Symposium on Red Data status of carnivores in Namibia, 8-10 November 2017

**Otjikoto Environmental Education Centre**

**SYMPOSIUM NOTES**

There notes result from the plenary discussion on each species following each presentation. They should be read in conjunction with, and supplementary to, the respective presentations on each species, e.g. the Threats and Actions listed here are in addition to those given in the presentations.

**Aardwolf (IUCN global status – LC; Namibian status – LC)**

Threats

* Killed for food (including for specific body parts considered a delicacy)
* Incorrect info spread on them being predators (e.g. killing chickens)
* Confusion with other spp (e.g. Brown Hyaena) and thus persecuted
* Collateral killing under jackal and caracal control programmes

Additional data sources

* Atlas data (EIS)
* Paper on poison use in Namibia
* Can a population estimate be derived for this species?

Recommended actions

* Stop / minimise use of pesticides used for locust control
* Ban use of poisons for predator control
* Ban use of gin traps
* Provide good info on Aardwolf – their diet, the fact that they are not predators, the role they play in the ecosystem and their many benefits to farmers and land-owners. Use AgriForum, short video clips and farmer-to-farmer communications.

**Team leader: Ingrid**

**Team members: Lise, Steph, Gabi, Laurie**

**Brown Hyaena** **(IUCN global status – NT; Namibian status – NT)**

Threats

* Illegal commercial markets in Asia – bones, teeth, claws
* Muti markets
* Poisons
* Gin traps

Additional data sources

* Conservancies, regional game counts and Atlas/EIS
* Louisa – camera traps
* Nankuse data
* Lodges & Farmers – camera traps – but check on misidentification with Spotted Hyaena
* Info from farmers on extend of HWC and actions taken by farmers

Recommended actions

* Recommend taking off trophy hunting list – social structure too complex & long recovery time
* Collection of scats to determine prey on farmlands (to strengthen information on this species)
* Provide good info on this species, e.g. via AgriForum, video clips, farmer-to-farmer guidance on farming harmoniously with Brown Hyaena, etc.
* Develop standard methodology for farmers to identify the culprit species of predation
* Involve farmers (via NAU) in citizen science data collection, e.g. sightings, camera traps, HWC
* Look at economic impacts of Brown Hyaena to farmers versus (a) other predators, (b) overall livestock losses and (c) their benefits. The costs are expected to be very small (perhaps nett benefit

**Team leader: Ingrid**

**Team members: Louisa, Laurie, Muzuma**

**Spotted Hyaena** **(IUCN global status – LC; Namibian status – Vulnerable)**

Threats

* Illegal Asian markets – bones, teeth, claws
* Muti markets
* Poisons
* Gin traps
* Misplaced sentiments re wild horses near Aus with negative consequences for Hyaenas

Recommended actions

* Ban poison for predator control
* Ban gin traps
* Take off trophy hunting list – social structure very complex, with very long clan & population recovery times
* Collected additional data for improved species management
* Develop HWC mitigation plan – mechanisms are relatively easy compared to some species
* Provide good information on this species, and on its HWC mitigation, and explore ways of improving its image
* Develop approaches / feasibility for addressing road mortality (also for other spp)

**Team leader: Lise**

**Team members: Nick, Steph, Martina T-R, Muzuma**

**Cheetah** **(IUCN global status – Vulnerable; Namibian status – Endangered)**

Additional data

* Zimbabwe experienced 90% decline in Cheetah population
* Emphasise low level of population protected in National Parks – most on farmlands
* Issues around inter-species competition perhaps linked to habitat differentiation / partition

Threats

* Trophy hunting of females – reduced productivity
* Game farms, particularly with high value species – severe persecution and intolerance
* Game-proof fencing & electric fencing – habitat fragmentation
* Illegal trade for Asian markets – bones, teeth, claws and skins
* Muti market

Recommended actions

* Map out all game fencing (see work ongoing in MET permit office and link in with data held by NAU)
* Expand Cheetah status survey research, e.g. in Pro-Namib area

**Team leader: IZW**

**Team members: Laurie, Rudi/Nick, Gabi, Fabiano (UNAM), Muzuma**

**Leopard** **(IUCN global status – Vulnerable; Namibian status – Vulnerable)**

Additional data

* Obtain from Steiner, CCF, farmers & others

Threats

* Illegal commercial Asian markets – bones, claws, teeth and skins
* Persecution for HWC

