

Curriculum Vitae

A. Personal Information

Name: Matti Tweshiningilwa Nghikembua
Nationality: Namibian
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B. Education

- 2024 Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Forestry and Biological Resources, University of East Finland, Joensuu, Finland.
- 2008 Master's in Development Studies (MDS), University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa.
- 2002 Bachelor of Technology (BTECH) Nature Conservation, Polytechnic of Namibia, Namibia.
- 1997 National Diploma Natural Resource Management (Nature Conservation) Polytechnic of Namibia, Namibia.
- 1992 Senior school leaving certificate, Oshakati Senior Secondary School, Namibia.

C Publications.

- Marker, L., Fabiano, E., and Nghikembua, M. The Use of Remote Camera Traps to Estimate Density of Free-Ranging Cheetahs in North-Central Namibia. Cat News (49): 22-24. 2008.
- Johnson, S., Marker, L., Mengersen, K., Gordon C.H., Melzheimer, J., Schmidt-Küntzel, A., Nghikembua, M., Fabiano, E., Henghali, J., and Wachter, B. Modeling the viability of the free-ranging cheetah population in Namibia: an object-oriented Bayesian network approach. Ecosphere. 4(7):90. 2013.

- Rust, N., Nghikembua, M., Kasser, J., and Marker, L. Environmental factors affect swing gates as a barrier to large carnivores entering game farms. *African Journal of Ecology*. DOI:10.1111/aje.12188 (first published online: 23 DEC 2014).
- Nghikembua M., Harris J., Tregenza T., and Marker L. Interactions between bush encroachment and large carnivore habitat selection: a case study on GPS satellite collared cheetahs in northern Namibia. *Open Journal of Forestry* 6(4). July 2016.
- Buyer, J. S, Schmidt-Küntzel, A., Nghikembua, M., Maul, J.E., and Marker, L. Soil microbial communities following bush removal in a Namibian savannah. *SOIL*, 2: 101–110, www.soil-journal.net/2/101/2016/ doi:10.5194/soil-2-101-2016. 2016.
- Walker, E.H., Nghikembua, M., Bibles, B., and Marker, L. Scent-post selection in free-ranging Namibian cheetahs. *Global Ecology and Conservation*. (8): 55–57. 2016.
- Zimmermann, I., Nghikembua, M., Shipingana, D., Aron, T., Groves, D., and Marker, L. The influence of two levels of debushing in Namibia's thornbush savanna on overall soil fertility measured through bioassays. *Namibian Journal of Environment*. 1: 52-59. 2017.
- Marker, L., Cristescu, B., Morrison, T., Flyman, M.V., Horgan, J., Sogbohossou, E.A., Bissett, C., van der Merwe, V., de Matos Machado I.B., Fabiano, E., van der Meer, E., Aschenborn, O., Melzheimer, J., Young-Overton, K., Farhadinia, M., Wykstra, M., Chege, M., Samna, A., Amir, O.G., sh. Mohanun, A., Paulos, O.D., Nhabanga, A.R., M'soka, J.L.J., Belbachir, F., Ashenafi, Z.T., and Nghikembua, M.T. Cheetah Rangewide Status and Distribution. Book Chapter In. *Biodiversity of the World--Cheetahs: Biology and Conservation*. Eds: Marker, L., Boast, L.K. and Schmidt-Küntzel, A. San Diego, Elsevier. 34-51. 2018.
- Marker, L., Cristescu, B., Dickman, A., Nghikembua, M.T., Boast, L.K., Morrison, T., Melzheimer, J., Fabiano, E., Mills, G., Wachter, B., and Macdonald, D.W. Ecology of free-ranging cheetahs. Book Chapter In. *Biodiversity of the World--Cheetahs: Biology and Conservation*. Eds: Marker, L., Boast, L.K., and Schmidt-Küntzel, A., San Diego, Elsevier. 107 – 116. 2018.
- Marker, L., Rabeil, T., Comizzoli, P., Clements, H., Nghikembua, M.T., Hayward, M.W., and Tambling, C.J. The status of key prey species and the consequences of prey loss

for cheetah conservation in North and West Africa. Book Chapter In. Biodiversity of the World--Cheetahs: Biology and Conservation. Eds: Marker, L., Boast, L.K., and Schmidt-Küntzel, A. San Diego, Elsevier. 151 – 159. 2018.

