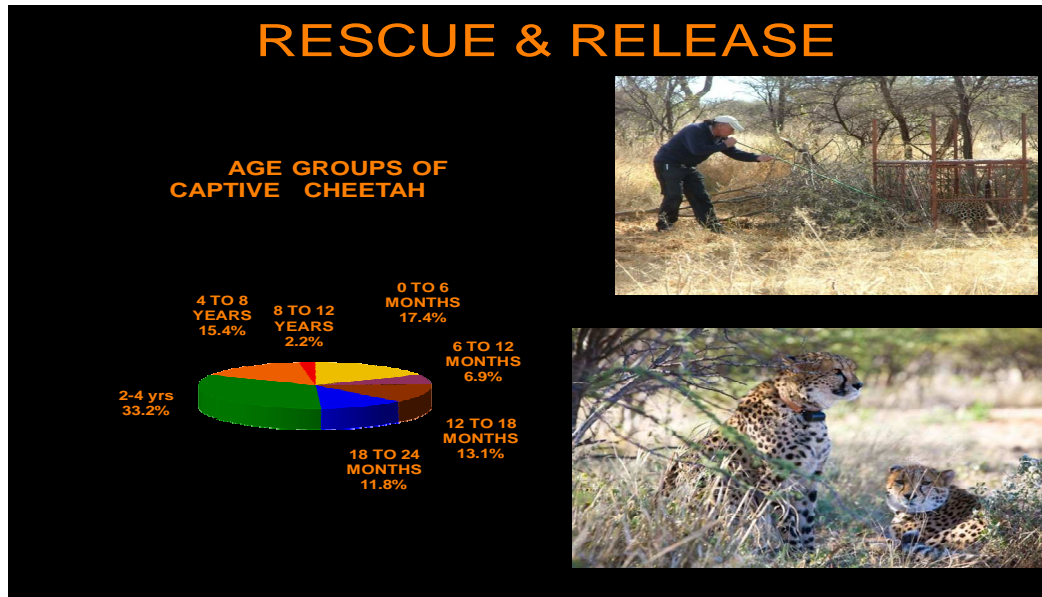


- **Environmental Education** - AfriCat North and AfriCat Okonjima. This takes the form of school kids visiting these centres for learning weekends.
- **Adult Education** (starting 2012) – Environmental and Nature Conservation students from the Polytechnic of Namibia, community farmers and community game guards.

RESCUE – HOUSE – over 90 cats housed at both AfriCat locations presently

- **AfriCat provides humane housing**, treatment and care for the orphaned & injured carnivores.
- **Total cats rescued (01/07/1993 – 31/12/2010) = 1 060**

- **Environmental Education** allows for close study of carnivores, BUT no contact unless animal is anaesthetised



RESCUE & REHABILITATION – over 50 ‘hand-reared/captive & habituated’ carnivores successfully rehabilitated into the wild.

- **Total cheetah & leopard released & rehabilitated since 1993 = 906**
 - cheetahs = 552
 - leopards = 354

Given the early success of the latest rehabilitation programme, the next step is to find suitable reserves for these cheetahs to be permanently settled. This type of re-location requires expert management and monitoring. We are hopeful that a new focus in this area will eventually result in many Cheetahs - currently cared for in welfare units - experiencing a protected, but wild existence.

RESCUE – RELEASE - RESEARCH –research projects are ongoing since 1993

- % Cats released = 87,42%
 - **Cheetahs Released = 80.7%**
 - **Leopards Released = 94.15%**
- 1997 – 2000: Leopard density study in the Omboroko region bordering Okonjima farm - a collaborative study by the AfriCat Foundation and the Ministry of Environment – Dr Flip Stander.

- 2000 – 2010: Ongoing research on predator-proof fencing and electrification by Wayne Hanssen
- 2000 – 2004: Ocular abnormalities of cheetah examined at AfriCat
- 2005 – 2006: Thermoregulation in rehabilitated, free-ranging cheetah at AfriCat – a collaborative study by the AfriCat Foundation and the Witwatersrand University, SA
- 2006 – 2007: Reproduction of female cheetahs - a collaborative study by the AfriCat Foundation and the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research Berlin, Germany.
- 2008: The influences of anaesthetic drugs on blood pressure in cheetahs - a collaborative study by the AfriCat Foundation and the University of Pretoria, SA
- 2006 – 2007: Ecology of free-ranging Namibian Cheetahs - a collaborative study by the AfriCat Foundation and the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research Berlin, Germany.
- 2000 – 2011: Rehabilitation of captive cheetah in a protected and monitored environment. (Okonjima 20 000ha private nature reserve)
- 2011 – 2012: Leopard density study in the 20 000ha Okonjima private, Nature Reserve