Actions

* Adjust trophy hunting to **old** males (not just males) to prevent loss of prime breeding animals
* Need for longer-term studies to understand populations trends, both short and longer term, and inter-relationship with other carnivore species – and select a suite of appropriate sites for these studies
* Establish an info outreach programme, farmer-to-farmer, video clips, multi-media, etc

**Team leader: Louisa**

**Team members: AfriCat, Gabi, Nick, NAPHA, Fabiano (UNAM), Muzuma**

**Lion** **(IUCN global status – Vulnerable; Namibian status – Endangered)**

Actions

* Implement action to deal with illegal commercial Asian trade in bones, claws & teeth
* Promote co-managed landscapes around parks with lions and promote economic incentives
* Explore options for lions on privately protected areas and meta-population management
* Guard against any form of captive breeding, canned hunting and lion bone supply
* Work to ensure wildlife corridors are maintained, and that human settlement patterns don’t conflict with corridors and wild lands.

**Team leader: Lise**

**Team members: Flip, Michelle M, Piet B, Paul F (Panthera), Martina T-R, Fabiano (UNAM), Muzuma**

**African Black-footed Cat** **(IUCN global status – Vulnerable; Namibian status – Vulnerable)**

Recommended Action

* This species is dependent on the burrows of relatively small burrowing animals such as Springhares and Pangolins. They are more vulnerable in large burrows (e.g. Aardvark). The protection of smaller burrowing animals is therefore of importance for the African Black-footed Cat.

**Team leader: Martina Küsters**

**Team members: N/a’an kuse**

**Caracal (IUCN global status – LC; Namibian status – LC)**

Additional data

* Need to bring together all available data and consolidate
* There is a shortage of information on this species in Namibia, including:
	+ Home range / territory sizes in different habitats, rainfall belts and land uses
	+ Population sizes in different areas, including in national parks
	+ Number of animals being killed in small-stock areas and elsewhere
	+ What animals are feeding on – analysis of stomach contents

Actions

* Engage farmers in citizen science projects to collect sightings, camera trap data and stomach contents. Most farmers don’t get involved with data collection / surveys / computer submissions of info, etc. Need to physically visit, engage with, and download data from camera trap cards
* See if it is possible to expand the NAPHA leopard survey to extract data also on other carnivore species – NCE can provide some funding for extra external drives and interns

**Team leader: Chavoux (N/a’an kuse)**

**Team members: CCF**

**Serval (IUCN global status – LC; Namibian status – LC)**

Additional data / Action

* Contact likely individuals and organisations in range of this species to see if there is more data available on the distribution (currently very patchy), e.g. KOAR (tourism establishments in the Kavango)

**Team leader: Ken (Ongava)**

**Team members: IZW (Sarah?)**

**African Wild Cat (IUCN global status – LC; Namibian status – LC)**

Actions

* Everyone to submit all data of sightings, from camera traps, etc
* All private protected areas, lodges and others in remote areas to ensure that only neutered domestic cats are kept (to prevent genetic pollution)
* All cats in these remote areas should also be inoculated for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

**Team leader: Martina Küsters?**

**Team members:** **N/a’an kuse**

**African Wild Dog** **(IUCN global status – Endangered; Namibian status – Critically Endangered)**

Recommended Actions

* Contact Robin Lines and get his involvement and data
* Include CCF data (e.g. Khaudum, Nyae-Nyae)
* Consolidate all data on AWD prey, particularly wrt livestock where their predation is vastly exaggerated (Robin Lines has survey data)
* Put out clear messages about compatibility of AWD conservation and land stock farming
* Etosha NP is the key conservation priority for AWD. Look at a reintroduction via privately protected areas south of Etosha, particularly in sandveld areas
* Inoculate animals against anthrax prior to re-introduction, and follow up with offspring
* Quickly remove animals from areas where they are being persecuted and build compatible packs, with experienced hunting individuals, for translocation and reintroduction programme
* Set us a national AWD captive breeding and meta-population policy and plan, to the proposed reintroduction initiative