- Nghikembua, M.T., Lehner, F., Ottichilo, W., Marker, L., and Amstrup, S.C. The impact of climate change on the conservation and survival of the cheetah. Book
- Biodiversity of the World--Cheetahs: Biology and Conservation. Eds: Marker, L., Boast, L.K., and Schmidt-Küntzel, A. San Diego, Elsevier. 163 – 169. 2018.
- Powell, L.A., Kharuxab, R., Marker, L., Nghikembua, M.T., Omusula, S., Reid, R.S., Snyman, A., Weaver, C., and Wykstra, M. Coordination of large landscapes for cheetah conservation. Book Chapter In. Biodiversity of the World--Cheetahs: Biology and Conservation. Eds: Marker, L., Boast, L.K., and Schmidt-Küntzel, A. San Diego, Elsevier. 239 – 248. 2018.
- Nghikembua, M.T., Marker, L.L., Brewer, B., Mehtätalo, L., Appiah, M., Pappinen, A., 2020. Response of wildlife to bush thinning on the north central freehold farmlands of Namibia. For. Ecol. Manage. 473, 118330.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2020.118330>
- Nghikembua, M.T., Marker, L.L., Brewer, B., Leinonen, A., Mehtätalo, L., Appiah, M., Pappinen, A. (2021). Restoration thinning reduces bush encroachment on freehold farmlands in north-central Namibia. For. An Int. J. For. Res. 1–14.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/forestry/cpab009>
- Nghikembua, M.T., Marker, L.L., Brewer, B., Leinonen, A., Mehtätalo, L., Appiah, M., Pappinen, A. (2023). Response of woody vegetation to bush thinning on freehold farmlands in north-central Namibia. Scientific Reports.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-26639-4>
- Marker, L., Schmidt-Küntzel, A., Walker, E. H., Nghikembua, M., Cristescu, B. 2024. Time to independence and predator-prey relationships of wild-born, captive-raised

cheetahs released into private reserves in Namibia. Ecological Solutions and Evidence.

D. Awards and achievements:

- 2016 – Africa Geographic unsung conservation hero
- 2007 – 2008 Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) scholarship.
- 2006 – Honored as a Disney Conservation Hero by the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, Walt Disney World Company, Lake Buena Vista - Florida, USA.
- 2005 – Cheetah Conservation Fund Educator of the Year.

E. Professional experience

1998 – Present. Staff member of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), Otjiwarongo, Namibia. Employed as a Senior Ecologist. Conducts biodiversity research, habitat and harvest operation assessments, and work with community conservation programs. 4

2008. Graduate of the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL). Completed an intensive two-year Conservation Leaders training program aimed at fostering leadership and innovation in the field of wildlife conservation with the Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leadership (EWCL) initiative in Washington, DC, USA. Course objectives: 1) Providing networking and career mentoring opportunities, (2) Training in leadership and wildlife conservation campaign skills, and 3) Offering participants the opportunity to plan, implement and evaluate a real wildlife conservation campaign benefiting an international species”.

2003 – 2004: Served as the secretary for the Namibia Environmental Education Network (NEEN) committee.

F. Interests

- Nature enthusiast who likes arts, song writing and composition, playing guitar, sports - running, soccer and chess.

G. References

- Professor Ari Pappinen. Faculty of Science Forestry and Technology, University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu campus. Email: ari.pappinen@uef.fi; Telephone: +358 50 438 2527
- Professor Lucius Botes, Course Director Development Studies. Centre for Development Support, University of the Free State. P.o.box 339 Bloemfontein 9300, Tel (051) 4013746.
- Professor Nico Smit. Department of Animal, Wildlife and Grassland Sciences, University of the Free State, P.o. Box 339 Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa. Email smitgn.sci@mail.uovs.ac.za Study leader for the mini dissertation - Quantifying farmers' perceptions and willingness; as well as availability of encroaching aboveground *Acacia* bush biomass on CCF commercial farmlands in north central Namibia. A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters in Development Studies (MDS).
- Mrs. Dorie Olivier. Program Coordinator for the Centre of development Support, University of the Free State - Bloemfontein, South Africa. P.o.box 339 Bloemfontein 9300, Tel (051) 4013746. Email olivierd.ekw@ufs.ac.za
- Dr. Laurie Maker, Executive Director Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), P.o.Box 1755, Otjiwarongo, Namibia, email: cheetah@iway.na, Tel +26467 306249.
- Dr. Bruce Brewer. General Manager CCF, P.o.Box 1755, Otjiwarongo, Namibia, email: cheetah@iafrica.com.na, Tel + 26467 306 249
- Nina Fascione. Vice President Field Conservation Programs – Defenders of Wildlife) and Co-founder of Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders (EWCL) program, 1130 17th Street N.W. Washington D.C. 20036 -4604. Tel: 202-6829400. Email: nfascione@defenders.org