AfriCat's Rescue and Release operation has kept a large number of Carnivores from harm for many years, but the team at AfriCat believe that a new strategy is needed to respond to the current 'stalemate' - the majority of farmers would still, 18 years later, rather remove carnivores than allow them to live on their land. Rescue and release remains a fundamental part of the conservation process, but more focus needs to be placed on longer-term solutions.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT:

- **REASONS FOR CONFLICT -**
 - Farming methods offer limited protection
 - Livestock roam free at night – easy prey!
 - Fences & kraals (bomas) in disrepair
 - Few or no herdsman – livestock unattended
 - Outdated livestock management
- **LAND-USE PRACTICES:**
 - **Commercial**
 - Land-owners demand high reward = intolerant of livestock losses
 - Farmer-Predator Conflict = traps, poison, shooting
 - Largely conservative farming methods
 - Attitude change, support and solutions needed
 - **Communal**

- Communities adopt traditional farming methods: less commercial, lower gain
- Subsistence farming - more tolerant to livestock losses, if stock is protected. / Better predator value understanding due to value/attraction of animal for tourism
- Education and support needed
- Improved farming methods + alternative income = poverty reduction

MITIGATION OPTIONS:

- Improved Livestock Management & Protection methods: kraal (boma) / herdsman
- Compensation Schemes – self-insurance
- Selective Removal / Relocation by MET / NGO
- Establishing Buffer Zones adjacent to protected areas
- Photographic Tourism

The AFRICAT COMMUNAL CARNIVORE CONFLICT PROJECT (CCCP):

- Carnivore Conflict Mitigation
- Improving Livestock Protection Methods
- Improving Livestock Farming Management
- Engendering Carnivore Tolerance

CARNIVORE CONFLICT MITIGATION:

- Capture & Relocation to protected area wherever possible
- Relocation to suitable area within Namibia
- Temporary accommodation pending potential reintroduction to former range eg. neighbouring states (pending Government Policy)

ENGENDERING CARNIVORE TOLERANCE:

- Radio-tracking (VHF / GPS), facilitating
- Eco-tourism (photographic safaris)

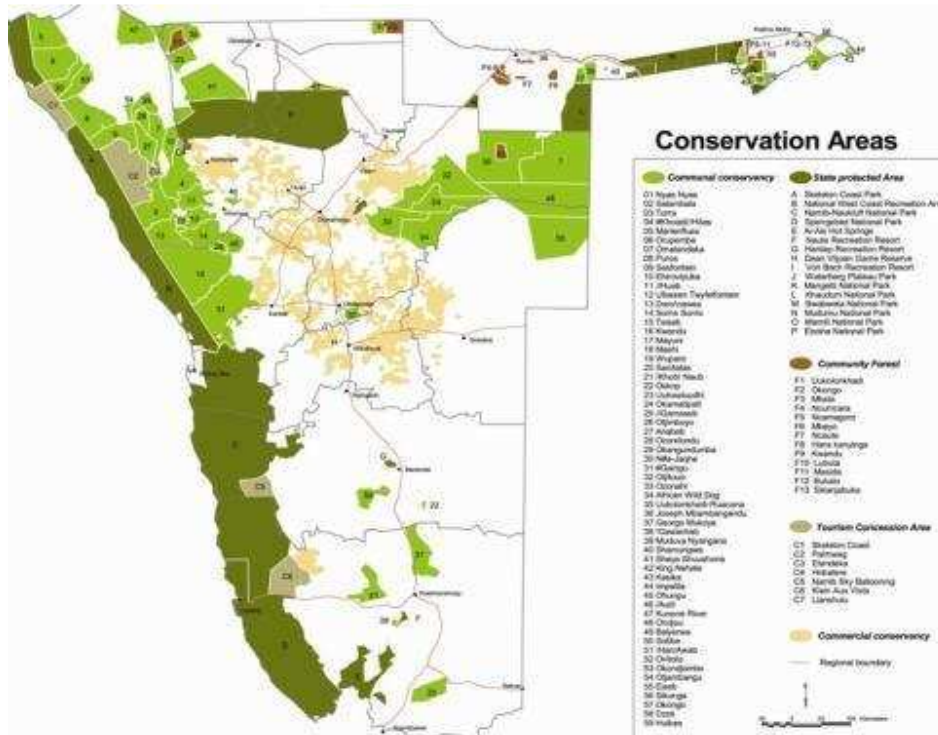
- Geo-fencing (early warning system)
- General awareness and knowledge of carnivore behaviour

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES:

- Poverty reduction through improved livestock profitability
- Tourism encourages employment opportunity
- Potential for meat premiums on predator-tolerant farming

ACTIVITIES THAT ENCOURAGE AWARENESS & RAISE FUNDS FOR FOUNDATION:

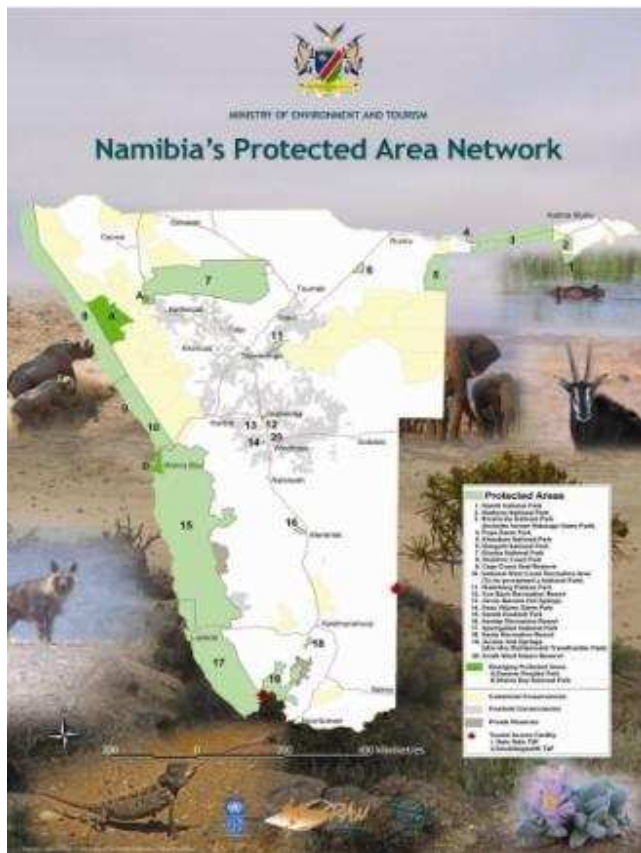
- Volunteering programmes: P.A.W.S – People And Wildlife Solutions
- Educational Excursions : AfriCat Environmental Education Programme
- Fund-raising initiatives: Local & International
- Awareness campaigns: Youth & Farming community
- Collaborative programmes and
- Supporting Government Initiatives - supporting HWC Policies, contributing towards the Carnivore Density Estimate projects



Conservation area versus Commercial (free-hold) farming area

- **Namibia's total area = 823 680 km²**
- **State Protected areas = 16.5 % (13 825 408 ha)**
- **Free-hold Conservancies = 6%**
- **Concessions & Community Forests = 0.8 %**
- **Communal Conservancies = 14.9 % by end 2008**
- **TOTAL CONSERVATION Management area = 38.2 %**
- **Commercial farming area = 28 422 655 ha**
- **Includes free-hold conservancies,**
- **Game farms and**
- **Private parks**

A message from Namibia's Honourable Minister of Environment & Tourism



“Human-Wildlife Conflict will be present for as long as Man & Wildlife live together. Man has been given the power to think and it is our responsibility to make decisions, not only for ourselves but for the wildlife that cannot speak or defend themselves – Strike a balance as it affects our livelihood.”

Netambo Nandi-Ndaitwah – addressing the HWC Policy Congress 2008.

MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS:

- ✓ ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION in the broad sense of the word and not species specific - CARNIVORES are only one link in the environmental chain. Only this concept, exposed to THE NEXT GENERATION who hold the future of Namibia's farmland in their hands, can and will make the difference.

GOALS & MAIN CHALLENGES:

- ✓ Funding: Financial Incentives through tourism based-projects.
- ✓ AfriCat is committed to the long-term conservation of the large carnivores of Namibia and their habitat. Our aim over the next few years is to make a greater impact on the wild population by;
 - Returning more captive animals to protected reserves and wild areas,
 - restoring depleted grasslands and
 - placing a greater emphasis on education of young people, students and farmers. Ensuring, through education, a tolerant generation. This is the only hope for carnivores, for man has to LEARN TO LIVE WITH PREDATORS & UNDERSTAND THE BALANCE.
- ✓ The AfriCat North team will work with farming communities, especially those surrounding the Etosha National Park, assisting in carnivore management (mainly lion) and advising communal and commercial farmers on how best to protect livestock. This will be the first unit of its kind in Namibia and started operating in 2011.
- ✓ AfriCat started out with a mission statement to "keep wild cats wild", hence 'A free Cat'. Concentrating on Adult and Youth Education, initiating wild Cheetah Research including the help of farmers and evolving the Rehabilitation Project to such an extent that it becomes a worldwide model for Reintroduction, *are all in keeping with that early statement.*

AFRICAT: A time of change and innovation. . . .

Conservation is complex. When wild animals compete with human beings, the solutions are not always as straight forward as we would like them to be. We are convinced that our new strategic direction moves the cause of the conservation of large carnivores and their habitat, forward.