**Team leader: Lise**

**Team members: Nick (N/a’an kuse), CCF, AfriCat, Robin Lines, MET (Muzuma, Piet), Ortwin (UNAM Vet School)**

**Bat-eared Fox, Cape Fox (IUCN global status – LC; Namibian status – LC)**

**Side-striped Jackal and Black-backed Jackal (IUCN global status – LC; Namibian status – LC)**

Actions

* Poor availability of data on Side-striped Jackal – everyone to submit all their data, and contact likely individuals / organisations, e.g. KOAR.
* Jackals & other predators are no longer referred to as “problem species” in the new PA&WM Bill – there are only problem individuals. Need to distribute this and related info widely once Act is promulgated
* Persecution and disruption of social structure of Jackals usually leads to more problems as subadults come into area
* Guard dogs can virtually eliminate small-stock losses to jackal, and local breeds (or cross-breeds) of dogs suited to rural village life can be trained and used
* The role of rabies in kudu is probably not from jackal – this needs more work to correct mal-alignment
* Small-stock farmers should be encouraged to have Springbok and manage healthy ecosystems to reduce predation on small-stock; and farmers should focus on stock management & protection, not predator control
* Bat-eared Fox – poorly understood – seems to be a boom-n-bust species – linked to food? disease (rabies)? – needs research.
* Many B-e Foxes (and some Cape Foxes) killed on roads.
* Status of Cape Foxes, both in and outside of Parks, and across different ecosystems and land uses poorly understood – needs an MSc project
* The ecological role that Foxes and Jackals play, and their benefits to land owners needs to be explained and widely distributed.

**Both Jackal species - Team leader: N/a’an kuse**

 **Team members: Ingrid**

**Both Fox species – Team leader: Steph**

 **Team members: any volunteers?**

**Cape Clawless Otter (IUCN global status – NT; Namibian status – NT)**

**Spotted-necked Otter (IUCN global status – NT; Namibian status – NT)**

Actions

* Data collection needed – poorly know. Short-term data collection for RD Book by contacting lodges, tour guides, MET staff etc to provide info.
* Longer-term status assessment by getting a MSc project on the otters across northern Namibia and perhaps one on the Orange-Fish rivers

**Team leader: John Pallett**

**Team members: All LCMAN members to help with contacts for data**

**Black Mongoose (IUCN global status – LC; Namibian status LC)**

Action

* John to contact Sara Tromp to prepare species account.

**Team leader: Sara Tromp?**

**Team members: John Pallett**

**All other carnivore species (IUCN global status – LC; Namibian status LC)**

Actions

* All LCMAN members to submit sightings, camera trap info, etc on all the small carnivores to John, as soon as possible, via a spreadsheet and drop box to be prepared by Alice.

**Team leader: John Pallett**

**Team members: All LCMAN members to assist with records (camera trap images, etc)**

**SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS**

1. The global IUCN Red Data categories and the **recommended Namibian Red Data categories** for carnivores are summarised in Table 1 and Figure 1.
2. The **team leader and team members** to work up each carnivore species account are listed in Table 2. The team leader will presumably be the primary author, and other team members may be authors and/or contributors, depending on the level of input. This to be determines within each team.

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 1: Global and Namibian Status of Red Data carnivores in Namibia** |
| **Global status** | **Common name** | **Namibian status** |
| Endangered | African Wild Dog | Critically Endangered |
| Vulnerable | Cheetah | Endangered |
| Vulnerable | Lion | Endangered |
| Vulnerable | Leopard | Vulnerable |
| Vulnerable | Black-footed Cat | Vulnerable |
| Least Concern | Spotted Hyaena | Vulnerable |
| Near Threatened | Brown Hyaena | Near Threatened |
| Near Threatened | African Clawless Otter | Near Threatened |
| Near Threatened | Spotted-necked Otter | Near Threatened |
| All other carnivores in Namibia are listed as of Least Concern |

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 2: Team leaders and team members per carnivore species** |
| **Common name** | **Nam Status** | **Team leader** | **Team members** |
| Aardwolf | LC | Ingrid | Lise, Steph, Gabi, Laurie |
| Brown Hyaena | NT | Ingrid | Louisa, Laurie, Muzuma |
| Spotted Hyaena | Vul | Lise | Nick, Steph, Martina T-R, Muzuma |
| Cheetah | End | IZW | Laurie, Rudi/Nick, Gabi, Fabiana (UNAM), Muzuma |
| Leopard | Vul | Louisa | Gabi, Lise, AfriCat, Nick, NAPHA, Fabiana (UNAM), Muzuma |
| Lion | End | Lise  | Flip, Michelle M, Piet B, Martina T-R, Paul F (Panthera), Tammy, Muzuma |
| Caracal | LC | Chavoux | CCF |
| African Wild Cat | LC | Martina Küsters | N/a’an kuse |
| Black-footed Cat | Vul | Martina Küsters | N/a’an kuse |
| Serval | LC | Ken (Ongava)? | IZW (Sarah)? |
| African Civet | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Small-spotted Genet | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Large-spotted Genet | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Suricate / Meerkat | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Selous’ Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Yellow Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Large Grey Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Slender Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Black Mongoose | LC | Sara Tromp |  |
| Cape Grey Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Meller’s Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| White-tailed Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Marsh Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Banded Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Dwarf Mongoose | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Bat-eared Fox | LC | Steph |  |
| African Wild Dog | Crit End | Lise | Rudi/Nick, CCF, Africat, Robin Lines, MET (Piet B, Muzuma), Ortwin (UNAM) |
| Cape Fox | LC | Steph |  |
| Side-striped Jackal | LC | Nankuse |  |
| Black-backed Jackal | LC | Nankuse | Ingrid |
| African Clawless Otter | NT | John Pallett |  |
| Spotted-necked Otter | NT | John Pallett |  |
| Honey Badger | LC | John Pallett |  |
| African Striped Weasel | LC | John Pallett |  |
| Striped Polecat | LC | John Pallett |  |

1. The **format for each species account** covering a Red Data species (i.e. Near Threatened to Critically Endangered) is set out in Table 3. These accounts will be typically 3-5 pages in length depending on data availability, extent of Threats, number of conservation Actions required, etc. A similar format should be used for non-Red Data species, depending on data availability, but more concise (about 2 pages). For data-poor species, adapt according to data availability.

1. **Distribution maps** will be standardised as far as possible across all species accounts. The maps should include (a) a background map showing historic distribution, (b) current distribution using all available info – presented as ¼ degree or finer scale presence or absence, with museum specimens shown in a different icon, and (c) where the data supports this, a shaded relative probability of occurrence (high, medium or low). **Alice will produce a few examples** for LCMAN members to discuss and agree on the style.

|  |
| --- |
| **Table 3: Outline of species accounts for Carnivore Red Data Book** |
| Heading: Common name (alternate common name) | Scientific nameAuthors | Contributors | ReviewersGood impactful photo of species

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Status (Namibian):** |  |
| **Global Range:** |  |
| **Namibian Range (area):** |  |
| **Population Estimate:** |  |
| **Population Trend:** |  |
| **Habitat:** |  |
| **Threats:** |  |

Summary box: Distribution & abundance with map(s)EcologyThreatsConservation statusActions (including summary of pertinent actions from species management plans, HWC policies, etc.References |

1. To facilitate collection of data to feed into maps, **Alice will draw up a spreadsheet for submission of sightings and other distributional data** (camera trap, satellite tracking, etc), as well as **a drop box** for sending in data from all LCMAN members.
2. **MET (Kenneth) will provide a list of all registered research projects** at MET Permit Office so we can make sure any relevant info is tracked down and included.
3. The overall product will be **edited by John Pallett** under an agreement with LCMAN/NCE/MET.
4. A working **time schedule** is as follows:
* The first draft of Red Data Assessment species accounts should reach the Editor, John Pallett (john.pallett@saiea.com) not later than 31 March 2018. But please do not wait for this deadline. Once your team is happy with the document, please send it to John. He can then start the editing process.
* Please also send John the names of two reviewers (who are not part of your team) – they may be Namibian and/or international.
* All species accounts will also be circulated to all LCMAN members for comment, additional info, etc. All comments should be forwarded to the Editor. This process will run in parallel with the review process to save time.
* Authors will receive their reviewed and edited species account, with all comments from LCMAN members, from the Editor not later than end May.
* Authors will have a month to make any revisions, liaise with Alice on final maps, etc.
* We also need authors to write the Introduction, setting the scene. Much of this can be drawn from the Bird RD book intro.
* We should be ready to go to press in early July 2018.

Finally, we wish you all success in getting this task done, and please contact me if you have any problems or concerns where you think I can be of assistance.

**Chris Brown (NCE)**

**ceo@n-c-e.org**

14 November 2017